



MORE THAN 24 YEARS OF BRINGING THE NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER

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Painting that survived World War II is given new lease of life on TV's "The Repair Shop"

Earlier this year, a painting of Our Lady feeding the infant Jesus was featured on the TV program "The Repair Shop". During the 2nd World War it had been hidden in a coat by a Ukrainian family who were captured and taken to slave labour camps. The painting belonged to the father of the family who was a Ukrainian Catholic Priest, and it hung in his parish church. After the war the family was split up but the painting somehow survived. Eventually the painting was given to the daughter of one of the survivors Maria Kirk, who is a parishioner of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Eastwood. After many years Maria decided to apply to the Repair Shop to try and have it restored, and was accepted. The restoration was done by Lucia Scalisi, who said that "it was

a miracle it had survived". So many people had expressed an interest to see the painting, that Maria put it on display in her parish church, she said "I thought a few people would come out of curiosity but could not believe that over 300 visitors came. Many from other Churches in the area, but many of no faith who just wanted to see the painting. It was very moving to see people in tears just sitting quietly looking at her, many people said that the face of Our Lady just drew them in and touched them. It was lovely to be able to share the story and experience with them." Maria hopes to display the painting at St Barnabas Cathedral some time in October.

Maria Kirk



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The monthly paper for the
Diocese of Nottingham

Catholic News

Editor: Nick Layton

Editorial Office: Bellcourt Ltd,
N2 Blois Meadow Business
Centre, Steeple Bumpstead,
Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 7BN

Telephone: 01440 730399

email: cn@cathcom.org or

davidl@cathcom.org

Website: www.bellcourtltd.co.uk

Distribution enquiries:

Nick Layton

e-mail nick@cathcom.org,

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All items to be emailed to
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Synodality and St Vincent de Paul

With the SVP celebrating its 190th birthday this year attention is turning to the future and 'where the society will be in 2033 – 200 years old!'

The key theme is Synodality, and the analogy is 'Enlarge the space, spread out the tent cloths, lengthen the ropes and make firm the stakes'.

Synodality means journeying together, listening to what those around us are saying, discerning what the Holy Spirit tells us needs doing and taking positive action. In essence, Synodality is the SVP in action.

The SVP is taking up the challenge to develop its approach to pursuing its mission of seeking out those in need and making the effort to reach out to those marginalised, on society's periphery and difficult to reach.

The 'tent' will accommodate any who wish to be involved with the SVP – it will always be large enough as:

- The path to greater inclusion.
- A home where the doors never close.
- A space that is constantly expanding.
- A welcome to anyone who needs to be there.

The SVP's founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam said: "Charity should never look behind but always in front, because the number of good deeds which we have done in the past is always very small, while the present needs and future needs, which must be relieved, are always endless"

Blessed Frederic Ozanam

True now as it was then, the priority is to focus on those in need now and in the future, and history tells us the SVP has a significant role to play in this regard. There are innumerable statistics that tell us this. The SVP's Beneficiary Support Team receives Requests for Help and at this stage in 2023 the number of requests is 150% more than the annual average pre-2022.

The SVP will address this growing demand in a number of ways:

- Put the Catholic faith and Vincentian values at the heart of all it does.
- Identify and flag growing areas of need and reach out to those who require support. Work in a Synodal manner to listen to the community to discern what needs doing.
- Increase SVP membership, engaging more with our Young Catholics as well as including those outside of the Catholic faith.
- Expanding the capacity to develop a network of charity, collaborating with ecumenical partners, other charities societies and agencies to source referrals and attract new members.
- Campaign for social justice to effect change for those the SVP serves.
- Develop the SVP brand so that it becomes a household name and 'go-to' resource for support and assistance.

The SVP in the Nottingham diocese will be working on these objectives to enhance the service it provides to those in need. Made



Blessed Frederic Ozanam

up of willing volunteers in parishes around the diocese, it would be great to welcome more into the existing conferences or starting up new conferences where none currently exist.

The tent is plenty big enough to welcome both members and beneficiaries. If you would like to learn more about joining the SVP in these exciting and challenging times, or you know someone who might need the support of the SVP, please contact either Joe Gasan – joeg@svp.org.uk or Lance Philpott – lancep@svp.org.uk



St. Vincent

FRANKLY SPEAKING



I have no previous recollection of the holiday month of August being so dominated by political announcements as it was this year. On the last day of the month and just a few days from the Autumn term we learned that some schools would have to close buildings due to unsafe concrete. One of the reactions was to point out that it was only a small number of schools and pupils that had been affected. At the time of writing this article 147 schools have crumbling concrete known as RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete).

I have long been concerned about how statistics are being marginally reported as if they are insignificant or unimportant. I am also somewhat weary of hearing how such money has been spent on serious issues much as crumbling concrete as if this is the end of the matter. 147 schools

incorporate a lot of pupils, parents and not least teachers and school staff. Our children are growing up in a fast changing world and whilst many will have a good education some will always struggle for a variety of educational reasons.

Any obstacle placed in their educational life can really affect those who are already at the greatest disadvantage. My own schooling years were not particularly successful but even in the 1950's I did not lack the most basic of necessities and getting a secure job in industry plus joining a political youth movement helped me enormously in my late teens.

A recent report by the children's charity Buttle UK shows the number of children living in destitution has increased significantly since 2021. The reality of this is that "the lowest standard of living" is being felt by some

children and young people. When our education starts to be less important than higher fuel bills or the cost of living it is surely time for new wisdom at Westminster. Perhaps a Cabinet Minister for Children and Young People as a start.

When you read this article the party conferences will be well underway indeed some commentators feel the General Election scheduled next year have already started. The issues raised by Buttle UK are too serious to ignore for the sake of our most needy children.

At the closing Mass in Lisbon Pope Francis gave the World Youth Day gathering of 1.5 million young people a clear message, "The Church and the world need you, the young as much as the Earth needs rain."

Frank Goulding
Holy Trinity Parish, Newark

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Pastoral Letter for Education Sunday from Bishop Patrick



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Sunday, 10th September, marked the 175th celebration of Education Sunday for the Church in England and Wales. Education Sunday, coinciding with the beginning of the academic year, provides our Catholic community with the opportunity to celebrate the vital work of education that our schools carry out. It also gives me an occasion, on behalf of us all, to acknowledge the sterling work and commitment of thousands of teachers, support staff, governors, and directors, alongside our Diocesan Education Service. They all play such a crucial role in making our Catholic schools among the most successful in the country.

Here in our diocese, it is now five years since the creation of our Catholic Multi-Academy Trusts. During this time, always working in collaboration with our Diocesan Education Service, the Trusts have provided a sense of structure, support, and stability for our schools. I know that this close partnership between the schools in the

Trusts was particularly welcome during the challenges of the Covid pandemic. It has also helped to underpin the distinctive nature of our Catholic schools: as places to assist parents in the education and religious formation of their children, where Christ and the teachings of the Catholic Church are at the heart of everything, and where each young person is treasured and encouraged to achieve their full potential.

Over those years I have used my Pastoral Letters on Education to appeal for volunteers from our parish communities to act as both foundation directors and foundation governors. I would like to repeat this request today. The roles of foundation directors and governors are different, but both are very important. Each of them play a part in helping me, as diocesan bishop, to ensure that our Trusts and schools remain faithful to the mission of the Church, and that they are governed effectively.

Foundation directors sit on the Board of each Catholic Multi-Academy Trust; they are company directors and must act in

accordance with both company and charity law, in addition to Church Law. Here, I would welcome applications from parishioners who have a suitable background in areas such as finance, law, personnel, marketing, and education. Each of our schools also has a local governing body which is responsible for Catholic Life and academic standards, and foundation governors also ensure that school and parish links remain strong. This role is not solely for those who have a knowledge of education. Our local governing bodies need to have committed Catholics, from all walks of life, who wish to support Catholic education in their local area. I am aware that, each year, we lose a number of experienced and committed foundation governors who have reached the end of their term of office. I would ask these governors to consider offering their skills to a nearby Catholic school.

These roles may seem a little daunting, especially to those with little recent experience of schools. But I assure you that there is excellent training and support for

foundation governors and directors, given by our Diocesan Education Service. Please don't let a sense of the unknown stop you from offering yourself for either of these roles. Jesus often tells his disciples: 'do not be afraid'! I dare to ask all this because the continued support of committed Catholic governors and directors is simply invaluable! Please consider contacting our Diocesan Education Service to find out more.

On this 175th Education Sunday, confident that Jesus is, as he promised, truly with us, let us give thanks for all those people who, over the years, have heard and responded to his call to support the children and young people in our diocesan schools, as headteachers, teachers, support staff, foundation directors and governors. May more and more committed Catholics hear the invitation to take up these wonderful ministries in the service of the young people in our diocesan schools.

With my prayers and blessing to you all

+Patrick
Bishop of Nottingham

From: Elston Hermitage.....



By tradition the Catholic Church dedicates certain months of the year to certain devotions. The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary, one of the best known of Catholic devotions. October includes the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (7th October).

For myself the rosary is a devotion, as for many Catholics, which I have prayed daily for many years. I was first introduced to the rosary seriously as a young Benedictine novice in the early 1970s when I read a book by a man named J. Neville Ward, who was not a Catholic himself but a Methodist, the writer describes a Methodist's personal adventure into prayer with a help characteristic of the Roman Catholic Church. The book which I often re-read is titled Five for Sorrow Ten for Joy.

The Holy Rosary is a prayer with a long history.

Throughout the ages countless Saints have stressed the importance of its intercessional power, and the miracles which they attribute to this power are a testament to the truth of their teaching.

On October 7th 1571, a great victory over the mighty Turkish fleet was won by Catholic naval forces primarily from Spain, Venice and Genoa under command of Don Juan of Austria. It was the last battle at sea between oared ships, with between 12000 and 15000 Christian slaves as rowers. The patchwork team of Catholic ships was powered by the Holy Rosary. Knowing that the Christian forces were at a distinct material disadvantage, the holy pontiff St. Pope Pius V asked all of Europe to pray the rosary for victory.

We know today that the victory was significant, prevented the Islamic invasion of Europe, and evidenced the hand of God working through Our Lady.

At the hour of victory, St Pope Pius V is said to have got up from a meeting, gone over to a window and exclaimed, " The Christian fleet is Victorious"

One of the three admirals commanding the Catholic forces at Lepanto carried a small copy of Mexico's Our Lady of Guadalupe into battle. This image is now enshrined in the Church of San Stefano in Aveto, Italy.

The miraculous events of the battle of Lepanto stand as an inspiration for all of us many centuries later. While physical



battle and warfare are not quite as commonplace as they were in the 1500s, each and every one of us is engaged, to some degree in a spiritual struggle.

The fight against sin and temptation still rage within our hearts, perhaps more dire and significant than the physical clash of forces at Lepanto, for so much more is at stake in our spiritual combat. Not only do we fight for the souls of each person in this battle, but for the soul of the Church; in short, we fight to save the world.

The good news is this, the battle of Lepanto shows that we are beyond all doubt on the winning side. Just as it was during that clash many centuries ago, in this great spiritual battle the Blessed Virgin Mary is constantly with us, ready to support us, guide us, and carry us to victory for the glory of God. Even when the odds seem completely against us, we can always fall back on the command of St. Pope Pius V, our marching orders; take up the Rosary, pray for victory, and trust in the Lord in the great battle of our times.

If then October is the month dedicated to the Holy Rosary, it is also the month par excellence to rediscover the companion of the road that God has given us, to walk with us during our life. The Holy Guardian Angels who we also keep in October. The words of Jesus, the teaching of the Doctors and the Saints, the authority of the Church - do not allow us to doubt the reality of our Holy Guardian angel.

So, take up the 'battle beads' with the help of Our Lady and our Guardian Angel we shall gain Victory !

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

Our thoughts turn to Apostleship of The Sea



As summer draws to a close and autumn beckons our thoughts turn to the "Apostleship of The Sea", a charity we are proud to support.

Each year our generous parish collects items for the men who work on the ships delivering goods at Immingham docks.

This year we have woolly hats in a kaleidoscope of colours and a tempting selection of chocolate treats.

We send our gifts in the hope that they will know they are not forgotten by the congregation of Ss Peter & Paul's Church.

Sisters of Mercy welcome plans for new eco school

Representatives from the Department for Education visited the Sisters of Mercy to talk about the new eco building for St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy in Derby.

The Sisters heard how the biophilic design of the new school focuses on connecting those inside the building – set to be the UK's first biophilic school - with nature, with the goal of promoting physical and mental health.

Duncan Craig, Development Projects Lead for the DfE, and DfE's Lead Design Advisor, Ian Naylor, gave a presentation to the Sisters at St Philomena's Convent in Derby.

St Mary's original building, in Broadway, was destroyed by fire in October 2020 and the school has been based at St James House in Mansfield Road, Derby, since April 2021. Work started on the new building in February 2023 and it is set to open to pupils and staff later this year.

Sister Carmel said that everyone was looking forward to the opening of the new building.

She said: "We were all privileged to see and hear first-hand how this "Phoenix" was rising from the ashes. A detailed and very professional presentation of the design, craftsmanship and outstanding ideas on how this biophilic school will benefit so many children, parents/carers and indeed the whole of this area of Derby. We now await the Grand Opening which will soon be on the horizon."



Sara Bolton, Vice Chair of Governors at St Mary's, also attended the DfE presentation.

She said: "I was most impressed by the DfE presentation and their attention to detail. Our new school will be an excellent and unique learning environment for our pupils. Furthermore, our valued staff will have the opportunity to teach in a brand new building with endless opportunities for everyone."

In attendance also was Amanda Greaves, Executive Headteacher of St Mary's, she said: "We continue to look forward to moving back to the original Broadway site. It was a wonderful opportunity for the Sisters of Mercy to hear first-hand how the site they gifted in 2000 is being restored to provide the best Catholic education for the children of Derby. The Sisters of Mercy have a long-standing history and relationship with the school having founded St Mary's in 1814 on Edward St, and so it was vital for us to share the journey of the re-building of what will be the first UK biophilic school."

St Mary's Derby Celebrate the Birthday of Our Lady



On Friday 8th September, St Mary's Church and St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy in Derby celebrated the feast of the birthday of Mary, with Mass and a free cake stall. The children arranged the cakes and worked enthusiastically on the stall, giving out cake of all descriptions. It was a lovely beginning to the Advent term.

Fran Hazel
Lay Chaplain St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Derby



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The Pope Video - For people living on the margins

Each month the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network shares a video recorded by the Pope. It is a way of sharing the Pope's intentions for that month with the world and is an opportunity for the Holy Father to speak directly to the listener. This month's intention is for those living on the margins of society and what follows is the transcript of that video.

A homeless person who dies on the street will never appear among the top stories of search engines or newscasts.

How could we have reached this level of indifference?

How is it that we allow the "throwaway culture" – in which millions of men and women are worth nothing compared to economic goods – how is it that we allow this culture to dominate our lives, our cities, our way of life?

Our necks are going to get stiff from looking the other way so we don't have to see this situation.

Please, let's stop making invisible those who are on the margins of society, whether it's due to poverty, addictions, mental illness or disability.

Let's focus on accepting them, on welcoming all the people who need it. The "culture of welcoming," of hospitality, of providing shelter, of giving a home, of offering love, of giving human warmth.

Let us pray for those people on the margins of society in subhuman living conditions, that they may not be neglected by institutions and never be cast out.

Those forgotten by the press

It is specifically for them, those forgotten by the press, that this month's video seeks to draw attention to. The images accompanying Pope Francis's words show homeless people – alone or in small groups, at times almost stepped on by passersby – on the sidewalks of Canada, the United States, Kenya, Cameroon and

India; street children who spend their day washing the windshields of cars stopped at stoplights in San Salvador; people with different disabilities in Spain, the Philippines and Central America; shantytowns near skyscrapers in Vancouver, and near buildings in Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro.

Various types of people live on the margins of our society. Their numbers are much higher than we think. In fact, according to the United Nations, more than 700 million (10% of the population) live in extreme poverty, facing major difficulties in obtaining basic necessities, such as healthcare, education, access to water and sanitation. The UN also adds that around 1.6 billion people live in inadequate living conditions, including in the most industrialized countries. Similarly, reports from the World Health Organization reveal that one of every eight persons lives with a "mental disorder," and that 16% of the world's population lives with a "serious disability."

Welcoming is more than helping

"Prayer brings to light what is hidden in the heart. Therefore, those living on the margins, as if invisible, must find room in our hearts. They are in the heart of the Church: a heart of flesh and not of stone. A heart of stone casts out; a heart of flesh welcomes," says Cardinal Michael Czerny, Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, about the Holy Father's video for the month of September. He adds, "Pope Francis is aware of the educational power of prayer and through it, he invites us to develop a culture of welcome. 'The stone rejected by the builders has become the corner stone.' This message will be strong and credible if, even today, we give a voice to the outcasts, if we recognize the indelible dignity of those who have been crucified by a ruthless economy, by harassment or by indifference.



Welcoming is more than helping: it means putting the other person at our level, rediscovering a sister or a brother we have lost. We are transformed into one Body through prayer."

A "culture of welcoming"

Father Frédéric Fornos S.J., International Director of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, comments: "How is it possible to find a tangible solution to the millions of outcasts who often meet only with indifference, or even annoyance, in response? Pope Francis invites us to

approach poverty and exclusion differently. This means praying, since prayer transforms our hearts, it changes our outlook and opens us up to others, in particular, to the most vulnerable. Let us pray with Pope Francis for a 'culture of welcoming,' so that everyone who needs it might find welcome, shelter, a home, love, and human warmth."

Visit thepopevideo.org where you can view the video yourself and sign up to receive future videos in your email.

Thank you Axe



We are sorry to report that Axe (aka Alun Evans) who has kept us entertained (and challenged!) with his crosswords since 2015, has recently passed away very suddenly. We were notified by Alun's daughter Katy and we hope you'll join us in sending love and prayers to the family.

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La vie est belle



Let Justice and Peace Flow

Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

The Season of Creation runs from 1st September to the Feast day of St Francis of Assisi, 4th October. An ecumenical and global movement, it calls us to ponder the gift of creation. The theme this year 'Let justice and peace flow' with the symbol of a mighty river, came from Amos 5:24 and encouraged Christians of all denominations to come together to work in unity for justice and peace.

On Thursday 7th September ten members of the Catholic community in Lincoln undertook a cruise along a canal called the Fossdyke, on a boat known as the Brayford Belle, to mark the Season of Creation. The hour long voyage provided an opportunity for parishioners from the Lincoln parishes to come together whilst enjoying the sights of creation. As it turned out, each of my intrepid travel companions, who had turned up despite the fierce heat, was from the one parish - St Peter and St Paul Church, though not everyone knew each other.

The boat trip, during which we saw families of swans, a heron, caught glimpses of kingfishers and turtles, as well as a multitude of butterflies, huge dragonflies

and ducks, included a commentary. We learned the Fossdyke Navigation was built around 120 AD to connect the River Trent to the River Witham in Lincoln, and is considered to be Britain's oldest artificial waterway still in use today. The canal had been used to transport cargo for almost 2000 years, including the stone used to build Lincoln Cathedral in the 11th century, with agricultural produce still being routinely carried by sailing keels and barges from the River Trent right up to the 1970s. Competition led to its commercial decline and since about 1972 its use has been recreational.

After disembarking we walked a few steps to a nearby eatery and tucked into puddings (mostly of the ice cream variety) and cool drinks; a further chance to get to know each other better and an early celebration of Our Lady's birthday!

With awe for my fellow parishioners, Matthew 18:20 came to mind and how by their presence they had brought Jesus, only for the parable of the wedding banquet (Matthew 22:1-14) to surface and I saw that it was He who had invited each of us to join Him! A hot date! Thank you Lord for the



grace and opportunity to take up your invitation, albeit unwittingly on my part, and to spend time with you, enjoying many good gifts you delight in providing.

The canal has proved itself a gift to the city and the afternoon was a reminder that all is gift. With Diocesan reorganisation underway, a single Lincoln parish comprising all three churches is on the horizon and with it will come the opportunity and challenge to operate as one, not only for social activities, but for missionary activities too, including justice and peace projects.

Hopefully Catholics in the city will be able to embrace the chance to collaborate en masse (and team up with ecumenical and interfaith partners), so that the gift of our Catholic faith and church communities can be shared and play a part in helping Lincoln to thrive, reduce injustice and create sustainable peace, building up the Kingdom

of God, a kingdom of grace and mercy, on earth, as in Heaven.

The literature for the Season of Creation reminds us that Prophet Isaiah proclaims: "Listen carefully, I am about to do a new thing, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? I will even put a road in the wilderness, rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43: 19) ... The question perhaps is: are we aware of what is being asked of us and are we willing to take up our place?

Let us pray for the grace to be aware of how much we receive as gift and for what we need to hear and heed the call for each to take their place in the mighty river that is the Holy Spirit, so that, together, all people and creation may receive justice and peace. Then may 'la vie est belle' be something we can all say and not just my favourite perfume. Come Holy Spirit! Our Lady, Queen of Peace, pray for us! St Francis of Assisi, pray for us!

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View from the Pew

By Dr Jay Kettle-Williams



Hope for the Future

My attention always turns to what the MSM (Mainstream Media) might be up to reporting and saying about the Orange Walks, come the anniversary of The Battle of The Boyne.

The Battle of the Boyne was fought between King James II (James VII of Scotland) and King William II (House of Orange) – rival claimants to the English, Scottish and Irish throne. The battle took place on 1 July 1690 across the River Boyne close to the town of Drogheda, on the east coast of Ireland. William's army won the day, being better prepared than the opposing forces consisting mainly of raw recruits. The continued Protestant ascendancy in Ireland was thereby ensured.

The Twelfth (aka **Orangemen's Day**) is an Ulster Protestant celebration traditionally held on 12 July to celebrate the Glorious Revolution (1688) along with William's victory at the Boyne. On and around the Twelfth, large parades are held by the Orange Order and Ulster Loyalist marching bands.

My mother's birthday fell on 12 July. God rest her. The day always held further interest for her as her Irish side of the family was split Catholic/Protestant, one faction never attending life's major events celebrated by the other. The antagonism within the family had been inherited from the warfare of the 17th century and as latterly perpetrated by the Orange Walk.

But, for me, an event on 12 July this year put a totally different complexion on those anniversaries.

Our local library works, not so much as a reading room, but more like a community centre with all manner of activities ever on the go. The library also offers what can be a busy cut-through between the local hypermarket and the town's city precinct. Like all shopping precincts, ours has dramatically lost the breadth of retail



formerly on offer. Instead, we have umpteen cafes and coffee houses where people relax between visiting the umpteen charity shops between a number of closed units.

My wife and I had just finished talking to one of the librarians we knew at one of the desks when I felt a sharp tug on the back of my jacket. A voice called: 'Chase me, mister?!' I turned to see the bright, smiling face of a wide-eyed, young black boy immaculately dressed in his school uniform. He couldn't have been more than 8 or 9 years old. 'Yes?' he said eagerly. 'Ok', I said, handing the bag I was carrying to my wife. 'I'll count to five,' I said as he quickly took a step or two back. The race was on, more like a brisk walk or controlled trot, while the librarian laughed and those passing the day on the open-access work stations stopped to look, and those on the chairs put their books down either in amusement or in total bewilderment. Could this be another activity put on by the library? The lad slipped, stood up. Round two was quickly under way with him cackling and guffawing. I never did catch him. His mother then called from further

down the library. Dressed colourfully and wearing a dramatic headdress, she'd finished logging books in or out at the front desk. The young boy scampered up to her. As they left the library, mother and child hand in hand, he turned to offer the widest of beaming smiles and waved goodbye.

I pray that our children's innocence be ever defended together with freedom for us all from the divisive and corrosive pressures ardently at work around us.

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Dr J L Kettle-Williams is an
experienced business
communications consultant
and wordsmith (tutor,
writer, translator).

Prisoners' Sunday



On Prisoners' Sunday the Catholic Church encourages everyone to reflect on and pray for prisoners and their families. This year, Prisoners' Sunday takes place on 8th October but you can mark the occasion on a day that suits your parish calendar.

What is Prisoners' Sunday?

Prisoners' Sunday is a time to think about how we as individuals, as a Church and as communities are serving those affected by imprisonment. Prisoners, people with convictions, and their children and families often find themselves on the margins of our society. Yet Jesus challenges us with His words:

'I was in prison and you came to me.'

Our work at Pact draws on the values of our faith: dignity, solidarity, subsidiarity. We believe that everyone can make a fresh start whatever they may have done.

Bishop Richard Moth, Catholic Liaison Bishop for Prisons, writes to all parishes in the Pact Prisoners' Sunday Pack, to encourage support for this time of reflection, prayer and action everywhere on Prisoners' Sunday.

We are grateful to parishes who are able to hold a second collection to support the

work of Pact - and to individuals who may send a donation at this time. A second collection can also be arranged on an alternative date if that works better for your parish. Perhaps some supporters may be able to hold a simple Prisoners' Sunday fundraising event.

Find out more about Marking Prisoners' Sunday in your Church by visiting www.prisonadvice.org.uk/hold-a-prisoners-sunday-service

How can I find out more?

Contact Theresa Alessandro, Catholic Community Engagement Manager at parish.action@prisonadvice.org.uk

We hope that you will join us in marking this day. Thank you for your support.

Prisons Week 8 - 14 October

Prisoners' Sunday marks the first day of the ecumenical Prisons Week, a dedicated week of prayer across our Christian communities.

Prisons Week was founded by Bishop Victor Guazzelli in 1975. Since then, the Prisons Week group has prepared resources to enable the Christian community to pray for the needs of all those affected by imprisonment.



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8TH - 14TH OCTOBER 2023

THE HEAVENS DECLARE THE GLORY OF GOD, SO...

LOOK UP PSALM 19:1

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PRISONS WEEK
A WEEK OF PRAYER

The Prisons Week Prayer

Lord, you offer freedom to all people.
We pray for those in prison.

Break the bonds of fear and
isolation that exist.

Support with your love prisoners and
their families and friends, prison staff
and all who care.

Heal those who have been wounded
by the actions of others, especially
the victims of crime.

Help us to forgive one another, to act
justly, love mercy and walk humbly
together with Christ, in his strength
and in his Spirit, now and every day.

Amen

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Book Reviews



Diary 2024: Through the year with 12 Parables of Jesus

By Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R

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Product Code: 1960

ISBN NO: 9780852316399

www.rpbooks.co.uk

This stunning hardback diary features a thought-provoking reflection by Fr Denis McBride on twelve parables of Jesus. Through the parables we learn that inside the story of our everyday life lies the deeper story of our salvation.



If the parables work, they leave us wondering not just about the dynamics of an interesting story but about deeply personal and social questions we face every day. Parables are not fictional diversions from real life but deliberate probes into the lives we actually live. They call us to think again about how we see and how we behave, to think again about attitudes and behaviour in our community or society that we accept lazily or uncritically. The parables of Jesus make the ordinary important: Jesus speaks out of a theology of ordinariness when he begins his theological thinking with things as they are. Religion is not primarily about special cultic activities or secret wisdom; it is about loving the God who created us and loving the neighbour we find ourselves beside. Liturgy can be left to one side when more important business, like forgiving our brother or sister, is waiting as the real religious agenda.

Our 2024 diary is A5 in size and has a practical full week to view across a double page spread.

Included in the diary is an introduction from Fr Denis, year planners for both 2024 and 2025, key dates and feast days, notes pages, and a ribbon page marker. All of these features make it the ideal faith companion, appointment organiser and thoughtful gift.

Catholic Social Teaching

By Raymond Friel

£11.95

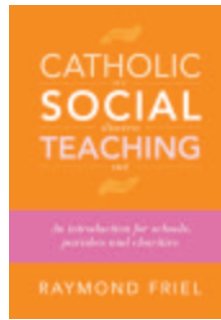
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Catholic Social Teaching (CST) is sometimes referred to as the Church's best kept secret, perhaps because it's so radical.

Catholic Social Teaching, as found in the letters and exhortations of popes since 1891, shows us a Gospel-inspired pathway to a society reconciled and in harmony through justice and love.



Raymond Friel, in his latest book, provides an introduction to this treasure of the Church. The book is aimed at those who don't know much about CST and are looking for an accessible guide to the main principles, with helpful references to scripture and the key Church documents.

There's a section on Catholic Social Action, to make it clear that all this teaching is meant to inspire people to build a better world founded on truth, justice and love. With moving examples from frontline charities and schools, readers will see what CST looks like when it hits the streets.

The final section of the book includes a CST calendar, with suggested dates throughout the year to celebrate some of the key figures and milestones in the long struggle for social justice.

This book is suitable for staff working in Catholic schools, or charities, or volunteers in parishes. It will motivate and inspire anyone who wants to make a difference, who believes that we are all in this together, one human family in a common home.

The Bible for Little Children

Maite Roche

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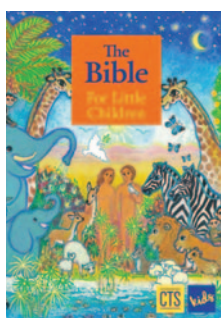
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Telling the most important moments of Salvation history in simple language that smaller children can understand, the most famous Bible stories are brought to life with Maite Roche's beautiful illustrations, full of detail and colour that will captivate children.



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ending with Pentecost, this is a wonderful introduction to the Bible for children.

Read with children aged 4 and up.
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Every time the Mass is celebrated something astonishing occurs: the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the Cross is made truly present. The Mass is the sacrifice of Christ. In this way, it offers all Catholics a powerful and personal encounter with the loving Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gave his life for the salvation of sinners. Drawing on the sacred Scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and the wise words of saints and popes, this book explains how the Sacrifice of the Holy Mass unites the faithful with God.

Love's True Meaning

Fr Anthony Doe, Pope St Paul VI

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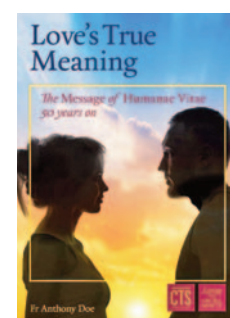
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A significant pastoral assessment of today's sexual culture on the 50th anniversary of Humanae Vitae. The full text of Humanae Vitae is also included. EBOOK ONLY.



IMPORTANT: This UK ONLY item is a special order and will take approximately 7-10 days to arrive. It will be delivered separately from the rest of your order.

The 50th anniversary of the Encyclical Humanae Vitae in 2018 provided Catholics and others with the opportunity to rediscover how to live the true meaning of love, in all its aspects, and above all the gift of sexuality that finds its most creative expression in marriage and family life. This is particularly important today in a society that has reinterpreted love through the lens of a contraceptive culture. Fifty years on, can we grasp the opportunity to reclaim the wonderful truth of the Gospel message: that genuine love, respect for the dignity of others and true generosity of heart develops within our humanity only through the presence of Jesus Christ himself?

A Simple Prayer Book

(Gift Edition)

Catholic Truth Society

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Loughborough Amherst School educates the Whole Person

Loughborough Amherst School, an independent Catholic day and boarding school for boys and girls aged 3 to 18, is delighted to welcome Mr James Neville as its new Headmaster this term. Having served as a senior leader at several Catholic independent day, boarding and maintained secondary schools, Mr Neville has an outstanding track record of whole-school leadership. He read Modern History at Magdalen College Oxford before completing an MPhil at King's College Cambridge, where he was a Choral Scholar in the world-famous choir.

A lifelong committed Catholic, Mr Neville is excited to be working together with staff, pupils and parents on an ambitious vision for this historic Catholic independent school to provide the highest quality all-round education and a happy environment in which all pupils can thrive.

Originally founded in 1850 by the Rosminian Order of the Sisters of Providence, Amherst has at its heart the philosophy of Blessed Antonio Rosmini, who believed that a 'pupil must be allowed to grow and develop as an integrated human person'.

The School seeks to educate the whole person, inspiring pupils to be enquiring, kind and brave. High-quality teaching is complemented by an emphasis on personal

development and a vibrant co-curricular programme. Pupils thrive in the context of this close-knit, happy community, and develop into compassionate, resilient and responsible young people.

Central to the academic curriculum is the 'Minerva' teaching and learning philosophy. Named after the Roman goddess of wisdom, Minerva develops pupils' habits in four key areas: growth mindset, memory capacity, articulation and confidence. Fostering these vital skills, habits and attitudes at a young age helps pupils develop into self-assured, expressive and independent young people who are prepared for the demands of their professional and personal lives.

The School's personal development programme instils a moral sense of decency and kindness to one another, equipping pupils to navigate a changing world, to make the most of future opportunities and contribute to their community as active citizens. Beyond the classroom, the co-curricular offer is integral to an holistic education and pupil wellbeing. High calibre educational visits and guest speakers complement learning in the classroom, and pupils are encouraged to develop leadership skills by taking on positions of responsibility. Clubs and societies give pupils the opportunity to



Mr James Neville

be creative, perform, play sport and be active.

Amherst's through-school, co-educational offer, from Nursery to Sixth Form, allows pupils to progress from infancy to young adulthood. Together with its small size, this creates a distinct, family atmosphere that makes Amherst uniquely warm and welcoming.

With an excellent pupil-to-teacher ratio, it offers exceptionally high levels of individual support, giving every child the opportunity to realise their goals.

As one of four schools within the Loughborough Schools Foundation, Amherst pupils benefit from cross-foundation collaboration and sector-leading music, performance and sports facilities.

We warmly encourage you to visit us in person and experience for yourself what makes our school community so special. Register now for Loughborough Amherst's Open Day – Saturday 7 October, 9am-12pm: <https://lsf.org/amherst/admissions/open-day/>



LOUGHBOROUGH
Amherst School

OPEN DAY 7 OCTOBER

Loughborough Amherst School, an independent Catholic day and boarding school for girls and boys aged 4 to 18.

Offering sector-leading music, performance and sports facilities, Loughborough Amherst School is a close-knit, happy community in which every pupil can thrive.

Book your tour today
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Scripture Focus

By Fr Jeremy Corley



PARABLE OF THE VINEYARD

Around harvest time, we are invited to celebrate the Season of Creation. This significant season concludes on the feast of St Francis of Assisi (Wednesday 4th October), who is patron saint of ecology. His example inspired Pope Francis' 2015 document on Care for our Common Home (Laudato Si').

The document begins by quoting the saint's canticle, praising God for the marvels of creation: "Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruits with coloured flowers and herbs."

The Old Testament prophets often describe the creation, which can reveal God to us. In the first reading on Sunday 8th October (27th Sunday of the Year), Isaiah tells a parable about a vineyard. His hearers would have been familiar with this, because the hill country around Jerusalem was often used to grow grapes.

The prophet depicts a fertile hillside where the soil had been cleared of stones and planted with choice vines. With well-prepared soil and a suitable climate, the farmer expected it to yield a rich harvest of grapes. Instead, all it produced was a harvest of sour grapes. In disgust, the farmer decides to leave the vineyard to go wild and be trampled on.

Isaiah's parable speaks of the vineyard to illustrate God's love for Israel. God had provided all the conditions Israel needed to produce a harvest of goodness and justice. Instead, the land was marked by bloodshed and oppression of the poor.

God had greatly blessed the people, but they failed to respond to his love or treat their neighbours justly. That is why he decides to cease protecting his chosen people. Instead, they will become liable to attack from enemies (the Assyrian invaders).

Jesus recalls Isaiah's vineyard parable in the gospel on Sunday 8th October (27th Sunday of the Year). Again the parable concerns a

vineyard, suitably prepared and planted with vines. In the course of time, the landowner expected it to produce a harvest of grapes.

When he sent his servants to collect the produce, they were beaten or stoned. Finally, he decided to send his own son, expecting that they would respect him. Instead, the vineyard tenants plotted to kill the heir and seize the vineyard for themselves. After they had killed the landowner's son, he took action to punish those wicked tenants and find new tenants who would produce the proper harvest of fruit.

The parable ends with Jesus' challenge to his original audience: "God's kingdom will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit." St Matthew was writing his gospel after the Roman destruction of the Jerusalem temple, understood as fulfilling Jesus' warning to the Jewish leaders. He saw the community of Jesus' followers as taking on the call to work in the vineyard.

The vineyard parables of Isaiah and Jesus serve as a reality check for us. Are we really

producing the fruit that God asks of us? Do we pay more than just lip-service to loving God and loving our neighbour?

Our world has a vast gap between the richest and the poorest—do we think of those in need and try to help them? Our world is now in the middle of a climate crisis—are we taking steps to protect the earth, which is our common home?

St John's Gospel presents Jesus as the true vine and reminds us that we can only bear fruit if we remain united to him. St Paul reminds us of the Holy Spirit's fruits of love and joy and peace, patience and kindness and goodness, faithfulness and gentleness and self-control (Gal 5:22-23).

As we conclude this harvest season, let us thank God for his many gifts to us. Let us pray that we may indeed bear good fruit, by loving God and loving our neighbours in our daily lives.



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

CRYPTIC Across

- 1 European language that's not totally suitable (6)
- 4 Israelite divisions baptiser created without Father's backing (6) 9 Kind of 11 gets to look arch here in New York (7)
- 10 Laugh head off reading alternative Welsh writer (5)
- 11 Long term work on the Metropolitan, maybe (5)
- 12 Levi's boy is among Rangers honourees (7)
- 13 One in the habit of going to a particular London station (11)
- 18 Native American, a Margaret Mitchell character, Pennsylvania allowed in (7) 20 Bye, say, after painting flipping divorcee (5)
- 22 Attempt to resign from work to expose Pakistani water feature (5)
- 23 Spats as Tiger scratched (7)
- 24 Variant doctrine being something inadmissible in court, advocate's opening is dismissed (6) 25 Swift is one in pursuit of a name for the mountain man (6)

CRYPTIC Down

- 1 Judge's key changes make a Benjaminite town (6)
- 2 Ransack Winchester, for one (5)
- 3 Bend a month in the Sorbonne to absorb old speech (7)
- 5 One of eight, the one that boasts, his head's gone (5)
- 6 Prussian's oddly uncharitable seeing poor Anita depart (7)
- 7 Inscrutable Egyptian's wrecked ship and an indefinite number get cross (6) 8 Solomon's greatest hit, this book? (4,2,5)
- 14 Hero's love is torn between Adele and Erica (7)
- 15 Russian secret policeman's at home about one – that's

out of Lisbon (7)

- 16 European city, home to 17 and his flock (6)
- 17 Needs no round to be showing below average scores to get a clerical job (6) 19 Fool, over a very large port, Paul steered away from (5)

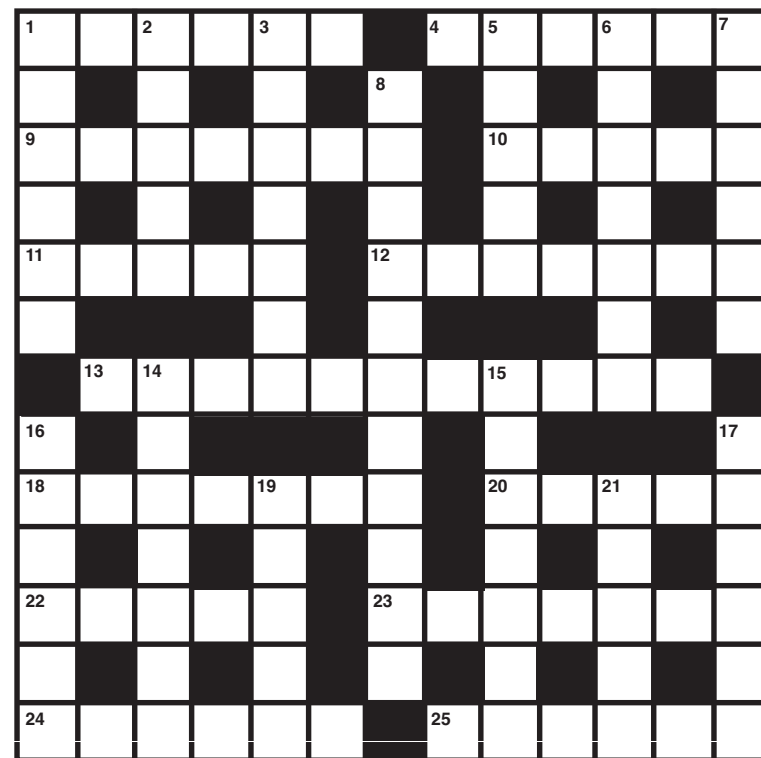
21 Motif of the egoist? (5)

QUICK Across

- 1 Teutonic (broadly) (6)
- 4 Twelve divisions of Israelites, from the sons of Jacob (6) 9 City of New York state, on the shores of Lake Erie (7)
- 10 Novelists Evelyn or Auberon? (5)
- 11 Musical piece accompanying a stage drama or comedy (5)
- 12 Eldest son of Levi (7)
- 13 RC clergy in the mantle of the Dominican order (11).
- 18 Uto-Aztec American of the Great Plains (7)
- 20 Additional; surplus (5)
- 22 Major river of Pakistan (5)
- 23 Cloth or leather overshoes or leggings (7)
- 24 Formal denial or doubt of any defined doctrine of the RC Church (6) 25 Ecuadorean (broadly), for example (6)

QUICK Down

- 1 Town where the Tabernacle was kept and where Solomon worshipped (6)
- 2 Weapon with a long barrel which features spiralling grooves for accuracy (5) 3 Language presumed spoken by Christ (7)
- 5 Oarsman or woman (5)
- 6 Prussian general, Britain's ally at Waterloo (7)



- 7 Statue with the body of a lion and the head of a man (6)
- 8 OT book, alternative title in some Bibles being 'Canticles' (4,2,5)
- 14 Lover of the priestess Hero in Greek myth (7) 15 Peninsula of south-west Europe (7)
- 16 Local church community (6)
- 17 Beneficed member of the clergy (6)
- 19 Port of Mysia visited by Paul (5)
- 21 Topic: melody (5)

SOLUTION

Across: 1 German, 4 Tribes, 9 Buffalo, 10 Waugh, 11 Opera, 12 Gershwin, 13 Blackfriars, 18 Arapahe, 20 Extra, 22 Indus, 23 Gaters, 24 Heresy, 25 Andean. Down: 1 Gibeon, 2 Rifle, 3 Aramaic, 5 Rover, 6 Blucher, 7 Sphinx, 8 Song of Songs, 14 Leander, 15 Iberian, 16 Parish, 17 Parson, 19 Assos, 21 Theme.