



**MORE THAN 25 YEARS OF BRINGING THE NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER**

Published by Bellcourt Ltd, N2 Blois Meadow Business Centre, Steeple Bumpstead, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 7BN Telephone: 01440 730399 Editor Nick Layton E-mail [cn@cathcom.org](mailto:cn@cathcom.org) or [davidl@cathcom.org](mailto:davidl@cathcom.org)

## Warm Space (Cake and Conversation)



It was in May 2022 that we attended one of Paul Bodenham's meetings at St Hugh's church in Lincoln. Unfortunately very few people were able to attend that day, and the few that were there, all but one came from the 3 Lincoln City Parishes. Paul was gracious enough to rearrange the Agenda and the main focus of the day became outreach in Lincoln.

Towards the end of the day we all shared what we would take away from the day – for me it was the first time I heard the phrase "Warm Space". One of the Parishioners

from Our Lady's parish chatted about their Drop-In Morning and how well attended it was (and is even now 2 years later)

I really was taken by this and thought we needed it here at St Peter & St Paul's! I thought I would see if there was any appetite for it among the Parishioners that are available during weekdays. People were very generous and promised no end of financial assistance towards making meals and provisions, but I couldn't find a group committed enough to giving their time on a 4 week Rota so was initially disappointed.

In the meantime I met the Vicar and Ministers at the 3 other local churches. In a space of 500 yards we have an Anglican Church, a Methodist Church an Evangelical free Church and us and I wanted to know if between us we could provide a couple of hours a week so that there would be a place available every day for those in need of a warm space to have company, a cup of tea or coffee and a piece of cake.

It transpired that there was only Wednesday and Friday available as the Methodist Church already had 2 days a

week available and the Evangelical church were open on Mondays for those that needed somewhere warm.

After some delay, I think due to me wanting to offer meals and company, one of the Parishioners just happened to say "You know there are a lot of people that don't need a meal but long for company", Mother Teresa's comment about England being financially rich but poverty stricken as there are so many lonely people.

**Continued on page 3.**



## MORE THAN 24 YEARS OF BRINGING THE NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER

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](mailto:cn@cathcom.org) or

[davidl@cathcom.org](mailto:davidl@cathcom.org)

**Website:** [www.bellcourtltd.co.uk](http://www.bellcourtltd.co.uk)

**Distribution enquiries:**

Nick Layton

e-mail [nick@cathcom.org](mailto:nick@cathcom.org),

Bellcourt Limited,

**Publication date:** Fourth Sunday of the month for the following month. Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Diocese.

**Publishers and Owners:**

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

Advertising: tel: 01440 730399

Parental permission should be sought before submitting photographs of minors.

Views expressed in The Catholic News are not necessarily those of the editor.

## 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](mailto:cn@cathcom.org) before 10th of the month



# Year of Encounter Campaign goes live on World Social Justice Day

Tuesday 20th February was World Social Justice Day, and the SVP unveiled its new, "A Year of Encounter," in collaboration with CAFOD. This initiative aims to encourage engagement with local parliamentary candidates throughout the upcoming general election year.



Alessandra Sciarra, SVP's Policy and Public Affairs Manager says that the campaign's core objective is strengthening community participation and forging strong links between residents and their Parliamentary candidates for the 'common good'.

The common good is reached when we work together to improve the lives of people both in our local community, and in the wider world.

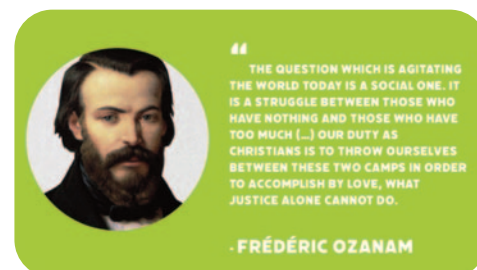
The SVP's and CAFOD's campaign wants to help the Catholic voice be heard in the next General Election, and we want to make sure our politicians make tackling poverty a priority.

The Church tells us that "...All citizens ought to be aware of their right and duty to promote the common good by casting their votes...". But in order to arrive at the polling station as well informed as possible, it's important to know our prospective MP's views on the things that matter to us.

For this reason, the SVP and CAFOD are inviting parishes to reach out to their local candidates ahead of the next election. This is not about party-political affiliations, but rather about strengthening community participation as a local faith group, and practicing the culture of encounter that Pope Francis talks about:

"... with our faith we must create a "culture of encounter," a culture of friendship, a culture in which we find brothers and sisters, in which we can also speak with those who think differently..."

For this reason and in partnership with CAFOD, the SVP has produced a joint campaign guide designed to inspire staff, volunteers, members and supporters to connect with prospective candidates and advocate for more robust measures to combat poverty - a shared priority for both organizations.



Integral to the campaign's success is the first such partnership with CAFOD, which aims to encourage people of faith to engage with their local candidates and participate actively in the next General Election. The "Year of Encounter" guide equips individuals with the knowledge and confidence needed to turn concern into action.

This campaign is both fitting and timely as 2024 marks the SVP's 180th anniversary, celebrating its enduring tradition of social justice advocacy and service to communities in need.

To access the resources and learn more about "A Year of Encounter," please visit the SVP website for further information at <https://www.svp.org.uk>

With over 5 million Catholics in the UK the next general election is an opportunity to bring attention to the big issues of our time. The General Election booklet and other resources, jointly produced by CAFOD and the SVP, provides some easy steps on how to reach out to your local candidates. As a bonus, hopefully you will meet other parishioners in your area and have some fun in the process too!

## FRANKLY SPEAKING



When we reach Easter this year your 2024 will have completed one quarter of its time allocation. British Summer Time will commence on Easter Day when Christians rightly celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord.

In May 1945 Winston Churchill allowed us a brief celebration at the declaration of peace in Europe but knowing the war in the Far East was still not over. The American President John F Kennedy once commented how "Churchill mobilised the English language and sent it into battle." After the first quarter of 2024 we have no need for a battle but a desperate requirement for leadership leading to an end of conflicts. With so many appeals for peace in a year of big world elections it seems we really must rely on hope and a lot of charity.

The feast of Pentecost comes 50 days after Easter, some regard this as the start of Christianity. Well I am no historian but there is little doubt of the bravery of our great saints during those early years. To show not only bravery but also leadership is surely what we need from our political leaders today. In our country there are many challenges, challenges mean difficult obstacles are going to be met. For many years there has been a shortage of what we call affordable homes. So why has the great city of Sheffield got nearly 7,000 empty houses with hundreds having been empty for years?

The last statistic is sadly accompanied by the fact that our local councils are running short of money with two thirds likely to bring in cuts to services. This can only mean those in greatest need, with local and national government at least partly blaming each other we all know who are the losers.

Finally I turn to Artificial Intelligence. Many people are rightly nervous about what the future holds with AI. Will it increase the risk of cyber-attacks and erode trust in online content or will it lead to new jobs? Either way it looks likely to be an accepted part of our life. We all need to be aware of this, not least our young people.

In his reflections for the Third Sunday of Lent this year Pope Francis spoke of "pleading for the people when they are most in need" and called on Christians to share in prayer as he linked this to the redemption of the whole world.

A Happy Easter to all readers.

Frank Goulding,  
Holy Trinity Parish,  
Newark

For all your  
advertising  
requirements  
please contact

Nick on  
01440 730399  
[nick@cathcom.org](mailto:nick@cathcom.org)

PLEASE  
SUPPORT OUR  
ADVERTISERS





### Continued from page 1

So it was all change and before we knew where we were we had "Cake and Conversation" where a warm welcome awaits.

One generous couple in the Parish promised to fund any financial shortfalls, which was a relief for Canon Geoffrey as it meant that no one had to worry about the cost of the heating.

We began in February 2023 and have now been open for a year. Wednesday is our day and in the meantime our Anglican friends have begun a Friday drop in, which means that every day there is somewhere very local to go in the warm with company, cake and a chat.

Over the year the group, which is a regular 20+people, has developed into a hub of enjoyable company and things to do. We have Cake and a chat for about 30 minutes and after that some of the people join small groups and play table-top games. This has become a favourite for about half the group. We also have a book exchange cupboard – another appreciated facility for book lovers. The people that come have taken responsibility for making tea and coffee, serving it with a smile and for providing cake and biscuits and also washing up. It is

interesting that of the 6 people that regularly help 4 of them are not Parishioners. They are just happy to be there and give a hand.

Canon Geoffrey, who pops in to see everyone each week, suggested we might like to have a session of chair-based exercises – people weren't too keen at first but agreed to give it a go and soon everyone loved it. The physio who comes from the Lincoln City Football club has made it fun and is coming twice a month! Somehow the costs are covered. The football club funds an outreach programme to help keep people in the community healthy.

We had a lovely Christmas meal a week before Christmas. It had been a spontaneous decision round about September (by those attending) to have a meal and everyone that could, put a pound a week in a box and by Christmas we had enough cash to have a lovely meal. Of course, we also had performances from those attending and sang carols.

It has been great to see friendships developing: there are people that actually meet up on other afternoon in the month just to play a game and have some company in their own home. Recently when we opened up we had a lovely surprise, 6 residents from the local care home came



along and enjoyed it so much they are hoping to come each fortnight!

However, one of the great things about the Wednesday afternoons is that we have people that live on their own, they are not all parishioners and a recent comment I had given to me was that "you Catholics, you're wonderful, you do so much for people".

I was reminded of the Bishops' desire for us all to become Missionary Evangelists. I would never have made the connection

between such an enjoyable experience and evangelisation, so for those that are not too sure about what to do for their local community – each Parish will have different local needs – but take the plunge and have a go.

Cake and Conversation afternoons take place on Wednesdays between 1.30 - 3.30pm at St Peter & St Pauls Church Parish Centre, Skellingthorpe Road, Lincoln LN6 7RB

Patricia



“She makes me feel like a VIP”

### Home and Live-in Care, just as you like it.

You love your home and you feel safe there. Needing additional care and support shouldn't change that.

You may be in a situation where you need an extra pair of hands, or you may have complex needs that require more dedicated care. Our well-trusted care packages are built around you and your individual needs which means that you and your family can rest assured you'll receive care and support exactly as you need.

Our care ranges from a 30-minute daily visit through to full Live-in care.

Call our friendly team today.  
Bluebird Care Nottingham  
[bluebirdcare.co.uk/nottingham](http://bluebirdcare.co.uk/nottingham)  
0115 773 3322  
[nottingham@bluebirdcare.co.uk](mailto:nottingham@bluebirdcare.co.uk)

your life  
your home  
your care  
your way





# Bishop responds to assisted suicide report

Bishop John Sherrington, lead bishop for life issues for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, issued this statement on the publication of a report by the Health and Social Care Select Committee on Assisted Dying/Assisted Suicide.

Given that parliament has already rejected any changes to the law on assisted suicide in 2015 and 2021, I welcome the decision of the select committee not to recommend the legalisation of assisted suicide.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales opposes its legalisation out of concern for the good of every person in society, the protection of this good in law and the spiritual and pastoral care of the sick and dying.

The act of assisted suicide violates the dignity inherent to every person's life, which is to be cherished and cared for at all stages until natural death.

As highlighted in the committee's report, experts have noted that there have been major problems in safeguarding the vulnerable and those without full mental capacity when assisted suicide and/or euthanasia have been introduced in other jurisdictions.



Bishop John Sherrington

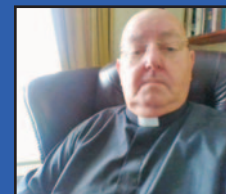
© Mazur/catholicchurch.org.uk

Recognising the distress and suffering of those who are sick and vulnerable, I welcome the committee's recommendation that the accessibility and provision of palliative and end-of-life care needs to be improved – something the Catholic Church has consistently called for.

For Catholics and many others, consolation and support in times of terminal illness can be experienced through prayer, the sacrament of the sick and the caring and compassionate presence of loved ones as a person prepares for eternal life.

As Pope Francis has written: "Human compassion consists not in causing death, but in embracing the sick, in supporting them in their difficulties, in offering them affection, attention, and the means to alleviate suffering."

## From: Elston Hermitage.....



This month we celebrate the ultimate among Solemnities, the greatest among Feasts - Easter is the day we celebrate the crowning central truth of our faith in Jesus Christ. Easter being the most important day of the Christian calendar, more important than even Christmas. Because it is the day of Resurrection and Christ's triumphant victory over sin and death.

Throughout the observances of Lent, we joined our sorrowful Blessed Mother in accompanying Jesus on the road to Calvary. Particularly on Holy Thursday and Good Friday, when we unite ourselves to the Lord's Passion, contemplating the suffering Jesus endured for love of us, we are transformed through this uniting in order to also share Jesus' great culminating victory over sin and death. At Easter we celebrate Jesus' glorious Resurrection from the dead - the basis of our faith, as St Paul emphatically reminds

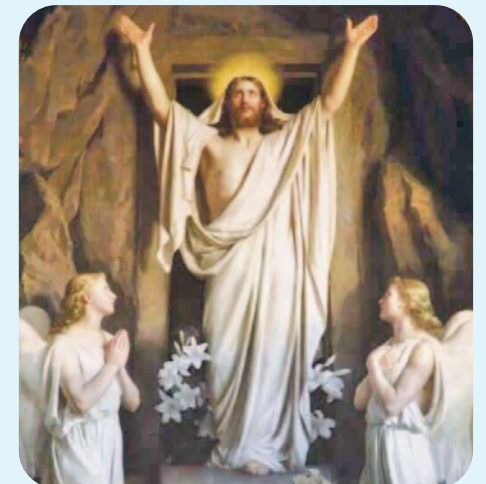
us in his first epistle to the Corinthians: "And if Christ be not risen again, your faith is vain, for you are yet in your sins. Then they also that are fallen asleep in Christ are perished" (1 Corinthians 15:17-18). So just as we are called to share in Our Lord's Passion and Death, we are also called to unite ourselves to His Resurrection during Easter, for if "we have died with Him, we shall also live with Him" (2 Timothy 2:11). This greatest of gifts given to us lovingly and freely by our Redeemer, has purchased for us eternal life. We can hope for no greater glory than to gain the Beatific Vision and to live eternally with God, Our Blessed Lady, the angels and Saints in Heaven.

The joy of our faith and hope rests in the words of Jesus to Martha before he raised Lazarus from the dead: "I am the Resurrection and the Life, he who believeth in me, although he be dead, shall live, and every one that lives, and believes in me,

shall not die for ever". (John 11. 25-26) Let us then join our voices to Martha as we echo her response to Jesus. "Yes Lord, I believe that thou art Christ, the Son of the living God" (John 11. 27)

Easter is not only the foundation of our faith, Easter also invigorates our hope. Hope always draws our eyes upward where God resides. St Paul encourages us "Therefore, if you are risen with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. Mind the things that are above, not the things that are upon the earth. For you are dead and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ shall appear, who is your life, then you shall also appear with Him in glory" (Colossians 3: 1-4)

While both Christmas and Easter both have Octaves, the Church celebrates the Easter season for longer than it does Christmas. Eastertide extends to fifty days, and



commemorates the forty days Our Lord spent on earth after His Resurrection to the time of His Ascension to the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. On Easter Sunday let us join with the chorus of the faithful as we proclaim, "Yes rejoice and be glad for Christ truly is risen! Alleluia!"

Christ is Risen for us. He has overcome sin for us. He has opened heaven for us. Take hold of these wonderful gifts - by taking hold of Jesus and daily having an encounter with the Risen Lord.

Happy Easter to all.

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



# Saint Benedict student appointed as Derby's new Youth Mayor

A Year 11 student at Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy has been appointed as Derby's new Youth Mayor.

Sam Thiruvathilil, 16, said he was thrilled to win the vote and hopes to make a real difference during his one-year tenure.

The teenager heard about the opportunity to become Derby's Youth Mayor at school and decided to submit an application.

He had to outline three areas in which he wanted to make an impact and he said they were mental health, job opportunities and advocating for the rights of young people.

Sam was invited to give a speech in front of Derby's Youth Council and councillors and this was recorded and sent to schools across Derby, along with three other candidates. Students across the city were then asked to vote and Sam came out on top.

He said: "I was really pleased when I found out I'd won the vote. As part of the role I have to attend Derby City Council cabinet meetings, there will be meetings with the

people in charge of services for children in the city and I also have to assist the Mayor. There will also be lots of events where I will be representing young people.

"The three main areas I would like to focus on are improving job opportunities for young people in the city, mental health and advocating for young people's rights in schools. I will be looking to make small changes which will hopefully all lead to bigger changes."

Sam officially starts his new role in May and will be supported by a Deputy Youth Mayor. He said: "A lot of my time is taken up with council meetings and it will depend on how much I can take on but I'm focused and determined and I'm looking forward to it."

Hazel Boyce, Headteacher at Saint Benedict, in Derby, congratulated Sam on his achievement.

She said: "We are thrilled Sam has been elected as Derby's Youth Mayor. It is a reflection of his hard work and passion and a very proud moment for Saint Benedict."



## AFAQ Project bringing hope for the future through enterprise

### Transitioning from tourism to skilled jobs

80% of Palestinian Christians have lost their tourism-related income due to the combination of Covid-19 and the current war. With such an unstable political situation, it is unlikely that tourists will return for some time.

For the future of the Christian community in the Holy Land, it's essential to support careers and businesses that don't rely on pilgrims and tourists.

Working with Bethlehem University and the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, we are supporting self-employed people through the AFAQ Project.

We have helped 29 existing small businesses by providing business development, professional coaching, and grants for much-needed equipment.

### Raji's Barber Shop



Tomah was able to open a small barbershop in his village. The grant helped him to buy a barber's chair with adjustments for children, as well as razors and scissors. He is proud to build his business, and welcomed the Parish Priest as one of his first customers.

### Family Pastries

This family has been able to develop their pastry business and offer a larger selection of products in their community thanks to the AFAQ Project. The grant meant they could invest in a food mixer, freezer and kneading machine. Working together makes the family feel more hopeful about the future.



### Location Sandwich

These two entrepreneurs were about to close the business they'd been fighting so hard to keep. Support from the AFAQ Project helped them to buy vital kitchen equipment, and to work on a sales plan in order to turn their sandwich service into a success.



The AFAQ Project helps people start a new chapter in their professional lives – it builds resilience and self-esteem and offers a way for Christians to create a source of income in the Holy Land without having to cross into Israel or rely on tourism. That means fewer Christian families emigrating.

**The Hope & Healing Fund will help to power this project. Thank you for your donations.**

I'M STANDING WITH CHRISTIANS IN THE HOLY LAND

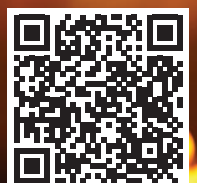
# DON'T LET THEIR LIGHT GO OUT

*"I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. WHOEVER FOLLOWS ME WILL NEVER WALK IN DARKNESS BUT WILL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE." — JOHN 8:12*

Give today:

**[friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/hope](https://friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/hope)**

May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds' especially that caused by war in the Holy Land, and may you help us bring Hope and Healing to our brothers and sisters this Eastertide.







# Mass for the cause of Beatification and Canonisation of the Venerable Mary Potter

## St Barnabas Cathedral

**“We are commencing a work in time that is to influence all eternity”.  
Venerable Mary Potter**

On 8 th February 1988 Pope Saint John Paul II declared Mary Potter venerable. We join together every year in praying for the cause of Beatification and Canonisation of this extraordinary woman and her visionary work in praying and caring for the sick, the suffering and the dying. On 13 th February we celebrated a Votive Mass of Our Lady of Good Counsel which was a much loved and significant devotion in the life of Mary Potter.

Inspired by her devotion to the Maternal Heart of Mary when at the foot of the Cross she stood by her Son accepting and sharing his suffering, bringing him comfort in his dying moments “God showed me his desire, a new Order in the Church the spirit and model which would be Calvary” (Venerable Mary Potter).

Mary was born in London on 22 November 1847, the youngest of five children. She was born with a congenital heart and lung disease and later faced cancer and tuberculosis. With lifelong frail health, Mary had a strong personal empathy for the sick and the dying.

Mary also faced much psychological and spiritual suffering as she struggled to actualise her mission from God. She faced much opposition from her family, her mother in particular, and her Spiritual Directors. It was against this background that in 1877 the 29-year-old Mary Potter and two companions came to rent a derelict stocking factory in the then deprived area of Hyson Green, Nottingham where the poor living in squalid conditions with neglected disease struggled to survive. Despite further trials and setbacks, Mother Mary’s vision was to ensure that her sisters had a strong spiritual foundation with a disciplined life of prayer as well as the highest standards of professional training so that they could offer the best nursing care and tend to the spiritual welfare of their dying patients. The building was blessed as a convent dedicated to the Maternal Heart of Mary and became the foundation of what was to become a global Order of the Little Company of Mary where the high standards of nursing, palliative and spiritual care continue to this day.

It was Pope Leo XIII who signed the Decree which approved the Little Company of Mary

and he invited Mary Potter to open a house in Rome. This was to become the Mother House where Mary lived until her death in 1913. In 1977 her remains were transferred to the Cathedral of St Barnabas here in Nottingham where the Little Company of Mary was founded.

In his homily Fr Julian Booth, Vice-Postulator for the cause of Mary Potter’s canonisation, spoke of her devotion to Our Lady of Good Counsel whose shrine is in Genazzano, 30 miles from Rome. Here a miraculous image of Our Lady and the Child Jesus is venerated. The doctors had given Mary months to live and declared that it would need a miracle for her to survive. Determined to see the sisters off to Sydney from Naples, a very ill Mary Potter stopped at Genazzano during the return journey to pray before the image of Our Lady of Good Counsel. In a state of collapse, Mary was put to bed until the next morning when she was carried to pray before the miraculous image. That evening whilst the Rosary was being prayed in her room, Mary got up from her bed and walked unassisted. She continued unaided to Mass the next morning and was able to spend a long time in prayer. While many referred to this as a miracle, Mary referred to it as a great “Grace” when good health was restored to her enabling her to continue the work of the Little Company of Mary.

Fr Julian explained that “The gift of Counsel points us to the Maternal Heart of Mary, pierced with a sword, but a heart which is the temple of the Holy Spirit and a heart which will always tell us what to do”. He asks us all to pray and to invoke Our Lady of Good Counsel so that we can “learn to love Our Lady better”. He also explained that it is the gift of Counsel that urges us to do the right thing in praying and fostering devotion to Venerable Mary Potter. “We look to the prayers of the Mother of God in our desire to see her faithful servant, Mary Potter raised to the altars”.

Writing to her sisters at Christmas 1885, Mother Mary Potter said: “I have visited Our Lady on earth, if I may so express it, at her lovely Sanctuary at Genazzano, where she seemed to take me in her arms and bless my soul and body”.



Fr Julian asks us to visit Our Lady of Good Counsel in spirit if not in body by using a picture of the image and by keeping it in our homes as a reminder to pray for the cause of Mary Potter and to also ask Our Lady for the gift of wise counsel.

During this year 2024, Fr Julian, the Sisters, Associates and Affiliates of the Little Company of Mary would ask that you continue with the prayers and promotion of the cause, for a miracle that could be attributed to Venerable Mary Potter’s intercession and would advance the Church’s careful process of canonisation. We can do this by giving people the Beatification Prayer Card; by introducing at least one person to Venerable Mary Potter; to visit her tomb and to visit the Heritage Centre at 32 Regent Street, Nottingham. (email: lcmheritage@gmail.com Tel: 01159505167)

## Beatification Prayer

O God, to whose glory the Little Company of Mary was founded by Venerable Mary Potter, grant that she may be beatified soon, so that her work and spirit may benefit still more the suffering members of Jesus Christ. Amen. Mary Mother of the Church, may this ardent apostle of your Maternal Heart be more widely known by special favours granted through her intercession.  
(Here make your petition).  
Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.

**Caroline Smith**  
LCM Associate



# Scripture Focus

By Fr Jeremy Corley



## Shock News of Empty Grave

When we lose someone we love, it is natural to have feelings of emptiness. The departed person who has filled such a great place in our life is suddenly no longer with us, and we feel a void.

After Jesus' tragic death on Good Friday, his followers would have felt a great sense of emptiness. The male disciples would also have felt terrible shame. Despite their protestations of loyalty at the Last Supper, they had deserted him.

At least Mary Magdalene and her companions had remained with Jesus even at his death. And they had accompanied Joseph of Arimathea in his rushed burial of Jesus' battered corpse.

What hope could exist now? Jesus had been a great teacher of God's ways. He had been a wonderful healer of those suffering in mind and body. And now, seemingly, it was all over. They were just left with their memories.

After the sabbath rest, Mary Magdalene and her friends decide they want to honour Jesus' bruised body with some dignity, by anointing it with

spices. But when they go to the tomb early in the morning, they are shocked by what they find.

The large stone covering the tomb has been rolled away, and Jesus' body is no longer there. Instead, an angel tells them he is no longer there, because he is now risen. What's more, they are told that they will see him again when they return to Galilee.

The gospel from the Easter Vigil misses out the next verse, stating that the women said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid (Mark 16:8). Strangely, this verse is how Mark's Gospel ends in the earliest Greek copies.

Some interpreters have understood this verse to indicate that these women were really just as fearful as the male disciples, afraid of the Roman authorities. But in fact, the women had shown great courage to stay with Jesus right until his death.

More likely, they said nothing to anyone because they were awestruck. Nothing like this had ever happened before. God had intervened in a marvellous yet perplexing way. This sense of fear was like the awe felt by the twelve disciples when Jesus calmed the storm on the lake (Mark 4:41).

The original form of Mark's Gospel leaves us hanging at the ending. The women experience feelings of awe and wonder when they no longer find Jesus' body in the tomb. They are amazed by the news that Jesus is risen and will show himself to them in Galilee. But the original Gospel did not narrate any resurrection appearances by Jesus.

On Easter Saturday (6th April), we read the continuation of the resurrection story, added at the end of Mark's Gospel by a later scribe. We hear of how the risen Jesus appeared first of all to Mary Magdalene on Easter morning (as in John 20 – the gospel for Easter Tuesday). In this way, she became the Apostle to the Apostles, even if at first they were slow to believe her shocking news.

The story continues with an echo of the Emmaus story (Luke 24 – the gospel for Easter Wednesday). Even though Jesus showed himself to two travellers going away from Jerusalem, the male disciples did not immediately believe them.

It was only when he showed himself to the Eleven at table that they finally accepted the shock news that their Saviour was risen (John 20 – the gospel for Sunday 7th April). At last, the penny drops for them.

Jesus is alive and has overcome death.

Then Jesus tells them: "Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation." This good news is not something to hide. It offers hope for every human being.

In our personal lives, where we can suffer loss and bereavement, we discover that death is not the end. Instead, we have the hope of seeing our beloved deceased relatives in the life of the resurrection.

For our world of today, where hopelessness and death often seem to be the last word, Jesus' resurrection also offers us hope and inspiration. God can intervene to turn things around. God does not want death to triumph. Instead he wants to lead us to eternal life.

Pope John Paul II said: "We are the Easter people, and alleluia is our song." As we celebrate Jesus' resurrection, let us pray that we may radiate Easter joy in our words and actions.

**CASPAR**  
Communication & Administration System for Parishes and Religious

**New online tool to help you manage your parish:**

- ✓ Reduce your parish administration
- ✓ Communicate with parishioners
- ✓ More time to be a Parish Priest!

**Newsletters by Email/Text**  
Send to parishioners/add to your website: save money, time & paper

**Parish Pastoral Statistics**  
Keep track of Pastoral Statistics: see live stats, submit stats instantly

**Parish Website**  
Existing website or a new one: make it easier to manage

**Parish Finances**  
Manage parish finances, gift aid records, reduce workload

**Rotas**  
Easily create parish Rotas: enable parishioners to volunteer for jobs

**Pastoral Care**  
Keep track of parishioners who need to be visited and cared for

**100% Carbon Neutral**  
All systems are Carbon Neutral & helps reduce your Carbon Footprint

**Free Trials starting in 2023**  
[www.caspar.church](http://www.caspar.church)  
from CathCom

**You're already using it to produce your Diocesan Almanac**

**To Advertise  
in the  
Catholic News  
contact  
Nick on  
01440  
730399  
nick@  
cathcom.org**

**A.W. LYMN**  
*The Funeral Planning Service®*

**Funeral specialists  
here for you**

- Pre-paid funeral plans available
- In-house masons and florists

**Free home visits**

**Funeral homes throughout  
Nottingham, Derby  
& Mansfield**

**0800 092 0645**

**Funeral Services**

**A M BUCKINGHAM**  
INDEPENDENT FUNERAL SERVICES

**DIRECT CONVEYANCE - £1,000**  
**SIMPLICITY FUNERALS**  
**STANDARD FUNERALS**  
**TRADITIONAL FUNERALS**  
PLEASE CALL FOR DETAILS

**PERSONALISED FUNERALS**  
TAILOR TO YOUR SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS  
PLEASE CALL FOR DETAILS

*We are here to listen, reassure and guide you through all your options. Please do not hesitate to contact us on the details provided below.*

632 Farnborough Road, Clifton, Nottingham, NG11 9GU Tel: 0115 7844351  
6 The Precinct, Colgrave, Nottingham, NG12 3JQ Tel: 0115 9890060  
Email: [ambuckinghamfunerals@outlook.com](mailto:ambuckinghamfunerals@outlook.com)  
Web: <https://ambuckingham.co.uk/>

*No understanding how difficult losing a loved one can be, and we promise to help you through every step of arranging a funeral with care, dignity and respect.*



**Feast of Divine Mercy**

will be celebrated at the church

**Our Lady of Perpetual Succour**Brooklyn Road, Bulwell,  
Nottingham NG6 9ES**Sunday 7th April 2024****2.30 to 3.45pm****Full service including Guest speaker**  
**Fr Simon Gillespie****We invite you to come and join us for**  
**this great feast****For further information****Please ring Madeleine 0115 9277893****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 Ignation 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.

**CONVENT OF OUR**  
**LADY OF FIDELITY**1 Our Lady's Close, Upper Norwood,  
London SE19 3FA Telephone 07760 297001**NATIONWIDE SERVICE IN DESIGN,  
INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE OF LIGHTNING  
PROTECTION AND EARTHING SYSTEMS****HAVE YOU BOOKED IN YOUR ANNUAL  
LIGHTNING PROTECTION TEST AND  
INSPECTION?****IS YOUR SYSTEM COMPLIANT TO THE  
STANDARD BS EN 62305: 2012?**  
**CONTACT US NOW TO RECEIVE YOUR FREE NO  
OBLIGATION QUOTATION OR FREE ADVICE AND  
SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR LIGHTNING  
PROTECTION****WWW.LIGHTNING-PROTECTIONUK.COM****0115 8411 211****INFO@LIGHTNING-PROTECTIONUK.COM**Representing the best in electrical  
engineering and building servicesASSOCIATION OF TECHNICAL  
LIGHTNING & ACCESS SPECIALISTS**Church Pews Uncomfortable?**

Why not try



top quality upholstered foam pew cushions?

SafeFoam, Green Lane, Riley Green,  
Hoghton, Preston PR5 0SN**www.safeFoam.co.uk****Freephone 0800 015 44 33**Free Sample Pack of Foam & fabrics sent by first class mail.  
When phoning please quote MV101**For all your advertising  
requirements  
please contact  
Nick on 01440 730399  
nick@cathcom.org****PLEASE SUPPORT OUR  
ADVERTISERS**

# View from the Pew

**By Dr Jay Kettle-Williams**

## Making ends meet

I had driven across country following increasingly narrow and winding lanes on my way to a market town in Hampshire, in the diocese of Portsmouth. The satnav brought me to the local parish church where I drove onto the open, rough surface of the church's large, sloping car park. I'd come to determine the financial ins and outs of what comes into play when priests retire. Who better to help me with that than the new resident, now four years retired: the Right Reverend Peter Doyle, Bishop Emeritus of Northampton, who had previously been a priest in the Diocese of Portsmouth for 37 years under Bishops Worlock, Emery and Hollis.

I selected the topmost corner of the car park, furthest from the road, right in front of a high garden fence which was punctuated by a similarly high gate. As the car crunched to a halt, the gate swung open and Bishop Peter beckoned me into his garden at the back of the priest's house. 'The coffee's on,' he explained. 'I've even got some lemon drizzle cake for us to enjoy while we discuss what you wanted to chat about. Care for Priests in retirement, no?'

We moved from the garden through the patio doors into the Bishop's sitting room, at one end of which, away from the sofa and armchairs, was an elegant writing desk with computer and associated matters. He beckoned me to sit down on the armchair of my choice.

'I've been very fortunate,' the Bishop explained as he poured the coffees. 'Now, what would you like to know?'

'Well,' I started, 'I just wonder how it all works. What forces, considerations and support come into play when priests retire? I presume the picture is far from plain sailing, probably affected by any number of issues of concern both within and beyond the Church.'

Bishop Peter, who had been Bishop of Northampton for 15 years, explained that diocesan Bishops and their dioceses have responsibility and a duty of care for retired incardinated Priests with regard to board,

lodging and general support. On the other hand, retired religious Priests – such as friars and monks – become the responsibility of their respective congregations.

I was already aware that dioceses often have a Retired Priests' Fund or some such for which the laity would be encouraged to constitute a much-needed revenue stream integral yet presumably keenly ringfenced within the diocese's accounting procedures and which could be independently invested. But diocesan finances as a whole often follow offset principles. Offset accounting removes or limits liabilities whereby a deficit in one area can be eliminated, or otherwise offset or counterbalanced by an equal profit or credit in another.

Bishop Peter went on to explain that, by way of monitoring and support, the trustees of a diocese will usually appoint a welfare officer normally working in association with and supported by a Priests' Welfare Committee.

Different dioceses, faced with differing and varied financial burdens, will differ in the quality and grade of support they are able to offer. Longevity, rising costs and reduced income streams are challenging factors to add to the mix.

To purchase property exclusively for the use of retired priests will be beyond the reach, be that in part or whole, of many dioceses. Their only option then in that regard is to finance the conversion of existing property with whatever concomitant entitlement.

In some instances, there may be a requirement for nursing. This may place further burdens in cases where state aid is not available.

Priests may have made private arrangements for their own personal or state pension. Others may have inherited their own family property or wealth.

Once retired, Bishop Peter continued, priests might be able to supplement any

**Bishop Peter John Haworth Doyle**

pension – assuming they still be fit, willing and available – by 'supply', receiving a fee and travel expenses for celebrating Mass where there is no regular priest available or if standing in for a fellow priest who may be off sick or on holiday.

Mass intentions constitute a further revenue stream but only active parish clergy have access to the Christmas or Easter offerings.

On death, procedures will obviously follow a priest's wishes but a Bishop will be buried in or near his Cathedral.

And on that note the Bishop served more coffee and we set about finishing what was left of the lemon drizzle cake.

Acknowledgements and Attribution: Grateful thanks to Neil Roseman, Director of Communications at Northampton Diocese, for providing the photograph of Bishop Peter Doyle; Texts/References adapted and/or adopted from <http://en.wikipedia.org> under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License 4.0: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>;

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



# We are delighted to have everyone back at St Edward's



Pupils and staff in all year groups have been reunited under one roof at St Edward's Catholic Voluntary Academy after being split across two sites for almost six months.

In September 2023 Years 3 to 6 at St Edward's, in Swadlincote, had to move temporarily to their partner secondary school, Blessed Robert Sutton Catholic Voluntary, in Burton.

The move followed a Government announcement about issues in schools where Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) had been identified.

St Edward's was forced to delay the start to term in September by a week whilst alternative arrangements were made. Children in Nursery to Year Two were able to be safely accommodated at St Edward's.

Since then, various investigations have been carried out at St Edward's, which is part of the St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust, and this month a large-scale operation to install a mix of horizontal and vertical props across the school began.

Four classrooms have been propped along with internal walkways, toilets and the staffroom. Props are currently being installed in the school hall. Once this is completed the whole process will have taken 5 weeks.

The school has recently been placed on the Government's School Rebuilding programme which means that it has been

deemed eligible to be added to a list of schools to have one or more blocks rebuilt or refurbished. No further details have been given at this stage.

Headteacher Kay Methven received news about the partial closure of St Edward's on her first day of headship in September 2023.

She said: "We are delighted to have everyone back at St Edward's. The staff have worked really hard to get the school ready and it looks amazing. The children have settled back in beautifully and it's nice to see the older and younger children together again. As well as thanking staff, we would also like to thank our parents who have been so understanding, patient, supportive and so positive. We would also like to thank the Trust's Estates Team for all of their hard work and the staff at Blessed Robert Sutton for making us feel so welcome.

"The children aren't bothered by the props and the teachers have been quite creative, decorating some with ivy and butterflies and creating a camouflage area."

Naz Prabatani, Acting Assistant Headteacher and Year 4 teacher, said: "It feels like being back at home again, it's absolutely amazing, that feeling of being back together. When we came through the doors it still has that family feeling even though the building looks different. The children have adapted so well. I think some of them miss being at Blessed Robert Sutton, because their siblings might be

there, but I don't think they miss travelling there and back on the coaches. It's been great to have the older children back with the younger children, they have loved seeing each other."

Pupil Anna, eight, said: "It was strange because at the end of the first day I was thinking that I had to get a coach back to school but I didn't! Being back at St Edward's felt like being back at home, it was really calm and really beautiful. I don't care about the props in the classrooms. It's been lovely to be able to see my sister in Year Two and brother, in Nursery, again."

Pupil Leo, nine, said: "It was strange in September when all of a sudden we couldn't come to school at St Edward's. Going to Blessed Robert Sutton was fun and I got to see my older sister. It's nice to be back at St Edward's, some things are a bit different with the props being here but it's better to be here."

Kevin Gritton, Chief Executive of the St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust, said: "It's fantastic to see pupils and staff back together at St Edward's and we would like to thank staff, pupils, parents and the whole school community for all of their hard work, dedication and support through such a challenging period. We would also like to thank our Estates Team centrally for everything they have done to support St Edward's over the past six months and all of the staff at Blessed Robert Sutton."

## MASSERS

Solicitors to the Diocese of Nottingham

Offering you a full range of legal services:

- Wills & Power of Attorney
- Probate & Trusts
- Company & Commercial Law
- Commercial Property
- Commercial/Property Litigation
- Residential Conveyancing

Telephone:  
0115 851 1666

At 15 Victoria Street, Nottingham & Tudor Square, West Bridgford  
E-mail: law@massers.co.uk

## ALL SHE WANTS IS A NAME

Make a donation today to register a child

**TOYBOX**  
Changing the world for street children

For all your advertising requirements  
please contact  
Nick on 01440 730399  
Nick@cathcom.org

## Subscribe to The CatholicPost



subscribe@catholicpost.co.uk  
01440 730399

**For ALL of your Parishioners**  
100 copies: £15.00 per month\* (15p per copy)  
200 copies: £29.00 per month\* (14.5p per copy)  
300 copies: £41.00 per month\* (14p per copy)

**For some of your Parishioners**  
50 copies: £12.00 per month\* (24p per copy)  
10 copies: £9.00 per month\* (90p per copy)

**Individual Subscriptions**  
1 Copy delivered by Post: £4.00 per month\*



**Online Subscriptions**  
1 Online Copy  
via Email £3.00 per month\*

\*20% Discount for ALL ongoing subscriptions paid by card. All prices include delivery

[www.catholicpost.co.uk](http://www.catholicpost.co.uk)



# Year 7 Taster Day

## For September 2025 Admission

# Wednesday 12 June

Exceptional education for 11-18 year-olds



LOUGHBOROUGH  
Amherst School

Book your place today:  
[lsf.org/tasterdays](https://lsf.org/tasterdays)



## The Power of Prayer – The Miraculous Medal (Part 2)

***“O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee”***

Like many people I have met recently while visiting our local churches to share the story of the Miraculous Medal and to distribute it, I count myself fortunate to have been raised with knowledge of the Medal from a young age. My aunt, Sr Eileen Mullin, has been a Daughter of Charity for over 70 years. When my sisters and I were young, she would often tell us stories of the Medal, St Catherine Laboure and the Rue du Bac Convent in Paris where she had completed part of her novitiate.

Whilst many people are aware of the medal, I was amazed to read more about the meaning of the imagery of the medal which Our Lady herself had commissioned through her apparitions to St Catherine Laboure at the Rue du Bac in 1830.

The following information has been abridged from a recent book, published in 2023 called “The Miraculous Medal” by Christine Watkins who explains it beautifully.

In 1830 Fr Aladel, as Sr Catherine’s confessor was the one to whom she

confided Our Lady’s requests for the medal to be struck. During Sr Catherine’s first two visits to him he rebuked and ridiculed her, even calling her a “wicked wasp”. Tormented and frustrated, Sr Catherine told Our Lady who responded to her in an interior locution: “He is my servant, and he should be frightened of displeasing me.” In 1831, on her third visit to Fr Aladel, Sr Catherine relayed Our Lady’s words to him. He became perplexed and in January 1832, on a visit to the Archbishop of Paris, he informed him of the apparitions, the unnamed seer, and the alleged request of Our Lady to imprint a Medal with her image. Fr Aladel described the request in detail to his Archbishop and the significant theological details did not escape the Archbishop’s notice:

• **Our Lady, standing on a white globe, crushing the serpent**

This was a sign of Mary’s Queenship of Heaven and Earth, and the power that God had given her to destroy Satan’s works and protect her children.

• **The words adorning the rim of the Medal, “O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee”.**

This signified Mary’s Immaculate Conception and being sinless she was ‘full of grace’ and ‘blessed among women’. The

circular words also pointed to Mary’s role as intercessor before God on behalf of her children and encouraging humankind to turn to the Blessed Mother, requesting her prayers.

• **The rays of grace streaming from the gems on the rings on Our Lady’s fingers onto the world.**

These rays demonstrate the power God has given Mary to dispense graces upon all of humanity and those asking for prayers.

• **The twelve stars on the reverse side of the Medal**

The stars are reminiscent of the Apostles, representing the entire Church as it surrounds Mary.

• **The simple cross of Christ**

This symbolises the Redeemer, the bar underneath it being the sign of the earth or an altar. **The “M” representing Mary** at the foot of the Jesus’s cross interwoven with the cross and the world. **The two hearts of Jesus and Mary with flames of fire** represent their burning love for us. The thorns piercing Jesus’s heart and the sword in Mary’s point to what they suffer over the sins of the world.

After questioning Fr Aladel, he was satisfied and gave permission for the first medals to be struck.



The graces that follow the Medal demonstrate that Our Lady continues to desire us to bring lost souls through her into the Heart of her son, Jesus Christ. When faith and confidence in the significance of Mary’s medal are nurtured in hearts, miracles spread like wildfire. St Maximillian Kolbe and St Mother Teresa of Calcutta are just two of many modern saints who have encouraged the distribution of the Miraculous Medal.

If you would like to discuss a visit to your church to talk and distribute Medals please contact me at [tmullin33@hotmail.com](mailto:tmullin33@hotmail.com).

If you would like a blessed Miraculous Medal then please contact Sr Barbara Sandy (0208) 9063777 at the Daughters of Charity Provincial House, The Ridgeway, Mill Hill, London NW7 1RE



# Book Reviews



## Deliver Us From Evil

**Bishops' Conference of England and Wales**  
**£9.95**

**CTS Product Code: DO968**  
**Please refer to this code when ordering over the phone**  
**ISBN: 9781784697693**  
**www.ctsbooks.org**

This attractive volume is a treasury of prayers and supplications from Holy Scripture and Sacred Tradition that can be used by the faithful in spiritual warfare against the powers of darkness, in any time of fear, distress or temptation.



This attractive volume is a treasury of prayers and supplications from Holy Scripture and Sacred Tradition that can be used by the faithful in spiritual warfare against the powers of darkness, in any time of fear,

## Fiducia Supplicans

**Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith**  
**£3.95**

**CTS Product Code: DO972**  
**Please refer to this code when ordering over the phone**  
**ISBN: 9781784697792**  
**www.ctsbooks.org**

The Vatican explains the pastoral meaning of blessings. "[Blessings] lead us to grasp God's presence in all the events of life and remind us that ... human beings are invited to seek God, to love him, and to serve him faithfully."



The Vatican's Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith explains the pastoral meaning of blessings.

"Blessings are among the most widespread and evolving sacramentals. Indeed, they lead us to grasp God's presence in all the events of life and remind us that, even in the use of created things, human beings

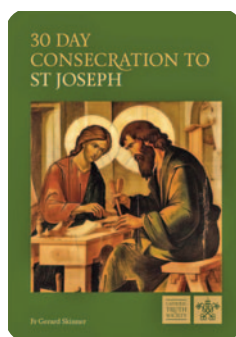
are invited to seek God, to love him, and to serve him faithfully. For this reason, blessings have as their recipients: people; objects of worship and devotion; sacred images; places of life, of work, and suffering; the fruits of the earth and human toil; and all created realities that refer back to the Creator, praising and blessing him by their beauty." (FS8)

## 30 Day Consecration to St Joseph

**Fr Gerard Skinner**  
**£3.95**

**CTS Product Code: D850**  
**Please refer to this code when ordering over the phone**  
**ISBN: 9781784697730**  
**www.ctsbooks.org**

St Joseph shows us a very special example of holiness. In this beautiful book of consecration, Fr Gerard Skinner provides meditations to bring us to Jesus through the powerful intercession of his foster father, St Joseph.



St Joseph shows us a very special example of holiness. The titles given to him by the Church tell us he is the most just, chaste, prudent, strong, obedient and faithful. He is named the Pillar of Families, Solace of the Wretched, Hope of the Sick, Patron of the Dying, Protector of the Church and Terror of Demons.

In this beautiful book of consecration, Fr Gerard Skinner provides the prayers and meditations to bring our hearts and our needs to Jesus through the powerful intercession of his foster father, St Joseph.

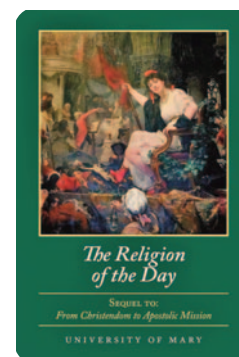
## The Religion of the Day

**£14.95**

**CTS Product Code: DO973**  
**Please refer to this code when ordering over the phone**  
**ISBN: 9781734882650**

We are living in a highly religious age. Secular gospels and dogmatic faiths promising salvation are all around us. So what is the belief system that is displacing Christianity as the assumed narrative by which our post-Christian, modern societies live?

Sequel to From Christendom to Apostolic Mission We are living in a highly religious age. Secular gospels and dogmatic faiths promising salvation are all around us. So what is the belief system, the religious vision, that is displacing Christianity as the assumed narrative by which our post-Christian, modern societies live? And what is the religion that we ourselves need to be converted out of, if we are to be fully converted to the Christian faith?

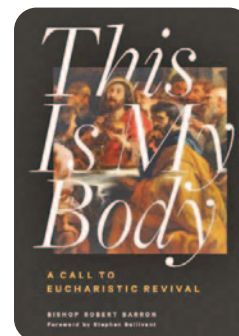


## This is My Body: A Call to Eucharistic Revival

**Bishop Robert Barron**  
**£6.95**

**CTS Product Code: DO969**  
**Please refer to this code when ordering over the phone**  
**ISBN: 9781784697716**  
**www.ctsbooks.org**

Many Catholics do not believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. This indicates a spiritual disaster in the Church. "This Is My Body: A Call to Eucharistic Revival" from Bishop Robert Barron is designed to accompany renewal of devotion to Christ truly present in the Eucharist.



A recent Pew Forum survey revealed the startling statistic that 69% of US Catholics do not believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, and the state of belief in the UK, as outlined by Professor Stephen Bullivant in the foreword to this UK edition, is not dissimilar.

This indicates a spiritual disaster in the Church, for the Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life." This Is My Body: A Call to Eucharistic Revival is designed to accompany renewal of devotion to Christ truly present in the Eucharist. In this brief but illuminating text, Bishop Barron offers a threefold analysis of the Eucharist as sacred meal, sacrifice, and Real Presence, helping readers to understand the sacrament of Jesus's Body and Blood more thoroughly so that they might fall in love with him more completely.

Discover the profound truth flowing out of Jesus's words at the Last Supper: "Take, eat; this is my body. . . . Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant."

Endorsements

"Robert Barron is a great teacher of the Church and a gifted biblical commentator who breaks open the Word of God for our day as Ambrose and Augustine did for theirs."

(George Weigel,  
Ethics and Public Policy Centre)

"One element of Bishop Barron's appeal is that he's so reasonable. He probably incarnates the classic Catholic synthesis between faith and reason more thoroughly and overtly than virtually any other living figure."

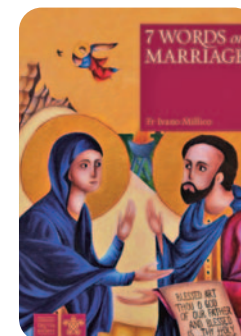
(John Allen Jr., bestselling author and  
Vatican journalist)

## 7 Words on Marriage

**Fr Ivano Millico**  
**£6.95**

**CTS Product Code: PA69**  
**Please refer to this code when ordering over the phone**  
**ISBN: 9781784697778**  
**www.ctsbooks.org**

Drawing from the marriage promises, married couples in Scripture, and the insights of Pope Francis and Pope John Paul II, we can discover the faithful presence of our loving God in the life-journey of every married couple.



Raphael. I take thee. Ring. Blessing. Nuptial bed. Cana. Sunem.

These are seven life-giving words on your marriage and to your marriage, as it is here and now, whether you took your vows decades ago, are newly-wed, or even still preparing for your wedding day. Drawing from the marriage vows, from stories of couples in Sacred Scripture, and from the practical and inspirational insights of Pope Francis and Pope St John Paul II, we can discover the faithful presence of our loving God in the life-journey of every married couple.

Every marriage is different, yet the same: joys and sorrows, blessings and failures.

These seven words reveal marriage as a sign of hope: an assurance that we can still have faith in marriage, the most beautiful thing God has created.



# Teacher's cancer battle inspires fundraising at St Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy

A teacher's fight against cancer inspired St Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy to 'go blue' and raise over £400 for a local hospice.

Kelly Collinge, Head of Humanities and History teacher, was diagnosed with breast cancer in January 2023 and was able to access a range of services and support at Blythe House hospice in Chapel-en-le-Frith.

The hospice has also supported many other families at St Thomas More which have been affected by cancer.

Mrs Collinge was keen to raise money for Blythe House and staff and pupils at the school were quick to rally with the whole school wearing blue in exchange for a donation, raising a total of £408.

Mrs Collinge said that Blythe House had been an amazing support to her and her family since her diagnosis.

She said: "They provide all sorts of services, completely free of charge, such as counselling, physiotherapy, complimentary therapies, support groups, and practical help. We are so lucky to have this service in

the High Peak, and not have to travel into Manchester. Fortunately, I am on the mend, and have returned to work.

"Everyone at St Thomas More School has been incredibly supportive, and rallied around me when I got sick, as we really are all part of the 'Tommy's Family'. I saw the opportunity to raise some funds for Blythe House, and when I mentioned it to the Headteacher, David Redfern, he, without any hesitation whatsoever, said that we would 100% get on board with their 'Go Blue for Blythe' campaign.

"Amy Shaw (the Head of English) and her husband very kindly donated sweets for a sweet sale at breaktime to raise as much as we could on the day. They sold out in under 5 minutes! The amount of pupils and staff in blue made me feel quite emotional, as we all, as a whole community, stand together in our fight against cancer."

David Redfern, Headteacher at St Thomas More, said: "I'm delighted that St Thomas More has raised money for such a special local charity. Blythe House provided invaluable support to Mrs Collinge throughout her cancer journey, and numerous families in our community have also benefitted from



their care. I extend a heartfelt thank you to Blythe House for their exceptional care of Mrs Collinge, and I am confident that the

funds raised will help them in their mission to support others facing cancer in the High Peak area."



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

## CRYPTIC Across

- 5 Cavort with miners about a place in Galilee (9)
- 8 Good little boy Scots defile (4)
- 9 Impossible poet Noah employed (3,1,4)
- 10 Book comfortable-sounding passage to a Baltic port (7)
- 12 Regular Bishop's oddly dismissed in retrospect from West Country town (5)
- 14 Ultimate craft leading seaman needs to cross un known depths (5)
- 15 President's vital new study's reviewed internally (7)
- 17 Embarrassed girl in front of the king (8)
- 18 Cheese one finds in buffet areas (4)
- 19 Jerk attending university in jeans is in the book (9)

## CRYPTIC Down

- 1 He was a killer in California's north (4)
- 2 Hero lover's name appears in editorial (7)
- 3 Number in party keeled over, getting bugs (5)
- 4 He reformed instrument to capture the earliest piece of Handel performed (8)
- 6 She's on coins – one or two sovereigns, for instance? (9)
- 7 The goddess Portia he'd metamorphosed (9)
- 11 Spielberg's limited knowledge about a part of Lincolnshire (8)

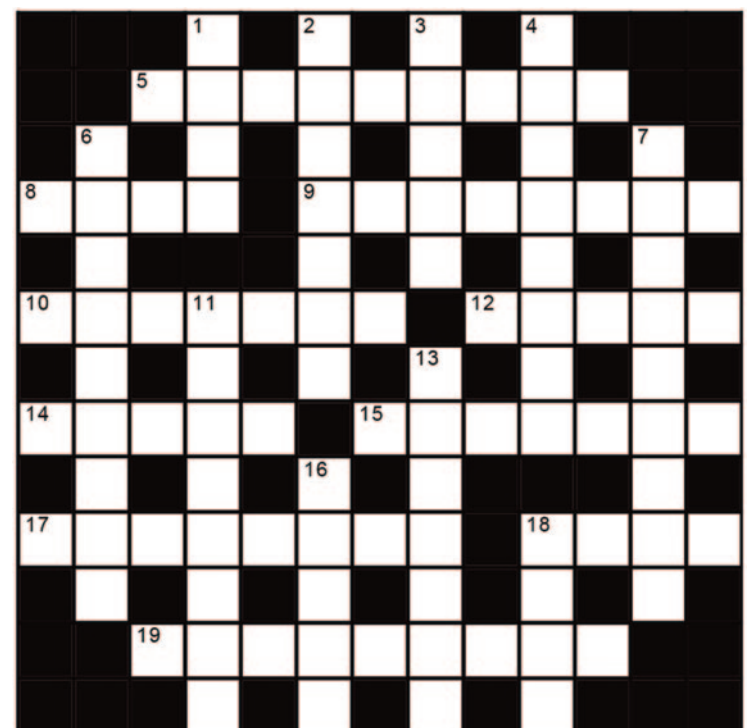
- 13 Demise comes in a short time (at ten to one) earlier, for the guitarist (7)
- 16 Pagan priest is an odd fake, receiving scripture training throughout (5)
- 18 Amusement one gained seeing a spirited old goat (4)

## QUICK Across

- 5 Jesus' base when he was teaching in Galilee (9)
- 8 Secluded valley (4)
- 9 Without a prayer; forget it! (3,1,4)
- 10 Book and major prophet of the OT (7)
- 12 County town of Cornwall (5)
- 14 Bottomlesspit;chasm(5)
- 15 US President inaugurated in 1961 (7)
- 17 King of Wessex (865-871), succeeded by Alfred the Great (8)
- 18 Greek, sheep and/or goat, salad cheese (4)
- 19 Third book of the Torah (9)

## QUICK Down

- 1 First child of Adam and Eve(4)
- 2 Lover of the priestess Hero in Greek myth (7)
- 3 In some Bibles an Egyptian plague equating to 'Mosquitoes' (5)
- 4 Of a form of Protestantism outlawed by a particular Diet in 1521 (8)



- 6 English settlement in New Jersey where Princeton University was founded in 1746 (9)
- 7 Greek goddess of love and beauty (9)
- 11 One of the three historic Lincolnshire 'ridings'; administrative centre, Sleaford (8) 13 Jimi ----- US R&B/Rock legend (1942-1970) (7)
- 16 AncientCelticpriest(5)
- 18 Roman woodland deity close to the Greek satyr (4)

## SOLUTION

13 Hendrix, 16 Druid, 18 Faun.  
4 Lutherian, 6 Elizabeth, 7 Aphrodite, 11 Kesteven,  
19 Leviticus. Down: 1 Cain, 2 Leander, 3 Gnats,  
12 Truro, 14 Abyss, 15 Kennedy, 17 Ethelred, 18 Feta,  
Across: 5 Capernaum, 8 Glen, 9 Not a hope, 10 Ezekiel,