



# Catholic News



ISSUE 337 - JUNE 2025

20p WHERE SOLD

**MORE THAN 26 YEARS OF BRINGING THE NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER**

Published by CathCom 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)

## Pope Leo XIV





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The monthly paper for the  
Diocese of Nottingham

**Catholic News** 

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CathCom Ltd,

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:

CathCom Ltd, N2 Blois Meadow  
Business Centre, Steeple Bumpstead,  
Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 7BN  
Advertising: tel: 01440 730399

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# A person's self-knowledge is a vitally important thing

Thanks To Jon Cornwall, a member of the SVP in the East Anglia diocese for this reflection.

One of the central maxims for a well-balanced life in the Greek Temple of Delphi are the words "gnothi seauton" or for us modern British speakers "know thyself". A person's self-knowledge is a vitally important thing and especially so if considered from a Christian, Vincentian view. For us our knowing ourselves means recognising that 'I am a cherished creation with the purpose of caring for those in my daily sphere and with the partnership of an equally enthusiastic Holy Spirit blessing our good efforts'.

My Irish family have an expression which I think has a similar purpose; "know me, know my mother". What that means is that you do not really make complete sense to a person until you have met that one person who has been a complete lynchpin to their entire being. That person does not have to be mum but might be a best friend, a sibling or even a beloved pet. When together, or even just talking about that other person you get to see them in a totally new light and one which reveals them to be totally themselves.

As we look back on the month of May we recognise a month when we are encouraged to pray the rosary, to grow closer to Our Lady. In that closeness at its best, we can be reminded who we are and how we should be in the world. We should grow in closeness to the point that our

whole person does not really make sense unless those witnessing us learned more about the faith so central to us.

The world is saddened to have said goodbye to Pope Francis, we of course know that his road to sainthood should be a mere formality and he is now taking his rightful place in the company of Heaven. One unique quality which Jorge Mario Bergoglio brought to his papacy is his very clear and demonstrable knowledge of himself. This is the pope who took his lunch with the gardeners, he refused the trappings of his role and opted for simplicity at every turn. He has made it virtually impossible for his successor to now live in opulence.



Cynics may say that these decisions were stunts but after years of his leadership I think we all now know that it was just who he was. The world felt that they understood him, but to truly know him and his mother

you must invest yourself in the Church at its finest. You must allow your treasures to be the vulnerable and afflicted, you must allow your comfort to be the simple company of others, you must make your source of all strength a loving and active God. You must soak yourself in prayer to God and through Our Lady, in the Sacraments and in Catholic Social Teaching. The man who would become Pope Francis knew himself totally because he listened to the God who loved him and had the courage to live simply for others.

As we pray for the eternal rest of our Pope may we be inspired to live as he did, certain that we are loved and with lives marked with openness, justice, peace and care for all creation. For us to know ourselves let us spend time in the company of one of our gentlest mirrors. Mary Mother of God, pray for us.



## Frankly Speaking

By Frank Goulding



Most people of my generation can recall their location and circumstances from the date of November 22nd 1963. This was the day when President John F Kennedy lost his life at the height of a political career that historians have discussed ever since.

It is quite likely that many great numbers will choose to recall when they heard of the passing of Pope Francis. With so many world wide tributes to such a great Pontiff I turn to the Easter Monday comment of a fellow Jesuit. "The world is a sadder place because a person who would speak out has gone."

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon in a Radio 4 national service on Divine Mercy Sunday spoke of the late Pope's "enormous personal courage" and that during his hard life "a great peace had descended on him."

The Archbishop then concluded by saying Pope Francis made his "final step with all other Pilgrims of Hope." All who knew Archbishop Malcolm will wish him many blessings as he retires from Liverpool.

The personal courage of Pope Francis had no limits as he pursued his joy of the Gospel to make the Church more dynamic and missionary. The figure of 400,000 who formed the congregation at the Requiem Mass may well be correct as many young people and some a bit older had pre-booked to attend the canonisation of Carlos Acutis. The unique gathering with the elite of the world leaders revealed just how significant the respect was not only for Pope Francis but also his leadership in a greatly troubled world.

In the closing period of the papacy of Pope Francis a number of journalists started to comment on how some young people

seemed to be turning towards the church in our own country. Whilst there may be local reasons for this we need to make appropriate moves in all our parishes. Much has been reported on the uncertain challenges which face the 18-25 age group. Poverty, climate change, wars can all lead to the issues which Pope Francis was so concerned about.

Our new Pope will not only be the successor to Saint Peter but will be fully conversant with the great issues that the planet faces. With the world seemingly at the mercy of powerful forces the bond of unity, love and particularly peace needs a firm link to the struggles of all people especially those in greatest need.

May Pope Leo XIV have many Blessings and bring hope to our world.



# St Mary's Church, the hidden gem of Marple Bridge

St Mary's Church, Marple Bridge held a 'Songs of Praise, Prayer and Reflection', service at their beautiful church on Sunday 11th May 2025. The service was led by Joe Harvey, parishioner of the church and Chair of Churches Together. The congregation came from different denominations and joined with the people of St Marys to sing hymns old and new.

Joe welcomed all the congregation and said he hoped everyone was in good voice. Some of the hymns were accompanied by the organ and other hymns by guitars and violin. Hymns included, Bind us together Lord, Amazing Grace, Make me a Chanel of your Peace and Give me Joy in my Heart.

Within his personal reflection, Joe mentioned the church was under threat of closure and he spoke about his love of the church.

"You only have to look around this beautiful building to feel the presence of the Lord"

He ended his reflection by saying,

"Our dear beloved Pope Francis designated this year the 'Year of Hope' and as I watched his Requiem mass on the TV and heard Cardinal Re read the Homily, I was struck by the following words,

'A church with it's doors always open. A church determined to take care of the people'.



It is a privilege to be part of this community and today as we celebrate hymns old and new, we contemplate the words of Cardinal Re and pray that the Doors of St Mary's Church, Marple Bridge will remain open forever".

It was an uplifting service held on a sunny day and all who came were invited into the adjoining church hall to enjoy tea and cake and each others company.

Denise Ead



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# A love story

June is traditionally recognised as the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Catholic Church. Whilst most Catholics know 2025 is a Jubilee Year of Hope, perhaps less well known is that it is also the Jubilee for the 350th anniversary of the revelations of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to St Margaret Mary Alacoque. The theme of the Jubilee is 'To return love for love'. The Jubilee officially started in 2023, on the anniversary of the first apparition to the French Visitation nun, which took place on December 27th 1673, in France. It will end on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which this year falls on June 27th, the anniversary of the final apparition (originally June 25th 1675).

At the start of the year parishioners of St Peter & St Paul Church, in Lincoln, were invited to read and discuss what would turn out to be the final encyclical by Pope Francis, entitled *Dilexit Nos*, on the human and divine love of the heart of Jesus Christ; with a small group meeting regularly throughout February to do so. The encyclical explores devotion to the Sacred Heart. Pope Francis trained for the priesthood as a member of the religious order, the Society of Jesus. It is the order that initiated what is called the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) in 1844, and is entrusted by popes to create the monthly prayer intentions of

the Church each year. It has a long tradition of devotion to the Heart of Jesus (Sacred Heart), a devotion that is intimately linked to its mission and symbolizes the love Jesus has for the world. The network has produced a novena booklet for the Jubilee.

Recently the parish received a life size statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus donated by Sr Ann Heaney of the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence. The order moved to Lincoln in 1902, before relocating a few years later to a nearby larger site and where, called St Joseph's School, a chapel and bigger school were established. The statue, originally from France, where the Mother House of the Congregation is, was shipped over for the chapel. The chapel was consecrated and opened in around 1924 and the statue stood behind the altar, as seen in the photograph. Over the years the number of nuns teaching at the school diminished and eventually the school was taken over by a trust set up by the Parents Association; then, in the 1990s, it became part of what is called Lincoln Minister School. When Sr Ann discovered the school planned to sell off the chapel and original school buildings, she successfully sought, with the help of another parishioner, to rescue the statue. A little the worse for wear, parishioners have generously donated to have it restored and a plinth bought for it.



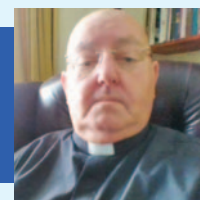
The statue is to be dedicated to the memory of the Sisters of Providence who have served in England. The parish is now looking forward to seeing the statue in its refurbished state (hopefully in time for the Solemnity) and providing it with a good home. Given the two Jubilees and the death of Pope Francis, what a special moment in time for St Peter & St Paul Church to receive the statue. May it be a blessing to the parish (and through it, to the

community), a call to hope and an inspiration, to all, to return love for love. Thank you to Sr Ann and to everyone who has helped, in any way, to secure the future of the statue.

If you would like to pray the novena to the Heart of Jesus for the Jubilee, the booklet is available at: [www.popesprayer.va/novena-to-the-heart-of-jesus/](http://www.popesprayer.va/novena-to-the-heart-of-jesus/)

## From: Elston Hermitage.....

By Fr David + h.d.n. Priest



There is a well known saying We are what we eat. But what happens when we take this saying and apply it to our spiritual lives as well as our physical lives?

Something wonderful, when we eat the Body of Christ, we become the Body of Christ. We are joined with him and each other, there are many blessings from this truth.

The Body of Christ gives us peace. At the Last Supper, Jesus promised. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you" and "Do not let your hearts be troubled" ( John 14: 27 )

Just a short time later Jesus himself demonstrated that peace as he was arrested, tried, tortured and crucified. And because of his peace, his Body and Blood can fill us with peace, no matter what we face.

The Holy Eucharist deepens our relationship with Jesus. At the Last Supper, Jesus said "I have called you friends" and "No one has greater love

than... to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15: 15)

Every time we attend Mass and receive Holy Communion Jesus reminds us that he gave up his life for us because he loves us. The Eucharist helps us to see him more clearly. Isn't this what happened when Jesus broke bread with the disciples on the road to Emmaus ( Luke 24: 30 )? Or when he multiplied the loaves of bread for the people ( John 6: 14 ) Every time we receive Our Lord in Holy Communion, we grow a little closer to the Lord.

The Eucharist not only opens our eyes to Jesus, it opens our eyes to one another. Jesus told us that when we give to the hungry, the thirsty, the homeless, and anyone else in need, we are doing it to him. ( Matthew 25: 35-40 ) We are meeting him in the poor, just as we meet him in the Eucharist.

This month we will celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi - let us take a moment on this feast to reflect on all the blessings Jesus gives us every time we eat his Body



and drink his Blood. This feast is a spiritual Harvest Festival we Thank God for spiritual things, for our spiritual life, the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. It has been said that

if we find Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, then we will find the Blessed Sacrament in all things. Happy Corpus Christi!



# Holy Family Parish, East Nottingham celebrates.....

## Diversity



On 26th April, Holy Family Parish held an International Cuisine Evening at St Augustine's Community Centre. We have 47 birth nationalities, many of whom are involved in Parish Ministries and we enjoyed food from all over the world, including food from; Cameroon, Vietnam, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Italy, Scotland, Ireland, Dominica, Sierra Leone, England, and Jamaica. It's great to be part of an International Church, where different cultures are working together towards enabling Mission in our Parish.

## VE Day



On 8th May, our Community Cafe at Sacred Heart church had a great time, singing songs from the 40s and enjoying food such as jam sandwiches, ham sandwiches and cheese sandwiches with a selection of cakes. Freda, from Carlton was 15 on VE Day and she has vivid memories of the day. She says "everybody enjoyed themselves, there was dancing and singing. 'Bishtons' brought an organ to the street and we all sang war time songs. My mother baked

cakes for 2 days and 3 nights and everyone brought ingredients for her". Sounds like there was a great community spirit in 1945, after the hardship of war years.

We all had a fantastic time celebrating VE Day 80 years later continuing that community spirit, with the Parish Priest and Community Coordinator the joining in to 'Run Rabbit'.

Diane Williams





# Unconditional Surrender

On the 80th anniversary of VE Day members of the Lincoln Catholic community came together at the International Bomber Command Centre (IBCC), on the city outskirts. The trip comprised lunch in the cafe, time looking at the new poppy display for VE80 - a special installation of 20,000 ceramic poppies in the shape of a Lancaster bomber and an afternoon of 1940s music by the group 'The Blighty Belles', together with speeches of Winston Churchill by an impersonator. An unexpected highlight was the presence and introduction of Jeff Brown, a 99 year old veteran, who flew on a Lancaster Bomber as part of Operation Manna, including on VE Day itself.

In 1945, on May 7th, the German military signed an unconditional surrender to the Allied Armed Forces, in France, (a second surrender was signed in Berlin the next day). That evening, over the radio, it was announced to the British public that the war was over and that the 8th May, VE Day (Victory in Europe Day), when Winston Churchill, the then Prime Minister, addressed the nation, would be a public holiday. People immediately took to the streets in celebration for the end of six years of fighting which had resulted in mass slaughter and destruction, with street parties and bonfires, together with singing and dancing, taking place in cities, with the parties ongoing worldwide throughout the next day. The war however was not fully over, for it continued in the Pacific until 15th August.

Whilst the unconditional surrender by Germany saw the end of fighting and ushered in a period without armed conflict in Europe, it also created divisions and winners and losers. The peace it obtained was of the world and has since been shattered by terrorism, further wars and, more recently, economic austerity. Only the peace the world cannot offer, the peace of Christ, offers true hope and only when all people unconditionally surrender to Christ, and there are no winners and losers in the world, can there be lasting peace on earth.

With Easter recently celebrated and our Baptismal vows renewed maybe the best day, of all, for remembrance and



celebration is the date of our baptism, a day, when in our heart an unconditional surrender to Christ was signed and the reign of the Kingdom of God was welcomed into it, a day of remembrance and repentance for our sins and of thanksgiving and celebration for the new life of eternal peace, joy and hope promised. Perhaps the date of our individual baptism could even be considered as our own VS Day, Victory over Satan Day (with victory over the death and destruction he wishes for us) and a wonderful way to mark it could be to have a Mass of thanksgiving offered on its anniversary.

If we want lasting world peace, and many pray for it, may we pray for all people to make this surrender to Christ (starting with ourselves) and do our bit to help that happen, such that the quotation by Flight Lieutenant John Smythe, of Bomber Command, can become our own, as we take up the great commission of Jesus: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19)

The poppy installation will be available to view at the IBCC till the end of August

## Working together, we're building a parish community that reaches far beyond our walls

Hello Nottingham Diocese! So much has been happening at St. Alban's recently, we thought it would be really nice to write a summary of what we've all been getting up to, so that we can keep you all informed of our blessed parish!

Many of your young people will have attended Flame in March: the largest Catholic youth conference in the UK! This year's theme was 'Unstoppable', and over 10,500 young people and youth leaders gathered to hear some incredible live music from artists such as Guvna B, Adenike, and One Hope Project, and inspirational speakers like Bear Grylls, Brian Enriquez (a co-founder of the prayer app Hallow) and CAFOD and SVP ambassadors.

Everyone loved their Robin Hood hats, and meeting other parishes and schools from around the diocese. We had such a great time and we're especially grateful to our parish catechists for organising the trip and to Blessed Robert Sutton School for the generous use of their minibus.

Over the last two months, Carl, one of the parishioners here at St. Alban's, led a campaign that he is really passionate about, appealing for donations of any unwanted tools - still in a fairly useable condition - for the charity Tools With A Mission. This organization takes appliances such as sewing machines, drills, and spades and hand tools, refurbishing and redistributes them to people in developing countries in Africa who need them for work, education and livelihoods. Everyone was very enthusiastic and incredibly generous

about this, and before long the donation box was overflowing, and his house was crammed with them. He is very happy that everyone got on board, and hopefully they will make the recipients of these tools very happy too. If someone in your parish loves this idea contact our parish office and I'm sure we can put you in touch with the charity.

Finally, if you are a regular reader, you may remember the Youth SVP of St. Alban's taking around £250 worth of food, clothing and hygiene items to Derby City Mission, a charity dedicated to serving the poor and homeless in Derby. We have recently carried out phase two of our support, and, after they mentioned how many people need carrier bags when visiting the food bank, we ran a campaign to collect bags for life, to be both supportive and sustainable. We delivered around 90 bags and some Easter Chocolate for the children in the families. They were very pleased with our donation and it was so heartwarming to have been of help again, and we can't wait to start planning our next project!

I am really excited to write our next month's piece where we should have a report on our new and improved parish facilities as the Hall and Memorial Garden will be blessed and in use.

We hope you've enjoyed reading about what we've done and join with you all in Praying for our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV. May he continue to guide the Church as Missionary Disciples, and people of Love, hope and Peace.

Maria Rowlands

***"I knew it was dangerous, but I was determined to do my part. We were fighting for a world where all people could be free."***

Flight Lieutenant John "Johnny" Smythe  
(Sierra Leone, RAF, Bomber Command).



# Scripture Focus

By Fr Jeremy Corley



## The Spirit at Work

"The Apostles were poor men, young men, at the time of their calling – perhaps before the descent of the Holy Ghost not cleverer than some of you here." These words from a teacher inspired Edward Elgar to compose his oratorio, *The Apostles* (1903), expressing in music the impact of the Holy Spirit on the first followers of Christ.

On Pentecost Sunday (8th June) we celebrate the Holy Spirit's coming on those first Galilean disciples, gathered for prayer in the upper room. Besides the eleven disciples with Matthias, there were also Our Lady and the holy women joining in this prayer.

The coming of the Holy Spirit was marked by audible and visible signs. The disciples heard the sound of a mighty rushing wind, and they saw tongues of fire that came to rest on each of them. They began proclaiming God's mighty works in languages that others could understand.

Many Jews from across the Mediterranean had gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the great feast. No matter where they came from, they heard the apostles speaking their own language. The implication was clear: Christ's message is not just to stay in Jerusalem but to be spread far and wide.

Before ascending into heaven, Christ had told the apostles about the future impact of the Holy Spirit's coming: "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria – and to the end of the earth." The Acts of the Apostles shows how this began to happen.

In the early chapters of Luke's second volume, we read of Peter and the other apostles proclaiming the good news of Christ's resurrection. We also read of the early Christian community gathering for prayer and sharing their possessions with those in need. We hear of Stephen, the first Christian martyr, imitating Christ in his death.

Later we hear of the great persecutor Saul encountering the risen Christ on the road

to Damascus: "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" As a result of this encounter, under the name of Paul (meaning Little One), he brings Christ's message all over the eastern Mediterranean. The Acts of the Apostles ends with Paul arriving in Rome, considered by some ancient Jews as the end of the earth.

In the subsequent centuries, we find the Holy Spirit inspiring the spread of Christ's message all across the Roman empire and even beyond it. After the martyrdom of St Alban, we find the Christian gospel spreading across Britain and Ireland, through saints like Augustine of Canterbury, Ninian, Patrick, and many others.

Over the centuries, we find the Holy Spirit inspiring the founders of religious orders, including Benedict, Francis of Assisi, Dominic, and Ignatius Loyola. In the Carmelite tradition, we find God's Spirit inspiring Teresa of Avila, Therese of Lisieux, and Edith Stein.

We also find the Holy Spirit inspiring the care for the sick through dedicated religious congregations and lay carers. And we find God's Spirit inspiring education for the young through religious communities and lay teachers.

In recent centuries we see the Holy Spirit inspiring missionaries to bring Christ's message to distant lands – indeed, to the end of the earth. As a result, we now have priests from Africa and India and the Far East ministering in Britain.

Today also, the Holy Spirit inspires us to give our witness to Christ through our words and also through our actions of kindness and care. We ask the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen us, so that we can play our part in renewing the face of the earth. "Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in us the fire of your love."

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## View from the Pew

By Dr Jay Kettle-Williams



## Bairns or weans. Come on, hen!

The Sunday Times recently carried an article by David Leask, a Times and Sunday Times news reporter based in Scotland. The article, 'My life as a priest in modern Scotland? It's a bit like Father Ted', introduced Fr Mark O'Donnell to the paper's readership. Fr Mark - 35, 6ft 4in, oft times bearded and now five years into his vocation (see inset) - is parish priest at St Aloysius in Chapelhall, an old mining village just off the M8 between Glasgow and Edinburgh. He is also school chaplain to St Margaret's High, in Airdrie, where he used to teach maths.

In Leask's article, perhaps still downloadable, Fr Mark identifies his and our joint nation's status quo: cultures in conflict, growing atheism and secularism but against all of which Catholicism is reportedly showing resilience with children and young people returning to the faith. Some 95,000 across Scotland attend weekly Mass as opposed to 60,000 attending Scottish Kirk services. Those two sets of adherents are marked to this day by their use of language.

It was at Fr Mark's parish church that my wife - a Chapelhall lassie, born and bred - and I were married. She then came back with me, down south of Hadrian's wall.

Commenced in AD 122, Hadrian's Wall (pictured) marked the northernmost border in these isles of the Roman Empire and was designed to protect and defend against marauding raiders from the north, perhaps such as the like from Chapelhall and beyond (I jest!). It was the former defensive

fortification of the Roman province of Britannia - never representing the Anglo-Scottish border - and stood up to 15 feet on completion, straddling the 73 miles in northern England between Wallsend on the River Tyne in the east and Bowness-on-Solway in the west.

Hadrian's Wall had been the extent of the Pax Romana. Under that umbrella, Latin would have been the lingua franca by which Rome administered and controlled her sovereign territory which she considered she ruled by divine right.

Language, interestingly enough, is the only social institution without which none other can function. So language brings cohesion, however that be administered. Language is the cement to the various bricks which go to build a society, be that at the micro level (of a group, club, trade, profession ...) or at the macro level of a religion, nation state, political union or empire. Little wonder then that any such congeries sets its own jargon, lingo or language as the identifier for the bonding, the kinship between its members. The greater the adherence to the one language, then the greater the cohesion across membership and practices. The Spanish Empire, the Muslim Empire, the British Empire, the Zulu, Portuguese, Russian Empires and others, not forgetting the Roman Empire, bear witness to the phenomenon that language bonds, a phenomenon reflected in the one-time universal use of Latin across our Church.

After the publication of the 1962 edition of the Roman Missal, the 1964 Instruction on implementing the Constitution on Sacred Liturgy of the Second Vatican Council interestingly then laid down that 'normally the epistle and gospel from the Mass of the day shall be read in the vernacular', perhaps thereby spreading a sense of ownership - as some would have it - but perhaps thereby fracturing small-catholic cohesion, as others might argue.

Jesus, of course, would have been brought up in a multilingual environment. Aramaic, a Semitic tongue, would have been his native language. Latin, was the language of the controlling power of Rome and probably very much to the annoyance of many at Jesus' time. The language of Rome was very much at variance with and posturing against Greek at the time, preceding the East-West Schism, also known as the Great Schism or the Schism



Fr Mark O'Donnell

of 1054, which was to break communion between the Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church.

The language we use and the way we use it, can often prompt emotions, ideas or conclusions in others. Language selection in a bilingual or pluri/multi-lingual environment can have dramatic consequences. It can flag up, identify and bond ... as well as alienate.

George Bernard Shaw in Pygmalion wrote about language, English and the English in particular: 'The English have no respect for their language, ... and it is impossible for an Englishman to open his mouth without making some other Englishman despise him.'

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



# Pupils fulfilled a fundraising pledge and raised over £1,300 for charity



A Headteacher walked through Derby dressed as a chicken after his pupils fulfilled a fundraising pledge and raised over £1,300 for charity.

Graham Lobb walked 3.6 miles from his school, St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy in Alvaston, to St Mary's Church in Bridge Gate, Derby, with colleague, Nathalie Woodings, who was dressed as an egg.

Mr Lobb set his pupils a challenge to raise over £1,000 for CAFOD and the money will be used to buy chickens for families in Kenya, to help them earn a living.

The final total raised was £1,300 and Mr Lobb had to fulfil his pledge to walk through the streets of Derby dressed as a chicken.



He said: "I am really proud of the way that the school came together and completed my challenges to both complete the Big Walk for CAFOD and to raise a fantastic amount of money for this great cause.

"I enjoyed doing the walk with Miss Woodings – and was really happy to do it following all the effort that the children and families made.

"It really did show that – while St John Fisher might be quite a small school – it has the largest of hearts. I wonder what we will do next year!"

Each class at St John Fisher was set the target of walking 211 miles – the distance between 9 jubilee churches in the Diocese of Nottingham – plus an extra 200 miles across the whole school to bring the grand total to 1,411 miles – the distance from the school to the Vatican in Rome.

Pupil Riley said: "I thought it was really fun; I wasn't sure if Mr Lobb and Miss Woodings were going to do it. I'll be leaving school this year but my brother is still here so hopefully he can tell me what they do next year."

"The school has never done anything like this before. Mr Lobb is a really fun Headteacher and the best one I've had so far," pupil Lily said.

Pupil Adriel said: "I wasn't sure if we would raise enough money so that Mr Lobb would do it. I thought we might get to £700. I think

Mr Lobb and Miss Woodings doing this shows how much they care."

The fundraising is part of the Catholic Church's Jubilee Year 2025, themed 'Pilgrims of Hope' which aims to foster a sense of hope and community.

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# Robert Francis Prevost: From Missionary Bishop to Pope Leo XIV

Robert Francis Prevost, known to the world today as Pope Leo XIV, was born on 14 September 1955 in Chicago, Illinois, into a culturally rich and devout Catholic family. His father, Louis Marius Prevost, was of French and Italian heritage, and his mother, Mildred Martínez, of Spanish descent. This multicultural background would later shape not only his pastoral sensitivity but also his language skills.

## Early Formation and Religious Life

Prevost's religious vocation began early. His brother, Lou, recalls that from a very early age whilst other children were playing soldiers, Robert was role playing being a priest. He entered the minor seminary of the Augustinian Fathers and later studied at Villanova University, an Augustinian institution in Pennsylvania. There, he earned a degree in mathematics in 1977. That same year, he entered the novitiate of the Order of Saint Augustine (O.S.A.) in Saint Louis, making his first profession in 1978 and solemn vows in 1981.

His theological formation was undertaken at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. In 1982, he was ordained a priest in Rome at the Augustinian College of Saint Monica. He was just 26 years old. From the outset, Prevost's ministry was marked by international engagement, rigorous scholarship, and an unwavering commitment to the Church's mission in the developing world.



Robert Prevost School Photo

## Missionary Work in Peru

Prevost's years in Peru remain one of the defining periods of his life. He arrived in Chulucanas in 1985 and soon after moved to Trujillo, where he served as formation director, prior, and judicial vicar for the Archdiocese. His pastoral work included service in impoverished neighbourhoods, where he founded and administered parishes such as Our Lady Mother of the Church and Our Lady of Monserrat. His



Robert Prevost with Pope John Paul II

deep immersion in Peruvian society and Church life earned him a reputation for compassion, simplicity, and effectiveness. In 1999, he returned to the United States and was elected Provincial Prior of the Augustinian Province of "Mother of Good Counsel" in Chicago. Just two years later, he was chosen as Prior General of the Order of Saint Augustine, a role he held for two terms from 2001 to 2013. During his leadership, he visited Augustinian communities in over 50 countries and promoted intercultural dialogue and formation.

## Language Skills

Prevost's linguistic fluency is one of his most defining and practical attributes as a leader of a global Church. He speaks English, Spanish, Italian, and Latin fluently. Growing up in a multilingual household, he was naturally exposed to different languages. His years in Peru made Spanish his daily working language, both in the classroom and in pastoral settings.

In Rome, where he pursued graduate studies and later worked in senior Vatican roles, he developed complete fluency in Italian and scholarly proficiency in Latin. His capacity to preach, teach, and govern in multiple languages has made him an effective communicator, capable of fostering trust and unity across diverse cultural and linguistic contexts.

## Why 'Leo'?

In his first address to the cardinals on 10 May, Pope Leo said that there were a number of reasons for choosing the name Leo "but mainly because Pope Leo XIII in

his historic Encyclical *Rerum Novarum* addressed the social question in the context of the first great industrial revolution." Pope Leo XIII, whose papacy ran from 1878 to 1903, had as his central focus, the conditions of the working classes against the backdrop of the industrial revolution.

Pope Leo went on to say "In our own day, the Church offers to everyone the treasury of her social teaching in response to another industrial revolution and to developments in the field of artificial intelligence that pose new challenges for the defence of human dignity, justice and labour,"

## Papacy

Pope Leo XIV brings a unique combination of experience and vision to the papacy. With a deep commitment to unity, his episcopal motto, *In Illo uno unum* ("In the one Christ we are one"), reflects his dedication to fostering reconciliation and strengthening the Church's global unity. Having spent significant time as a missionary in Peru, he understands the challenges facing diverse regions of the Church and is likely to prioritise a global, inclusive approach, with particular attention to Latin America, Africa, and Asia.

His extensive academic background, especially in canon law and theology, suggests a papacy focused on the education and formation of clergy, ensuring they are well-equipped for contemporary pastoral challenges. Pope Leo XIV is also likely to continue advocating for interfaith dialogue, building on his years of

experience with the Vatican's Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue.

With a history of working in impoverished areas, it is likely that his focus will be on social justice, addressing poverty and inequality and promoting human rights. Additionally, his papacy will likely continue the Church's commitment to environmental stewardship, building on the legacy of Pope Francis.

Photos courtesy of the  
Midwest Augustinian Province of  
Our Mother of Good Counsel



Image CBCEW



# A piece of history uncovered at St Alban's Catholic Voluntary Academy

An overgrown garden and allotment at a Derby primary school have been transformed by volunteers from Rolls-Royce who also uncovered a piece of history.

Fourteen R-R employees spent the day at St Alban's Catholic Voluntary Academy, in Chaddesden, Derby, as part of the Derby company's outreach programme.

Jobs completed by the volunteers included edging around raised beds, clearing and preparing planters and tidying and edging around the orchard.

They also dug out and prepared a pre-formed pond base, discovering a silver spoon dating back to the reign of King George V in the process.

Among the team was ex-St Alban's pupil Mark Davis, who was returning to the school for the first time in 30 years.

He said: "It's very familiar and it's really nice to come back and for such a good cause. We've done two or three different projects now and when this one came up I thought the least I can do is come back. The school has got a great community feel to it."

Tim Brogan, Headteacher at St Alban's, thanked the volunteers for their hard work. He said: "We were proud to welcome a fantastic team of volunteers from Rolls-Royce to support the development of our school's outdoor learning environment.

"In total, they generously contributed 90 hours of volunteer time to help transform our garden and allotment space. Their professionalism, teamwork, and friendly attitude were exceptional, and they truly listened to the needs of the school throughout the day.

"The team brought energy, collaboration, and humour to every task. One of the highlights of the day was welcoming back a volunteer who had attended St Alban's in the 1980s. He brought along photos from his time at the school, sparking great conversations and memories.

"In a surprising twist, while digging the pond area, the team even discovered a silver spoon dating back to the reign of King George V – a small but fascinating piece of history now linked to our grounds!

"We are incredibly grateful to Rolls-Royce for their commitment to community, sustainability, and education. Their contribution has made a lasting difference to our school environment and enriched the quality of outdoor learning for all our pupils."

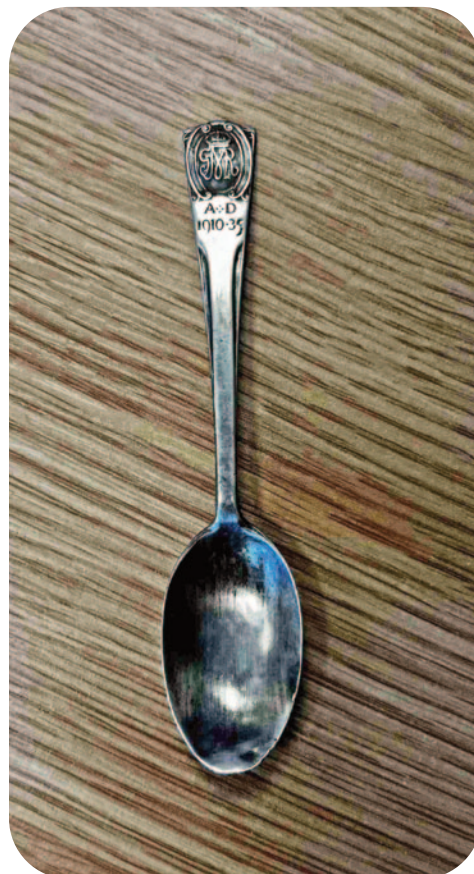


Volunteer and ex-St Alban's pupil Mark Davis

Sian Skerritt, programme executive from R-R, helped to lead the team of volunteers. She said: "We usually do something like this once a year. It allows us to spend time together off the job and we are helping to improve the local community. Almost all of us work at desks on concepts so doing something practical in the community and seeing the results is lovely."



The volunteers at St Alban's



The historic spoon



The garden transformation before (left) and after (right)



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### CRYPTIC Across

- Samuel's crafty man, cursed sailor almost catches fish (7)
- When in Paris I discover Ecclesiasticus' Ben Sira (5)
- Paul's detailed letter describing the Empire (5)
- 'Papae Sixti nisi est' is translated in chapel (7)
- Move against female martyr (7)
- One of two helping David find themselves amongst rabbit tails (5)
- American girl's written first 18 for the 8 Church (6)
- Abram's Amorite ally, Chloe's opposite (6)
- Microphone, small American contribution to St Cecilia's art (5)
- Abram's servant high priest announced 'easy', being first to Rebekah (7)
- Girl, old golfing type, attends Baptist chapels (7)
- Savings account he's almost sacrificed (5)
- Chaplain of Artillery's name is forgotten (5)
- Morning, is he wrong in thinking there are no Gods? (7)

### CRYPTIC Down

- Parry's hymn from John's first letter includes line in dubious measure (9)
- Some Old Testament volumes (7)
- Had Ulster divided, all over Jacob's daughter (5)
- Vehicle to get to old Number One: was it Ave Maria for him? (6)
- Society of 5 business types follow the first person in speaking French (7)
- Being second in the East End isn't one of the blessed dead (5)
- View bishop's domain (3)
- Sick with icy rum, plying, 8s said, this part Aegean coast (9)
- One relative, the first maybe to describe lepers in the Bible (7)
- Old footballer swapping cap? It's over for one

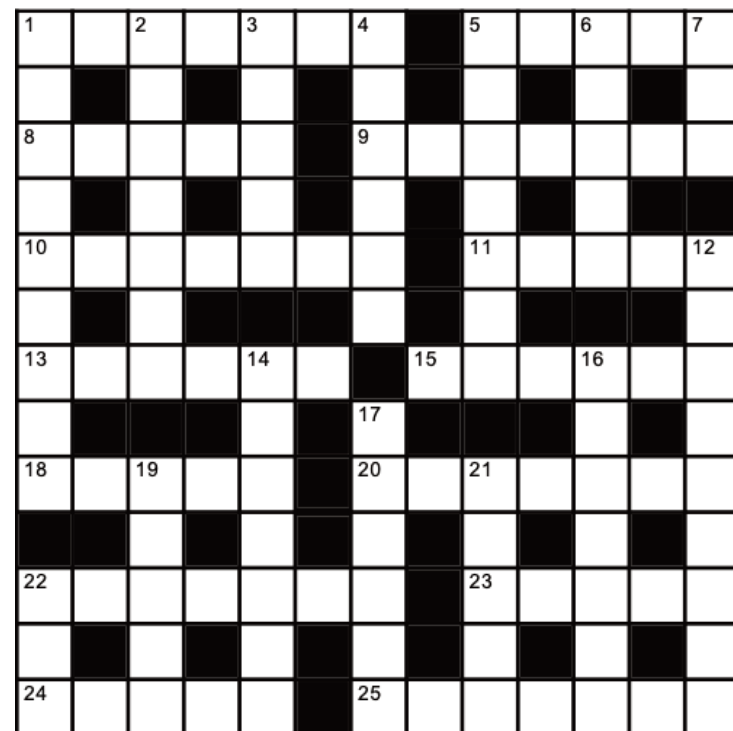
- writing 18 for the 8 Church (7)
- Biblical country, to scupper Siamese, partly invaded (6)
- Angel is originally sadistic, and threatening and nasty (5)
- One quiet small US state imbibed whiskey (5)
- Tooting, when passing over an abbey in France? (3)

### QUICK Across

- Friend of Amnon, 'a very shrewd man' (7)
- Another name for Elymas: Bar ----- (5)
- Empire which ruled Palestine and Asia Minor in NT times (5)
- Chapel of the Vatican whose ceiling was famously painted by Michelangelo (7)
- First Christian martyr (7)
- Leader of the Gittites (5)
- Orlande de -----, with Palestrina and Victoria, the three giants of late medieval Church 18 (6)
- Vale where the Israelites cut a cluster of grapes as proof of the Promised Land's bounty (6)
- Integral aspect of many church services (5)
- Son of Moses and Zipporah (7)
- Name applied for a group of 19th century nonconformist chapels (7)
- The second patriarch; son of Abraham and Sarah (5)
- Priest who is a member of a cathedral chapter (5)
- Lack of belief in the existence of God or gods (7)

### QUICK Down

- Holy city for Jews and Christians and Muslims (9)
- Fourth book of the Pentateuch (7)
- Daughter of Leah and Jacob (5) 4 Ferruccio -----, one of many to have composed a version of Ave Maria (1877) (6)
- Followers of Ignatius of Loyola (7)
- Holy person deemed worthy of canonization (5)



- Bishopric (3) 12 8 province from 27 AD, covering much of the eastern Adriatic and Balkan interior (9)
- Having a physical or moral blemish so as to make impure (7)
- Maurizio -----, important early 17th century composer and maestro di cappella at Bologna (7)
- OT empire created by Cyrus the Great and destroyed by Alexander the Great (6)
- Adversary of God; tempter of mankind; master of Hell (5)
- Scots Gaelic (5)
- Influential Benedictine abbey of Normandy at the time of the Conqueror (3)

### SOLUTION

Across: 1 Jonadab, 5 Jesus, 8 Roman, 9 Sistine, 10 Stephen, 11 Ittai, 13 Lassus, 15 Escal, 18 Musici, 20 Eliezer, 22 Bethels, 23 Isaac, 24 Canon, 25 Atheism. Down: 1 Jerusalem, 2 Numbers, 3 Dinah, 4 Busoni, 5 Jesuits, 6 Saint, 7 See, 12 Illyricum, 14 Unclean, 16 Cazatti, 17 Persia, 19 Satan, 21 Irish, 22 Bec.