

MORE THAN 26 YEARS OF BRINGING THE NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER

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Celebration of 40 years service

On the evening of Friday 11th July 2025, family and friends of Marie Gray gathered to celebrate her 40 years 'service to the St Bernadette's Parish, Scunthorpe.

Father Martin Delaney accompanied by 7 past and present parish priests, 2 visiting priests and 2 Deacons celebrated The Thanksgiving Mass at 7pm to mark the occasion. Father Martin and Canon Matthew each gave a moving account of their time spent/spending with Marie as a faithful and no nonsense taken housekeeper. Canon Matthew, Deacon Sebastian and Deacon Sam presented her with various gifts on behalf of the parish. Father Martin recited his humorous and moving poem 'Ode to Marie' which describes Marie to a tee. Apart from being a faithful housekeeper for at least 10 parish priests over the past 40 years, Marie works tirelessly to raise fund for the Church. Her weekly bingo session attracts more than 100 participants, and it provides a steady income for the church fund.

Marie received the Bene Merenti award from Bishop Patrick in 2019 for her well deserved recognition.

The Thanksgiving Mass Live Stream was broadcasted from the Parish's YouTube channel.

After Mass, all congregations were invited to the Parish Centre for some refreshments and oh what refreshments that was! Such lavish and attractive buffet! Two beautiful cakes, cup cakes and all sorts of desserts to follow too, feast fit for a queen!

Marie expressed sincere thanks to Canon Matthew Jake and his team for organising this wonderful event, caterers for the amazing food and all the helpers during the evening, and more importantly, everyone who was there to share the special occasion. Marie even received a personal greeting from her special friend from Ireland, Daniel O'Donald.

We were all pleased to meet up with Canon Michael Moore, Monsignor Canon Tom McGovern, Father Peter Wade, Father Dominic O'Connor, Father Kevin Clark, Father Limnyuy Gamsi, and 2 visiting priests, Father Julius and Father Elvis.

It was an unforgettable evening.

You are an inspiration to us all, Marie.

More pictures on page 10



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The monthly paper for the
Diocese of Nottingham

Catholic News

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Making a difference to children's lives

A reflection written by Jon Cornwall

In recent years, we have seen a number of
political movements express the desire to
'Make [their country] Great Again.



This statement raises some immediate
questions. To when are you aiming to
return to and what was great about that
time, and what steps will you take towards
greatness restoration?

Without explanation, it allows its followers
to create their own meaning. Some, we
presume, will look to those good old days
when wealth disparity between the richest
and the poorest was at its least; others may
seek less progressive times and look on the
efforts to respect and promote diversity as
having been a misstep.

Here in Britain, we are already "Great"; the
title suggests we have already achieved
that accolade.

As with all things, I find it is sometimes
most helpful to see what God thinks; In
Psalm 145, we hear that God's greatness is
beyond measure: "Great is the LORD and

greatly to be praised; His greatness is
unsearchable."

Later, in an argument between disciples,
Jesus needs to settle a row over who is
greatest. The solution here is the inverse;
the greatest will approach the world as a
child.



Jesus holds child

Greatness is not being withheld from the
disciples, but it is an accolade that cannot
be snatched or announced.

Vincentians can achieve greatness through
pursuit of the mission.

Greatness can be best seen in the Servant
King himself, and it can be learned.
Vincentians can act as servant leaders and
people who wish to see the whole world
become great in glorification of God by
setting themselves to:

Greatness sought through Service and
Humility - Jesus washing his disciples' feet.

Greatness sought through Righteousness -
living well in the eyes of all.

Greatness sought through closeness and
dependence on God - praying often and
being obedient to God's voice.

Whatever space we wish to make Great and
Glorious we must put God in the centre of
it. The God in those who suffer, in those
who are persecuted. Greatness can never
be achieved by casting people aside but
from becoming servant leaders, building
up and loving them well.

Let us mean our intentions in the Lord's
prayer as we seek to make it "on Earth as
it is in Heaven"

Pope Benedict XVI in Spe Salve reminds us
far more concisely than I have managed;
"Man was created for greatness- for God
himself; he was created to be filled by God.
But his heart is too small for the greatness
to which it is destined. It must be
stretched...."

I pray all Vincentians and, indeed, all who
read this piece, have had restful summers
and you have allowed yourselves the time
to rest and renew.

Keep up the great work Vincentians and
keep the mission at the forefront of all that
you do.

Frankly Speaking

By Frank Goulding



In last month's article I mentioned the
marked increase of young people turning
to Christianity and Catholicism also with
the first millennial Saint to be Canonized
namely Blessed Carlo Acutis. We now
know the date and that Blessed Pier
Giorgio Frassati will also receive
canonisation of September 7th.

A sad feature of our digital age is the
claim of "fake news". There can be no
doubt that "these two young men from
different eras completely led different
lives but were united in their love for
Christ".

I am grateful to our sister paper The
Catholic Post for that quotation. As
Blessed Carlo was just 15 when he died it
is surely vital that all our young people
are made aware of just how important
that date of September 7th is. At that start

of a new academic year I fear we will need
much more than guidance on smart
phones and if some young people are really
wanting a better sense of direction we
cannot leave this to just the local priest and
our teachers.

I now turn to the subject of Water. On
Saturday August 26th 1995 once evening
Yorkshire newspaper ran the headline
"Water Ban Stepped Up". A second drought
order was to come into force at 6pm that
night. I am sure we are all relieved that so
far this year we have not needed "rota cuts"
or standpipes but we are entitled to ask
why no new reservoir had been finished
since 1992 as our climate changes, we are
expected to pay more to the water
companies in an industry which has let the
whole nation down.

This article being written at the end of
July on the same day as the Prime
Minister has called an emergency
Cabinet to discuss the tragedy of Gaza. It
is difficult to add any words to what we
have witnessed in July this year, I just
hope and pray August will have seen the
Aid Agencies being allowed to feed the
starving not least those innocent
children.

The day of the Cabinet meeting coincided
with the first Anniversary of the loss of
three children in the most tragic
circumstances in Southport. Father John
Heneghan Parish Priest of St Patrick's
spoke of the compassion and Hope in that
peaceful holiday resort.

In this Jubilee year we all need to reflect,
and perhaps relaunch as necessary for
the sake of all our young people.

"What's the thing under the birdcage?"

This was the unusual question heard as the audience was leaving St John's Church in Melton Mowbray one recent Friday night, after a marvellous concert by Global Harmony choir. Nearly 100 people had packed the church to listen to this amazingly talented local choir. We had spent the evening listening to, and occasionally joining in with, music from the farthest corners of the globe. We had raised £1,125 for the fund to build our new church hall. We were full of delicious home-made cake made by volunteers from the parish and the wider community. There was joy in the air as the people filed out, and one lady just had to ask the question that had been bugging her. She had found herself fascinated by the wooden structure above the tabernacle, designed by Gabriel Gillick and made and installed by his brother Benedict during the sanctuary redecoration of 2021. She received her answer from a parishioner, who also explained the connection between the tabernacle in our churches and the portable tabernacle built by the Israelites as a house for the Holy of Holies as they journeyed through the desert.

The incident was a very good example of the great benefit of using our church as a venue for concerts and other events. Years ago, there was an Office for Evangelisation at the National Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, and it sent round to parishes a very interesting booklet entitled "Using our Buildings for Evangelisation." It strongly recommended using every opportunity to invite people into the church building, such as finding ways the church can participate in local events and attractions in the town or area. In Melton Mowbray we responded to this immediately. Our town ran an annual Victorian Christmas weekend which included the largest Christmas Tree Festival in Europe. The town was packed with visitors. Our church of St. John the Baptist was built in 1842 to a design by the famous Victorian architect, AWN Pugin, so we really had to join in. We ran our own Christmas Wreath Festival, which is still going strong, and we use the opportunity to give visitors information about the meaning of wreaths in Christianity.

Recently, we have been raising money to build a much-needed hall next to the church, and we have had to use the church for our events as it is the only building available. But since we have been doing this we have found many more opportunities to talk to people outside our Catholic community and answer their questions about the faith. God is using the situation to teach us how to spread the word. How often, otherwise, would we get the opportunity to explain the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle to someone who



has no knowledge of our faith? Even if she did think that the tabernacle was surmounted by a birdcage!

Here is an explanation of the design, in Gabriel Gillick's own words: The design for the reredos as a whole reflects the architecture and design of the building, including elements to tie in with the existing altar. It also includes painted and carved imagery of leaves and flowers commonly used in Pugin's painted decoration and carvings.

The canopy over the Tabernacle represents both Christ's crown of thorns, and the triumphant crown of the risen Christ, and the crown of baptism - Incorporating both carved woven thorns and forms that resemble a monarch's crown.

The fan vault beneath the crown runs down into a central composite shaft composed of three rods. This shaft draws the eye down to the Tabernacle in which is the True Presence, visually linking and drawing a link in our minds between baptism, crucifixion and resurrection.

The three rods in the composite shaft below the crown represent both the 3 nails of the crucifixion, and the three persons of God; the Holy Trinity.

Frances Levett

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To be a pilgrim

As we move into the summer months, many dioceses across the country will be embarking on pilgrimages. Throughout history and across the world, people have set out on journeys in search of something greater than themselves. The motivations are many and diverse – some want to develop their understanding of themselves and the world, some to deepen their faith or to heal.

For Catholics, a pilgrimage is a spiritual journey to a holy place. The most popular and sacred destinations are Lourdes (with an estimated 200 million visitors since 1860 when pilgrimages there began), Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain and of course, the Holy Land which the current fighting has made impossible to visit. Unlike a holiday, where relaxation and sightseeing might be the goal, a pilgrimage is about inner renewal. As the journey progresses, so does the soul's transformation.

At its heart, a pilgrimage is an invitation to encounter God in a profound way. The effort required – planning, travelling, stepping outside your comfort zone – becomes part of the prayer. Along the way, pilgrims often find moments of quiet to reflect and listen, away from the noise of daily life. Many pilgrimages include the Sacraments: daily Mass, opportunities for Confession, and Eucharistic Adoration. Walking in the footsteps of saints, or standing in places marked by Marian apparitions, can awaken a deeper love for God and a renewed sense of faith.

Pilgrimage also reminds us that faith is not a solitary journey. Visiting shrines and cathedrals where generations have prayed creates a tangible connection to the Church's history and to the Communion of Saints. Whether travelling alone, with family, or as part of a group, pilgrims experience a unique fellowship along the way. Sharing meals, prayers, and stories fosters bonds that can last a lifetime. As one pilgrim said: "I left as a stranger and returned with a family."

For many, pilgrimage is a response to a deep need for healing – physical, emotional, or spiritual. Sites such as Lourdes in France or Holywell in Wales have long been associated with miraculous cures and profound grace. Even when physical healing does not come, pilgrims often discover a peace that brings inner restoration. In surrendering burdens and intentions to God, they find a renewed sense of hope.

Pilgrimage is not always easy – and that is part of its power. It involves early mornings, unfamiliar places, and sometimes long, demanding walks. These challenges strip away comforts and distractions, creating space for God to work in the heart. Small sacrifices – giving up control of schedules, enduring simple accommodation, or walking through rain – become acts of love and trust. In a world that prizes convenience, pilgrimage reminds us of the value of perseverance and humility.

Not every pilgrimage requires boarding a plane or walking hundreds of miles. Across the UK, there are countless opportunities for local pilgrimages. Historic shrines like Walsingham in Norfolk, the holy well of St Winifred in Wales, and Scotland's Carlin Grotto attract thousands each year. A pilgrimage can be as simple as setting aside a day to visit a nearby church or cathedral with a prayerful heart. The essence of pilgrimage is not in the distance travelled but in the disposition of the heart – a willingness to seek God and allow Him to transform the journey.

If the idea of pilgrimage has ever moved you, perhaps now is the time to respond. Whether you are seeking healing, clarity, or a deeper relationship with God, a pilgrimage offers the chance to step away from the ordinary and encounter the extraordinary. It is a reminder that the Christian life itself is a pilgrimage – a journey towards the ultimate destination: heaven.

So, where might God be calling you? To the quiet of Walsingham's shrine, the healing waters of Holywell, or perhaps a Camino route through the rolling countryside? Wherever the path leads, the promise is the same: God walks with those who seek Him.

Scan the QR Code below for inspiration about where to go in the UK.

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Congratulations Father Mathias

Earning a PhD is a significant milestone that represents years of sacrifice, hard work, dedication, and intellectual achievement. It is a symbol not only of academic excellence, but also personal commitment, resilience and perseverance.

As Saint Paul said in his Letter to the Romans (5:3-5a) "And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us"

After the years of research, the long sleepless nights, and the countless revisions, on the 23rd of July 2025, Father Mathias Ejukwe, successfully defended his PhD, a significant milestone in any scholar's academic journey. It marks the transition from student to expert, from learner to contributor.

At the heart of this achievement lies Father Mathias's groundbreaking research on the appraisal of the ethics of Machiavelli's moral free political ideas and its implications for the Nigerian State. This work not only adds to the existing body of knowledge but also addresses critical issues in Politics and Ethics. The findings have the potential to be a turning point in educational systems via the introduction of an integral multifaceted ethical approach, making a significant contribution to both academia and society.

The friends and the community at Holy Trinity Church and indeed the Parish of St. Francis of Assisi, are proud to congratulate



Father Mathias on this outstanding achievement. The dedication and hard work poured into the research truly shone through on the day and he has set the bar high for aspiring researchers.

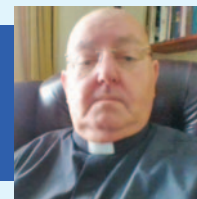
As you embark on this new chapter of your life as a Philosophy Doctor, may you continue to inspire others and make meaningful contributions to the communities and world. May God help you, keep you safe and always brighten your path in this life!

Alexandre Espada Beato



From: Elston Hermitage.....

By Fr David + h.d.n. Priest



During September we celebrate a glorious feast. It's the Feast of the Exultation of the Holy Cross (14th September).

But does the cross really make sense in our times ? If we could separate ourselves from all we have learned about the Cross of Christ and just look at it from a secular and historical perspective, the Cross is a sign of great tragedy. It's connected to the story of a man who became quite popular with many people, yet bitterly hated by others. In the end those who hated this man arranged his brutal crucifixion. So from a purely secular point of view, the Cross is an awful thing.

However, as Christians we do not view the Cross from a secular point of view. We see it from the divine perspective. We see Jesus lifted up on the Cross for all to see. We see Him using horrible suffering to

eliminate suffering forever. We see Him using death to destroy death itself. Ultimately, we see Jesus become victorious on that Cross and, therefore we see the Cross and, therefore, forever we see the Cross as an exalted and glorious throne.

Moses' actions in the desert prefigured the Cross. Many people were dying of snake bites. So, God told Moses to lift up the image of a snake on a pole so that all who looked at it would be healed. And that is exactly what happened. Ironically, the snake bought life instead of death. (Numbers 21: 6-9).

Suffering is a thing that happens throughout our own lives in many ways. For some it is daily aches and pains from ill health, for others something on a much deeper level, such as an emotional, personal, relational or spiritual one. Sin in fact is the cause of the greatest suffering,

so those who struggle deeply with sin in their lives suffer deeply from that sin.

So what is Jesus' answer ? His answer is to turn our gaze to His Cross. We are to look at Him in His misery and suffering and, in that gaze, we are called to see victory with faith. We are called to know that God brings good out of all things, even our sufferings. The Father transformed the world eternally through the suffering and death of His only Son, He also wants to transform us in our crosses.

On Holy Cross day take some time to reflect on the Cross of Christ. Spend some time gazing on our crucifix, see in them the answer to our own daily struggles.

Jesus is always close to those who suffer and His strength is available to all who believe in Him.

On Holy Cross day let it be a day of rejoicing, that death has been upended by the power unleashed on Mount Calvary. Rejoice in the blood that flowed from the Cross - blood that destroys strongholds of sin and forges new paths of hope.

Rejoice in the new land - the kingdom of heaven, that is the sturdy foundation of our lives. Rejoice that God sent His only Son to save us.

Life at times may be difficult and we may suffer and struggle. But God always brings life out of death.

Let's then rejoice in the triumph of Jesus' Cross.

Jesus by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Flame 2025 wasn't just a day out, it was an experience



Nottingham Catenians have been out and about round the schools of the city delivering cheques to support secondary-age students. Whilst their "Food for Thought" project – now in its fourth year – continues to support primary school families in need, Circle wished to encourage older children through Flame and the Bursary Fund.

In addition to the Association's major sponsorship of Flame, Nottingham brothers contributed £600 to subsidise transport to Wembley from Nottingham, enabling four coaches of young people to enjoy the event. Some of those who went wrote about the experience.

"There was huge excitement for Flame 2025 at school especially after the Catenians visited our school. It was fantastic to meet them when they presented the cheque to help fund our transport to the OVO Arena in London. Their generosity meant so many more of us could experience this incredible event – a massive thank you to the Catenians for making it possible!

On Saturday the 15th March, we headed to London. The OVO Arena was huge, and it was amazing to see it fill with thousands of

young people. Instantly, you felt part of something big and important. The atmosphere was electric, like a concert but with this wonderful sense of faith.

The day was packed with inspiring speakers. Cardinal Vincent Nichols spoke about hope and our role in the Church now, which really resonated. Adeniké's powerful and relatable story about her faith journey was another highlight; she made us feel it's okay to have questions. It was amazing to see Bear Grylls too!

The music was awesome! Guvna B got the whole arena energised with his cool, faith-filled rap, and the worship band, One Hope Project, led brilliant songs – some uplifting, some reflective. Singing together with thousands of others was a proper goosebumps moment, a real feeling of unity.

Beyond the excitement, the moments of quiet prayer, especially the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, were incredibly special. The silence in that vast arena was profound, offering a chance to connect with God amidst all the energy.

For me, the biggest impact was seeing so many other young Catholics. It's easy to



feel like a minority sometimes, but Flame showed me we're part of a huge, vibrant community. It boosted my confidence in my faith and made me enthusiastic about being part of the Church.

Flame 2025 wasn't just a day out; it was an experience that strengthened our faith and gave us a real sense of belonging. And it

truly wouldn't have been the same, or even possible for many, without the Catenians' support. Thank you for investing in us and helping us to make unforgettable memories.

The Students of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi – Academy Trust

More recently, John Murray and Peter Winstanley toured the city again to deliver Bursary cheques to students participating in the Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes. Because of exams some students could not receive their Awards in person, and in each school a Chaplain

collected them on their behalf. Photos show Peter and John with Director of Chaplaincy Tom Baptist and students at The Becket school before Flame and Bursary Award recipients at The Becket, Trinity and Christ the King schools.



Scripture Focus

By Fr Jeremy Corley



Paul's appeal for an enslaved convert

On 7th September (23rd Sunday of the Year), we hear from the shortest and most personal letter by the apostle Paul. In his Letter to Philemon, we see Paul's sense of tact as he appeals for the well-being of a runaway slave.

Sometimes people ask why the early church did not totally ban slavery. This is like asking why the church today does not abolish poverty. The early church was then a small group in society which could not solve every social problem.

If slaves had been immediately released in that society, many could have been left destitute, finding it hard to gain employment or housing. Instead, the church worked like a leaven in society to change attitudes, by highlighting the dignity of each human being, created in the image and likeness of God.

Paul's letter refers to a slave named Onesimus (meaning useful), who had

run away from Philemon his master. This Philemon was a Christian convert who had probably already hosted Paul during his apostolic ministry in Colosse (western Turkey).

We don't know the details of why Onesimus fled and sought refuge with Paul, but Paul evidently welcomed him. In fact, during the time when Paul was in some kind of imprisonment, Onesimus became a Christian convert and then performed useful services for Paul.

We see Paul's personal feelings in the affection he felt for Onesimus: "I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart, though I would have been glad to keep him with me." But Paul also felt affection for Philemon, a leading member of the church in Colosse, who had supported Paul's mission. Rather than using the strength of his apostolic authority, Paul appeals to Philemon's love.

From a rational perspective, Paul realises that the current situation cannot continue,

because runaway slaves risked being arrested. So Paul writes to Philemon to forgive any wrong that Onesimus had done (such as theft) and to receive him back—"no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother."

As a fellow-Christian, Onesimus was now a brother in the Lord, but already he was a brother in the flesh—perhaps a distant blood-relative. On both grounds, Paul appeals to Philemon to welcome him back. Just as Philemon had been hospitable to Paul, he is now asked to receive Onesimus with kindness.

History does not record the result of Paul's appeal, but the inclusion of this letter in the New Testament suggests that the outcome was positive. Hence it is likely that Philemon granted Onesimus his freedom. Thus we see the leaven of the gospel working gradually to improve the lives of suffering people.

Later we hear of Onesimus in Paul's letter to the church at Colosse. Paul tells them

that together with Tychicus, he has sent them "Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you" (Colossians 4:9). This suggests that Onesimus was a respected member of the church, and also free to travel.

This short personal letter by the apostle Paul shows one tiny step along the road towards the abolition of slavery. Over the course of time, the sense that all Christians are brothers and sisters brought about a change of attitude, so that slavery was no longer seen as right or just. Moreover, Paul's love for both Onesimus and his master Philemon contributed to the reconciliation that brought about the release of the enslaved man.

Today we cannot quickly solve all the world's social problems. But let us recognize the dignity of all people made in God's image and redeemed by Christ, and let us seek to live our lives with love, as Paul did.

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St Mary's Derby says Farewell to Year Six



Reflections

Finn, aged four, had been very naughty and made Dad very cross. As she put him to bed, his Mum said to him, "You really must try to be good. You must listen to what Daddy says." Looking up at her, he said, thoughtfully, "Being good hurts my brain."

I'm sure we can all sympathise with that – not being good is so much easier! Why bother to get up for church on Sunday, it's much easier to stay in bed. Why not join in the hurtful gossip, it's much easier than refusing to. Why take the trouble to support the charity event, it's much easier to stay at home and watch TV.

Perhaps the answer is in the second part of what Finn's mother said: "You must listen to what Daddy says." Are we always ready to listen to God, our Father, who speaks to us all the time, directly or indirectly, when we are open to His words. Sometimes he speaks to us

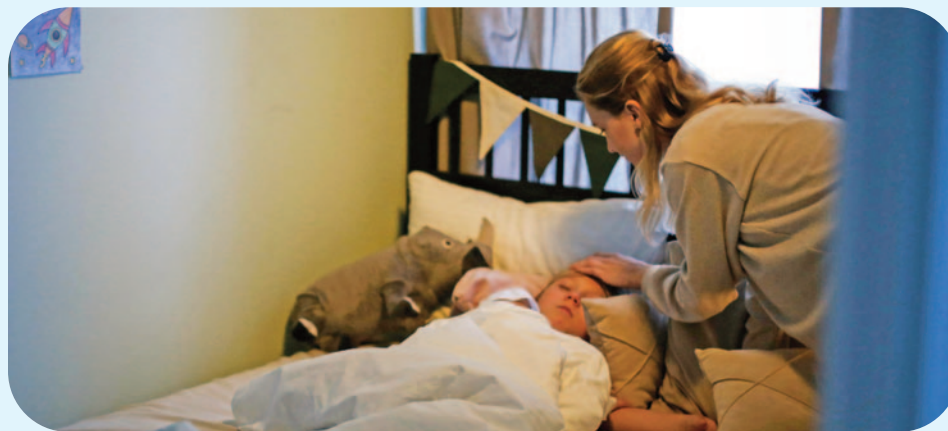


Image: cottonbro studio

through those around us, sometimes through our own conscience, sometimes in the silence of our prayer. But do we always give him the chance to speak to us – we are always so busy that it is easy to close our spiritual ears and ignore the opportunities offered to us.

Finn is learning gradually that being good is hard, but possible – he has loving parents who help him in every way they can, and because he loves them and is secure in

their love, he wants to please them. And just as Finn's parents are always ready to give him a cuddle and forgive him when he is sorry, we too can rely on the forgiving love of our Father, when, like the prodigal son, we turn to Him. He will help us always in our efforts to please Him. If we listen to Him more carefully, maybe our brains won't hurt so much!

Anne Shimwell
Hassop & Bakewell RC Churches

The Year Six children from St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy in Derby brought their Presentation Folders, that they were given in Reception, back to St Mary's Church for the traditional Leavers' Mass.

Their folders contain all the certificates and achievements they've been awarded during their time at St Mary's Academy. The folders were blessed all those years ago by the parish priest, and were blessed again at the 9am Sunday Mass at the end of term.

The good wishes and prayers of the staff and congregation go with these young people as they transition to the next stage of their education.

Fran Hazel,
Lay Chaplain St Mary's CV Academy Derby

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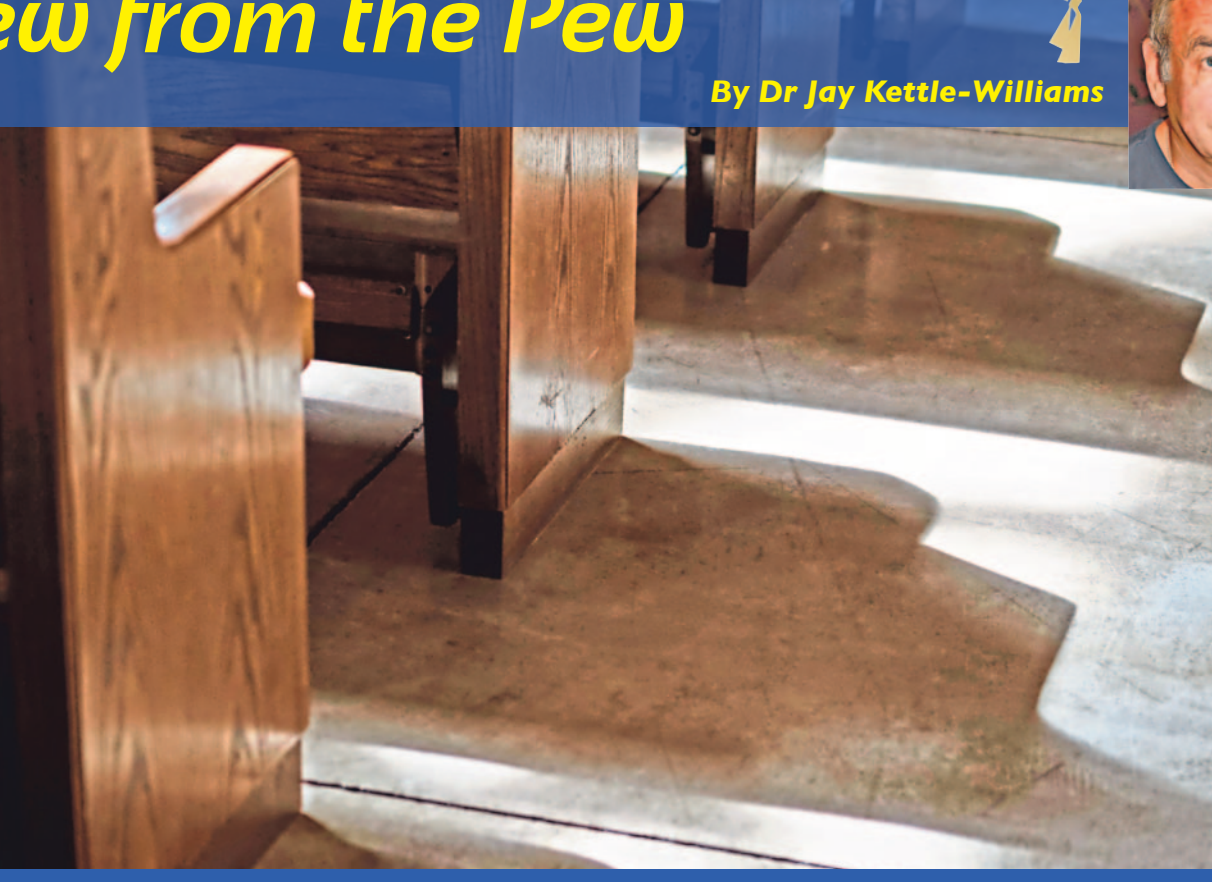
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View from the Pew

By Dr Jay Kettle-Williams

I'm not a betting man but ...



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

60th anniversary celebrations



Monika Dooley (née Wake) was in the first intake on the Long Eaton school's opening day in 1965

One of the first pupils to attend English Martyrs' Catholic Voluntary Academy returned to celebrate the school's 60th anniversary.

Monika Dooley (née Wake) was in the first intake on the Long Eaton school's opening day in 1965.

Sixty years later she returned to attend anniversary celebrations which included a fun day and picnic with current and former staff and pupils.

Monika said: "I was in the very first intake on the very first day. I remember lining up in the infant playgroup waiting to go into the first class. I cried all day but it did get better after that! I remember the headmaster was very strict but very fair and I think the teachers had a lot more autonomy back then. There was one teacher in a class there were no teaching assistants.

"School dinners were very traditional and we didn't line up to get them. We sat at tables and two junior children served the dinners. I loved art and I also liked school plays although I always wanted to be Angel Gabriel but never was!"

Former pupil Merrin Shelton, 26, joined English Martyrs' in 2003 and left in 2010 and now works as a Reception Class teacher abroad.



Pupils enjoying the fun day

She said: "It's a lovely school. There's a real community feel. We always used to do school plays and in Year 6 we did Olivia, a version of Oliver, and I played Olivia. I still have a friend who I met here, we've been friends now for 20 odd years."

As well as the picnic and fun day, earlier in the year the school celebrated Mass with the Bishop of Nottingham as part of the 60th celebrations.

Headteacher Gemma Ellis said: "I am so proud to be the current Headteacher of such a wonderful school that has such a supportive community stretching back 60 years. We have had a lovely celebration today, and combined with the Bishop's Mass a few weeks ago, it has been a great opportunity to open up the school to past and present pupils, teachers and parents, to reflect on the friendship, kindness, learning and hope that the building has seen."

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Continued from page 1



VISITATION OF THE NATIONAL PILGRIM VIRGIN STATUE (NPVS) OF *Our Lady of Fatima* AND THE RELICS OF SAINTS JACINTA AND FRANCISCO Cathedral Church of St Barnabas, Nottingham NG1 5AE

12 October 2025, Sunday

- 11:30 Welcome and Notices
- 11:35 Procession of the National Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima and the Relics of Ss Francisco and Jacinta Marto
- 11:45 Solemn Mass (Votive Mass of Our Lady of Fatima)
- 13:00 Veneration of the Relics of Ss Francisco and Jacinta
- 13:30 Lunch
- 14:30 Docu-film on "Fatima: Message for the World"
- 15:00 Talk on the Message of Fatima
- 16:40 Communal recitation and reflection on the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary
- 17:10 Enrolment and Investiture of the Brown Scapulars
- 18:00 Holy Mass
- 19:00 End of day 1

13 October 2025, Monday

(108th anniversary of the October apparition)

- 09:30 Communal recitation and reflection on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary
- 10:00 Recorded Talk: "What We Can Learn from Our Lady of Fatima?"
- 11:30 Q&A with the WAF Team
- 12:00 Lunch
- 13:00 Holy Mass (with local schools of the Diocese)
- 14:00 Veneration of the Relics of Ss Francisco and Jacinta
- 14:30 End of visit

For more information, please visit the Cathedral website.



Arranged by the World Apostolate of Fatima (England & Wales)
A Public Association of the Faithful
Registered Charity 1198986

Contact the World Apostolate of Fatima
Mobile no. 07788473210 (9 am to 5 pm only, Mon to Fri)



Fatima Cathedral Visitation October 2025

The Centenary of the Fatima Five First Saturdays devotion is taking place this year, and as part of the celebrations, the World Apostolate of Fatima is arranging for the two National Statues of Our Lady of Fatima to visit the Cathedrals of England and Wales from May 2025 until October 2026.

The Southern Statue, and Relics of Saints Francisco and Jacinta, are due to visit St Barnabas Cathedral, Nottingham, from 12th-13th October, and this calls to mind the previous visit of the National Pilgrim Virgin Statute in 2017, which was the centenary year of the Fatima apparitions which originally took place between May and October 1917.

This upcoming visitation is a particular remembrance of the apparition to Sr Lucia, the oldest Fatima seer, which took place in December 1925 when she was a postulant with the Sisters of St Dorothy at Pontevedra in Spain. The Blessed Virgin appeared with the Child Jesus and gave more details of the devotion of reparation which she had mentioned to the shepherd children during the July 1917 apparition.

This devotion involves the promise of assistance at the hour of death – with all the graces necessary for salvation – for all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months go to confession and receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep Our Lady company for a quarter of an hour while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary, all with the intention of making reparation to her.

It is providential that this celebration coincides with the larger celebration of the Church's Jubilee year which has the theme of "Pilgrims of Hope." Thus there is a link with the idea of "pilgrimage" which is so suggestive of the role of Fatima in the Church, and also with the idea that the Jubilee year should be a time of hope for a world suffering from numerous crises, and particularly from wars and widespread violence.

The World Apostolate of Fatima, both as a global organisation, and in England and Wales, is committed to the concept of peace and believes that the promotion of the Five First Saturdays devotion can play a very important part in bringing this about.

This devotion is connected with the conversion of Russia and ultimately with world peace, and this is why the World Apostolate of Fatima in England and Wales is promoting it so strongly during the centenary year, given that our world is so much in need of peace.

For this reason amongst others, we need people to join us to promote this ideal and also to promote the teachings of the Church generally.

Please visit our website at:
<https://worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk/>
for more details.

We hope you can make it to the Cathedral in October, for a full programme of Marian devotion and instruction, including talks and videos, the Rosary, Brown Scapular enrolment, and Holy Mass, all in a spiritually uplifting atmosphere. Ave Maria!

Donal Anthony Foley

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Derbyshire EM Renewal Day Reflects on the Theme of Hope

In the Jubilee Year of Hope, when we have all been encouraged to see ourselves as Pilgrims of Hope, it was fitting that the Derbyshire Renewal Day for Extraordinary Ministers looked at how EMs can be Ministers of Hope.

The day was held at Holy Family Church in Allestree, and the speaker was Daniel Hamilton, the Lay Chaplain to the Peak Schools. Daniel spoke about his own experiences with hope, and some of the challenges he has faced in his own life. The EMs then shared some of their own stories.

The day reflected on the idea that hope is not about optimism and everything turning out well, but at a deeper level, us appreciating that everything makes sense. The acknowledgement that there is a deeper purpose. The lasting message was that we can get involved in promoting a culture of hope, we don't need to wait to become experts - "God doesn't call the qualified, he qualifies the called." We are in safe hands with the Lord.

In the afternoon, children from St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy in Derby led the EMs in the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary. The day ended with Mass celebrated by Fr Neil Peoples, with music led by the Filipino Choir.

It was an enjoyable day that gave the EMs food for thought and hopefully a clearer



appreciation of what being a Pilgrim of Hope means and how we can be pilgrims within our communities.

Fran Hazel,

Chair Derbyshire Extra Ordinary Ministers

Craft fair at Nottingham Cathedral



This year's Craft Fair took place in the Cathedral hall and garden on the 26th and 27th of July. Over the weekend, crafters and artists gathered to sell their products alongside the Cathedral Arts and Crafts group. As before, it was an eclectic mix of exhibitors with something to suit everybody and it was good to see familiar faces and to get to know those who came for the first time. A pizza maker set up in the Cathedral garden

and his delicious pizzas proved very popular as did the free tours of our beautiful Cathedral led by tour guides from the Friends of the Cathedral.

Nottingham Cathedral Arts and Crafts group would like to thank all those who helped and supported them. All money raised at the Fair will be donated to the Cathedral Restoration Fund.

Cheryl Broodryk



The 'doodle' was made by Tara Tan during the event and captures the messages of the day.

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

CRYPTIC Across

- 1 Enemy of Gideon's defeated during the witching hour, said one (9)
- 6 Musical about a High Priest (7)
- 7 Riddle to penetrate? (5)
- 9 Change in a little while going back to protect the testament (5)
- 10 Fielder's body parts used to take wickets in the end (3,4)
- 11 Foot part's essential to dancing, they say (6)
- 13 Grand aura about directions for the Holy Roman Emperor (6) 16 Hymn book each sailor kept (7)
- 18 One has a habit of getting into minicab bother (5)
- 20 Harsh being back at sea (5)
- 21 Bigbrewersarenuts,ridiculous(3-4)
- 22 Tyre here company backs after one phone order (9)

CRYPTIC Down

- 1 Recommendation when weather's bad in French wine area? (5)
- 2 Poles follow east Maine river banks to estate (7)
- 3 Saint Poles back from 2, and the Spanish, see in the morning (6)
- 4 One's no good in charge at first, but is very sweet (5)
- 5 Christian Roman's spreading mostly rubbish between Europe and America (7)
- 6 Paul's fellow soldier damaged pup's chair (9)
- 8 It runs in Iraq on Brussels tariffs top two phones supported (9)
- 12 Disturbance with fish supper only half wolfed down (5-2)
- 14 Spooks wreck a comeback, totally, for ancient language (7)

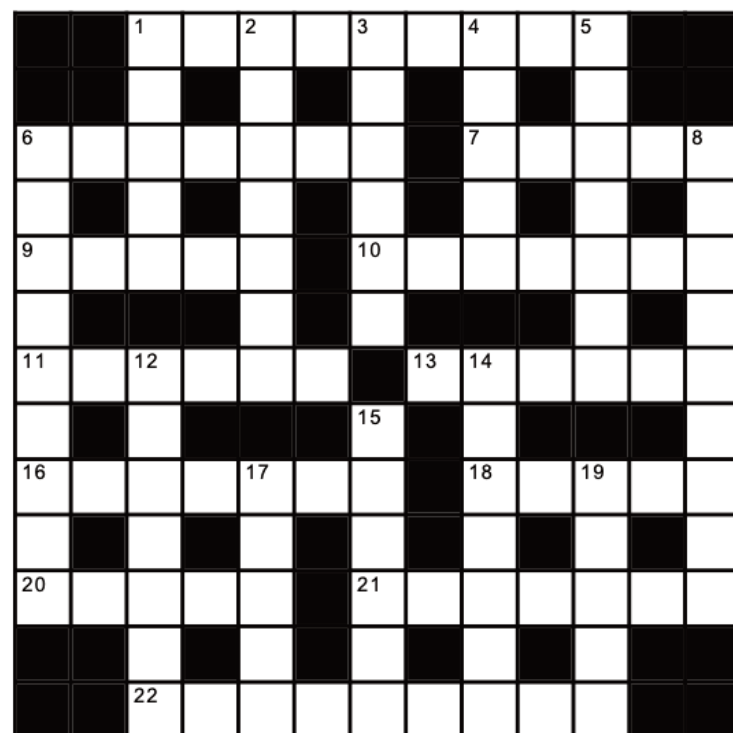
- 15 Frenchman's to the fore in Brexit - real European traditionalist on nationality (6)
- 17 'Beat retreat' code-word (5)
- 19 Gunners in the ascendant during support for Hebridean island (5)

QUICK Across

- 1 One of a tribe from whom Moses took a wife (9)
- 6 High Priest who opposed the Maccabees (7)
- 7 Soak;suffuse(5)
- 9 Eurofractions?(5)
- 10 Close fielding position in cricket (3,4)
- 11 Arch area of the foot (6)
- 13 The -----'s War: alternative, now dated, name for World War I (6) 16 Book of hymns or poems associated with the Old Testament (7)
- 18 Archimandrite;prelate(5)
- 20 Demanding;forbidding(5)
- 21 Large vats for steeping and serving beverages (3-4)
- 22 Ancient Levant maritime country with ports at Tyre and Sidon (9)

QUICK Down

- 1 Town noted for its Chardonnay and Pinot Noir/Gamay Burgundies (5)
- 2 Manorhouse;estate(7)
- 3 Abbot of Bec who became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1093 (6)
- 4 Cupcake topper (5)
- 5 Roman Christian who sent greetings to Timothy via Paul... (7)



- 6 ...and Christian at Colossae cited by Paul (9)
- 8 Western river boundary of Mesopotamia (9)
- 12 Organize a new restructure(5-2)
- 14 Language probably spoken by Christ (7)
- 15 French, previously Armorican (6)
- 17 Staccato, energetic, South American dance (5)
- 19 Outer Hebridean island home of Dad's Army's Private Frazer (5)

SOLUTION

Across: 1 Midianite, 6 Alcinus, 7 Imbue, 9 Cents, 10 Leg slip, 11 Instep, 12 Kaiser, 16 Psalter, 18 Abbot, 20 Stern, 21 Tea-urns, 22 Phoenicia. Down: 1 Macon, 2 Demesne, 3 Anselm, 4 Icing, 5 Eubulus, 6 Archippus, 8 Euphrates, 12 Shake-up, 14 Aramaic, 15 Breton, 17 Tango, 19 Barra.