

MORE THAN 26 YEARS OF BRINGING THE NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER

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There were bluebirds over the little memorial garden of St John's Church Melton Mowbray

From early morning on a sunny Saturday, 6th of September, it had been obvious that something was happening next to the church. A Batmobile and a PJ Masks carrier appeared near the entrance. Then, boxes began to arrive and were unloaded in the garden. It seemed you could buy anything there, even cupcakes for dogs! An enormous number of folding chairs appeared and a refreshment team began to prepare their wares. An atmosphere of excitement and anticipation was growing. People started to arrive and ask what was going on. The church is next to Morrisons and curious shoppers were coming in, some asking to look round the church

Then, beautiful strains of music began to emerge from the garden. ItsTCthePianoman had arrived! The talented Thomas Corden provided the perfect musical cabaret for the day with a wide variety of tunes, including several old wartime favourites. "It's a long way to Tipperary" even produced a little dancing, although by this time so many people had arrived it that it was difficult to find room!

The refreshment team were working under considerable pressure because until the new hall next to the church is completed, there is no kitchen. However, they kept



smiling and cheerful, which is a great tribute to the power of music to bring peace and harmony.

It was obvious that there was a record attendance at the Cream Teas, and the result bore this out. The day raised £1,095.95 towards the expense of building

the church and community hall - almost double what the event has raised in the past. This is the latest in a series of events run by Friends of St John's Church to raise money towards the expense of building a church and community hall. It

demonstrated how badly such a hall is needed and how well it will be used in the future.

We'll meet again!

Frances Levett



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The monthly paper for the
Diocese of Nottingham

Catholic News

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Saint Vincent de Paul Roundup

Poverty Strategy Commission

The Poverty Strategy Commission launched its report in the House of Lords last week. The Commission brought together politicians from all parties, business reps, experts, and leaders from the third sector, to develop a view on how poverty in the UK might best be tackled. The SVP's social policy lead, Alessandra Sciarra, represented the SVP on an advisory group that fed into the commission.

The Commission's starting point was to consider how a new cross-societal approach, with action from individuals and families, government, civic society, and employers, could improve outcomes for those in or at risk of poverty. The final detailed recommendations centred on increasing incomes, reducing costs, and building family and community resilience to prevent poverty in the first place. The launch event was attended by MPs and peers from across the political spectrum, as well as the SVP's CEO, Kate Nightingale. You can read the report, just search for Poverty Strategy Commission Final Report | WPI Economics.

The SVP issued a statement welcoming the Commission's report, particularly the call to end the 2-child benefit cap, which we have campaigned on for some time. As an anti-poverty charity with trusted support hubs rooted in local communities, the SVP knows first-hand the importance of building strong joined-up responses that

bring together government, civil society, and communities themselves. This is vital to create opportunities and strengthen resilience for those experiencing the devastating effects of poverty. The statistics in the report were stark: 24% of people now live in poverty, 6% in deep poverty and 36% of children live in poverty. It all highlighted how significant the SVP's work is and the depth of need across the country. There was cross-party consensus on the call for coordinated action. As ever, and as all Vincentians know, it will be about turning that concern into action.

Radio Oxford and Catholic Union Pub Talk On Sunday Kate Nightingale did a live interview on BBC Radio Oxford's breakfast programme. Kate was invited to talk about an upcoming event she is doing with the Catholic Union on, 'The changing landscape of those in need,' as part of their Pub Talk programme. The radio slot was an opportunity to promote all the magnificent work the SVP does and the breadth of the Society's reach. Kate highlighted the increasing scale and diversity of need running through our communities. If you happen to be in London on 13th October, you can come to the Pub Talk event just search for Catholic Union Pub Talk: Meeting People's Needs Tickets, Mon, Oct 13, 2025 at 6:00 PM | Eventbrite

Tea with the SVP

At the beginning of September, on Tuesday 9th, SVP staff, members, and volunteers

came together, virtually and in-person, to kick-off month long celebrations of Tea with the SVP. Starting on the Feast of our Founder, Blessed Frederick Ozanam, this campaign aims to highlight the incredible work of the SVP, whilst encouraging people to come together over a cup of tea to see how together they can turn concern into action. The campaign is also a fantastic way to encourage fundraising efforts for the charity to ensure they can continue to keep their doors open as we near the coldest and busiest time of the year.

Members of the Vincentian Family are being encouraged to come together to host a 'tea' themed event – whether it's to catch-up with fellow members, attract new members, or simply highlight the incredible work done across communities, daily.

SVP shops are turning their front windows into tea-themed displays, with many organising events to encourage those who need a chat to join them for a cuppa. These events epitomise the SVP - by turning concern into action.

Celebrations of Tea with the SVP will conclude on September 27th, which also coincides with the Feast of St Vincent de Paul. This is a day of Society-wide celebration when many attend special Masses, reflect on St Vincent de Paul's legacy of charity and service to the poor, or share a meal together in the community.

Timothy O'Sullivan

Frankly Speaking

By Frank Goulding



As we approach the last quarter of the year I do hope whatever has affected our lives can still leave us to run with Hope for the remainder of 2025. Living a Christian Life in what some call a "modern age" has become more difficult this year particularly for those who have lost loved ones, developed illness or experienced low self esteem.

Writing this article on September 1 I am aware that in our country the political conference season will be in full action over the next few weeks. During my younger years I somehow attended 9 of these gatherings as a constituency representative for two different groups. In those days actual debates and votes were much more the norm than is the case now. The political disillusion with these

occasions seems to have led to very low polls in most elections this century, except for the 2016 referendum on Europe. Whilst healthy political debates are good for democracy the issue of immigration leading to hostile behaviour is surely not setting a good example as the country faces up to asylum being a matter of humanitarian responsibility. Let us not forget how legal migration when managed well plays an important role in our economy and public services.

Perhaps this years' Autumn conferences will be an opportunity for those parties to restore public faith in politics. Our country faces many serious problems as does the world after the hottest year that most of us have known.

Our political leaders have a serious responsibility for all human beings. Our Prime Minister has been often on the world stage this year his action should be followed up as diversity needs to be linked to unity and peace.

As Pilgrims of Hope we should never forget that our young people are capable of their own opinions. In the 3 months leading to June the number of NEETS - not in Employment, Education or Training reach 948,000. The new Saint Carlo Acutis was a wonderful example for using modern technology to effect. Carlo was declared a Blessed of the Church on October 10th 2020 he never gave up and used his exceptional wisdom in just 15 short years an exceptional inspiration to all who struggle.

At the foot of the Cross

How can I now serve? What can I do to help the poor? Increasingly these are questions being asked by parishioners who, though once active within the life of the church, are now slowing down due to age and/or infirmity and are finding that becoming part of the 'invisible' group of people in a parish, who cannot help keep the church clean, feed the hungry or do something 'useful', is a challenging experience.

A visit to St Barnabas Cathedral in Nottingham on a Thursday in the month of Our Lady of Sorrows, may have offered one possible answer. Whilst I visited with the intention of undertaking the Jubilee Pilgrim Trail, it quickly became apparent that the Restoring Pugin Project taking place made this an impractical option; still, Our Lady and the Lord, it appeared, had something else in mind, and presented me with a different opportunity. It turns out each Thursday a group of associates and affiliates of the Little Company of Mary meet at noon, in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, to pray before the Blessed Sacrament, for the suffering, the sick and the dying, especially those who are alone (and briefly for furthering the cause of Venerable Mary Potter, who founded the

Little Company of Mary in Nottingham and is, since 1997, buried in the cathedral).

Whilst the chapel, providing an exquisite example of Pugin's work, is considered a hidden gem in Nottingham, the real hidden gem, I discovered, was the love in the hearts of this group, comprised mostly of women, who have committed themselves, not to meeting up once a week, but to assisting the Sisters of the Congregation through daily prayer. The Congregation is worldwide and there are similar individuals and Little Company of Mary prayer groups all over the globe, meaning at any given hour, people (mostly nameless and faceless) who are suffering, ill or dying, be it in war, torture chambers, prisons, sweatshops, brothels, hospitals, on the streets or at home, are accompanied by prayer.

With wars, people trafficking, poverty, abortion and substance abuse rife across the world, societies breaking down, alienation and loneliness becoming an epidemic, more people living alone, suicide rates once again rising in the UK, priest and religious numbers waning and assisted suicide gaining ground, this is a much



needed ministry of growing significance. If you (or a group within your parish) would like to follow in the footsteps of Our Lady and share in the privilege of standing at the foot of the cross for others, please consider becoming a lay affiliate by making contact with the Mary Potter Heritage Centre, the only requirement is to pray daily for their intention (there are no set prayers that must be recited) meaning frail and housebound parishioners can join in. It is unlikely you will ever receive any accolades from your parish, and there may be folk who will consider your ministry a waste of time, but, if you believe in the power of prayer, you will be serving some of the

poorest of the poor and storing up treasure, where it counts, in heaven. Further information can be found on their website: www.lcm.org.uk and they can be contacted by post: 32 Regent Street, Nottingham, NG1 5BT or by email: lcmheritage@gmail.com

Thank you to the prayer group for their hospitality, for allowing me to join them and for helping my eyes and heart be opened to this beautiful ministry. Venerable Mary Potter, pray for us.

Jo

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION FOR THE SUFFERING SICK AND DYING

St Barnabas Cathedral Blessed Sacrament Chapel
every Thursday at 12 midday



"If our heart is touched with love for others we shall continually be moved to pray for them"
(Venerable Mary Potter)

Please join The Associates and Affiliates of the Little Company of Mary Sisters to pray for the suffering, sick and dying of the world.

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



Congratulations to Maureen and Bruce Martin

After Mass on Saturday 30th August, Fr Greg Tobin was delighted to present two of his Christ the King Mackworth parishioners with the St Hugh of Lincoln Award.

This Award is conferred by Bishop Patrick on behalf of the Diocese of Nottingham. Mr and Mrs Martin have received it in grateful recognition of their long standing and dedicated service to the Church and parish of Christ The King, Mackworth.

The Church buildings are currently being sold to the Polish Mission but Mass and other services will continue to be held there.

Francis Hazel



Happy Birthday Pope Leo!

Birthday greetings have been arriving from all over the world for Leo XIV, who today, 14 September, turns 70. Offering them "on behalf of the Italian people, together with his sincere wishes for spiritual and personal well-being," is President of the Republic Sergio Mattarella.

In his message, the Head of State highlights the Pope's "urgent appeals for a ceasefire and the resumption of the path of dialogue, for the common good of peoples," in a time when "fears have grown that the world is heading down a dangerous slope, driven by a widespread logic of domination and increasingly marked by lacerating conflicts."

"It is above all the many thousands of civilian victims who pay every day an intolerable price of blood and destruction," Mattarella writes, adding that "in the face of such anxieties, men and women of goodwill feel the urgent need for peace and justice" and that "from every continent, people look with great hope" to the Pope's words.



Quoting St Augustine, who affirmed that "we are the times," the Italian President underlines that it is the duty of all, "and in particular of those who hold public office,"

to work "so that circumstances may improve, reopening horizons of dialogue, justice, and concrete protection of the dignity of every person," and assures Leo

XIV of the collaboration of the Italian State in his "high apostolic mission."

'You Too Can Be a Saint': Church Celebrates Canonization of Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati"

I will never forget 7 September, when I found myself on the Papal Altar, only nine rows from the Holy Father, at a momentous time in Catholic history. That morning the Church proclaimed its first millennial saint, Carlo Acutis. The Roman sun poured across St. Peter's Square as the great bells of the Basilica pealed. Pilgrims from every continent, shoulder to shoulder, had gathered to witness history: the canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, two young men whose ordinary lives became extraordinary paths to holiness.

The canonization Mass began with quiet grandeur, a graceful procession of Bishops and Cardinals. Then came the moment we had all awaited. Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, prefect of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, together with the postulators, read brief but stirring biographies of the two blessed. The choir intoned the ancient Litany of the Saints, and when the final invocation faded, Pope Leo XIV solemnly declared Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati saints of the universal Church, decreeing that they are to be venerated by the faithful everywhere. The choir responded with a soaring Great Amen and a cascade of Alleluias, and the square erupted in jubilation. We embraced one another and cheered; I found myself elated with tears of pure joy streaming down my face.

I first heard Carlo's name only six years ago, in 2019, when he was declared Venerable, and I rejoiced as he was beatified the following year in Assisi. At the time, Carlo's story was scarcely known outside Italy. Yet in just a few short years I have watched the Church acknowledge his holiness step by step; first as Venerable, then Blessed, and now Saint. I have had the

privilege of witnessing countless pilgrims fall to their knees in fervent prayer before his tomb in the Sanctuary of the Renunciation (Santuario della Spogliazione) in Assisi. I have spoken with hundreds of faithful who have venerated his relics during mission tours across the United Kingdom and Ireland. Inspired by his witness, I have compiled devotional books of his profound sayings and have been invited to give countless talks on the life and miracles of this remarkable teenage saint.

Together, Carlo and Pier Giorgio show that holiness can be lived in Nike trainers and hiking boots, in classrooms and on mountain trails. Their witness reminds us that sainthood is not the privilege of a few but the vocation of all, not only cloistered sisters, friars, or martyrs who give the ultimate sacrifice, but every one of us. They even make it "cool to be Catholic." Indeed, Catholicism has been making headlines. This year, following the death of Pope Francis and the election of his successor, Pope Leo XIV, the first American-born pontiff who has urged global peace, Catholicism has captured worldwide attention. A recent Reuters report notes that Catholic practice is rising sharply among young Britons, now surpassing Anglican church attendance for the first time since the Reformation. And in June, Google recorded a 373 percent spike in searches for "How to become Catholic." This revival, especially among Gen Z and millennials, is widely attributed to a generation seeking community, conviction, and a deeper sense of meaning in an increasingly secular society.

In his homily, Pope Leo reminded the faithful that the great saints like Francis of Assisi and Augustine are not distant heroes



but ordinary people who, while still young, gave an unreserved "yes" to God.

He urged especially the youth not to waste their lives but to aim high and make them "masterpieces," highlighting Carlo's motto, "Not I, but God," and Pier Giorgio's conviction "If you have God at the centre of all your actions, then you will reach the end". He called these words "a simple but winning formula of their holiness".

This canonization is not the close of their story but the opening of a new chapter for the Church and for each of us. It is a call for each of us to seek their intercession, and to carry the Gospel boldly into our own families, workplaces, and the digital world. Saints Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati remind us that holiness is possible today; in classrooms, on mountain trails, and even online, and that now it is our turn to answer God's invitation to become saints where we are.

Saint Carlo Acutis, Patron of the Young, Patron of the Internet, Apostle of the Eucharist – pray for us
Saint Pier Giorgio, Patron of World Youth Day, Students and Mountain climbers – pray for us.

Gwen is a Catholic writer and speaker who has authored devotional books on Saint Carlo Acutis and regularly presents talks on his life and miracles. She resides in Assisi, Italy, where she conducts retreats and leads pilgrimages that share the witness of Saints Francis, Clare, and Carlo.

Contact: gwen@viaassisi.com



Scripture Focus

By Fr Jeremy Corley



Brought Back into the Community

When we think back to our experience of the Covid lockdown, one of the most difficult things was the experience of isolation, felt by so many. We were not allowed to shake hands with our friends or hug our relatives. Especially for those living alone, the isolation was often very painful.

Thank God, the Covid isolation lasted only for a matter of months, though it seemed a long time. But imagine the feeling of isolation experienced by someone with a long-term infectious disease like leprosy, living separately from their loved ones.

The gospel for 11th October (28th Sunday of the Year) tells of Jesus healing ten lepers, though only one of them returned to give thanks. The cure meant that the sufferers had their skin made whole again. As a result, they were brought out of their isolation and

back into the public life of the community. As a first step, the cured leper in the Holy Land would make a thanksgiving offering to mark his cleansing (Leviticus 14:21).

Rather than denoting modern leprosy (Hansen's disease), the term leprosy may in fact refer to another kind of serious skin disease. Even so, the experience of isolation would have been similar.

Jesus was not the first to have cured a "leper." The first reading from the Second Book of Kings tells of the prophet Elisha curing a man with "leprosy" or a serious skin disease. Surprisingly, this man (Naaman) was not a member of the people of Israel, but a foreigner from Syria. At that time, the Syrians had often been hostile to the Israelites (2 Kings 6:8). In fact, the man was a commander in the Syrian army.

But long before Jesus commanded us to love our enemies, Elisha cured the man of

his disease, even though he was a Syrian military commander. Moreover, Naaman came to Elisha after hearing about the prophet from an Israelite slave girl at his court.

At first, Naaman was reluctant to accept the means for the cure proposed by Elisha—washing in the River Jordan. He thought of the great rivers in Damascus and despised the insignificant Jordan. But again, his servants persuaded him to try this cure. Lo and behold, he was healed.

The prophet would not take any payment for the cure. He realised that the healing was a gift from God. It was enough that Naaman came to believe in Israel's God: "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel."

To express his new-found faith, Naaman took some soil from the land of Israel to create a sacred spot near his Syrian home.

Naaman declared to Elisha: "Henceforth your servant will not offer burnt offering or sacrifice to any god except the Lord."

After his cure Naaman was now reintegrated into society with his own people. But more than that, he was now united in faith with his former enemies in the people of Israel. The healing of his serious skin disease brought him out of isolation and also introduced him into the community of Israel's faith.

The biblical mention of leprosy is often seen as a symbol of sin, which disfigures us spiritually and isolates us from proper dealings with one another, but the Lord can make us whole again when we confess our sins. Hence we are invited to pray with the psalmist: "Wash me more and more from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin."

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Statue of Christ of the Sacred Heart has been installed in St Peter & St Paul's church, Lincoln

Kindly donated by the Sisters of Providence, their statue of Christ of the Sacred Heart has been installed in St Peter & St Paul's church, Lincoln, during August 2025.

The sisters have been resident in Lincoln since 1901, moving to the convent at The Mount in 1908, therefore the statue is a significant artefact of Lincoln's catholic heritage.

The statue was originally sited in a niche above the altar in the Sisters of Providence Convent chapel:



Image: Sister Ann

This particular cast of statue No 8402 Sacré-Cœur de Jésus, by Maison Raffl probably dates to 1924 when the trademark "Le Statue Religieuse Paris" in a rectangular cartouche was registered¹ and the year the new chapel at the convent was constructed.



The design itself is much earlier and could be by a number of fine sculptors of religious art whose studios were adopted by Masin Raffl (founded in 1796) throughout the nineteenth century. The following image show the 1907 catalogue cover listing the many artists whose work was reproduced and the entry for the design of our statue:

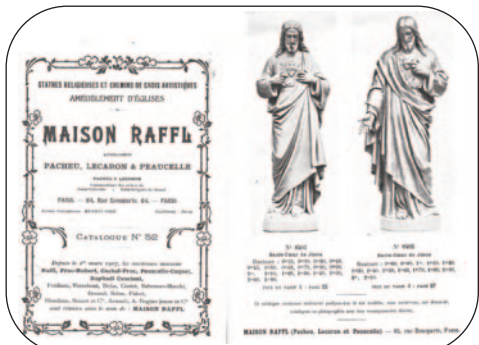


Image: Maison Raffl

Since the Sisters of Providence moved out of their home on the Mount in Lincoln, the statue had been languishing in temporary accommodation, awaiting restoration and a new home:



Image: Canon Geoffrey Hunton

This year Canon Geoffrey Hunton, parish priest of St Peter & St Paul's, took up the challenge to honour the legacy of the original convent. Ormsby's Memorials were commissioned to undertake the restoration which was funded by private donation and a parish coffee morning. An engraved brass plaque acknowledging the gift from the Sisters of Providence and their place in Lincoln's Catholic history, is displayed on the pedestal.

On completion, a team of parishioners were asked to provide an appropriate solution for the setting of the statue within the church. Being approximately 3 meters tall on an original oak pedestal, the best physical location was identified as the corner adjacent to the confessional rooms. However, this was on the one hand a utilitarian area with lots of pipes and wiring concealed behind panelling or in surface mounted conduits, with different levels and surfaces and, on the other hand a sensitive area, being a window between the Lady Chapel and the sanctuary: a backdrop which accommodated all these factors was required. It was decided that a simple textile panel would provide an elegant solution. Of course seemingly simple solutions are more easily imagined than executed!

The difficulties presented by the architecture and layout of the church were notable: a design which provided a



Image: Lorraine Roberts

complementary backdrop, respected the visibility from the Lady Chapel (a matching cream panel verso), the lines of the mid-20th century modernist architecture of the church itself and enabled access for future maintenance, was devised by Ted Coatsworth, Alison Guz, Val Trees and Lorraine Roberts.

The statue is now in place (see images) bearing a plaque recognising the gift from the Sisters of Providence, near the entrance to the confessional rooms, adjacent to the maquette statue of Our Lady of Lincoln, with a sanctuary candle and a candle stand nearby: a sensitive depiction of Christ placed so as².

¹ Arminati, PC, Documents for the history of a Parisian company of religious sculpture: the Raffl house 1796-1956: Documents of Parisian History No 18, 2016 p. 95 – 104).

² Instruction to Ordinaries on Sacred Art, Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office, 30 June 1953.

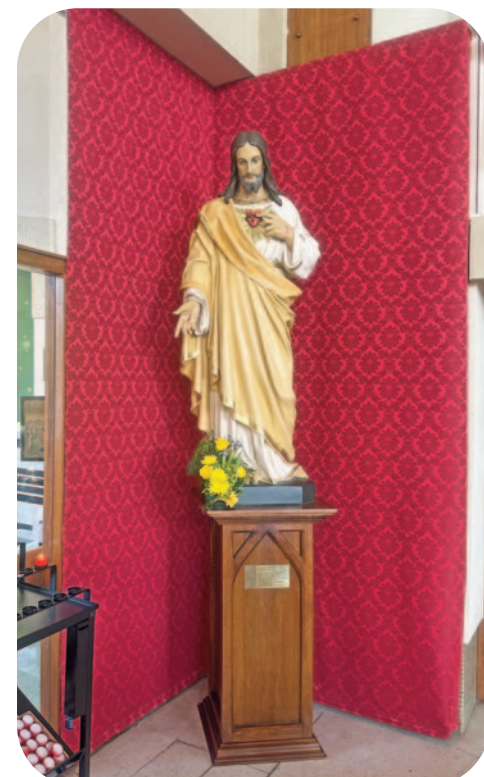


Image: Lorraine Roberts



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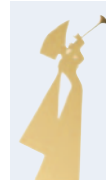


Words, Weapons and Wit

Following the failure of the plot, Fawkes was sentenced to be hanged, drawn and quartered. However, at the moment of his execution on 31 January 1606 he died of a broken neck: he was about to be hanged when, according to some sources, he deliberately jumped from the scaffold in

Another Frenchman, François-Marie Arouet (1694 - 1778) born some fifty years after Fr. Richelieu (1585 - 1642), stood on the opposite side of the fence from Guy Fawkes, from the Cardinal and even presumably from William Shakespeare. Monsieur Arouet, known by his nom de plume Voltaire, was a French Enlightenment writer, philosopher, satirist

That said, let's all now enjoy the mists and mellow fruitfulness of the season.



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



Nottingham welcomed walkers for the National Jubilee Pilgrimage of Hope



On Saturday 13 September 2025 pilgrims from four corners of England and Wales arrived at Nottingham Cathedral, ending their journey with a weekend of reflection, celebration and thanksgiving. Local people geared up to give the walkers a warm Nottingham welcome.

The National Jubilee Pilgrimage of Hope marks the Catholic Church's Holy Year of 2025. Pilgrims have set out on foot from the Catholic cathedrals in Cardiff, Leeds, Norwich and Southwark. They made their way to Nottingham, with the four routes tracing a 'Sign of the Cross' to bless the country as they go.

The Right Reverend Patrick McKinney, Bishop of Nottingham, said, "It's was a privilege for me to be able welcome the Pilgrims of Hope to the Diocese, and an honour that the city and the Cathedral of Nottingham have been chosen as their destination. Across the centuries people of many faiths and cultures have found pilgrimage to be a powerful way to encounter the divine and find hope for themselves and others. No-one can undertake the kind of journey these pilgrims are taking and not be changed. I wish them safe travels and a memorable welcome in Nottingham. In a world where hope can seem fragile I pray that they will return home with deepened faith in God and renewed hope for humanity".

The pilgrimage is an initiative of the Hearts in Search of God project. A total of 22 'perpetual pilgrims' are walking the full distance of each Way, with up to twenty day pilgrims joining each route for a day or more. The Diocese of Nottingham invited parishioners and local people to welcome them as they walk through the East Midlands and arrive at the Cathedral. The community at the Cathedral of St Barnabas offered a memorable and fitting conclusion to their journey.

Walkers began arriving about 3.00 p.m. on Saturday 13 September. The Cathedral is a Gothic Revival masterpiece built 1842-44 by the celebrated architect A. W. N. Pugin. Guided tours, and even a 'mini-pilgrimage' of the building, will be on offer as part of the national programme for Heritage Open Days.

A special Jubilee Icon, by Ethiopian artist Mulugeta Araya was on display as part of its tour of England and Wales during the Jubilee Year. The icon was commissioned by CAFOD, the Catholic Church's international development agency, and depicts Jesus preaching a message of liberation – a key theme of the ancient Jewish teaching of jubilee, which is just as relevant in today's world of poverty and international debt.



Jubilee Icon, by Ethiopian artist Mulugeta Araya

A Liturgy of Thanksgiving took place in the Cathedral at 5.00 p.m. Everyone was made welcome to hear the pilgrims' reflections as they look back on the 641 miles they have walked between them. That evening a celebration Ceilidh took place in the Cathedral Hall with Irish folk trio 'Ride On'.

The pilgrimage culminated the following morning with a special Mass at 11.15 a.m. in the Cathedral, to which all were welcome. In the Church's calendar, 14 September is known as the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, reminding believers how the sacrifice of Jesus opens a way from death to life, from cruelty to compassion, and from hatred to love.

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Medics appeal for readers to sign Open Letter to President Trump on Gaza

Dr Swee Ang, Catholic orthopaedic surgeon and co-founder of Medical Aid for Palestine has joined with other medics in an Open Letter to President Trump, appealing for him to use his power and position to stop the genocide and erasure taking place in Gaza.

Dr Ang plans to deliver the letter to the US Embassy in Beirut when she attends the 43rd anniversary of the Sabra Shatilla Massacre on 16-18 September.

The Honourable Donald J Trump
President of the United States of America
15 September 2025

Dear President Trump

We are a group of doctors and nurses who worked in Beirut's Gaza Hospital throughout the Sabra Shatila Palestinian Refugee Camp Massacre in 1982, 43 years ago. We are witnesses and survivors of the massacre which took place under the watch of the Israeli Army

And now, like countless people round the world, we have watched with horror, pain and anguish the relentless livestreamed killing and demolition of Gaza ever since 7 October 2023. By January 2025, the official body count of Gazans killed was at least 50,000, with a further 10,000 under the rubble, of which 17,835 were children, leaving more than 35,000 kids with one or both parents killed.

But while the escalating onslaught seemed unstoppable, almost immediately after your inauguration, the world watched with bated breath the ceasefire you imposed on 19 January 2025. The bombs stopped. Food, medicine and fuel entered beleaguered Gaza, as nearly a million displaced Gazans walked from displacement towards their broken homes. Some called it a Trump-made miracle.

But on 18 March, six weeks later, we watched with utter horror the breakdown of the ceasefire. Attacks on Gaza escalated and since then more than 6,000 were killed, with the blockade of food, water and medicine creating the most brutal man-made famine ever witnessed, killing hundreds more. Partially destroyed buildings have been systematically bombed to the ground so as to expel the entire population of Gaza City and enforce the mass exodus of a million people who were sheltering in those ruins and rubble. These traumatised people were already severely malnourished, and some near death from famine and diseases. Thousands more will die.

The World knows there is only one person who can put an end to this and bring peace

to the Middle East. It is with this in mind that we ask you to let Gaza live and give its children a future.

We've seen this before

We survived the Sabra Shatila Massacre in September 1982 - but more than 3,000 unarmed defenceless Palestinian men, women and children and their Lebanese neighbours were slaughtered in 3 days, at the rate of a thousand killed each day. A further 17,000 were abducted and never returned to their families.

It happened under the ceasefire brokered by Phillip Habib, the Middle East Envoy of your predecessor President Ronald Reagan. After a ten-week bombardment of Lebanon by land, air and sea together with a blockade of food, water and medicine, the Palestine Liberation Organisation evacuated to mitigate further loss of lives and destruction of homes, schools, institutions, farms and factories.

The most important part of the ceasefire agreement was the safety of the unarmed civilians left behind guaranteed by the Habib Peace Plan. With this assurance, hundreds of thousands of displaced, traumatised, hungry people and wounded orphans returned to rebuild their broken homes and shattered lives.

We witnessed their complete trust in the protection of the USA and how, despite the brutal incessant bombardment of their homes, the killing and wounding of their loved ones (leaving many children orphaned), the separation of their families through the evacuation, they put their hope in the stable future in their refugee camps under the protection of the USA.

But when, three weeks later, on 15 September 1982, hundreds of Israeli tanks made a massive land invasion breaking the ceasefire, your predecessor did not protect them. The tanks rolled over fleeing human beings, shelling buildings and over-ran Beirut city.

A contingent of tanks headed for Sabra Shatila and hermetically sealed the camp. Under the direct control of the Israeli Army who had made the Kuwaiti Embassy their command-and-control centre, Christian militiamen trained and armed by Israel were sent into the camp to systematically torture, rape and brutally murder the Palestinians and their Lebanese neighbours.

Together with Palestinian and Lebanese medical staff we battled to save the lives of hundreds of severely injured patients - shot at point blank by machine guns. We had to pile the dead bodies on top of each other in the hospital mortuary as there was no

space left. Frightened camp people fled into our hospital hoping to seek safety. At night, Israel launched military flares to illuminate the sky so that the atrocity could continue.

The hospital ran out of blood and anaesthetics; it also ran out of food and water for the desperate people seeking shelter. And when news came that the militia working for Israel shot patients, raped and murdered nurses in a neighbouring hospital, they fled. Our medical team stayed on to operate on the wounded and cared for them.

On the morning of 18 September 1982, our hospital was invaded by a group of soldiers who marched us out at machine gun point. They claimed to be Lebanese but answered directly to the Israeli Army. They forced us to leave at gunpoint. We feared for the lives of our patients concerned they would be shot dead once we left. Our patients owed their lives to a Swedish nurse and a medical student who refused to leave and stayed to care for them.

As we were marched out of the hospital, we saw dead bodies and terrorised people rounded up by gun men and awaiting execution. There were large military bulldozers tearing down homes and burying people in the rubble. At one point a desperate young mother broke through the line of machine guns to give her little baby to one of us. In a flash, a gunman ordered her back. Mother and child were gunned down along with the others rounded up by the roadside after we left.

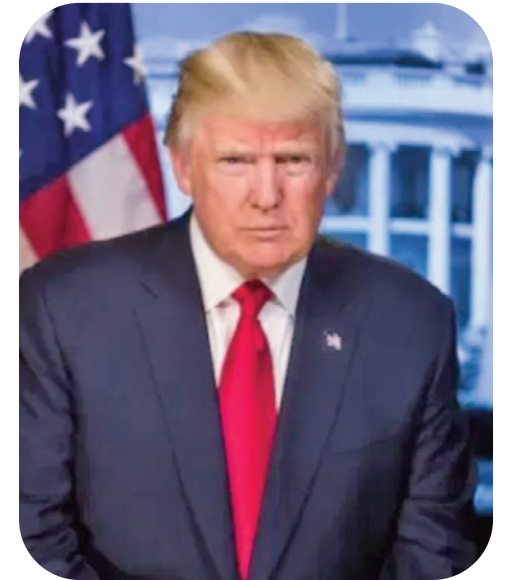
But what does this mean for the here and now?

Mr President, your predecessor failed to protect the Palestinians in 1982 from this crime against humanity.

However, our purpose in writing is not to upset you with the painful events of 43 years ago, but about what is going on in Gaza now.

As we pointed out in our opening paragraphs, Gaza is now dying under a man-made famine with all the famine experts warning that if sufficient food does not get in now, half a million people in Gaza - especially children - will die within a month.

Together with the Israelis, you have set up four feeding points in Gaza to replace the 400 United Nations feeding points. Yes, the number of feeding points has been reduced by 99 percent. Children are now so malnourished that they will not be normal even if they survive. There are stampedes and panic at the feeding points as you cannot reduce the number of feeding points by 99



Library of Congress photo. Unsplash
percent and expect hungry people not to fight and climb over each other to get something for their hungry families.

Moreover, rogue elements are shooting at the hungry crowds. Indeed, some of those working for the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation have resigned in view of the horrors they have witnessed. They are men of conscience, who risked their lives to tell the truth.

Mr President - please do not fail the people in Gaza like your predecessor failed the Palestinians in Lebanon. You are the only person in the world who can bring the daily killings in Gaza by bombs, drones and famine to an end. You did it when you forced a six-week ceasefire on 19 January 2025.

The whole world is watching now, but perhaps more important than all - God is watching too. Are you going to rescue Gaza from this catastrophe? Or are you going to let your legacy be the US President who turned away when Gaza is being erased and undergoing genocide?

We await your answer and action.

With Very Best Wishes

Dr Ben Alofs, British Doctor, survivor Sabra Shatila Massacre

Dr Swee Ang, Orthopaedic Surgeon, survivor Sabra Shatila Massacre

Ms Ellen Siegel, American Jewish Nurse, survivor Sabra Shatila Massacre

To add your name to the letter, see the other signatories scan the QR Code below.



Monsignor David Forde RIP

Born 4th September 1930 - Died 22nd August 2025
Ordained 17th June 1956

In 1999 as a small steering group of three people, Elaine Marren, Ronan Dirrane, and Father Forde set up the Nottingham Irish Parade and Festival. Monsignor Canon David Forde was the last of those pioneers to die recently. Since his retirement he was appointed as our Festival Patron, attended many of the planning meetings and launch nights. He was born in Co. Cork Ireland on 4th September 1930, and died in Nottingham on 22nd August 2025, just a few days short of his 95th birthday, and in the seventieth year of his Priesthood. One of his most recent moments of joy was in 2023 when he was nominated as our Grand Marshall for our festival and open air concert in Nottingham's Market Square, the year we twinned with Cork city and both Lord Mayors exchanged greetings and gifts.

Monsignor David studied at Mount Melleray Seminary in Waterford, and then at All Hallows Seminary, Dublin, before being ordained to the Priesthood there on 17th June 1956, at the age of 25.

Father David's first appointment in Nottingham Diocese was as Assistant Priest in Saint Peter's Parish, Leicester, until 1963, when he was moved to become Parish Priest of Divine Infant of Prague Parish, Syston. Nine years later, in 1972, he was asked to become Parish Priest of Our Lady of Lincoln, Lincoln, an office he held for twenty years, and during much of which time he was Dean of Lincoln Deanery also. During his years in Lincoln he arranged for a Catholic Mass to be celebrated in the Anglican Lincoln Cathedral, the first time since the Reformation. In 1984, in recognition of his significant contribution to the wider life of the Diocese, Father David was appointed to the Cathedral Chapter, gaining the title 'Canon'.

At the request of Derry city born Bishop McGuinness, Canon David moved to become Administrator of the Cathedral on 30th January 1992, finding the plans for the refurbishment of the building were in their early stages, in preparation for the 150th anniversary two years later. He oversaw this major work in 1993, being named a

Chaplain to the Holy Father at the Chrism Mass in 1994.

Monsignor David left the Cathedral in 1999, becoming Parish Priest of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Bulwell, and later also Infant of Prague, Bestwood, as well as Dean of Nottingham West Deanery. Having celebrated his Golden Jubilee of Priestly Ordination in 2006, he transferred in 2007, his final year of ministry, to become Parish Priest of Holy Cross Parish, Hucknall, from where he retired in 2008.

On the occasion of his Diamond Jubilee in 2016 Monsignor David wrote:

"Thirty-two young men were preparing for Ordination to the Priesthood at All Hallows College, Dublin, in 1956. They were answering the call of the founder of All Hallows, 'euntes docete omnes gentes', 'go teach all nations'. My class went to various parts of the English-speaking world. After sixty years, many have gone to their eternal reward since then. Five of us made it back to the college to celebrate our



golden jubilee. I am in contact with six of my classmates thanks to modern technology. I was honoured in my jubilee year to be presented to Pope Francis "

Father Forde's body will be received in to St. Barnabas Cathedral at 6pm on September 25. He will spend the night alone in the cathedral he served for many years and his funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11am by Bishop Patrick Mc Kinney on Friday September 26th.

Gerry Molumby
Nottingham St. Patrick's Festival Chair

Discover the people hidden in our midst

Paul Bodenham invites you to Spalding for the annual Caritas Assembly on 1 November

The 2025 Jubilee Year calls us to be 'Pilgrims of Hope'. This year's Assembly for justice and peace will hear about those whose journey is not one of choice but of coercion – those driven from home by conflict, poverty and trafficking.

With speakers from the Santa Marta Group and Bishops' Conference the day will introduce to Nottingham Diocese a scheme for 'Modern Slavery Ambassadors' – ordinary people who can help bring this unscrupulous crime to an end in the East Midlands and improve care for its survivors.

Meeting in Spalding, this Assembly will also have a rural flavour. Lincolnshire's longest-serving Agricultural Chaplain will share seldom-heard stories and cries for justice from the 'hidden countryside'.

Caritas volunteers will announce an initiative to support some of the county's most vulnerable residents, including refugees and asylum seekers. We are leading the development of a movement in Lincolnshire to ensure that no

incomers to the county are beyond the reach of help.

The programme opens with Mass celebrated by Bishop Patrick at 11.45am. We're delighted to be hosted by the Parish of the Immaculate Conception and St Norbert. The parish's thriving pastoral initiative Project St Thomas offers a kaleidoscope of services to the people of South Holland.

Project St Thomas began in 2020 with 'Hub In Hub Out' which brings soup, sandwich and friendship to those in need, and has branched out to money management for young people, beginners' IT, community singing, 'Nutrition and Read' and much more. Find out more at lunchtime about Project St Thomas over their home-cooked soup and a roll.

To find out more and book your place, visit bit.ly/sacred-stranger or scan the QR code right.



Discover the people hidden in our midst
at the annual Justice and Peace Assembly
with Caritas Diocese of Nottingham

Saturday 1 November 2025
Spalding, 11.30am – 3.45 pm

The Immaculate Conception and St Norbert Catholic Church,
St Thomas Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire PE11 2XX

Hear stories of those touched by modern slavery and forced migration, and others unseen in both town and countryside. And let's take action together.



Rev Alan Robson, Lincolnshire Rural and Agricultural Chaplain, on the **hidden countryside**

Miriam Cakebread, Santa Marta Group and **Fr Mark Odion**, Bishops' Conference, introduces **Modern Slavery Ambassadors**

Caritas volunteers update on **Lincolnshire Together**, a new network to support marginalised incomers

Tracey Carter on the amazing outreach of **Project St Thomas**
Mass with Bishop Patrick

The church is 10 minutes' walk from Spalding station. Trains from other parts of the diocese arrive at 11.24 and depart at 15.54

For further details and to book your place visit bit.ly/sacred-stranger or scan the code:

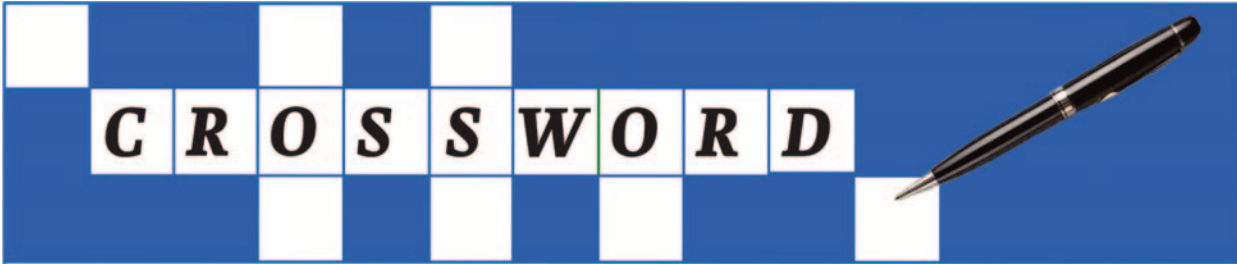


REFUGEES

Brian Bilston

They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or me
Should life have dealt a different hand
We need to see them for who they really are
Chancers and scroungers
Layabouts and loungers
With bombs up their sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves
They are not
Welcome here
We should make them
Go back to where they came from
They cannot
Share our food
Share our homes
Share our countries
Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out
It is not okay to say
These are people just like us
A place should only belong to those who are born there
Do not be so stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way

(now read from bottom to top)



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)

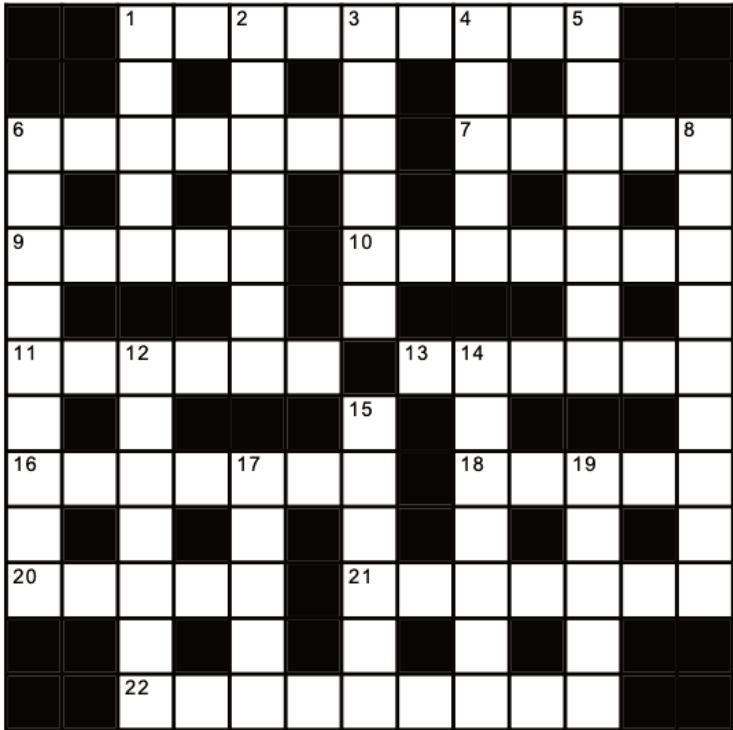
- 15 Frenchman's to the fore in Brexit – real European traditionalist on nationality (6)
- 17 'Beat retreat' code-word (5)
- 19 Gunners in the ascendant during support for Hebridean island (5)

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, 13 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.