

The Epiphany - 6th January

Catholic News



Living Stones brings renewal to St Mary's
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MORE THAN 16 YEARS OF BRINGING THE
NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER

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Pray that children who are victims of abandonment or violence may find the love and protection they need.

That Christians, enlightened by the Word incarnate, may prepare humanity for the Saviour's coming.

Pope Francis



A HAPPY AND A HOLY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS

Christmas greetings from Bishop Malcolm OP

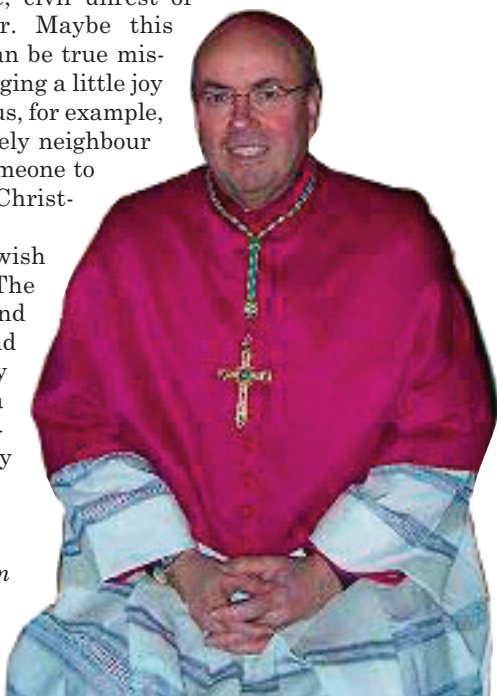
Dear Friends,

In his recent apostolic exhortation 'The Gospel of Joy', Pope Francis reminds us that to be Christian is to be joyful. Christmas is a wonderful time, a true gift from God, when we share the joy of Mary, Joseph, the Angels, the Shepherds and the Wise Men, who rejoiced at the Birth of the Word made flesh. Jesus shares all our joys and hopes, our grief and sorrow, so that, by placing our faith in him, we may live our lives to the full.

As we celebrate Christmas, we should remember particularly those for whom Christmas might not be so joyful – the lonely, the housebound, the sick in hospital, the men and women of our Armed Forces who are far from home, and all who feel abandoned in any way. We also pray for the people of the Holy Land, Syria and the Philippines, and other countries which are troubled by warfare, civil unrest or natural disaster. Maybe this Christmas we can be true missionaries by bringing a little joy to those around us, for example, by visiting a lonely neighbour or by helping someone to get to Mass on Christmas Day.

I would like to wish all readers of The Catholic News and their family and friends every blessing for a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.

+Malcolm
Rt Rev Malcolm
McMahon OP
Bishop of
Nottingham



Time on retreat is time well spent



Despite widespread preconceptions, it is my firm belief that students are very busy people. Having only recently completed my undergraduate studies in Theology, I vividly remember trying to balance deadlines and exam revision with cooking my own meals, doing the laundry and getting around without a car, all whilst supposedly maintaining the (in)famous social life of a university student! Bearing this in mind, I was very encouraged by the choice of nineteen students to give up a precious weekend and come away on the UoN Catholic Community Autumn retreat.

The venue for our weekend was the Oblate Retreat Centre, situated at Wistaston Hall in Crewe. After a relaxing first evening spent watching *The Shawshank Redemption*, our chaplain Fr Andrew Cole delivered three talks across the weekend on the theme of being "alive to God in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 6:11). To explore this theme, Fr Andrew spoke about the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist, which he equated with the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity respectively.

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MORE THAN 16 YEARS OF BRINGING THE NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER

The monthly paper for the Diocese of Nottingham

The Catholic News

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Wanted Parish Correspondents

The Catholic News is looking for a Parish Correspondent in your parish to send in local news for publication in this newspaper.

All items to be emailed to john@bellcourtltd.co.uk before 10th of the month

We were challenged to reflect on what being baptised, practising Catholics entails, and to consider how our faith shows forth in the way we live. Our reflection was complemented and deepened through prayers and daily Mass in the Centre's beautiful chapel. Particularly profound was the hour spent in Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament on Saturday evening, the peacefulness of which provided a tangible contrast to the oft-hectic pace of university life.

As well as giving time to God, the whole weekend was permeated by a palpable sense of community. Whether bonding over a game of Scrabble or chatting on one of the countless tea-and-biscuit breaks, new friendships sprung up throughout the group. A particular highlight for me was the "Emmaus walks," where participants were challenged to walk with someone they weren't familiar with; the Emmaus moment comes in seeing the face of Christ in the other, just as the disciples eventually did with their companion in Luke's account. On the basis of what I saw and heard back from those involved, this was a very fruitful way to spend an afternoon.



Daily Mass was celebrated on the retreat by Fr Andrew Cole, the Catholic Chaplain to the University.



Road to Emmaus

School Chaplaincy Team



Children receiving badges and certificates

All the schools in the Corpus Christi Trust in Leicester recently took part in a Training Day for children willing to be involved in their schools as part of a 'chaplaincy team'. According to feedback from the children it proved to be a great day that was enjoyed by all, staff and pupils alike. The children learned what was involved in being part of a school chaplaincy team and some of the presentations were led by the children at Sacred Heart School, who are

already 'chaplains'. The day concluded with Mass, celebrated by Father Lally, Parish Priest at Sacred Heart and he blessed and commissioned the children in their role within their schools. Mr Hirst Headteacher at Sacred Heart School presented certificates and school chaplaincy badges to each of the children. We look forward to hearing how the children develop their 'chaplaincy teams' within their schools.

Chaplaincy Team at Sacred Heart

Irish Government looking to re-open Embassy to Holy See

The Irish government has given its strongest indication yet that it may reopen its embassy to the Holy See.

Tánaiste Eamon Gilmore, Ireland's foreign minister, said he is in favour of reopening the embassy but as a "two ambassadors, one building model".

That would mean combining both embassies to Italy and the Holy See on the same compound, as already is the case with the embassies of the UK, Israel and the Netherlands. The United States' government recently said it was planning on adopting a similar arrangement for its embassy to the Holy See.

Continued on page 3

Need to find a Church this Christmas?

www.catholicdirectory.org

Green energy and a sustainable future, as CAFOD partners with Ecotricity

Members of the Catholic community in England and Wales are being offered an extra incentive to 'go green' this winter thanks to a partnership between CAFOD and Britain's first green electricity company Ecotricity.

By changing your energy supplier to Ecotricity, you will not only live more sustainably, but you will help fund CAFOD's work in some of the world's poorest communities. By switching your electricity provider to Ecotricity, the environmentally friendly company will donate £40 to CAFOD; choose it to supply both your electricity and gas and CAFOD will receive £60. All you have to do is quote 'CAFOD1' when making the switch. Furthermore, 66p from every £1 you pay for your energy bills will go towards funding sustainable energy projects.

Ecotricity: the facts

- Ecotricity offers 100% green electricity generated from the wind, sun and sea
- It also offers green gas
- The green energy provider has installed quick charge points at 90% of all UK service stations allowing electric car users to recharge their cars free of charge (and within approx 20 minutes)
- The company owns a football club called Forrest Green Rovers (nr Stroud) as well as the Green Britain visitor centre in Swaffham, Norfolk
- 78,898 customers have already made the switch – will you be next?

Ecotricity is a UK-based company which launched in 1996. It hopes to realise its vision of a Green Britain: a place in which we all live more sustainable lives and where ethical business is the norm – pursuing outcomes rather than profit. It is a not-for-dividend company and all profits go towards funding its mission.

Mark Neveu, Partnerships Manager at Ecotricity, said: "One of the most significant things you can do to cut your carbon emissions is to switch to a green energy provider – and at Ecotricity we offer 100% green energy for less than the standard Big Six electricity tariff in your region and the standard gas price from British Gas wherever you live."

Ben Oldham, CAFOD's head of corporate partnerships, said: "Ecotricity is a great example of how we would like to see all businesses operate. They don't just supply green energy - they make it too - and are truly committed to a sustainable future for everyone. As Catholics, we are called to live harmoniously with the environment and taking advantage of this offer is a brilliant way for our supporters to do just that.

"Winter is upon us, and the major players in the energy market are increasing prices, seemingly only interested in generating profits for shareholders. There really couldn't be a better time to switch energy providers to an ethical, green alternative." Throughout our Hungry for change campaign we have been encouraging you to live simply. This partnership with Ecotricity presents the chance to shrink your carbon footprint whilst ensuring you live in solidarity with the world's poor.

Take advantage of these great benefits and make the switch now by visiting www.ecotricity.co.uk/CAFOD or by calling to 08000 302 302 (and quoting 'CAFOD1').

Bene Merenti Presentation



It was a special day at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Mickleover, Derby on Sunday, 24th November, the Feast of Christ the King. The Parish Priest, Father Paul Chipchase presented the Bene Merenti Medal to Mrs Mary Neville who has lived in the parish since the early 1970s, serving both its parishioners and those of the wider community in Mickleover Churches Together. The bene merenti medal is an honour rarely given. Since the parish was founded in 1962, only one person connected with the parish has been so honoured. Bene merenti says, "Well done" to Mary who was taken completely by surprise as her family and friends, who had known about the award for a while, had managed to keep it secret. Born into a Catholic farming family in Abbot's Bromley, Mary became a school teacher. She has been married to her husband, Bob since 1956 and they have three grown up sons, all with families of their own. Two of her grandsons serve regularly at 8 am Sunday Mass. She has always been involved in the work of the Church, playing the organ since the age of 10. At Our Lady of Lourdes, she has been central to all that goes on, whether taking communion to the sick and housebound or playing the organ at weddings, funerals and other liturgies

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The decision to close Ireland's embassy to the Holy See in 2011 was met with strong opposition and was particularly unpopular among members of Fine Gael. It also led to a popular grassroots initiative called "Ireland Stand Up" which has campaigned to reinstate the embassy. Many saw the closure as ideological and part of a wider secular agenda. Since the embassy closed, Ireland's abortion laws have been relaxed and the government has called for a referendum on same-sex "marriage".

Officials in the Department of Foreign Affairs are now expected to draw up a proposal which will see the embassy reopened, the Irish Independent reported Dec. 4th.

"If the Vatican is willing to accept the arrangement of two ambassadors, one building, we would look at it positively," said a foreign ministry spokesman. Fine Gael backbenchers are reportedly hopeful that a new embassy to the Vatican could be up and running in early 2014.

(and the piano for the children at St Joseph's school). She has organised Sunday School in past years and, with husband Bob, the Summer and Christmas Fairs, right up to the present day. On Tuesday evenings she gathers the ladies of the parish and the wider community together to knit blankets and baby clothes, initially to support the work of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, and latterly wherever she knows of people in need. When presenting the award, Fr Paul commented that Mary had submerged the whole of the sub-continent in blankets! On Sunday afternoon, the parish commu-

nity came together for a celebration tea with a special cake, to share in Mary's pleasure and to show her the high regard in which she is held by everyone. This is not the first time that Mary has been honoured. In April 2010 she was one of the senior citizens chosen to receive the Royal Maundy money from the Queen when she visited Derby Cathedral. In the meantime, Mary is carrying on with everything she does in the parish, showing little sign of laying aside her vocation of helping others. Long may God give her the strength to continue!

Pauline Galliar



STONYHURST

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do not bury your talents,
the gifts that God has given
you! Do not be afraid to
dream of great things!"*

Pope Francis

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Formally accepted into Candidacy for Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate



From left to right the names are Christopher Blunt (St Mary's Derby), Timothy Anthony (Birmingham), Nicholas St John (Birmingham), Richard Jones (Corpus Christi, Cleethorpes), Bishop Pargeter, Warren Peachey (Our Lady of Lincoln, Lincoln), Joboy Sebastian (Mother of God, Leicester), David Knight (St Hugh's, Lincoln), Peter Astill (St Theresa's, Birstall).

"On Saturday 16 November six men from the Diocese of Nottingham and two from the Archdiocese of Birmingham were formally accepted into Candidacy for Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate. The ceremony was performed by Bishop Emeritus Philip Pargeter as the highlight of Evening Prayer at Oscott College, Birmingham.

Each candidate had been accepted by Bishop Malcolm McMahon after demonstrating that their progress through the first year of formation at Oscott College made them worthy as candidates for Ordination. The ceremony was watched by family, friends,

parish, fellow deacons-in-formation, representatives of the Nottingham Diocese Diaconate Formation Team, seminarians, rector and staff of Oscott College, These

men have a further three years of study and formation to undergo so please continue to pray for them."

One Body, One Spirit in Christ!

Parish in Belper and Duffield

A whirlwind last month at the parish of Our Lady's Belper and St Margaret's Duffield started with a youth event (lots of noise and pizza) and ended with a Ceilidh (lots of noise and dancing). Sandwiched between these events was a week of meetings, home visits and services led by the Sion Community, designed to bring the parish together and to enrich everyone's relationship with God.

The Sion Community has strong links to Nottinghamshire in that it was founded in 1984 by Mgr Pat Lynch, from the Diocese of Nottingham, to evangelise in this country.

Priest in Charge, Father Michael Kirkham, explains Why hold a Mission now? "Five years on from a previous two-week mission to the Parish by the Sion Community seemed an appropriate interval for us to seek renewal by a returning mini-Mission. The Parish Pastoral Council was supportive of an initiative that I should say came from the Holy Spirit!"

After that, there was the thorny issue of who was going to co-ordinate it "on the ground". God does obviously work miracles and somehow Jane Schumann, mother of three small girls, and in the middle of a house move, found space to lead and inspire a team to publicise, plan and, crucially, pray for the success of the Mission.

Jane says "It was wonderful to see the walls of the church come down and the door open to new faces, old friends and other Christians from our local community. We don't know yet what seeds have been sown, but we will continue to pray for an outpouring of God's love."

On the subject of publicity, another set of challenges was presented when the visa of our design expert, Jannice, ran out and she had to return home. Again, despite the obstacles of working to different time zones and incompatible computers, stunning graphics graced our website, leaflets and posters.

Jannice's fiancé, Neils, says "The mission gave me the chance to get in closer touch with fellow parishioners, both during the preparation and in the mission week itself. In the last few years, I've been trying to live my faith more actively and for that, the mission was a very welcome boost".

The services were extremely varied and well attended but central to all of our worship was music. Phil Smith, our chief minstrel, says "I found the mis-



sion a really uplifting experience. I felt real warmth from everyone who took part - the parish were as much a part of the team as the Sion Community! I had made a conscious effort to keep my diary free for the week. However, I had to miss the Thursday night service, which focussed on the Holy Spirit. I really felt I had missed something. It was great to share the music with the team - good to get some new tunes. The reflections and personal witness are just what I needed to refresh and reinvigorate my faith - especially in the winter months."

In addition to their parish work, the Sion Community conducts missions in schools, as well as offering training, retreats and much more. For more about their work, visit their website at www.sioncommunity.org.uk

Anne Halliday

ST PAUL'S SNOWCASE!



St. Pauls Catholic School in Leicester was proud to see over 150 students perform in our annual 'Snowcase' on 28-29th November where we showcased a selection of dance, drama and music. Students aged between 11 to 18 participated at the event of which was a sell out to parents, friends and family.

Dances ranged from Charleston to hip hop, drama from Shakespeare to modern day devised pieces based on myths, and live music from modern day chart songs to soloists who had composed and performed their own songs. The talent at St. Pauls is outstanding and we are extremely proud to have the opportunity to show off this talent. Both staff and students alike worked tremendously hard in putting the show together and the audience applauded and cheered after each act.

We now start on our next adventure...High School Musical, coming in March 2014.

“Faith without action is no good”



This was the message that Fr Ignacio Blasco SJ, or Fr Nacho as he likes to be known, gave to some 50 year 9 pupils from St Thomas More School, Buxton who were on retreat at The Briars Youth Centre in Crich.

Fr Nacho, a CAFOD partner, was visiting the UK as part of *Hungry for Change*, a campaign currently focusing on the impact of climate change on small-scale farmers struggling to grow food, and the ways in which all human beings can affect the global food system with their every day choices.

Fr Nacho described life in his parish of Santa Maria Chimumula in the highlands of Guatemala, 2200 metres above sea level. His parishioners are mainly indigenous Mayan K'iche people. The parish comprises

37 communities, spread across the mountains, each of which Fr Nacho and his two fellow priests visit at least once a month. Many families in the parish are living in extreme poverty with child malnutrition, gender discrimination, deforestation and unpredictable rainfall being some of the main problems to be faced. The parish, supported in part by CAFOD, runs four programmes – pastoral care, education, health care and agriculture – which promote concern for the environment and healthy food and diet.

Fr Nacho strongly believes that how each one of us lives our own life can make a huge difference to the kind of world we want in the future. He urged the young people to be aware of the world as it is, especially when it comes to climate change, and to find out



about the issues and what they can do to help the situation, both on a personal level and as part of bigger campaign actions. Seeing things improve, even a little bit, for a family or individual in the parish gives Fr Nacho great hope for the future. He said, ‘Knowing other people care about you makes a difference’.

The students from St Thomas More thought what Fr Nacho had to say was ‘interesting and thought provoking’. One

pupil said ‘it was good to hear from someone who has real experience of living in a poor country, it made it more real, rather than just being told about it’. The school hope to use the story of Fr Nacho’s community as a focus when promoting CAFOD World Gifts during Advent.

During his visit to our diocese, Fr Nacho also spoke to a group of 30 or so adults from across the diocese at Our Lady’s Church Hall, Bulwell.

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Living Stones Brings Renewal to St Mary's, Louth



At Louth a group of parishioners have joined together to bring renewal to St. Mary's during the Year of Faith. Although

New data shows that Catholic schools in England serve more disadvantaged pupils

The Catholic Education Service has released its annual Digest of 2013 Census Data for Schools and Colleges in England. Catholic schools make up 10% of the maintained schools sector, employing over 46,000 teachers, 37,000 education support staff and educating 770,000 pupils.

The data collected in the Census show that on average pupils at Catholic schools in England come disproportionately from the most deprived areas. 18.4% of pupils in Catholic primary schools are from some of the most deprived areas, compared to only 13.8% nationally. Catholic secondary schools follow a similar trend. 17.3% of pupils are coming from some of the most socially deprived areas with a national figure of 12.2%. The Census has also found that Catholic schools take more pupils from ethnic minority backgrounds with 34.5% of pupils in Catholic primary schools from ethnic minority backgrounds and 30.2% of Catholic secondary school pupils.

Paul Barber, Director of the Catholic Education Service has said: "We have always known that Catholic schools serve ethnically diverse communities and the figures from the Census data show that this continues to be the case. The makeup of Catholic schools reflects the growing diversity of our communities and these figures demonstrate the vital role that Catholic schools play in working towards a common good for the whole society and carrying out the Church's mission to the poor. We would like to thank all the schools which took part in our Census survey for their cooperation and contribution to the research process."

The average percentage of Catholic pupils in Catholic schools in England has remained relatively static in regard to previous years at 70.2% while the actual number of Catholic pupils has increased. Although almost 30% of pupils in Catholic schools are of other faiths or none, there remains an extremely low percentage of pupils withdrawing from collective worship in schools at 0.01%.

this group started off with limited experience it soon became clear that they had started 'opening up the doors' of the church as was originally called for at the beginning of the Second Vatican Council. What also became apparent was that this work was central to the vision of the Nottingham Diocese You Are Living Stone's consultation where it specifically talks about serving our brothers and sisters in the community in which we live. In many respects, much of what has been achieved is common in more developed parishes, but where there has been less progress over recent years the following gives encouragement to other parishes where it can be seen what can be achieved by small number of few people in a relatively short period of time.

The year of events started off with a Confirmation Pilgrimage to the Youth 2000 Walsingham Prayer Festival. Young Catholics from St. Mary's received first blessings from newly ordained priests, and heard a talk by the young pro-life nun Sr. Roseanne Reddy. Being attended by nearly 2000 young Catholics it also gave them an important opportunity to see that there are

many other young people, beyond their own church walls, who are serious about their faith. This was followed by a new approach to the First Holy Communion and Confirmation Day celebrations. What has become apparent in the UK Catholic Church in recent years is the exuberant and joyful way in which many new Polish Communities celebrate these important days in the life of their parishes. The idea was to emulate this and to celebrate the fact that young people are the life blood of the parish. Going the extra mile was hard work, but the group were ultimately able to bring this exuberant and joyful feel to St. Mary's which proved to be welcomed by many, especially the parents.

Social events during the year included a Christmas Meal which was celebrated within the community to bring our witness beyond the church walls; something Pope Francis is regularly calling on Catholics to strive towards. A Mardi Gras evening and a Rock and Roll night not only saw Methodists and Baptists come into St. Mary's from around N. E. Lincolnshire, but also saw non-church goers being welcomed. Both events consisted of three course meals, as well as fun dance classes in Salsa and Rock & Roll, respectively. The evenings ended with dancing and socialising. Many of the pictures can be seen on the new Facebook page entitled Louth Catholics (Lincolnshire).

The heritage of the Catholic Church had also been overlooked for a number of years at St. Mary's and with that in mind the return of the Crowning of Mary played a dual role of not only solidly engaging our youngest Catholics in the liturgy, but also brought back a sense of authentic Catholicism. Some elderly members of the church were emotional at its return and spoke of fond memories of growing up as young Catholics; there were even a few tears. This provided a back drop for those who wished to see the return of the Latin Mass. Having heard about the renewal going on



at St. Mary's, this led members of the Latin Mass Society to come from as far a field as London, Nottingham, Leicester, York, and Hull to serve at a High Solemn extra-ordinary form Mass on the Feast Day of Pope St. Pius X. This attracted Catholics from around Lincolnshire and East Yorkshire. It also attracted the support of young adult Catholics from the World Youth Day organisation Juventutem (Nottingham).

A new justice and peace initiative saw the group go outside of the church walls, once again, by organising four Macmillan coffee Mornings which proved to be the main events of their type in the town. Finally, the First Saturday Devotion was also instigated, alongside a parish trip to Walsingham on the Feast Day of Our Lady's Dowry. This was after good communication had made it apparent that some parishioners wanted a home grown trip, as well as the return of Catholic devotion. More work remains for the parish and it is hoped that there will be more out-reach. This year's hard work has meant that St. Mary's is now well positioned to respond to the request of Pope Francis' recent words in Evangelium Gaudium where he states that "communities must rise to the challenge of evangelisation and mission; mere administration is no longer an option".

FRANKLY SPEAKING

Attitudes to immigration may be our greatest worry in 2014



At the end of the calendar year we can always hope for a better world starting on January 1st. 2013 has had its fair share of gloomy sometimes tragic news but whatever Faith and Charity we individually possess these great virtues can be accompanied by hope.

In our own country the last year has seen progress in the economy but poverty and particularly the growth of food banks is a sharp reminder to our politicians that the 1957 speech of the then Prime Minister Harold Macmillan indicating "you have never had it so good" is not likely to be repeated in 2014. The more recent comment of "we are all in this together" can seem to be a little hollow to say the least but let us be grateful for the tireless generosity in both time and money that Christians have given in 2013. Yes those who are not believers do voluntary work also but in the words of one priest we can only "do our best." We can only hope that the gradually improving economic climate will mean we avoid the street riots in our cities that we witnessed in the recent past but, the numbers of young unemployed added to the concerns over immigration means we cannot rule out strong feeling. Attitudes to immigration may be our greatest worry in 2014 and can drive people to despair if we couple this with disillusionment with all politicians.

The slump in party membership of the three main political

parties in the last 15 years is a startling statistic, they have between them 510,000 fewer card carrying supporters than when Tony Blair became Prime Minister in 1997. I well recall one of our Sunday newspapers greeting Mr Blair's election with the headline "Goodbye Xenophobia", if we have another economic slump this may well seem to be far from the truth. Next year much will be spoken of the 100 year anniversary of the events in 1914 leading to the first World War. The rise of fascism which followed that dreadful conflict will be still a clear memory to survivors of the second World War and we do not want a return to the politics of the 1930's in any shape or form.

I started this article by speaking of Hope. The tremendous response to the Philippines typhoon appeal and the compassion witnessed in Glasgow after the Helicopter tragedy are living proof that we are a country where many people do care about our fellow human beings. In just a few short months Pope Francis has proved to be a champion of international states for victims of injustice and the poor. On just one Sunday in October 960,000 pilgrims assembled in prayer at Fatima, yes in 2014 there is Hope, but we all need to "do our best".

A peaceful New Year to all readers.

Frank Goulding
Holy Trinity Parish, Newark

Retired Priests Fund

Please give to those who have given a lifetime

When you read this it will be close to Epiphany a better time than others to thank you for your gifts. And yes- I know the jokes about wise women and wise men. We are more than a quarter of the way to raising the £5 million we need. Those who remember the Penny Catechism might remember the bit of contributing to the support of our pastors. Our website www.retiredpriestsappeal.com answers many questions we have been asked and as many more we thought of. I am content to respond to anyone who wants to discuss reservations (JPCsedate@aol.com).

I sign a card of thanks to every donor I can identify and this is my favourite chore. It stops me laying awake at night realising how great is our task. To those who remain anonymous I use its words to thank you also. This is what it says:

You kindly made a donation. On behalf of all who care for our retire priests I thank you.

Those of us who work in volunteers in deaneries and parishes are encouraged by every support received. You are part of the growing numbers who motivate us.

The priests of the diocese who have served us so well will appreciate how well you have helped in return – without ever knowing who you are.

From the more than 100 volunteers whose

efforts are remarkable can I offer some comments of what they say:

Fired with commitment and enthusiasm
What a task: I'm driven by tasks
Disappointed at first but the donations were better than I expected
Not just the worthiness of the cause
The Privacy and security of donors
Confidence and clarity

Our appeal went very much according to that proposed - invitations to presentations, seeking pledges, key person is the parish representative, 'loads' of statistics etc. available

Seemed insurmountable at first
20% of our parish has raised over £60,000 (this respondent told of a 90 year old lady's efforts)

Backing from parish priest
Our deanery representatives were excellent

Get help from a small group of parishioners

Ready to move to fund raising events

A deanery leader said "plan for success not for failure"; a representative from another diocese will be visiting us soon to learn of our experience and I hope with your support to summarise our efforts to him using those words.

John Curran
Appeal chairman

Centenary Mass held at Our Lady's Convent, Loughborough



To celebrate 100 years of The Union of Catholic Mothers a Mass followed by a lunch took place in Our Lady's Convent School in Loughborough.

The Chief Celebrant of the Mass was Father Paul Newman Diocesan Episcopal Vicar General for the Lay Associations. Concelebrating priests were Father James Earley U.C.M. Spiritual Advisor, Father Marcel Fangoo and Canon Michael Brown. U.C.M. National President travelled from Salford to attend the day which was joyous throughout with everyone in good spirits. An excellent lunch served by pupils from the Convent School. Members contributed to two chairs in the School Chapel to be dedicated to the Centenary of U.C.M.

Father Paul Newman representing the bishop presented Mrs Maureen Jones a member of Our Lady's Foundation Leicester and past National Treasurer with the Bene Merenti Medal for service to the organisation and parish.

Harvest Lunch in aid of the Sick & Retired Priests



Father Marcel in his marigolds washing up after a Harvest Lunch organised by members of The Union of Catholic Mothers in Our Lady of Good Counsel Foundation Leicester in aid of The Sick & Retired Priest Fund.

The day commenced with Mass, during Mass Mrs Pam Green Nottingham Diocesan President presented two stalwart members from the Holy Cross Whitwick Foundation Mrs Sheila Spencer and Mrs Winnie Robinson 60 year certificates for long and loyal service in the U.C.M.

£149.00 was raised from the lunch and everyone enjoyed the day, with afternoon

focusing on Father Marcel putting on his blue marigolds and taking charge of the washing up

Father Marcel is recognised by members in the Nottingham Diocese and further afield for his constant support and dedication of U.C.M. always attending the Walsingham Pilgrimage in July and any other function that takes place.

Retired priests appeal website
www.retiredpriestsappeal.com
Please visit our website

It can be reached on the above address or via a link on the diocesan website. Already it has useful information and it is our intention to not only provide progress reports but more detailed information which is simply too big to include in our ordinary material.

Suggestions for material to post are welcome and can be sent to the appeal office (srpfappeal@nrctd.org.uk).

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Catholic Parish in the News

St Mary on the Sea, Grimsby

The parish of St Mary on the Sea and St John Fisher lies to the north of the diocese. Fr Joe Wheat is the parish priest and there is a thriving parish community. The foundation stone to the church of St Mary on the Sea was laid in 1880 but the Grimsby Mission of St Mary's was established in the early 1850's, with Services held in various places around the town. This was mainly to cater for the growing number of Irish labourers who were coming to Grimsby to build the docks. In 1869 part of the Holme Hill estate of Lord Heneage was purchased by Sir John Sutton for the building of a church. Unfortunately Sir John died before it could be built. It was to be some years before another benefactor would provide the necessary funds.

In the meantime, Canon George Johnson had the school and presbytery built.

Thomas Arthur Young of Kingerby Hall near Osgodby in Lincolnshire, took on the task of providing a church. As stated above the foundation stone was laid in 1880, and the new church, designed by Charles Hadfield, was opened officially by Bishop Bagshawe of Nottingham on 19th August 1883 - (the same week as the People's Park was opened).

In addition to the building, T.A. Young also provided the stained glass window on the chancel (Sanctuary) and the Sacred Heart Chapel, the High Altar with its Reredos, and the carved oak stalls in the Sanctuary.



The Hon. Mrs Georgina Fraser, sister of Lord Heneage, donated the Sacred Heart Altar. The statue of the Sacred Heart is flanked by those of St George, St John, St Mary Magdalene and St Hugh of Lincoln. The whole of the church was decorated for the silver Jubilee in 1908. The money for the decoration of the Sanctuary was donated by the Charlton family. There is a plaque commemorating Thomas Charlton's term of Office as Mayor of Grimsby in 1875. He is included in his mayoral robes in the painting of the Nativity and apparently his family were used as models for the figures of the Nativity and Epiphany scenes!

The angels on the higher level of the East wall are holding scrolls containing the words of Mary's prayer, the Magnificat - Magnificat anima mea Dominum et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo - My soul glorifies the Lord, my Spirit rejoices in God my Saviour (Luke 1:46-47).



Nigel Leaney painstakingly restoring some of the paintings

The artist responsible for this work is not know.

Sadly, in 1963 all the artwork and decorations were painted over and remained hidden until 2004 when happily, conservator Nigel Leaney painstakingly restored some of them - though many still remain hidden. The wooden Reredos (the screen on the wall behind the Altar, below) is divided into three rows below a painting of the coronation of the Virgin Mary.

Beneath the seven archangels are the four evangelists (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). The bottom row depicts Ss Norbert, Thomas Aquinas, Gilbert of sempringham and Hugh of Lincoln.

Thomas Young was responsible for bringing the Premonstratensian Order, founded by St Norbert, to Lincolnshire. In acknowl-



edgement of this, and in recognition of his contribution to St Mary's, a small figure representing Mr Young is seen kneeling at the saint's feet. He is dressed in the regalia of the knighthood of St Gregory, an honour bestowed on him by Pope Leo XII. The panels in the centre of the Reredos were also exposed in 2004 and are decorated in the style of Pugin, and include the prayer - Ave Regina Caelorum, - Hail Queen of Heaven. The figure of Christ in majesty on the

Sanctuary north wall is part of a continuous mural extending all the way along the wall. The Chancel Arch contains decorations, mainly of the Fleur de-Lys and the Tudor Rose.

Overlooking the Sanctuary is a balcony and a room, originally used by the choir, accompanied by a small organ. Near the bal-



Canon Joseph Philip Hawkins

cony is a rope connected to a one ton bell in the 'Fleche' rising 50 feet above the chancel roof. The bell is inscribed with an old Lincolnshire legend "What you have heard, O Mary, I will proclaim from the rooftops" Buried beneath the chapel are the remains of Canon Hawkins who was Parish Priest from 1884 to 1913. Greatly respected by all the town folk, especially the poor, special permission was given by the Home Office to transfer his remains from Cleethorpes Cemetery to the vault where he was laid to rest in 1914. His funeral was a momentous occasion in the life of the area.

Two stained glass windows commemorate the work of Canon Hawkins. One above the last Station of the Cross was installed from funds raised at his Silver Jubilee of Ordination in 1909.

There are 14 stations of the cross which depict the events of the first Good Friday.

The huge Hawkins Memorial window is situated above the balcony behind the organ. The balcony was originally built by Canon Hawkins to enable children to see the sanctuary. It became however, the natural position for the choir and the present organ was installed in thanksgiving for the end of the Great War. It was completely renovated in 2007 in time for the 125th anniversary celebrations.

The pulpit, richly carved with the images of the four evangelists, was made in Germany and was donated by Mrs Bedilia Dunn in 1892 in memory of her husband who died in a road accident. She died before the pulpit was installed so it is in memory of both of them.

The richly decorated wooden statues of Our Lady and St Joseph came from Germany. Under the balcony stairway is a small area of the "Fishes" Frieze which originally went all round the nave. Painted in the 1930's it allegedly included every known species of fish in the sea.

The newest stained glass window (above) is the Peace Window installed in 1945 in thanksgiving. It includes a view of the Dock Tower.

Extra - Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Commissioning Mass



Following the article in last months Catholic News which dealt with the training weekends for new Extra-Ordinary Ministers, the Commissioning Mass for all those ministers who went forward was held at St, Barnabas Cathedral on Saturday 16th November at 11.30am. Proceedings for the day in terms of preparation got underway from 09.30. All the stewards were in position to welcome the candidates and their visitors from across the diocese. This went very smoothly; all the candidates being seated by 11.00. From the original figure of 120 people who attended the training weekends at Crich 93 candidates presented themselves for commissioning. Some of those who were unable to attend this year will be commissioned in November 2014. The Mass commenced at 11.30 and was celebrated by Bishop Malcolm with many priests and deacons from around the dio-

cese in attendance. The Rite of Commissioning was conducted by Bishop Malcolm with each candidate promising to undertake their ministry duties with due diligence and reverence. Finally the Bishop blessed all the ministers. They then came forward onto the Sanctuary to be invested with a Scapular and receive their "Faculty" which summarises their commitment to ministry. During his Homily the Bishop thanked all ministers for the commitment they unselfishly make to this ministry in serving the people of the diocese during Holy Mass and the taking of our Blessed Lord to the sick and housebound. The Bishop further thanked all the members of the commission and the training team for the unselfish amount of time they give to putting the candidates through their training and to presenting them on the day for their commissioning.

The commission is extremely grateful to Bishop Malcolm for the support he gives us through the year and especially for his presence at the Commissioning Mass. We would further wish to thank the Cathedral clergy and staff for making the Cathedral available for such a momentous occasion. Afterwards, brilliant weather allowed the candidates and visitors to mingle in the garden with the Bishop sharing their experiences of the day, all agreeing what a moving Mass it was. We now start again for next year.

Alan Simmons

ENOUGH FOOD FOR EVERYONE

Nearly one billion people go to bed hungry every night and three million children die from malnutrition every year. The Enough Food For Everyone IF campaign brought together over 200 organisations and tens of thousands of campaigners in the UK to call for the end of global hunger. Jesuit Missions joined the campaign and throughout 2013 helped to make great progress in tackling some of the underlying causes of hunger, thanks to the thousands of people across the UK who made their voices heard. Jesuits, chaplains from Jesuit schools, staff from Jesuit parishes and the Jesuit Missions team joined hundreds at the religious lobby of parliament and thousands at the huge Hyde Park rally. To find out more about what the campaign achieved visit <http://enough-foodif.org/>

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Book Reviews

Game, Set and Murder

By Elizabeth Flynn. Lion Books. £7.99

I am not an expert in this genre but apart from Agatha Christie's beady-eyed spinster, Miss Marple, I have not come across a female detective before. Simenon's Margret seems very world-weary and Poirot a natural celibate, while Adam Dalgleish, PD James' hero, is meant to be a thinking girl's crumpet. Now Elizabeth Flynn has invented a most attractive women detective inspector: Angela Costello. In this intriguing story she has to investigate the murder of a popular Croatian tennis champion and coach, Petar Belic, whose body has been found on court 19 of Wimbledon

on the first day of the famous annual tournament. There are several possible suspects, all with a reason to want Belic out of the way. I won't spoil readers' enjoyment by describing what happens, except to say that in a kindly, professional and painstaking fashion DI Costello finds the murderer very near the end. It is a satisfying conclusion to a well-plotted book.

What is interesting about the character of Costello is that, without being in any way overtly "preachy", she is clearly someone of moral principles as well as common sense. In dealing with a witness, a young tennis

player called Joanna, who has discovered she is pregnant by another player, Costello shows sympathy and sensitivity, finding ways to encourage her not to have the abortion which the baby's father wants, without being over-directive. She also deals firmly but kindly with another young single woman, Tara, who is trying unsuccessfully to seduce her (married) boss. Flynn writes, "Angela couldn't help feeling sorry for the girl. You're chasing an illusion, Tara, she thought, and I've no doubt you're courting heartbreak."

A small hint as to Costello's own religious affiliation is hidden in a dialogue she has with Philip, another tennis player who is in love with a Mass-attending girl, Tessa, who doesn't sleep around and who has a copy of "The Imitation of Christ" in her locker. Philip is scared that Tessa will judge him for once having taken drugs at a party. Costello tells him that Tessa "has an angle on the need for forgiveness and acceptance of human weakness" and advises him, "You need to get the sugar coating off this romance and get stuck in. Your relationship is going nowhere fast unless you're prepared to trust each other."

This is a promising first novel and I hope



it will only be the start of Costello's career as a detective. Unlike Jane Tennyson, as played by Helen Mirren in the popular TV series "Prime Suspect", she does not feel the need to shout, swear or have affairs, in order to keep her end up in the coarse world of male colleagues. It makes a refreshing change.

Francis Phillips

An Advent Pilgrimage

A new Advent book offers material for prayer for each day of the season based on its author's experiences of and reflections on what it means to be a pilgrim. Writing in Thinking Faith, Paul Nicholson SJ describes the approach to prayer that he hopes will lead his readers to 'consolation' as they join him on An Advent Pilgrimage.

It is possible that the British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan never said that his greatest fear in life was of 'events, dear boy, events'. Maybe the American writer Elbert Hubbard didn't think that life was made up of 'one damn thing after another'. But these quotations each convey a basic attitude to life in general, the one world-weary and the other exasperated. Such overall attitudes or images will shape a person's responses to much that happens to them. Once we know that Shakespeare's Macbeth believes that life is no more than 'a tale/ Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,/ Signifying nothing', his fate will come as little surprise.

Perhaps the most common Christian image of life, shaping the responses of those who try to live by it, is that of pilgrimage. A pilgrimage is a journey whose value is to be found as much (if not more) in the travelling itself and the experiences to which this gives rise, as in the destination. It is likely to be a journey with an explicitly spiritual dimension, whether this is thought of as connected with the ultimate goal of reaching a particular church or shrine, or with the awareness of God's providence guiding the encounters the pilgrim has along the way.

The urge to go on pilgrimage recurs



throughout the centuries, and crosses boundaries of denomination and faith allegiance. John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, the Islamic Hajj, and the three-yearly Hindu Kumbh Mela, said to be the largest religious gathering in the world, all bear witness to this. Pilgrimage also plays a significant part in the Ignatian tradition. Ignatius of Loyola himself, not long after his conversion, set out on an arduous journey on foot to the Holy Land. He found this experience so beneficially transformative that he later prescribed something similar as one of the six foundational training 'experiments' for all candidates joining the Jesuit order that he established.

God versus Particle Physics: A No-Score Draw

John Davies, Imprint Academic, 2013, sbk., ISBN 9781845405588, RRP £14.95. Also as an ebook.

The progress through this look at scientific thinking is a discussion of ways in which physicists invent things that have no perceivable qualities, for the only reason that these things 'must exist' or otherwise their preconceptions or their calculations would be wrong, as it were. This is tantamount to an act of faith, almost, in the same way that it has, perhaps, the same limitations, say, as belief in God. The author discusses the senses of man being able to follow scientific inquiry, looks at wave and 'bit' theory, of particles and boundaries, and then

speaks of four kinds of physics, of Newton, of Einstein [relativity], of Heisenberg [quantum theory], and of that like Feynman [chaos theory], 'all four types ... have made the world an easier place to inhabit and apparently bend to our will', a chapter that should be of benefit to most students. He talks of parallel universes, and at the same time invokes common sense. I liked his introduction of Weinberg's classic, Dreams of a Final Theory: The Search for the Fundamental Laws of Nature [1993].



"Mother Mary" Christmas production 2013 COME AND SING ABBA SONGS FOR CHRISTMAS

Lots of people love singing songs by Abba and in particular from the musical "Mamma Mia". This Christmas, a group of 70 people (Aged 8-86) from Hinckley are coming together to present the Christmas Story in a new and innovative way, by singing these wonderful songs with different words, specially written for the occasion by a local lyricist. The production was presented in 2010 and 2011 and by public demand, it is being presented again this year. It is in fact a serious attempt to meditate on what Christmas has become and could yet be for so many people – a joyous, life-giving event for all of us – and was previously received enthusiastically by the chorus and audiences alike. It is being presented on December 19 and 23 at 7.30pm in St. Peter's Church, Leicester Rd., Hinckley (Tel.01455 634443) St. Mary's Church, Ashby Rd., Loughborough on Friday December 20 at 7.30pm (Tel.01509 262123) and St. Barnabas' Cathedral, Derby Rd., Nottingham at 3.00pm on Sunday December 22 (Tel.0115 953 9839). Tickets are £4 for adults and £3 for concessions and the entire proceeds of the production will be donated to local charities. If you are interested in knowing more about the project or would like tickets please contact the above numbers or look at www.stpetershinckley.org.uk

The proceeds of the Hinckley productions will be donated to Inter Care, Hinckley Foodbank, Hinckley Homeless Trust and Worklink



Lauren Glasgow in the title role of "Mother Mary"

China visit to our partner school, the Xi'an 85 Middle School

November saw a surprise opportunity for me Mr Gus Diamond (assistant principal) to visit China and continue the excellent work already started in 2010 with our partner school, the Xi'an 85 Middle School.

Using funding granted by the British Council, myself and 2 other Cheshire teachers were able to spend a day in Beijing and then 5 days in, the former historical capital, Xi'an. This was a unique and eye opening experience for me especially as I had previously taught about the development of China during the 20th Century and had focused on the impact of Chairman Mao and Deng Xiao Ping.

On the first day, and within an hour of landing at Beijing airport, I was walking around Tiananmen Square and having my picture taken with the Gates of Heavenly Peace and Mao's famous portrait in the back ground. Then it was a whistle stop visit to Mao's mausoleum where stopping for photographs or even to digest ones surroundings is clearly not allowed.

After site seeing came work and I spent a week working in the Xi'an



85 Middle school both negotiating a visit for their teachers in July but also an extended visit by their students when they come over in October of 2014, this time hopefully spending 3 days with our families rather than just one night. The hope is that we can foster long lasting friendships and that our students and the students from Xi'an will develop their skills of their respective languages. And it won't be all one way traffic.

Part of my task was to find accommodation and sites for our students when we visit Xi'an - although hotel costs and flight costs may mean that this has to wait a few more months.

The surprising thing that most struck me about my visit was how similar Chinese students are to

our students. I was allowed to both speak to students in lessons but also to interact with them at lunch time and I found their intelligence, diligence, and their overall sweetness reminded me so much of our students. I was treated to a visit to their school's mini United Nations society in which they discuss many of the topics of the day. And whilst I couldn't always keep quiet I was able, largely to hear excellent linguistic skills and intelligent responses which would be mirrored by our students and which makes the development of interaction so vital for both schools.

All in all, a tiring, but exciting trip which we are determined will have long term benefits for both communities.

Grace Dieu Pupils work hard for Orphanage

Each year Grace Dieu School Council chooses a charity to support throughout the year. In September 2012 they chose the Tilinanu Ophanage in Malawi, after they were inspired by a presentation by Alice Pulford (The charity founder). With their usual enthusiasm they held numerous fund-raising events including Home Clothes Days, Cake Stalls, a school sleepover, Chapel collections and a



Triathlon event. The fundraising brought the whole school community together with parents, staff and pupils all willing to get involved. Their efforts, so far, have raised over £3000.

The support for the Charity proved so popular with pupils that the new School Council of 2013 voted to continue their work for another year. It is a sad fact that the orphans have limited access to formal education. Their lives are very different to children in the UK. If they do not have a uniform to wear they are not able to attend school. It was a remarkable coincidence that Grace Dieu pupils had recently had a

change to their uniform and much of their clothing had become obsolete. So, as a further act of charity Grace Dieu appealed to parents to donate any unwanted uniform and sportswear. The response was generous and over two hundred Kilos of clothing was shipped directly out to the children at the orphanage.

There is little need for words, it is clear to see from the pictures of the children how pleased they are with their new clothes, and wonderful for Grace Dieu to know that we have at least given them a chance to go to school and, hopefully fulfil their dreams for a better future.

To go forth in evangelisation, Pope Francis confronts the enemy within

When the Synod of Bishops on the new evangelization met at the Vatican in October 2012, among the top items on the agenda was the threat of militant secularism in a post-Christian West.

"It is as if a tsunami of secular influence has swept across the cultural landscape, taking with it such societal markers as marriage, family, the concept of the common good and objective right and wrong," and posing new impediments to spreading the Gospel, Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington, the synod's relator, told the gathering at its first working session.

The same topic arose repeatedly in addresses by synod fathers, especially those from Europe and North America, and in the final propositions they gave the pope as the basis for his post-synodal apostolic exhortation. But Pope Benedict XVI resigned before he could write such a document, leaving the task to his successor, who finally responded with "Evangelii Gaudium" ("The Joy of the Gospel"), published Nov. 26.

In writing the apostolic exhortation, Pope Francis departed from usual practice and declined to use the draft provided by synod officials. The result is a text in the pope's distinctive voice and focused on his particular concerns. Among the features that distinguish "Evangelii Gaudium" from the synod that gave rise to it, none is more striking than how little attention it pays to the problem of secularism.

The pope criticises contemporary society and culture, especially in the world's richer nations, for their "idolatry of money" and an "economy of exclusion and inequality." But he makes only a few broad references to the "crude and superficial" intolerance of unbelievers and the danger a distorted pluralism poses to religious freedom.

By contrast, Pope Francis devotes much of his exhortation to the shortcomings of the church itself. He laments its "excessive centralisation" in the Vatican, which he finds a hindrance to the church's "missionary outreach." He complains about members of religious orders who show an "in-

ordinate concern for their personal freedom and relaxation," and about priests "obsessed with protecting their free time."

The pope criticises those who show an "ostentatious preoccupation with the liturgy, doctrine and the church's prestige, but without any concern that the Gospel have a real impact on God's faithful people and the concrete needs of the present time." He upbraids Catholics with a "business mentality, caught up with management, statistics, plans and evaluations, whose principal beneficiary is not God's people but the church as an institution." And he regrets that women do not yet have a sufficient role in decision-making within the church.

Pope Francis also deplores divisiveness within the ranks, writing: "It always pains me greatly to discover how some Christian communities, and even consecrated persons, can tolerate different forms of enmity, division, calumny, defamation, vendetta, jealousy and the desire to impose certain ideas at all costs, and even persecutions which appear as veritable witch hunts. Whom are we going to evangelise if this is the way we act?"

Most remarkably, the pope devotes nearly a tenth of the entire document to suggestions for improving priests' homilies, which in his telling are all too often moralistic, unlearned, disorganised and verbose.

These problems matter, the pope makes clear, insofar as they impede efforts to make the church's structures "more mission-oriented, to make ordinary pastoral activity on every level more inclusive and open, and to inspire in pastoral workers a constant desire to go forth and in this way to elicit a positive response from all those whom Jesus summons to friendship with him."

It is thus surprising that, with the possible exception of a reference to the "pain and the shame we feel at the sins of some members of our church," Pope Francis does not even allude to what most people inside and outside the church would regard as its greatest scandal of recent years: the sexual abuse of minors by priests. This scandal is not,



Pope Francis, shown here during a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica in October, covers a variety of topics in his new text, "The Joy of the Gospel." But he also devotes much of the exhortation to the shortcomings of the church itself

strictly speaking, a question of evangelisation. But as Pope Benedict wrote to the Catholics of Ireland in March 2010, church leaders' failures to prevent and punish clerical sex abuse "have obscured the light of the Gospel to a degree that not even centuries of persecution succeeded in doing." Over the last decade, bishops' conferences in a number of countries, including the United States and Canada, have taken systematic action to protect children from this threat, and the Vatican has instructed the rest of the world's bishops to do likewise. Yet by all accounts the process is still far from complete. Carrying it out will presumably be a priority for Pope Francis, as part of his campaign to reform and purify the church at every level for the sake of its essential evangelical mission.

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