

May - The month of Mary

# Catholic News



Old Friends and New  
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MORE THAN 16 YEARS OF BRINGING THE  
NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER

May 2014

20p WHERE SOLD

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## FAREWELL TO BISHOP MALCOLM



On Friday 21st March 2014, it was announced that Pope Francis had appointed the Right Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP, as ninth Archbishop of Liverpool in succession to Archbishop Patrick Kelly.

Speaking at a press conference in Liverpool, Bishop Malcolm said: 'I am honoured and humbled to have been appointed by our Holy Father Pope Francis as Archbishop of Liverpool. I promise to do my best to repay the trust that he has placed in me, and which the priests and people of the Archdiocese of Liverpool are being

asked to put in me from today. 'I am grateful to the priests and people of the Diocese of Nottingham for their support, guidance and friendship. I am naturally sorry to be leaving my home for the last thirteen years, and I will miss the priests & people there; I hope that the prayers of my Diocese will come with me as I prepare to bid them a fond farewell shortly after Easter.'

Monsignor Thomas McGovern, Vicar General, paid tribute to Bishop Malcolm's ministry in our Diocese: 'All of us in the Diocese of Nottingham are

sorry to be losing Bishop Malcolm after over thirteen years as our Bishop. Since he came to us in December 2000, he has become a well-loved and well-respected shepherd, and we will miss him.

The priests, deacons, religious and laypeople of our Diocese will look back on his ministry here with great affection, and Bishop Malcolm can be assured of our prayers for him as he prepares to take up his duties as Archbishop of Liverpool, where we hope that he will be very happy. I am sure that his kind personality, good sense of humour and commitment to social justice will endear him very quickly to the priests and

people of his new Archdiocese, and that they will be richly blessed by his presence among them.'

On Wednesday 16th April, the Chrism Mass gave parishioners from across the Diocese the opportunity to say farewell to Bishop Malcolm at the close of his ministry as Bishop of Nottingham.

Here are some of Bishop Malcolm's remarks given at a press conference in Liverpool.

*'I am honoured and humbled to have been appointed by our Holy Father Pope Francis as Archbishop of Liverpool. I promise to do my best to repay the trust that he has placed in me, and which the priests and people of the Archdiocese of Liverpool are being asked to put in me from today.'*

*'I would like to thank Archbishop Patrick Kelly for his many years of service in this Archdiocese, and Bishop Tom Williams, who has been Apostolic Administrator since Archbishop Kelly's retirement last year.'*

*'I am grateful to my family and friends, my Dominican brethren, and the priests and people of the Diocese of Nottingham for their support, guidance and friendship. I am naturally sorry to be leaving Nottingham, my home for the last thirteen years, and I will miss the people there; I hope that the prayers of my Diocese will come with me as I prepare to bid them a fond farewell shortly after Easter.'*

**Bishop Tom Williams, Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese of Liverpool, welcomed Bishop Malcolm with these words:**

'I have to say on behalf of Archbishop Emeritus Patrick and the priests and people of the Archdio-



cese how pleased we are to welcome Archbishop-Elect Malcolm. We have always been well blessed with our Archbishops and are grateful and appreciative of the gifts and talents and service given by Archbishop Emeritus Patrick.

We welcome Archbishop-Elect Malcolm with open arms and fully commit ourselves to him in a spirit of brotherly love and service. We know he is a Londoner and an Arsenal supporter but nevertheless we welcome him unconditionally.'



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The monthly paper for the  
Diocese of Nottingham

**The  
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# Pope to young: Be honest, discover what you hold dear to your heart

By Carol Glatz

Pope Francis told a group of young people to be honest with themselves and others and figure out what they hold dear: money and pride or the desire to do good.

He also told them he has made plenty of mistakes in life, being guilty of being too bossy and stubborn.

"They say mankind is the only animal that falls in the same well twice," he said.

While mistakes are the "great teachers" in life, "I think there are some I haven't learned because I'm hardheaded," he said, rapping his knuckles on his wooden desk and laughing. "It's not easy learning, but I learned from many mistakes, and this has done me good."

The pope spoke to young students and reporters from Belgium, who were accompanied by Bishop Lucas Van Looy of Ghent. They video-recorded the interview in the papal study of the Vatican's Apostolic Palace and aired it on Belgian TV. The young Belgians, including the cameraman, asked their questions in English, and the pope answered in Italian.

When asked why the pope agreed to do the interview with them, the pope said because he sensed they had a feeling of "apprehension" or unease about life and "I think it is my duty to serve young people," to listen to and help guide their anxiety, which is "like a seed that grows and in time bears fruit." The 25-year-old reporter operating the camera asked the pope whether he was happy and why, given that everyone in the world is trying to find joy.

"Absolutely," he smiled, "absolutely, I am

happy. I have a certain inner peace, a great peace and happiness that come with age, too." Even though he has always encountered problems in his life, he said, "this happiness does not disappear when there are problems."

When one young woman said: "I have my fears. What makes you afraid?" The pope laughed and responded, "Myself."

He said the reason Jesus constantly says, "Be not afraid," is because "he knows that fear is something, that I would say is, quote, unquote, 'normal.'"

"We are afraid of life, of challenges, we are even afraid before God, right?"

Everyone is afraid, so the real issue is to figure out the difference between "good fear and bad fear. Good fear is prudence," being careful and "bad fear" is something that "cancels you out, turns you into nothing," preventing the person from doing anything, and that kind of fear must be "thrown out."

One young man asked what mistakes the pope has learned from. The pope laughed, saying, "I've made mistakes, I still make mistakes."

The example he highlighted was when he was elected superior of the Jesuit province of Argentina and Uruguay at the age of 36. "I was very young," he said, "I was too authoritarian."

But with time, he said, he learned that it's important to truly listen to what other people think and to dialogue with them.

It took a while to find a happy medium between being too hard and too lax, "but I still make mistakes, you know?" he said.

One woman told the pope she does not believe in God, but "your acts and ideas inspire me." She asked what kind of message



he would give to the whole world -- believers and nonbelievers alike.

The important thing, Pope Francis said, is to "find a way to speak with authenticity," which involves seeing and speaking to others as our brothers and sisters.

Responding to the cameraman's doubts about whether the human race is truly capable of caring for the world and each other, the pope said, he, too, asks: Where is mankind and where is God in the world today?

"When man finds himself, he seeks God. Perhaps he can't find him, but he goes along a path of honesty, searching for the truth, for the path of goodness, the path of beauty."

"It's a long road. Some people don't find him during their lifetime" or they're not aware that they have found him, but "they are so real, so honest about themselves, so good and such lovers of beauty" that they are mature enough and capable of having "an encounter with God, which is always a grace" and a gift.

When his guests said they were ready to ask the last question, the pope laughed, "Ah, the last! The last is always terrible." They asked the pope to pose a question for them.

He said his question came from the Gospel, when Jesus says to not store up treasure on earth, but in heaven, "For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be." The pope asked them: What do you treasure and hold close to your hearts?

Is it "power, money, pride or goodness, beauty, the desire to do good?" It can be many things, he said, and he asked them to find the answer "for yourselves, alone, at home."

## Safeguarding Sunday

Sunday May 25th has been designated as Safeguarding Sunday for the Diocese of Nottingham. In the words of our former Bishop Malcolm, this is an opportunity for the Diocese to reflect on the theology and spirituality of safeguarding and to express gratitude for the work of all our parish safeguarding reps, who assist us in assuring that our Church is a safe place for all children and vulnerable adults.

We are all aware that the Catholic Church has been in the spotlight in the last fifteen years over its handling of child sexual abuse cases world wide. In England and Wales in the same period, much time and energy has been spent in striving to create a Church where all are safe from harm and abuse, and where everyone is encouraged to enjoy the fullness of life in Jesus Christ through the protective endeavours of the whole Catholic community.

In Nottingham Diocese every parish has a safeguarding representative. Their role is to try to prevent harm and abuse from occurring in the parish. They do this by ensuring that anyone who has a ministry with children, young people or vulnerable adults goes through a safe recruitment process and works safely in their ministry. So for example there should be a least two adult helpers with each group of young people, working in an open environment.

The parish reps also promote vigilance and awareness at parish level and encourage everyone to voice any concerns they might have about the wellbeing of a child or vulnerable adult, so that these can be properly dealt with.

In the Diocese we have a Safeguarding Commission to oversee all safeguarding matters, and to provide advice to the

Bishop. There is independent representation from Police, Probation, Children and Adult Social Care services on the commission, to ensure that safeguarding in the Diocese is transparent and open. There can never be a return to how the Church sometimes dealt with cases of abuse from the past, in house and with scant regard for the voice of the child.

If anyone has a concern about a child, young person or vulnerable adult, or if you have any questions about how safeguarding works in the Diocese please contact me on the number below.

**John Creedon,**  
Safeguarding Coordinator  
RC Diocese of Nottingham  
0115 9603010

## Apology

We printed only part of a picture under the headline Maurice Naylor MBE in our last edition.

Here is Maurice on right with Patrick Cronin, the President of Market Harbour Circle of the Catenian Association on the left.



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# Old friends and new

After 16 years, Nottingham Diocesan Director for APF (Association for the Propagation of the Faith, Missio), Canon Don Bowdren returned to the Zambian missionary parish where he was stationed for seven years as a Fidel Donum priest. He told Mission Today how his visit was full of joy – and a few tears – as he caught up with old friends.

It's not always recommended that a priest should return to one of his previous parishes and risk bruising the sensitivities of the present incumbent but I chanced to ignore this advice this summer, and headed off to the southern African winter to keep a promise. A score and more years ago a ten-year-old girl called Ethel Munsaka danced into my life when she joined the team of flower-girls at St Peter's parish in Livingstone, Zambia. I'd arrived there the year before as a Fidel Donum priest (a priest who goes to serve in a mission diocese on loan from his own diocese), and was still enchanted by these exquisite 'dancers of the Lord enhancing Sunday Mass. Ethel (below, with Canon Don) turned out to be a quiet and instinctively devout youngster. She joined us at the Victoria Falls for retreats and recollections, and she introduced me to her non-Catholic family. I soon instructed her whole family in the faith, and one by one they were received into the Church. Soon after I had prepared her parents for marriage, a group of local Sisters came to the parish to gain pastoral experience. Ethel, now in her teens, soon went to visit these Holy Cross Sisters at their convent. Step by cautious step she found herself edging closer to the Sisterhood. I returned to Nottingham diocesan service in 1997; Ethel went into novitiate (training to be a nun) in South Africa, then to Lusaka to study for her Maths degree. All the time as she journeyed to Profession, we kept in touch. At Eastertide this year she was told by Sister Hildah that she could apply for Final Profession. The date and venue were announced: her home place of Livingstone on Saturday 3 August. And with profoundly joyous celebration Sister Hildah and the bishop received Ethel's Profession at that parish Mass. Finally, a professed Sister of the Holy Cross - twenty years after knocking on the convent door. I ran out of Kleenex before the offertory...

**Meeting new friends**  
During my seven Fidel Donum years, one of the things I achieved was the building of a chapel for the rural village Catholic community of St Thomas Musokotwane; I had knelt before the chief to seek a grant of land: he obliged generously, and asked if we could also arrange to drill a bore-hole for water for that savanna area. The bore-hole was dug; the chapel built: thirsts spiritual and physical were quenched. On my fleeting return visit I wanted to see what had happened over the twenty or so years since those days, and drove the dusty track to find a startling sight. Next to the chapel was a small group of labourers digging into the dry rocky land. Their overseer explained that they were trying to find the bore-hole of yesteryear - long since neglected and abandoned. I explained who I was and that I had been there before! The overseer turned out to be the Parish Priest, Fr imasiku, the trusty labourers were his parishioners. We fell into hugs! I asked how he was financing this project in such a remote spot. He said that Missio through the APF were the providers! And pointed up the hill to a parish house/centre - funded by the same Pontifical charity. I explained that I was Nottingham Diocesan Director for APF these last 16 years; he retorted that he was Livingstone Diocesan Director these last four years! More hugs and more thanks for the generosity of the Red Boxes!



## Liturgy Matters – News from the Diocesan Liturgical Commission

### Annual Music Workshop – Details and Booking Information!

Regular readers will know that one of the key phrases frequently mentioned within the Liturgical Commission is about the importance of "Singing The Mass", rather than just singing 'at' Mass.

All of the recent Diocesan Music Days have had this theme within their foundations - last year's Workshop was a great success, with over 100 people taking part again - this year builds again on what we have learned previously.

We are delighted therefore to invite all Parish musicians (singers and instrumentalists alike) to our Annual Diocesan Music Day, this year called "God is Beauty, Praise Him".

It will be held at Holy Trinity Centre, Newark, on Saturday 21st June, 10am until 4pm (with tea/coffee and registration from 9.30). The cost is £10 per person (Cheques made payable to NRCDT).

This year, we welcome Tim Harrison, Director of Music in Middlesbrough Diocese. Here is something of what Tim plans to offer us on the day:

The introduction of the revised translation of the Missal prompted a flood of books from music publishers offering a wide variety, both new and adapted, of settings of the ordinary of the Mass (Kyrie, Gloria and Sanctus and Agnus Dei). Nationally and locally a great number of music study days have been devoted to promoting the learning of these settings.

However, a glance at the Missal reveals a number of other new texts, the so-called "proprs", which are also intended to be sung. In this study day for singers we will explore the rich variety of ways in which we can sing the proprs.

In the morning session we will focus on the music for Mass, looking at a number of different approaches to the antiphons and to the psalms from the lectionary as well as exploring the often overlooked "seasonal psalms" which are so useful in parishes with limited musical resources. We will also sing some additional motets. The morning will conclude with a short liturgy. Music is at the very heart of our liturgies helping us come closer to God through the

beauty of the psalms and songs of the Church. With this in mind, in our afternoon session we will explore ways of singing the psalms and canticles of Evening Prayer. Evening Prayer is one of the liturgical treasures of the Church and, at a time when our priests are faced with the need to extend their care to include two or more parishes, it can offer lay people an opportunity to realise that call to be living stones. The afternoon will conclude with Evening Prayer 1 for Corpus Christi.

I look forward to meeting you. Choirs and cantors will find this day a rewarding and enriching experience. Organists and other instrumentalists are also warmly welcomed and will encounter a wealth of new and useful material.

Booking Forms can be obtained from your Parish Priest, or from Rev Alex Adkins, St Mary's Presbytery, 24 Horncastle Road, Boston, PE21 9BU (01205 362056, fralexadkins@gmail.com)



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of the things I achieved was the building of a chapel for the rural village Catholic community of St Thomas Musokotwane; I had knelt before the chief to seek a grant of land: he obliged generously, and asked if we could also arrange to drill a bore-hole for water for that savanna area. The bore-hole was dug; the chapel built: thirsts spiritual and physical were quenched. On my fleeting return visit I wanted to see what had happened over the twenty or so years since those days, and drove the dusty track to find a startling sight. Next to the chapel was a small group of labourers digging into the dry rocky land. Their overseer explained that they were trying to find the bore-hole of yesteryear - long since neglected and abandoned. I explained who I was and that I had been there before! The overseer turned out to be the Parish Priest, Fr imasiku, the trusty labourers were his parishioners. We fell into hugs! I asked how he was financing this project in such a remote spot. He said that Missio through the APF were the providers! And pointed up the hill to a parish house/centre - funded by the same Pontifical charity. I explained that I was Nottingham Diocesan Director for APF these last 16 years; he retorted that he was Livingstone Diocesan Director these last four years! More hugs and more thanks for the generosity of the Red Boxes!

**The power of the Red Box**

There couldn't be a clearer demonstration of the interconnectedness of the APF than Canon Don's account of his return trip to Zambia. Please be assured that your Red Box donations, however modest, make an enormous contribution to the good that can be achieved where it is most needed.



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# The Cathedral of St Barnabas in Nottingham

*By a parishioner*

Sometimes, when visiting Cathedrals here and around the world, Catholic or non Catholic, the first almost overwhelming impression can be of size, the sheer hugeness of the building, the ceiling height, the arches, the many various side chapels, the length and width of the naves, the upper walkways, large sanctuary areas, and markedly, the distance from doorway entry to the main altar. Not so with Nottingham's Cathedral of St. Barnabas. It is, to put it simply, just the right size, encapsulating both its status as Cathedral and yet, first and foremost, of being a house of prayer, of being church. Designed by Pugin, and consecrated in 1844, in those one hundred and eighty years since, it will have witnessed countless numbers of Catholics worship at Holy Mass, and equally countless numbers come through its doors, to visit out of curiosity, and/or for private prayer. One marked change since the time of Pugin, is that nowadays those worshippers and visitors are not from around the U.K. only, but from many parts of the world. This is beautifully exemplified at Mass when kneeling beside people from the Phillipines, Vietnam, Ghana, Nigeria, America, Australia, South Africa, Italy, Spain, Poland, South America and provides a comforting reminder that 'catholic' truly does mean 'universal'. I'm not qualified to discuss Pugin's architectural style and decoration, but can say, in truth, that this building is beautiful, especially the interior. One very early Christian writer correctly stated that 'Church is not a building', and I take his point, but having an open door (weekdays 7am to around 7.30pm, later at weekends) into a place both quiet and beautiful can help restore one's sense of peace, a brief get away from life's activity, and the seeing of others, either alone or in groups, also praying, is a comforting reminder that we are indeed Church.

There are two main entrance doorways into the Cathedral, one into the south transept from the busy traffic filled Derby Road side, and the other into the north transept from the peaceful Cathedral garden entrance. Regardless of through which doorway you enter, the sanctuary and main altar are immediately visible. The Very Rev. Bishop Malcolm McMahon almost 14 years as our Bishop but now moving on to Liverpool, had his seat to the right of the main altar. Standing in the main aisle, one's eyes are lifted up to the papal keys above the central arch and the crucifix above the altar, enhanced by the light and radiance of the rose window high in the wall behind it.



Although much of the original decoration in the Cathedral itself has been painted out over the years, the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, to the right of the sanctuary, remains very much as Pugin designed it.

## Pure Pugin

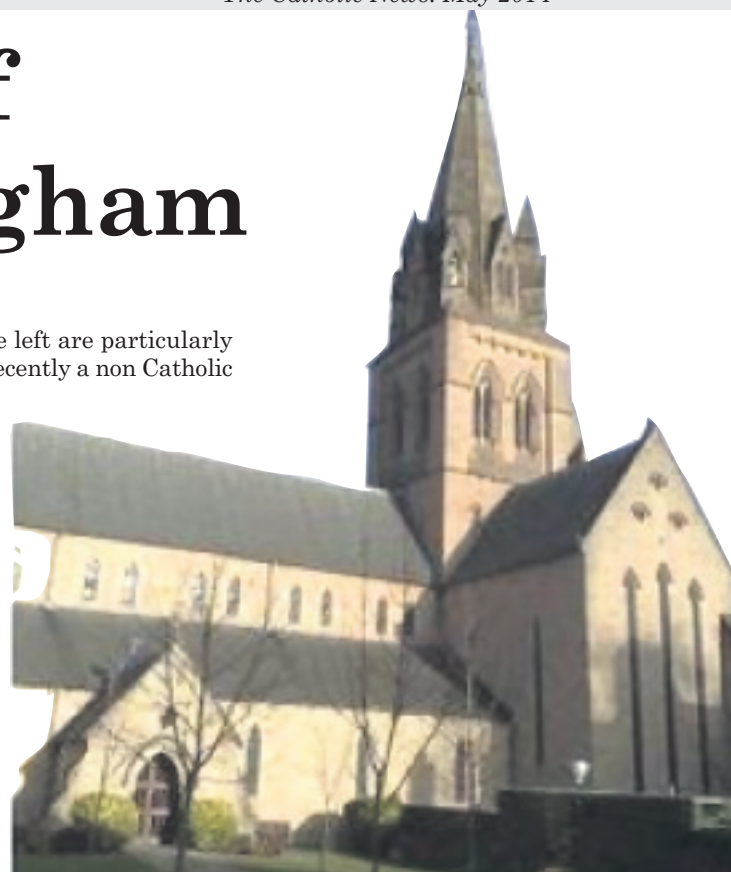
'Pure Pugin' to use the words reverently said to me by a non Catholic visitor a few days ago. The back panel behind the tabernacle, where cherubim are depicted superimposed above wheels, evidences how very well Pugin knew his bible (see the first chapter of Ezekiel) There is both a warmth and business of detail in the decoration of this small Chapel, yet which somehow provides an atmosphere of quietness for prayer. The central cause of that warmth, quietness and prayer is of course the Eucharist, the Blessed Sacrament itself, in the Tabernacle. Holy Mass is celebrated every day at 1pm, and also 10am on Saturdays, with of course a Saturday evening vigil Mass at 6.30pm. Sunday Holy Mass is celebrated at 10am, 11.15am and 6pm. The 11.15am Sunday Mass is a sung Mass, and the St. Barnabas Choir is impressively and reverently beautiful to the ear. Over the past few years the number of early morning (7.30am) and evening (6.15pm) opportunities to attend Mass have increased, varying from week to week, and this truly is a blessing. Although these were normally always celebrated in Our Lady's Chapel, behind the sanctuary area, recently they have also been celebrated in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel itself. The altar being attached to the back wall has required the celebrating priest, when reading the liturgical prayers, of necessity to face away from the attending congregation, and it has been deeply impressive to see, whichever priest was celebrating, Canon Geoffrey Hunton, Fr. Marcus or Fr. Neil, how reverently each, by frequent turning to face those present, have adjusted to this, all successfully managing to marry the 'then' to the 'now' of tradition. There are two small chapels, the Unity Chapel and St Hugh of Lincoln Chapel, dedicated to two local Diocesan martyrs on either side of Our Lady's chapel. The 'prayer board' in the Unity Chapel is amazingly well used, people write their personal prayer intentions on the little note sheets available and pin them to the board. Used by all ages, occupations and nationalities, Situated to the left of the sanctuary the tomb of Venerable Mary Potter, reinterred here, now quite a few years ago, because of her work and care for the poor and dying in Nottingham, has many visitors, local and from around the

world. Foundress of the Little Company of Mary, two of her nuns, Sr. Monica and Sr. Margaret are resident in the small convent attached to the building, and both continue her work and care. The tall splay windows give light into the Cathedral's interior, and each, in its own way, reflects our Catholic Faith. The Rosary window to the right of the main altar, and the Sacra-

ment's window to the left are particularly thought producing. Recently a non Catholic photographer

visitor from abroad spent over half an hour trying to capture, as best he could, the colour, light, and essentially the detail portrayed in the Sacrament window. It would not be right to fail to mention the colour and beauty brought into the Cathedral by those who 'do' the flowers for the main altar, the Blessed

Sacrament Chapel and Our Lady's Chapel. This coming May, as in every four years, for three days the outside beauty of the fields is literally brought into the Cathedral, when the Flower and Music Festival is held. The ingenuity of the arrangements, the choice, colour and loveliness of the flowers, fill the interior, and the air, with something special that even Pugin himself couldn't quite match. Since people visit from all over the diocese, over those three days tea, coffee and light refreshments are



The Cathedral is often, and so it should be, seen as a warm, safe, place in which to sit and rest by those who are homeless. Some come in regularly for several weeks, are given tea/coffee/sandwich...and it is humbling and disturbing to realise the very real need for more places of shelter and accommodation in Nottingham. Emmanuel House provides much needed day care and help, but has had its funding cut. I have always remembered the occasion when two elderly men, and I think one was homeless, came into the Cathedral, stood at the back



provided in the Cathedral Hall. It's a happy, social time, and always brings to mind the fact that Our Lady, in her Chapel, is portrayed holding a beautiful large white flower. I'm informed it is a lily, but to me it looks more like a large daisy... The heart of this Cathedral Church, like any other, is very much reflected in the priests who serve here, the people who worship here, visit, who support the various parish and prayer groups, Justice and Peace, members of the Parish Council, serve as vergers, keep it clean and tidy, the flower arrangers, the catering and hospitality volunteers and those who staff the Repository, the very reliable hard working sacristan...I could go on.... One frequent comment from visiting Catholics is that wherever they go, often the churches are open only for Holy Mass, so the open door of St. Barnabas is much welcomed. Like any other public building however, there is the need for care in regards to security, and sadly there have been the occasional personal property theft, and so we have the ubiquitous C.C.T.V. coverage as deterrent. There is also a 'watch and pray' group, which possibly could do with a little more support, since the many visitors who come in often ask about times of services.

looking around and then spotted the statue of St. Therese" That's her', one said. They lit a candle with great care and stood for a couple of minutes in silence. As they were leaving they told me their friend had died the week before and he'd made them promise that after he died they'd to come in and light a candle at St. Therese's statue for him, he'd even told them what the statue looked like. Again...., humbling. It's true that not all visitors are easy to chat with, and there are occasions of difficulty with the behaviour of some, but it always comes to mind that for whatever reason, they have come into this house of prayer, have chosen to come, and Our Lord must have His reasons for this, and have expectations of how as His followers we should judge not but help if we can. Prayer and practical help is what He asks of us. Talking of statues... the statue of St. Barnabas is situated to the right of the martyrs Chapel, at the back of the Cathedral. Viewed in a certain light, he can look a little annoyed. Sometimes it has occurred to me that this is probably because very few visitors, including Catholics, realise who he is, there is no name beneath the statue so maybe one day, since the Cathedral bears his name ..there will be ?

## Talented Business Students in Nottingham



Christ the King Catholic Voluntary Academy in Arnold, Nottingham took part in CAFOD's Harvest of Talents programme. Groups of year 9 and 10 Business Students

took part to enable them put the skills and knowledge they had gained from their GCSE and BTEC studies into practice to help others.

Each group was given a loan of £10 by CAFOD. The task was to make the money 'grow' in only one month. The ideas students came up various ways for increasing their money including bake sales, car washes, sponsored onesie walks – alongside some entrepreneurial buying and selling! The students really engaged with the exercise, with one group raising over £90 from their one £10 note.

Joe Hopkins, School Chaplain, said: "We raised £500 altogether, doubling the original loan, just like the good stewards in the Jesus' Parable of the Talents. Hopefully this will inspire our students to see that their business skills aren't just for personal profit but can change the lives of others for the better"

## Catholic Marriage Care - Volunteers Wanted

Marriage Care was founded as the Catholic Marriage Advisory Council in 1946 to support the families of servicemen returning from the war. From its roots in the Catholic community, Marriage Care has grown to become the 2nd largest relationship support organisation in England and Wales and the largest provider of marriage preparation for couples marrying in the Catholic Church.

Nevertheless, last year Marriage Care, under the guidance of a new CEO, developed a revised Vision which includes the statement that Marriage Care, "Inspired by its Catholic heritage, embraces and upholds the Christian vision of marriage as a vocation of life and love and believes that at the heart of a healthy marriage is a relationship of astonishing power and richness, for the couple, their children, their wider circle of friends and relations and society."

Marriage Care's new Mission is to share relationship skills and knowledge, and support couples and individuals in the best and worst of times in their relationships, regardless of their ability to pay. What it does to uniquely achieve that mission includes a national network of trained volunteers who are motivated by Marriage Care's vision and values to voluntarily deliver marriage preparation and couple counselling to a professional standard. Marriage Care's mission and the services it offers are focused on working with adults and its marriage preparation service reflects its primary focus on couples marrying in the Catholic Church.

Marriage Care's Aim is to increase its efforts in preventative work, ie relationship education and marriage preparation, so that fewer relationships fall into difficulty. 'Preparing Together', developed by Marriage Care, is a one day group workshop for couples intending to marry. Currently, over 3000 couples each year complete a course adapted specifically for couples marrying in the Catholic Church. These courses are not open to others but a generic version is available for other faiths if needed and a special course has been de-

veloped, in collaboration with the Diocese of Westminster, for working with Traveller Couples.

Last year Marriage Care, working with the Bishops' Conference, revised the Preparing Together course to give more emphasis to the marriage vows, the sacrament and spirituality so that it provides the relational and sacramental input to complement the theological, spiritual and liturgical preparation provided by the priest. Topics include: what is a committed, stable relationship; the influence of family background; managing anger; communication and problem solving skills; sharing expectations; the marriage vows, sacrament and spirituality.

FOCCUS (Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study), is a facilitated questionnaire-based course for individual couples, developed by the RC Diocese of Omaha in the USA with researchers at Creighton University. Now used worldwide, by over 500,000 couples, it is very highly regarded as a preparation tool for couples who are unable to attend a one day course. Topics covered are similar to Preparing Together, and include covenant and commitment. It gets very positive feedback from couples.

In the Nottingham diocese there are currently just two Marriage Care Centres: the Lincoln Centre serves parishes in Lincoln, Brigg and Grimsby; the Nottingham Centre is serving parishes around Nottingham and Derby and intending to expand into Leicester. However, both centres need more volunteers so that they can offer more Marriage Preparation courses and expand the areas they currently operate in. The two Heads of Centre, Chris Morffew in Nottingham and David Cowey in Lincoln, are prepared to attend Deanery meetings to tell you more about the courses and to explain how more volunteers can help. They are also available to give pulpit talks and can let you have publicity material for Parish notice boards. Chris and David can be contacted by Email – for Chris use nottsderby.admin@marriagecare.org and for David use dcowey1402@gmail.com

## LEICESTERSHIRE CATHOLIC ACTIVE YOUTH

# "Make a Journey with Jesus," at Mount St. Bernard's Abbey, Leicestershire

In September 2013 Leicester East Deanery took on the initiative to try and provide more "spiritual and social time" for our Catholic youth in the area. With this in mind a Working Party was set up in the Leicester area. It was soon realised that our parishes and schools seemed to overlap in many ways and so the area was expanded to include Leicestershire parishes and comprehensive schools.

A lovely celebration took place at Holy Cross Church at the beginning of Advent and looking into the future it was then decided to offer the opportunity of a Lenten event. "A Journey with Jesus" – a young people's Stations of the Cross - took place on Sunday afternoon 23rd March at Mount Saint Bernard's Abbey. A great response was received from the young people of Coalville, also from the Leicester parishes of, St. Mary & St. John Bosco, St. Edward's, St. Thomas More, Sacred Heart, and St. Joseph's, along with support and help from R.E. Teachers from St. Paul's Catholic School.

"The journey with Jesus" took the form of a walk on the outskirts of the Abbey. A large cross was taken with us and we reflected on the different stations. The young people took an active part in the readings, prayers, reflections and hymns. A feeling of peace and love for Our Blessed Lord came over us all as the hundred people journeyed in a long trailing group around the fields and woodland. A cloth depicting Jesus' blood stained face was created for when we reflected on the station where Veronica had the courage

to help Jesus. Jesus Youth portrayed a thought provoking drama at the Crucifixion.

On returning to the Abbey we then prepared for a Celebration of Mass which was celebrated by Fr. David Cain and Fr. Simon Gillespie. Once again the young people were very much involved with readings and prayers. A group of musicians came together to provide the music – the drums uplifting us all – and with guitars, flutes and violins we offered our voices up to the Lord!

A BBQ was prepared for us in the garden after Mass with hot dogs, cakes and drinks being eagerly accepted!

We felt it was an inspiring afternoon for everyone and some of the remarks received later were "What a super day – the young people were great!" "I know that many of the youth thoroughly enjoyed the day out and it was a lot better than they had expected!" "Definitely a stepping stone in the right direction!"

Our sincere thanks to Fr. Stephan Foster for the initiative and Fathers David Cain and Simon Gillespie for all of their help and support. We express our sincere thanks too to Father Joseph, the Guestmaster at the Abbey, for his warm welcome and help.

We hope to continue with another occasion in September, bearing in mind the ideas of the young people – what they think they would enjoy and what they think would help them in their Faith! Young people are a joy! They are the Church of today and not just tomorrow!

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You will be educated to degree level with professional experience of working with young people. You will have strong motivational skills with a creative flair and enjoy spending time with young people. An ability to keep things in proportion and be resilient are key to the success of this role. The role requires excellent organisation and leadership skills with an ability to continually reassess priorities. You will be required to lead the majority of retreats which includes working evenings and weekends. Some experience of community life would be an advantage. Post to commence in August 2014.

**Other Benefits:** Contributory pension scheme, childcare voucher scheme.

**Closing date:** Tuesday 6th May 2014

**Interviews:** Friday 16th May 2014

**Application packs are available from:** Miss Emma Jarvis, Savio House Retreat Centre, Ingersley Road, Bollington, Cheshire, Macclesfield, SK10 5RW, Tel: 01625 575405, Email: saviooffice@saviohouse.org.uk

As this post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, a satisfactory (enhanced) Disclosure and Barring Service check will be required for the successful candidate.

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# Evangelisation by tea and coffee

Conor Gaffey, Lay Catholic Chaplain to the  
University of Nottingham

At the outset of his Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis extends to us an invitation: "I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ" [EG 3]. Responding to this invitation, the UoN Catholic Community commenced an *Evangelii Gaudium* reflection group for the Sundays of Lent.

The seed for this group came, admittedly, from a self-centred impulse. I decided it would be a good idea to read the Pope's Exhortation as one of my Lenten disciplines. However, aware of my lack of self-discipline if left to my own devices, I announced the idea at Mass on the First Sunday of Lent in a bid to get a few others to read along with me.

I'm glad I didn't go it alone. A variable group of students and non-students came together each Sunday at Newman House, the Catholic Chaplaincy's residence in Beeston. The group provided a diverse and lively forum not just for reflection on the Exhortation, but also for generating ideas about evangelisation in our own community. Responding to the Pope's call for "missionary disciples" [EG 120], we reflected on how the joy of the Gospel message can be better spread in our university and the wider community.

Practical suggestions included Facebook prayer groups and student volunteering with the elderly. However, one idea that struck me was to invite people to stay for a cup of tea or coffee after Mass. This is something we already do after Sunday Mass during term-time. However, there is much room for improvement. Too often, we fail to extend the invitation outside the 'regulars' in our community. Yet Pope Francis quotes Paul VI that "no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord" [EG 3]. Too often, we make a half-hearted invitation with tired and sullen faces. Yet our Holy Father exclaims that "an evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral!" [EG 10] Reading the words of Pope Francis has both encouraged us in our Christian faith but also challenged us to do a better job of sharing the joy of our faith with others.

For more information on the UoN Catholic Community, please see our website [www.catholic-community.org.uk](http://www.catholic-community.org.uk) or check out our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/catholic.community](http://www.facebook.com/catholic.community)). Alternatively, please join us for Sunday Mass at 11am in the Great Hall, Trent Building, University Park. And stick around for a cuppa afterwards!

## Loughborough Catenians support to Columban Fathers' projects in Peru

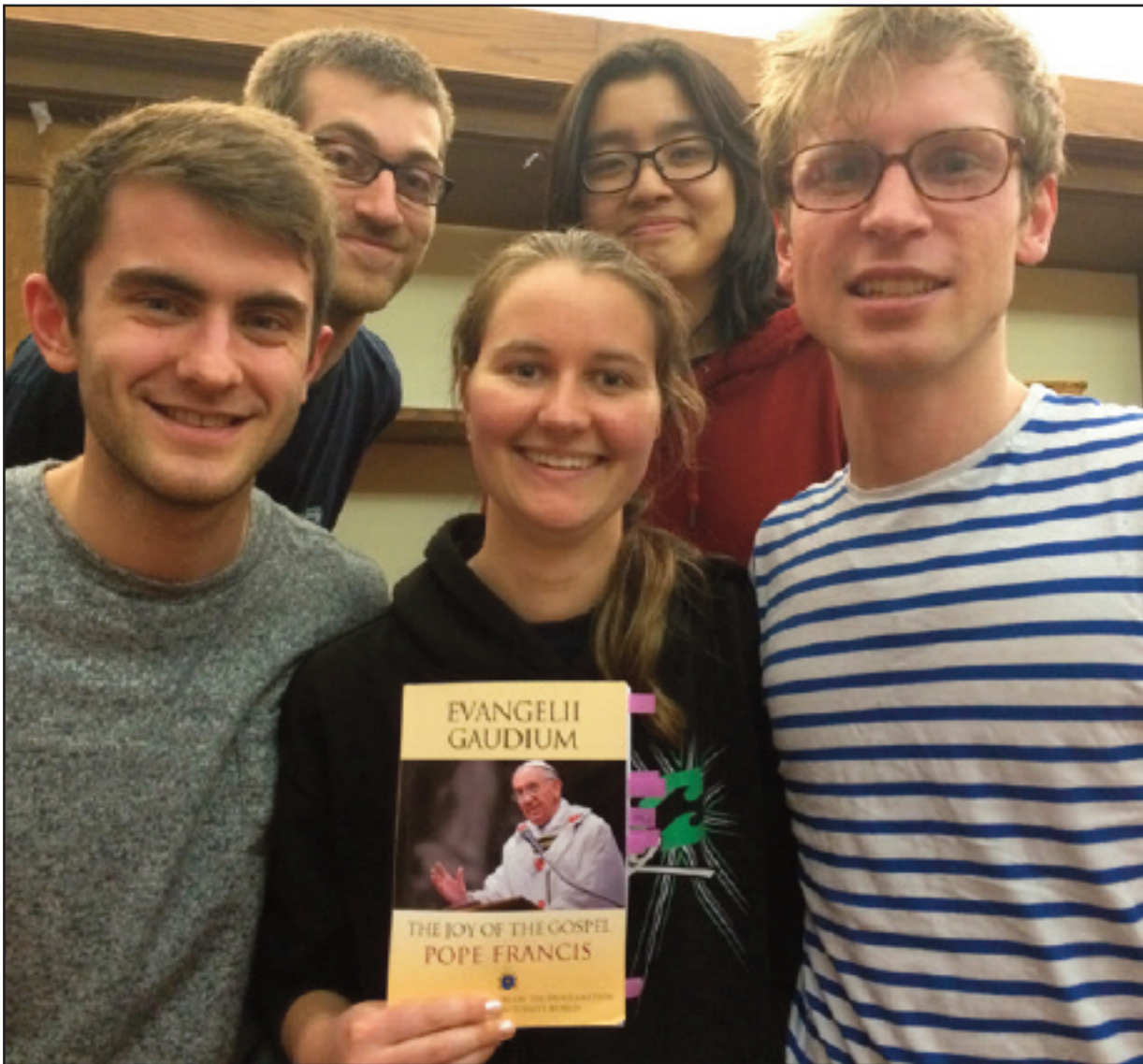


Pictured left to right are Tom McNally, Gillian Fernandez, Judith McNally & Susan Gozney

Judith McNally, wife of Loughborough Catenian Tom McNally, gave the Loughborough Catenians a presentation about her experience working as a volunteer in Peru. Judith spent 3 months working with Fr. Ed O'Connell of the Columban Fathers.

Fr. Ed O'Connell and his team of lay professionals run projects in San Benito, a shanty town area on the outskirts of Lima where people live in conditions of extreme poverty. The projects they run aim to improve the standard of living of women and children, especially in families where the mother is left to bring the children up on her own. With very little income these mothers are forced to leave their children alone for extended periods while they go out to work to earn enough money to put food on the table each day. The children are exposed to many risks and the project works with these families to identify and resolve some of the serious difficulties these children face early on in their lives, such as risk of violence and sexual abuse. Part of the work is to give the children a chance to play and have fun in a safe environment, whilst learning respect and tolerance. For many of these children there is no space for them at home to play and it was wonderful to see images of them enjoying themselves in the group activities. Another part of Judith's work was to run a weekly friendship club for children with disabilities, who are often neglected by their families. The smiles on their faces showed just how much they enjoyed having some special time for themselves.

Everyone was very moved by Judith's first-hand experience of working in San Benito and the plight of the people living there and they were delighted to be able to donate £175 to support the work of the Columban Fathers in Peru.



## Catholic schools link

Catholic schools in Newark and Mansfield have joined a new educational trust that was launched recently.

The Aquinas Catholic Academy Trust will initially comprise Holy Trinity Primary School, Newark and St Patrick's Primary and All Saint's schools, Mansfield.

Three further primary schools - St Joseph's, Boughton, St Philip Neri, Mansfield and St Josephs Shirebrook will join the trust later this year.

The bursar at All Saints', Mr John Holt, said the schools already gained some of the best results in the country.

"Though the schools have been working together and supporting each other for many years, this new venture cements their relationship and allows for greater support and opportunities to provide the highest level of education for students across the area," he said.

## FRANKLY SPEAKING

### We must not leave it to others



My memory of 1964 is fairly vivid, at the age of 20 I had developed a considerable interest in politics. This was in part due to my father whose politics I did not always share but I respected. He had, in the 1920's and 1930's, a hard life as a coal miner and this influenced his political views. My own very basic education meant that I was in what turned out to be secure employment at the age of 16, this resulted in having time to get involved with politics and in 1964 I was a local youth chairman but not old enough to have a vote in the poll which saw Harold Wilson elected.

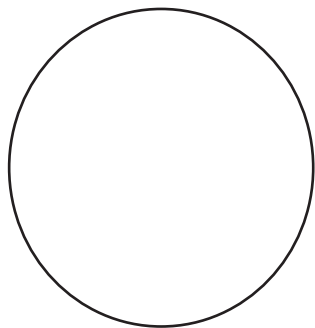
In the 1960's the voting age was 21, in the referendum on Scotland this September it will be possible for a 16 year old to vote. There is surely a strong case for this being extended to all elections. We do live in a rather different world than 1964, our young people have a considerably different atmosphere than that of 50 years ago. Many of the changes are a direct result of parliamentary legislation which affect our young people. There will be more to come. One political activist of the 1960's, Lady Knight, is still in the House of Lords' today and she recently commented on the survey ordered by ministers on fears that sex-selective abortions are taking place in Britain today. Lady Knight said that abortion law "lacks clarity and it permits terminations that were never intended to be legal." Teenage pregnancy is a sad fact in some of our communities, in one case a head teacher assisted in abortion arrangements.

The 1967 Abortion Act did not give much thought to sex selection or the alarming rate of teenage pregnancy which we now have.

The issue of global warming and climate change is arguably one area which we will bequeath to today's teenagers. Despite this some informed commentators, a minority, seem totally unconvinced. They speak of a scare, of lobbying and say the science simply does not support the scaremongering propaganda by green activists and others. I leave readers to form their own opinions on this but our young teenagers can be better informed than perhaps they are at present. As long as our news media concentrates on scandal or celebrities they are surely being let down. If ever our teenagers needed better leadership it is surely today and our schools and businesses need to work more closely with Ofsted to ensure they have skills which will help them secure employment. Do we really have a skills shortage in Britain today?

In this Easter Season we can link the issues of our young people with the world of today and whatever the future holds for them. Pope Francis has really shown the leadership that is lacking elsewhere as a result of this elsewhere our bishops and priests can guide today's teenagers but we must all also have a greater involvement and not leave it to others.

Frank Goulding  
Holy Trinity, Newark



# Beauvale Diocesan Pilgrimage 2014

We are grateful to Heidi Cooper SCL for providing this information

## Saints John Houghton and Robert Lawrence

Did you know that we have our own local Saints who lived right on our doorstep?

Saints John Houghton and Robert Lawrence who we see depicted in a beautiful stained glass window at the back of St Mark's Church (bottom left) lived approximately twelve miles away. They lived at Beauvale Priory, a few remains of which are still standing. If you go up a farmtrack at the back of the 'Horse and Groom' pub at Moorgreen it is possible to see the ruins. (They are on private land so permission has to be sought in order to go into the field where they are.)

There is also a small Shrine to the martyrs



in the RC Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel at Hilltop, Eastwood.

Every year I join if possible the Roman Catholic Diocese of Nottingham on their annual Pilgrimage to Beauvale Priory. There is a procession to the ruins, the rosary, and a celebration of Mass. This pilgrimage takes place annually on the Sunday nearest to the 4th May. I took some photographs of the ruins themselves, the pilgrims procession, and the new memorial stone which was blessed by Bishop McMahon OP. This stone is on the site of the original high altar of the Carthusians Church. St John Houghton and Robert Lawrence were Carthusian Monks. The Carthusians were an order of Monks established by St Bruno during the 12th century, in France. They lived a hermits life, each with their own little house and garden within the "Charterhouse", but coming together for Night prayer, Mass, Vespers in the Church and a meal shared in common on Sundays. The rest of the time they spent alone in silence. There is still a "Charterhouse" at Parkminster in Dorset where Carthusian Monks continue to live in the same way as St Bruno's monks.

There were actually three Carthusian Monks martyred on the 4th May 1535; St John Houghton, St Robert Lawrence and St Augustine Webster. They were the first martyrs of the English Reformation.

John Houghton came from Essex and had studied at the University of Cambridge. He

joined the London Charterhouse about 1515, was elected Prior of Beauvale in Nottinghamshire in 1531, and later the same year became Prior of London.

Robert Lawrence was a monk of the London Charterhouse who had succeeded John Houghton as Prior of Beauvale. Augustine Webster, a monk of Sheen Charterhouse near London, and also a graduate of Cambridge, had been Prior of Axholme in Lincolnshire since 1531.

After the Act of Supremacy of 1534, which declared King Henry VIII to be supreme head of the Church in England, Lawrence and Webster went to London to consult with John Houghton about the religious issues involved. The three Priors approached Thomas Cromwell, the King's chief minister, and tried to get

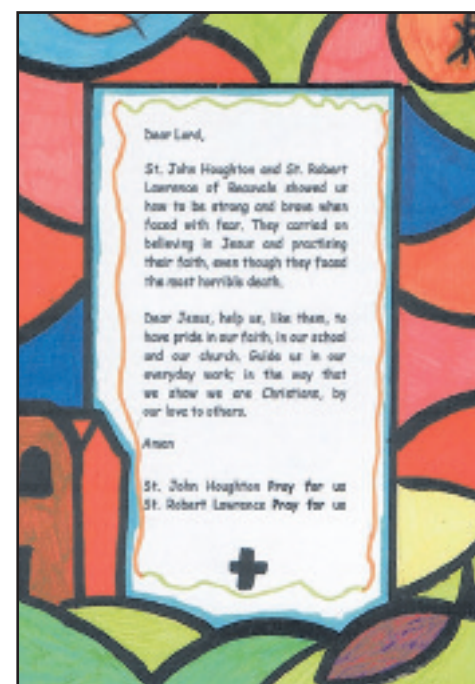
for their communities a form of the oath of supremacy that would be acceptable in conscience, but they failed and were committed to the Tower of London.

At their trial they pleaded not guilty of the treason with which they were charged and firmly maintained that the King could not be head of the Church. The jury deliberated at length without result, but were finally coerced by Cromwell's threats into bringing a verdict of guilty.

On the last day of their lives St Thomas More, from his prison window in the Tower, saw the martyrs being taken out to Tyburn, and turning to his daughter, said:

*"Lo, dost thou not see, Meg, that these blessed fathers be now as cheerfully going to their deaths as bridegrooms to their marriage?"*

Many of the Court are said to have been present as the monks were hanged, drawn and quartered. All three refused the pardon offered to them at the last moment if they would accept the King's supremacy. May the blood of the Martyrs, and their prayers, assist in healing the wounds caused by our divisions!



**BEAUVALE PILGRIMAGE**  
4th May 2014  
IN HONOUR OF  
ST JOHN HOUGHTON & ST ROBERT LAWRENCE

2.00 pm Walk from Our Lady of Good Counsel, Eastwood to Beauvale Priory Ruins  
3.30 pm Mass: Celebrant: Right Rev. Malcolm McMahon OP  
Preacher: Rev. Canon Jonathan Cotton  
Location: Beauvale Priory, New Road, Moorgreen, NG16 2AA. Please park as directed by the stewards.  
Further information: Tel. Descon Steve 01773 785196  
FOR FURTHER INFO EMAIL: [sdzrow@goodcounsel.co.uk](mailto:sdzrow@goodcounsel.co.uk)

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[ ] Yes, please send me the free booklet on the Tyburn Martyrs

[ ] Yes I'm interested - please send me vocations details.

[ ] I'd like to help your Mission Foundations in other countries.

My gift of £ is enclosed payable to Tyburn Mission.

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# Nottingham youngster gives 'power to the people' in Nicaragua

After spending the last 18 months volunteering at his local Trussell Trust Foodbank, I have been selected to work on voluntary projects this summer in Nicaragua with Catholic charity Progressio in partnership with the International Citizen Service.

Now a student at Aston University in Birmingham, in my first year studying Translation Studies with German and Spanish and beginners Portuguese, I found out I'd been successful after attending a selection day in London at the end of March. I applied for the scheme after seeing the opportunity advertised in the parish newsletter of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Bulwell with the Infant of Prague, Bestwood Park. The experiences I had



whilst volunteering at the Bulwell and Bestwood foodbank inspired me to look for ways to take part in something bigger, and this scheme certainly provides me with that chance. I will be working across a variety of projects in the town of Masaya, including eco and sustainable development initiatives. My ten weeks of volunteering begins on 2nd July.

Progressio, a government-funded charity with Catholic roots, works in 5 countries in Central America and Africa to make a difference through the idea of 'People Powered Development'. This means giving the poor in these countries the power to overcome the barriers in their own lives making them poor, and gain control of their own lives. It costs over £7000 for Progressio to send each volunteer, but the volunteer is only required to raise £800 in funds, as the rest is provided by the charity through its other sources of funding, and due to the fact Progressio is a co-operative.

I have organised various fundraising events and activities in both Nottingham and Birmingham, and also have a Justgiving

and BTmydonate page for general donations- the links for which are printed below. You can also text donate to my Justgiving page by texting NPPD70 plus your amount to 70070. NPPD stands for Nicaragua People Powered Development, and 70 for the number of days I will be there volunteering.

<http://www.justgiving.com/nicaraguapeoplepowereddevelopment>

<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/nicaraguapeoplepowereddevelopment>

From what started out as volunteering once a month at the foodbank, I'm now on my way to the other side of the world to truly make a difference in another community that really needs it. I ask for your support in the build-up to my trip, whether that is financial support by donating via the links above, or just your prayers during a busy and exciting time for me. Please also offer your prayers for Progressio, that it may continue its great work with people powered development.

*Matthew Cooke, aged 19.*

## De Lisle Cluster of Catholic Primary Schools

On Wednesday 26th February, 8 pupils from each of the De Lisle Cluster of Primary Schools met at the Sacred Heart Parish Rooms in Loughborough, for a Chaplaincy Team training day.

Forty eight children in total gathered together to be trained by Sister Dorothy Black, Chaplain at Sacred Heart Voluntary Academy, Leicester and Dan McGlynn, member of the Chaplaincy at St Paul's Comprehensive School, Leicester.

The children spent the day looking at the work of a Chaplain and what their role as a member of a Chaplaincy Team, back in their own schools, would involve. The children worked well together and had fun socialising with pupils from other schools. Their main task on that day was to plan a liturgy for the first week of Lent. They were to



take this back and lead it in their own schools.

The day ended with a Mass which they had prepared. Fr Peter Vellacott celebrated Mass for them and as part of Mass the children were commissioned as Chaplains, receiving a specially designed certificate and Chaplaincy Team badge.

We look forward to the spread of Primary School Chaplaincy Teams leading Acts of Worship in their schools throughout the Diocese.



# Catholic Parish in the ^ News St Winefride's Roman Catholic Church, Shepshed

The Roman Catholic parish of Shepshed was founded in the early 19th century by Father Luigi Gentili of the Institute of Charity (Rosminians). The original Pick Street church was built in less than a year by Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin. Pugin designed and built the church out of local materials and refused to accept a fee for his work. The church was dedicated to God under the patronage of St Winefride on Friday, 18th November 1842. The Rosminian priests served the Shepshed mission until 1852. Then, the mission was kept alive until 1870 by the generosity of the priests of Mount Saint Bernard.

In 1870, Father John Aloysius Martens arrived in Shepshed and was destined to serve the parish for the next 46 years. Many achievements marked his stay in the parish and in particular the purchase of land and the property known as 'The Elms' (the current presbytery) plus the purchase of land in Britannia Street upon which to build a new school.

By the early 20th century, the increase in number of Catholics in the parish meant that the church in Pick Street was no longer big enough. Canon Bernard Hobson, the parish priest, had to make provision for this increase. As an imaginative and engaging method of fundraising, the people of the parish were asked to buy bricks for the construction of the current church building. After considerable fundraising efforts, the foundation stone for the new church, next to the presbytery in Charnwood Road, was laid on Saturday, 4th June 1927. The plans for the new church were drawn by Messrs Young and Reid, architects of Grays Inn, in London.

The new St Winefride's church was officially opened on Tuesday, 10th April 1928. It has an overall length of 90ft and a width of 48ft. The square tower rises to 50ft in height. Grey sand faced bricks were used for the construction with Bath stone facings. The roof is of hammer beam construction made from Colombian pine and the roof is covered with Delabole slates.

*(Taken from 'Shepshed's Second Spring' written and compiled by F. J. Bennett)*

### Mass Times

Saturday 6pm - Vigil Mass  
Sunday 10am - Sung Mass  
Monday to Thursday Holy Mass is normally held at 9.15am and on Friday at 12.30pm.

Please note that this is subject to change so it is advised to refer to the weekly newsletter for the times for the coming week.

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday after Morning Mass until 6pm in the narthex  
Thursday from 3pm until 7pm in Church  
Friday from 12noon until Holy Mass at 12.30pm in Church



Please note that for security purposes, CCTV is in operation at all times throughout the Church

**Parish Priest:**  
Fr Michael Eastwood  
Tel. 01509 502313  
michaeleastwood6@btinternet.com

**St Winefride Roman Catholic Church**  
50 Charnwood Road, Shepshed,  
Leicestershire LE12 9QF

**Parish Deacon:**  
Rev William Hutchinson -  
Tel. 01509 505260

**Parish Assistant:**  
Mrs Breda Kavanagh  
Tel. 01509 502313

### List of St Winefride's Parish Priests.

1840 - 1844	Fr Luigi Gentili and Fr Angelus Rinolfi
1844 - 1845	Fr Moses Furlong
1845 - 1847	Fr Fortunatus Signini
1847 - 1849	Fr William Lockhart

1849 - 1850	Fr P Huton
1850 - 1852	Fr Nicholas Lorrain
1852 - 1853	Fr John Wyse
1854 - 1858	Fr Luke Levermore
1858 - 1862	No resident priest - Served from the Monastery

1862 - 1864	Fr Thomas Gillet
1864 - 1865	Fr Angelus Van Paemel
1865 - 1869	Fr Henry Collins from the Monastery said Sunday Mass

1869 - 1870	Fr Anthony Levisse
1870 - 1917	Canon John Aloysius Martens

1916 - 1930	Canon Bernard Hobson
1930 - 1947	Canon Austin Williamson

1947 - 1951	Fr Robert Woodbridge
1951 - 1953	Fr William Purdy
1953 - 1964	Canon Leo McReavy
1964 - 1969	Fr John Paul Klee
1969 - 1971	Fr Christopher O'Brien
1971 - 1985	Canon Francis McNicholas

1985 - 1996	Canon Patrick Balfe
1996 - 2000	Fr John Daly
2000 -	Fr Michael Eastwood

We practise and teach Christian contemplative meditation at residential and day courses at our centre in Dorchester and at other retreat centres in the UK.

The Fellowship of Meditation  
a Christian-based organisation

We use meditative sentences to still the mind, to focus our attention on God, and to serve as channels through which the power of the Spirit can enter our hearts. Our members also gather in local groups throughout the UK.

For further details please contact:  
The Secretary, The Fellowship of Meditation  
8 Prince of Wales Road,  
Dorchester DT1 1PW  
Tel: 01305 251396  
E: fellowship.meditation@virgin.net

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## Today's women, tomorrow's church

The National Board of Catholic Women is celebrating 75 years, with an AGM and Conference at Newman University College Birmingham

Today's women, tomorrow's church on Saturday June 21 and Sunday 22.

We have 2 women speakers who have made their mark in their chosen fields and have a great deal to share with us. Sr Gemma Simmonds CJ is a Senior Lecturer in Pastoral and Social Studies at Heythrop and is well known to many Board members. She has had a wide experience of teaching, working with street children and prison chaplaincy work. Cathy Corcoran is the Chief Executive of Cardinal Hume Centre. She was awarded an OBE for her work with CAFOD and she has recently been awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity by Heythrop for her work with those most in need. We will also have Bishop Vincent Malone, from Liverpool, who was our episcopal liaison for many years.

We will have workshops, hear updates e.g. on CSW 58 at the UN (Maureen Meatcher is there at the moment with a team from Progressio). The AGM will be held on Saturday morning. We won't neglect social events - an important part of our weekend. A full programme will be sent out nearer the date.

It is some time since we had a conference and with Pope Francis saying "Women must have a greater presence in the decision-making areas of the church" I think you will agree our conference is timely.

Please contact Christina Mottram diocesan link for booking forms and contact details on [cj.mottram@ntlworld.com](mailto:cj.mottram@ntlworld.com)

## Becket News

As a school, we are taking 23 young people to Lourdes, (our biggest group ever) and each young person has to find £490 pounds to take part and volunteer their time helping the sick and elderly members of our diocese experience the pilgrimage. They do this by pushing wheelchairs, befriending and helping with the overall running of the trip. It's a lot of hard work but the pilgrims who they help often comment that their presence is the most important and most inspiring part of the experience.

They will be travelling by coach for 24 hours each way and then working 18 hours days every day!

Therefore, in order to help with the fundraising we are doing a sponsored event on Thursday the 24th of April. The young people are going to row and cycle the miles from here to Lourdes (923 miles!) and do so over a 24 hour period by staying over at school and rowing and cycling through the night.

## New School Website

The Becket School has recently re-launched their website. This new website has been improved to meet the needs of their school community, providing a key link between the school and the families of their students.

The School are running a launch competition for their website, winners receive a Samsung Galaxy Tab3, visit [www.becketonline.co.uk](http://www.becketonline.co.uk) for more information

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir

The problem with ACTA is not so much that it desires to be 'open to discussion' with other Catholics (Letters, April) but that it sows seeds in people's minds of dissent. Deacon Myers takes phrases such as 'lay ministries', 'crisis affecting marriage', 'deeper understanding of the church', and it all sounds great, and he may honestly believe that ACTA has no agenda, but the evidence suggests otherwise.

A Call to Action's first meeting in July 2012 was addressed by a religious whose organisation, Catholic Women's Ordination, funded a £10,000 advertising campaign during Pope Benedict's UK visit protesting the Church's teaching on the priesthood being reserved to men (there's a nice shot of Peter Tatchell on their website). In the original letter published in The Tablet the seven priests, founders of ACTA, called for changes to the Church's doctrine on sexual ethics, and married priests, and expressed antagonism towards the Holy See. Women's ordination (an impossibility) also features on the ACTA website forum, as does dissent from Catholic teaching on homosexual relationships. How does it work to be Catholic and at the same time reject Catholic doctrine? The two don't go together.

What dissent does do in the Church is instil a sense of hopelessness and eventually a loss of faith in all who fall victim to it. It's like chipping away at the structure from within.

Yours faithfully  
Francisca Martinez  
Leicester

# Thoughts from Elston Hermitage.....

Here we are now with the doors wide open to springtime, the garden is coming into full bloom reminding us of the new creation of the world, the blossoming trees, the song of birds, the great surge of life within nature all come into being in the month of May, reminding us of the new creation which came through Mary and through Mary's response to the angel Gabriel "Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord, may it be done to me according to your word" ( Luke 1. 38 ) Mary's 'Yes' to God is something all of us should emulate.

It is during this month that we in the life of the church celebrate many great feasts and traditions especially those of Mary, throughout Christian history devotion to Mary represents and manifests the Christian recognition of the intimacy and the bond between Mary and her Son Jesus and her unique and determining role of unfolding God's plan. As Catholics although we do not worship Mary we truly venerate her because she is, Mother of Jesus, the Mother of the Church and our Mother, and so as our Mother she leads us to Jesus and as Mother of the new evangelization, she helps us as we lead others to know and love her Son Jesus.

Mary, the Mother of Jesus is the Mother of God because Jesus is God with us. Mary, the Mother of God is also our mother because we are caught up through the power of the Holy Spirit in adopted sonship with God. She is Mother of the Church, to whom we turn in intercession in asking to become more closely identified with her son -God's Son - Our Lord and Saviour. May then has many great traditions, especially Marian ones, such as building May altars, May processions,

the crowning of Our Lady as Queen, pilgrimages to shrines of

Our Lady and no better a time to reflect again on Blessed John Paul's encyclical letter Redemptoris Mater reflecting upon the mystery of a God who loves us so much that he sent his Son, so that we might share in his divine life. "At the centre of this mystery, in the midst of this wonderment of faith stands Mary" ( Redemptoris Mater 15)

May, then dedicated to Mary gives us opportunity to reflect on her motherhood and the precious fruit of her womb Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Here now in the Easter season the Lord invites us to remain in him and be able to produce the fruits of good deed in our daily lives.

The beauty of nature that we are able to see around us, the beautiful flowers, trees in green abundance, the signs of new life springing forth, giving us firm signs and confirmation of Resurrection life through Mary's 'Yes' to God. These must invite us to respond to God with faithful hearts and minds, enabling us to bear an abundance of fruit in our spiritual lives day by day, throughout all seasons.

David  
Hermit of the Diocese of Nottingham



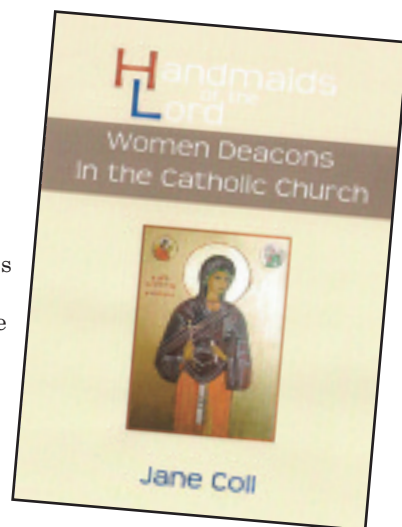
## 'Handmaids of the Lord: Women Deacons in the Catholic Church'

is published by Gracewing and can be purchased through their web page, [www.gracewing.co.uk](http://www.gracewing.co.uk), bookshops or on Amazon

It carries an Imprimatur from Bishop Hugh Gilbert, confirming that it does not contradict Church teaching on faith or morals.

"Jane Coll's book is an important contribution to the debate over the role of women in the Church. It is a 'must read' for many reasons -

- It is loyal to Church teachings
- It takes an academic approach, avoiding personal, emotional bias
- It presents a doctrinally sound argument from Scripture, Tradition, and the Magisterium for retaining the all-male priesthood
- It explores in-depth the possibilities of reintroducing the order of deaconesses in the Church of the third millennium;
- It takes up the challenge of Pope Francis to investigate further the role of women in the Church".



## Vocation Discernment Weekend

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St Clare's Convent, Stretton Road, Clay Cross, Derbyshire, S45 9AQ,  
01246 862621

Contact Sr Marianne at above address or [vocations@franciscansm.org](mailto:vocations@franciscansm.org)  
(FB events - Vocation Discernment Weekend)

# Thanks to the generous donations of Catholics in Nottingham Diocese CAFOD's Syria Crisis appeal has raised £88,370

Almost a year since CAFOD launched its Syria Crisis Appeal, the aid agency's supporters have raised more than £88,370 to assist people whose lives have been torn apart by the war in Syria. In total £2.5million has been raised for CAFOD's appeal across England and Wales.

CAFOD's local Church partners have reached thousands of families in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey, providing food packs, emergency shelter, healthcare, blankets, warm clothes and emergency supplies.

Siraj Daker, a Syrian refugee in Lebanon, said: "It is not easy for me to ask for help. In Syria I never had to ask anyone for assistance. But receiving support from CAFOD's partner Caritas Lebanon is better than getting one million Lebanese pounds. I am so happy that they stand side by side with us."

Marie Molloy, CAFOD manager for Nottingham Diocese said: "The Catholic community in England and Wales has responded with amazing generosity to our appeal. The steadfast support of parishes, schools and individuals is making an enormous difference to the lives of thousands of vulnerable Syrians."



Our Church partners are supporting people on all sides of the conflict, often at great risk to their own safety. Although Christianity is a minority faith in Syria, the community networks of the Church mean that it is well placed to provide aid in some of the worst hit parts of the country.

"After three years of conflict, the crisis can seem overwhelming, but the donations and prayers of Catholics in England and Wales are a source of genuine hope for our brothers and sisters in need."

As part of the #WithSyria campaign, CAFOD has joined more than 40 organisations around the world calling on political leaders to push for a peaceful end to the war in Syria.

Anne Street, CAFOD's Head of Humanitarian Policy, said: "When protests against the Syrian government began on 15 March 2011, few would have predicted that three years later the country would be engulfed in the worst humanitarian catastrophe of the 21st Century."

"Today it is ordinary Syrians who are paying the heaviest price. Millions of people are facing severe shortages of food and medical supplies, and a whole generation of children is missing out on school. For their sake, it's vital that the war ends as soon as possible."

"Although the Geneva peace talks have had limited success so far, we must not give up hope. We must continue to put pressure on world leaders to push for peace and to do everything they can to ensure that aid reaches all those in need."

## News from Our Lady of Lourdes, Mickleover Womens World Day of Prayer

Just under 100 people attended this year's Womens' World Day of Prayer at All Saints. It was prepared by the women of Egypt. The Service was very well run and Rev Mary Saunton meditated on the theme. Three people from our parish took an active part reading the story of the Woman at the Well. Afterwards All Saints treated us to tea and some very delicious homemade cakes in the parish hall where there was also a good display of all things Egyptian.

Marika Well



Josie, Eunice and Joe reading the story of the Woman at the Well.

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<p><b>Core modules (6):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*The Bible – Old Testament</li> <li>*The Bible – New Testament</li> <li>*Jesus Christ</li> <li>*The Church</li> <li>*Sacraments</li> <li>*Christian Morality</li> </ul>	<p>For more information and application form contact:</p> <p>Diane Williams Wilson House 25 Derby Road Nottingham NG1 5AW</p> <p>e-mail: <a href="mailto:formation@nrcdt.org.uk">formation@nrcdt.org.uk</a> Telephone: 0115 953 9841</p>	<p><b>Specialist modules (2):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Catholic Schools and Religious Education</li> <li>*Liturgy</li> <li>*Youth Ministry</li> <li>*Bereavement</li> <li>*Ecumenism</li> <li>*Justice and Peace</li> <li>*Parish Catechesis</li> </ul>
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or visit: [www.nottingham-diocese.org.uk/formation.html](http://www.nottingham-diocese.org.uk/formation.html)

## Attention Catholic Schools!

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# From Nottingham to Parliament

Gabrielle Bailey, Assistant Chaplain, and two sixth form students, Arianne and Caitlan, from Trinity School in Nottingham recently took part in a 'Young people in Parliament' event with CAFOD.

Gabrielle describes their experience: "We arrived at Romero House on Tuesday afternoon to a host of welcoming CAFOD staff and excited sixth formers from across the country. We were first briefed on the current "Hungry for Change" campaign and the upcoming "Climate Coalition" campaign, before getting to know each other over a delicious lunch laid out for us by CAFOD.

In the afternoon, we took part in 3 workshops. The first was a parliamentary relations workshop, in which we were all given a different role- constituents, MP, Secretary of State- and had to talk to the people above and below us about international development issues. This was very effective in showing how change must start with us, the public, making our voices heard.

The next workshop was centred around the importance of social media in raising awareness of global hunger and climate change issues in modern society. The young people enjoyed this as it was very relevant to them and there were plenty of Facebook statuses and hashtags flying around for the rest of the trip!

The final workshop involved preparation for the questioning of MPs in Parliament. The questions were based around 3 main themes: empowering aid for small scale farmers, transparency in big businesses to create a fairer global food system and taking action on climate change (as developing

countries are currently hit first and worst!) In the evening, we enjoyed more social time and were treated to pizza on the rooftop terrace of Romero House, overlooking the capital at night. We ended the day with a lovely night prayer, led by the CAFOD team, in which we were encouraged to think about our role as Christians in the world. By the time we arrived at our hostel for the night, everyone was ready for a good sleep after such a fun-packed day!

We had an early start on Wednesday in order to fight our way across the tube system in rush hour to get to Parliament in time to meet the Speaker of The House of Commons. We were, of course, donning our "Hungry for Change" t-shirts for some good publicity on our journey!

In the House of Commons the sixth formers had a chance to question John Bercow, local MP's and friends of CAFOD about international development. The young people



Arianne, Gabrielle and Caitlin

raised intelligent and poignant points and certainly pressured MPs to act. Some lucky students also got to go and watch Prime Minister's questions!

We had a fantastic couple of days down in London and felt empowered upon leaving. We were proud to represent Nottingham and the year 12 girls were a credit to the

Diocese, taking part with enthusiasm. We are very grateful for the opportunity given to us.

Since returning, we have spoken to the rest of our school about our experiences. We are now thinking about ways in which we can take action in our communities and build on what we learnt."

## St Patrick's Day Parade 2014

The Trinity Scool Nottingham Show Band played a big part in the 2014 parade which took place in bright sunshine on Monday 17th March.

The parade moved down Mansfield Road in perfect time and reached the Market Square about 12.30pm where there were large crowds both on the pavements and in the square itself.

The Band entertained the crowds on the steps of the Council House and some of our pupils danced on the main stage. The crowds were welcomed by a representative from the Irish Embassy and dignitaries from County Tyrone which lead this year's parade.

Overall, this was a very well organised and successful day for the City and Trinity School was proud to have played a big part in it.



## Celebrating our Schools

THE SCHOOLS LISTED ON THIS PAGE ARE PLEASED TO SUPPORT THE CATHOLIC NEWS

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 TELEPHONE 0115 982 4280  
 WWW.BECKETONLINE.CO.UK

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2014 theme - the Joy of Conversion

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