

Sts. Joachim & Anna feast day
July 26th

Catholic News



Raising money for Retired
Priests Fund
Full story on page 11

MORE THAN 16 YEARS OF BRINGING THE
NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER

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LINCOLN CATHEDRAL UNVEILS NEW SCULPTURE

PART OF A MAJOR RE-ORDERING PROCESS DESIGNED TO DEEPEN THE
EXPERIENCE OF PILGRIMS AND VISITORS

The 7ft tall stone sculpture of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in whose name the historic Cathedral is dedicated, is one of the largest works commissioned by the Dean and Chapter since The Reformation. It was dedicated by the Bishop of Lincoln, the Rt Revd Christopher Lowson, during Solemn Evensong on Saturday May 31, the Feast of the Visitation.

This work is part of the re-ordering process that has been undertaken by the Cathedral to draw both pilgrim and visitor into a deeper awareness of the life and work of the Cathedral and the ministry it exercises. The commission was undertaken by the renowned liturgical artist Aidan Hart who has works in more than 20 countries of the world, including within many cathedrals and monasteries.

It has taken him over three years to complete from original concept. He has continued to work on it inside the Cathedral over the past week, adding colour to the stone in a process called polychroming, using traditional egg tempera with natural earth and stone pigments.

Full story on page 4



Kathleen Dahill (nee Horobin) entering ST Francis RC Church in Long Eaton on Tuesday 3rd June for her thanksgiving mass on the day of her 100th birthday.
Many happy returns.

Father and Son run for CAFOD



Last September father and son team Ben and Richard Oldham took part for CAFOD in the Great North Run and the Nativity Christmas Fun Run.

See story page 10

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The monthly paper for the
Diocese of Nottingham

**The
Catholic News**

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Different faiths, same witness: How Vatican explains prayers for peace

By Cindy Wooden

Popes pray for peace; it is part of their ministry. And when war is raging or peace negotiations seem hopelessly bogged down, recent popes have invited leaders of other Christian traditions and other faiths to join them in prayer.

Pope Francis has put a twist on the interreligious prayer gathering by inviting political leaders, Israeli President Shimon Peres and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, "to come to the Vatican to pray together with me for peace." The event was scheduled for June 8, the day many Christians celebrate Pentecost.

When leaders of different religions come together and pray for a common cause, they are not only appealing to God, they also are showing the world they believe that followers of different religions are still brothers and sisters before the one who created them.

That is not the same as ignoring religious differences or pretending those differences do not matter.

"It should be evident to all who participate that these occasions are moments of being 'together for prayer, but not prayer together,'" said guidelines for interreligious dialogue published in late May by the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

"Being able to pray in common requires a shared understanding of who God is," the document said. "Since religions differ in their understanding of God, 'interreligious prayer' -- meaning the joining together in common prayer by followers of various re-



Pope Francis embraces Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas at the start of an arrival ceremony at the presidential palace in Bethlehem, West Bank

ligions -- is to be avoided."

The distinction between praying together and praying at the same time is one Vatican officials have found increasingly necessary to emphasize as popes have led more and more interfaith gatherings for peace. St. John Paul launched the interreligious prayer for peace gatherings in Assisi in 1986. He asked Catholic, Orthodox, Muslim and Jewish leaders in particular to join him in Assisi in for a smaller gathering in 1993 as war raged in the Balkans. And, in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States, he and other religious leaders returned to Assisi in January 2002 to pray and proclaim to the world that violence committed in God's name is an abomination.

Pope Benedict XVI was one of a few Vatican officials who decided not to attend the 1986 Assisi meeting and voiced concern about how it might appear to downplay important religious differences. However, he marked the 25th anniversary of the gathering with his own invitation to religious leaders -- and secular humanists -- to join him in the hometown of St. Francis in 2011.

The commemoration included a public moment of silence and a "solemn renewal of the commitment to peace," but no public prayers.

The next day, back at the Vatican, Pope Benedict told the religious leaders: "Meetings of this sort are necessarily exceptional and infrequent, yet they are a vivid expression of the fact that every day, throughout our world, people of different religious traditions live and work together in harmony." And, sometimes, while not praying together, they pray alongside each other.

Visiting Istanbul's Blue Mosque in 2006, Pope Benedict and an imam stood in silence, facing Mecca. Reflecting on the moment a few days later, the pope said, "divine providence allowed me to make a gesture that initially was not foreseen, but which, in the end, turned out to be very significant."

"Pausing a few minutes in recollection in that place of prayer," he said, "I turned to

the one Lord of heaven and earth, merciful father of all humanity" and asked that "all believers recognize that they are his creatures and give a witness of true brotherhood."

The witness to brotherhood was a key point for St. John Paul in 1993 when the conflict in the Balkans shocked him and other Europeans who believed war on the continent was a thing of the past. The pope invited representatives of the predominantly Orthodox Serbs, Catholic Croats and Muslims from Bosnia-Herzegovina to join him in Assisi.

In the face of violence and war, St. John Paul told the religious leaders, "we cannot help but use the resource of believers; that resource is prayer. This is our strength; this is our weapon. In the face of instruments of destruction and death, in the face of violence and cruelty, we have nothing other than recourse to God with our words and our hearts. We are not strong or powerful, but we know that God will not ignore the pleas of those who turn to him with sincere faith, especially when the present and future fate of millions of people is at stake." The pope and his guests first met together to listen to the experiences of refugees and others who had experienced the war first hand. Then, for the prayer, the Catholics went into the upper Basilica of St. Francis, and the Muslims and Jews went to separate rooms in the Franciscan convent attached to the church.

Meeting together and praying at the same time for the same intention, "in itself will be a living witness and a happy foreshadowing of the gift we intend to request," St. John Paul said. "Each of us came here motivated by fidelity to our own religious tradition, but also knowing and respecting the traditions of the others."

"May peace reign among us," he said. "The differences that separate us will remain," but coming together will let others see that "the secret of a humanity finally reconciled lies only in mutual acceptance of the other and, consequently, with mutual respect deepened by love."

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‘POLE’S APART?’

Not at Saint Margaret’s!

Since 1965 the Sacred Heart Parish ‘Mass Centre’ of St Margaret Mary in Wakerley Road Leicester has seen many changes in Clergy, Mass times and parishioners. However, the biggest change came in November 2003 when the property was purchased by St Pauls Polish Community, who were looking to re-locate because of a shrinking community and the problems of inner city vandalism, and inaccessibility of parts of the old social centre to the aging/disabled members of the parish. This was to be a symbiotic relationship whereby St Margaret’s Community would still have use of the facilities for Sunday and Holy Day Masses and various other occasional services and social events. The property was re-developed and en-

larged to include a social centre. During the re-build we were visited by Lech Walesa, former president of Poland, an event which was attended by representatives from both communities. St Paul’s Church was officially consecrated in June 2004.

In the years since then the relationship between our two communities has grown and developed into something very special. We are very lucky and privileged to have Fathers John Lally and Tadeusz Kordys leading and encouraging our communities to work, socialise and celebrate the sacraments together. In addition to the weekly English and Polish Masses we have celebrated services during Lent ie; Ash Wednesday, (Holy Mass and Distribution



Left: Fr John Lally Right: Fr Tadeusz Kordys

of Ashes) and ‘Stations of the Cross’ weekly. Also Holydays of Obligation and particularly of course ‘The Feast of St Margaret Mary’ in October which is always followed by a social get-together! Both communities are also involved in our local ‘Churches Together’ and regularly jointly host national initiatives such as ‘Christian Aid Week’, ‘One World Week’ and ‘Women’s World Day of Prayer’ etc with our neighbouring Christian Churches. One of the many benefits of the 2003 rebuild has been the addition of the bar and social centre and this has proved to be a major asset in bringing the communities together. Our English Mass on Sundays is timed between the earlier and later Polish Masses and as once a month we have a

‘Coffee Morning’ this invariably attracts Mass attendee’s from both communities. In addition to shared working parties maintaining the grounds, we also enjoy with our Polish friends their feast days which usually include such things as, traditional dancing, music, singing, visiting choirs..... and of course food! We look forward to many more years as a sharing and growing community and if one were looking for a suitable quotation to sum up, what could be more appropriate than a verse from John 15: “I call you friends”.

Ted Keller
St. Margaret’s Community

Pilgrimage to Holywell and Padre Pio Shrine in Wales

It was with great pleasure I accepted the open invitation issued by our Mother Church of the Nottingham Diocese, St Barnabas Cathedral to participate in a day pilgrimage to Holywell and the National Padre Pio Shrine in Wales. We had an early start, following morning prayer in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, 50+ pilgrims accompanied by Fr Neil and Fr Stanley, left the Cathedral via coach and headed for Wales.

Holywell certainly didn't disappoint, one of the Shrines not touched by the Reformation, the spring still bubbling beneath the surface as a witness to the tremendous faith of St Winefride. We were delighted to be able to participate in a prayer service alongside the well, followed by the chance to venerate the relic (a finger bone) of St Winefride. There was time to visit the faith gift shop and a lunch break before we made our way to church to celebrate Holy Mass. We were given the opportunity to seek the intercession of St Winefride, spontaneous prayer offered up from the congregation. Once Mass was completed we made our way to the Padre Pio Shrine via coach. Tranquility met us, beautiful gardens with a magnificent Padre Pio statue, outdoor



Stations of the Cross and Rosary path. Unfortunately we didn't have sufficient time to do this justice, so a return visit is a must. We all returned home uplifted, strengthened in faith touched by His grace. We had a special birthday celebration on the day as Sr Margaret (LCM) turned 84yrs old! Congratulations.

by Cheryl Broodryk



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Our Lady of Lincoln, Theotokos, in Lincoln Cathedral

Monsignor Tom McGovern and a great many other Catholics from across Lincolnshire attended the dedication of a new sculpture of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Lincoln Cathedral on 31st May, the feast of the Visitation. The afternoon began with lectures by Professor Peter Burman and iconographer Aidan Hart, followed by Solemn Evensong, which was attended by the Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, the Mayor of Lincoln, and many other dignitaries. The sculpture was then blessed by the Bishop of Lincoln and there was a reception afterwards in the Chapter House. The 7 ft high image of Our Lady with the Child Jesus is a sculpted icon, rather than a statue, because it was hand carved by Aidan Hart, an ordained Reader in the Greek Orthodox Church in Britain. The sculpture is situated in a side chapel at the south-east end of the Cathedral; and is best approached via the south side of St. Hugh's choir in order to have the long-view before seeing at close quarters.

When I approached the finished sculpture for the first time, I felt that I was walking into the page of a mediaeval illuminated manuscript. The colours are at once striking and full of meaning. Our Lady wears a russet red dress, which is the colour she wears in all the ancient paintings in the Eastern Church. It represents Earth. Her mantle is dark blue, edged with gold, and represents Heaven. Her gaze is straight in front, slightly above our gaze as we approach. Her face has a timeless quality, at once young and mature, tinged with sadness and joy at the same time, thoughtful, still, and pondering all those things in her heart. I can imagine that everyone who gazes for any length of time on her face would see something different, something that connected and spoke to each individual heart.

During his talk Aidan Hart explained his thinking behind the design. The Christ Child is enclosed in a "mandorla" or

"vesica" an almond shape that seems unfamiliar to western eyes but is a common way of depicting the divinity of Christ in the Eastern Church. When Mary is shown holding the vesica, it also represents her womb which held God, the Word made Flesh, who was in the world but could not be restricted by it. The Council of Ephesus declared that Jesus Christ was at the same time fully God and fully Man in AD 431, and they gave the title of Theotokos, God-bearer, to Mary his mother. This theme was further elaborated during a homily by the Precentor, Gavin Kirk, who explained that Theotokos means so much more than "Mother of God." It conveys the concept that Mary carried God made Flesh, human and divine, in her womb. Mary holds the vesica in her hands and the vesica holds the second person of the Trinity. While Mary looks out just above our gaze, the Child Jesus gazes directly at us. The role of Mary when we approach her, is always to point us to Jesus. She holds him out to us and he looks us directly in the eye.

Aidan explained that the child is symbolically young and old at the same time. His



glazes were applied to each area and finally being sealed with casein, derived from milk.

Aidan stated that he wants people to draw

plation in our busy and frantic work. The Cathedral is dedicated in the name of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Lincoln, and it is good to have this sculpture to remind us of the way God uses his creation to express his loving purpose for all his children. The sculpture will draw many to reflect upon the obedience and trust that Mary displayed when called to be part of God's redeeming work."

After the sculpture had been blessed by the Bishop of Lincoln, the Right Reverend Christopher Lowson, we were invited to a reception in the Chapter House. The Dean, the Very Reverend Philip Buckler, made a speech which included a thank-you to the Catholic community led by Monsignor Tom McGovern, for their encouragement, support and financial contributions. The Dean presented Monsignor Tom with the small, uncoloured "moquette" of the sculpture which had been in place for the past year while the carving was being completed. A great many of those present seemed touched as well as pleased with this gesture of friendship between the Cathedral and the Catholic communities, and I was reminded of another section of the press release: "It is hoped that this corner of the Cathedral will become a place of contemplation and prayer for reconciliation and renewed dedication of the whole Christian family."

Mary Wilford



robe is a warm orange colour to represent the sun, because he is the giver of light and life. He holds the universe, a blue sphere marked with the sign of the cross in his left hand, while his right hand is raised in blessing. The two fingers together representing his divine and human natures, while the thumb and two fingers tucked together in his palm symbolise the Three Persons of the Blessed Trinity, three in one. There are other symbols in the vesica: the rainbow from the book of Revelation, an Alpha and an Omega.

Our Lady is seated on a throne because she is the Queen of Heaven. This portrayal of Mary and the Child, as well as being iconic, is reminiscent of many mediaeval statues and carvings, and also of the great seal of Lincoln Cathedral. The same enthroned image of Mary and Child was embroidered on the back of the cope worn by the Dean of Lincoln and on the Bishop's throne in the Chapter House. Aidan Hart has carved Mary's clothing in a flowing, Romanesque style. The finished sculpture weighs about 1.5 tonnes, and came from a single 3 tonne piece of Lincolnshire limestone, from Great Ponton Quarry and kindly donated by the quarry owner. It took three years to complete from the original concept. The colouring was applied in situ in the Cathedral in a process known as polychroming, using traditional egg tempera with natural earth and stone pigments, the blue coming from the semi-precious stone azurite. Eight thin

near to this carving. He wants us to touch the warm stone and feel that our Lady of Lincoln is close. The press release from the Dean's office offers an excellent summary: "We are delighted to welcome this significant work of art into the Cathedral to play its part in stimulating prayerful contem-

FUNDRAISING

On May 21 the Peterborough Circle of the Catenians hosted a dinner at which the Retired Priests Appeal Chairman, John Curran, accompanied Fr Clement Orango, of Bourne and Deeping St James. John was deputising for Carla Brown, the appeal co-ordinator who a few days later gave birth to her and her husband's third child. (Yes-all are well).

Fr Clement, whose parish has already met the contribution sought from the Appeal, has been one of its most consistent and enthusiastic supporters. The retiring Circle President, Paul Cosham had made the appeal the circle's charity for the year 2013-2014, gracefully allowing his successor, Mr Tony Walsh, to present the cheque for



£1025. The donation was particularly pleasing given that the brothers in the Circle were mostly from parishes outside our diocese.



Pope Francis appoints new Bishop of Hallam

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has appointed as the new Bishop of Hallam, the Right Reverend Ralph Heskett CSSR, until now the Bishop of Gibraltar.

Bishop Heskett thanked the people and priests of Gibraltar as he announced his leaving for Hallam.

"My first visit to Gibraltar was in 1981. I think that it is fair to say that I immediately fell in love with Gibraltar and its people. Today, 33 years on, I am still in love with Gibraltar and its people!

"For nearly 30 years, I regarded Gibraltar as my second home and then, to my great surprise and delight, in 2010, Gibraltar became my permanent home and the people of Gibraltar, my extended family. Over the last four years, I have been very happy here and have experienced at first hand the warmth and affection of the people of Gibraltar for which I shall be eternally grateful.

"So it is with great sadness that I announce that I must take my leave. I have been asked by Pope Francis to be the next Bishop of Hallam in the UK in succession to Bishop John Rawsthorne. I was surprised to be asked to be bishop four years ago and I am even more surprised now to be asked to be the new bishop of Hallam. Over the last four years, when I have been asked, "How long do you expect to be in Gibraltar?" I have always replied, "Until they bury me in the crypt of the cathedral!" And I fully believed that this would be the case.

"It is sometimes difficult to see the hand of God at work in the different circumstances of life but having had the time to reflect over the last few days on recent events, I am sure that this change in all our lives is part of God's plan for the diocese of Gibraltar, for the priests and people of the Hallam diocese and for me.

"I came to Gibraltar to be bishop in a spirit of obedience to Pope Benedict and now, I must leave in a spirit of obedience to Pope Francis to take up the new mission he has entrusted to me. To be asked to pastor and shepherd of two different diocesan families is a privilege I do not deserve and a responsibility I feel inadequate to undertake. This will be a great personal challenge for me as I leave Gibraltar and the priests and people I love. It is also an invitation to be generous in serving the diocese of Hallam.

"The Church here in Gibraltar is a great praying community. More prayer takes place here in Gibraltar per square metre than anywhere else in the world, I suspect! Today I ask you for a continued share in those prayers. Knowing that I have the support of your prayers will give me the courage and confidence I need to take up the new task entrusted to me."

The Right Reverend John Rawsthorne, Bishop of Hallam, said he was delighted at the appointment, having known Bishop Heskett as a parish priest in Liverpool.

"He will fit in very well in Hallam. He has a lot of parish experience as he is a very fine pastor as well as being a good preacher. The people of this Diocese are very warm and welcoming. They will take him to their hearts in no time at all. My 17 years here have been marked by the welcome and close collaboration of all of the priests and the people of Hallam."

On learning of the appointment, Cardinal Vincent Nichols said, "I warmly welcome the news of the appointment by Pope Francis of Bishop Ralph Heskett CSSR as the new Bishop of Hallam. Over the past four years Bishop Heskett's presence as an official observer at the Plenary Assembly meetings of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has been very much valued and appreciated. On behalf of all the bishops, I can assure him of our prayers as he prepares for his installation in St Marie's Cathedral in Sheffield and of our support in the years ahead."

International Lunch



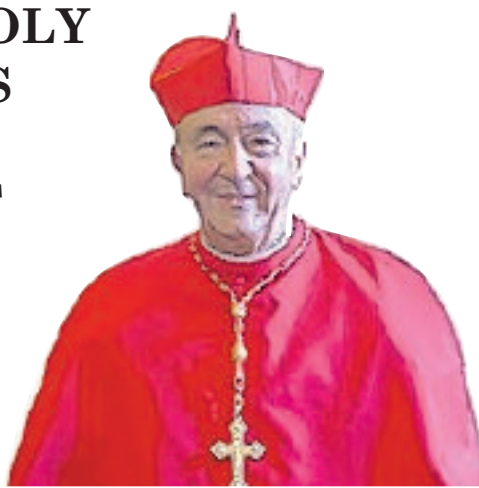
Some of the parishioners, pictured with Msgr Father Brian Dazeley, who attended an international lunch in the church hall of the Sacred Heart church in Skegness. The food was provided by the parishioners and represented the various countries of origin of those attending.

(photo Eileen Chantry)

FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND WELCOMES CARDINAL'S GENEROUS GIFT

When it was announced in January that the Archbishop of Westminster, Vincent Nichols, was to be made a Cardinal, the people of the three dioceses with which he'd been most closely connected made a collection to honour the event. The Archbishop asked that this be offered in his name to the suffering Church in the Holy Land through the charity that he'd helped to found, Friends of the Holy Land, and today the Archbishop, now Cardinal Nichols, gave the charity a cheque for £85,000.

Friends of the Holy Land (FHL) is hugely grateful for the Cardinal's generosity. "This is a magnificent sum, and we cannot thank the Cardinal enough for his kind and thoughtful gesture" said Jim Quinn, FHL's Chairman. "We have long benefited from Cardinal Nichols' encouragement, support and advice, and in fact he was closely involved in our foundation in 2009, when Archbishop of Birmingham. This very generous gift is a further mark of his concern for the Christian people and communities of the Holy Land. Friends of the Holy Land will use it carefully to make a difference to their lives. We are deeply touched and inspired by it, and thank him most warmly."



The money was raised in the parishes of the Liverpool, Birmingham and Westminster diocese, each of which has a particular place in the life and ordained ministry of Cardinal Nichols, as a sign of congratulation and their affection for him.

Friends of the Holy Land concentrates on smaller, sustainable projects that quickly make a big difference to local Christian families, especially the most vulnerable. The charity's projects fall into four main categories, education, employment, health and housing, and FHL plans to use the Cardinal's gift on a project to build ten affordable apartments for Christian families in the Bethlehem area and on improving water storage for local families in the same area.

The Catenian Association is keen to promote the availability of its Bursary Fund to assist and enable Catholic persons between 16 and 24 to engage in voluntary work.

VOLUNTEERING?

Maybe the Catenian Bursary Fund can help: Members of the 10,000 strong Catenian Association make regular contributions and raise funds to maintain a Bursary Fund.

This fund is used to provide grants to young Catholics between 16 and 24 to help them with the costs incurred in volunteering to work on community based projects at home or abroad.

Each project must have a clear benefit to others, as well as widening the life experiences of the volunteer.

For full details, eligibility criteria and application form visit www.thecatenians.com and click on Bursary.

FRANKLY SPEAKING

Secured the most votes



In the later weeks of the Easter Season the British political scene witnessed considerable changes and its consequences for many of us are a possible journey to the unknown. About one in ten voters supported UKIP in the Euro elections but this was enough to secure 24 MEP seats which was more than the other more established parties (they also secured the most votes). At a time when the economy is improving these poll results clearly showed a huge protest and the Westminster establishment needs to wake up. As immigration was a major factor in the May Euro poll we need surely to ask ourselves is this really out of control and can we pull out of a Europe which has clearly got its difficulties? Poverty and unemployment is forcing workers to leave home and travel across the continent to find a decent wage - surely that should concern all Christians, whatever our views of Europe and its Christian heritage must never be forgotten.

We rarely hear about the influence of America on British industry. The failed bid for AstraZeneca by Pfizer left many deeply troubled as did the more successful merger of Kraft and Cadbury a few years ago. Was the recent USA bid for AstraZeneca really in the best interest of British workers? Was all this just about maximising shareholder values? Some scientists claimed the proposed takeover had the potential to ruin the UK's science base. Anyone who has worked in industry is aware of just how

important research and development can be to future employment (or unemployment).

For all our concerns over job prospects the issue of poverty will simply not go away. Caritas Social Action Network, the social action wing of our church, has recently expressed its concern over both child poverty and low pay.

The issue of poverty is clearly affecting our working families in what is one of the world's richest nations. Employment is not enough to solve the problems of the poor and as Caritas has commented, by the Governments' definition "13 million people are defined as living in poverty". In the recent Newark By-Election I personally witnessed one of our better known politicians visiting the local food bank (with a television camera crew). If after the European elections our politicians are uncertain about their futures then so are the poor in Britain today.

In the more socially deprived areas of our country the priests and deacons will regularly meet up with poverty, and schools will also witness this. Whatever the election result next year those in greatest need will continue to need support. We must not let them down, to be a Christian is not an easy option, it is not meant to be.

Frank Goulding
Holy Trinity Parish Newark

Eight confirmed at University by Archbishop McMahon

by *Conor Gaffey*
Photos by

Michael Nathaniel Chee

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon returned to Nottingham last month to administer the sacraments of Confirmation and the Eucharist to eight members of the University of Nottingham Catholic Chaplaincy.

The recently-appointed Archbishop of Liverpool was reunited with his former private secretary, Fr Andrew Cole, who is Catholic Chaplain to the University and concelebrated Mass with the Archbishop.

The Mass marked the end of the Chaplaincy's RCIA programme, which runs annually from September to April. Several of the candidates were baptised in April before the university Easter break.

Stephanie Purcell Gilpin, 21, is a second-year Chemistry student and one of those who completed her Christian initiation at the university. She was joined by many of her family, some of whom travelled all the way from her native Zimbabwe.

"I thought it was a really joyful celebration and an amazing experience for me. I felt that through it, something in me changed, though I can't put my finger on what," said Steph.

"It was a real honour to have Archbishop Malcolm there. He's a really approachable person and I'm very grateful to him for coming," she added. Archbishop McMahon was presented with a signed card from the university Catholic Society and a framed cartoon, originally published in the Tablet when his recent appointment was announced. He expressed how delighted he was to return to the Diocese of Nottingham for this special occasion and encouraged the student community in their faith.

For more information on the University of Nottingham Catholic Community, please see our website: <http://catholic-community.org.uk/the-Site/> and our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/catholiccommunity>.



Archbishop McMahon confirmed eight members of the University of Nottingham Catholic Chaplaincy in May.



The Archbishop is presented with his unique gift by Fr Andrew Cole!

STARS IN THEIR YOUR EYES



Co-Host John Cooper, presenting the 2014 STARS Award to Linda DeGallier as Pavarotti.

Market Harborough's St. Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy's PTA presented their latest evening of entertainment to a packed and delighted audience in Our Lady of Victories Octagonal Hall. Co-hosted by John Cooper and Richard Wright, some nine memorable acts dazzled the audience with a talented show of live performance. This year's outstanding winner and 2014 Star was an amazing look alike 'Pavarotti' singing 'Nessun Dorma' and played by Linda DeGallier, teaching

assistant. Chair of St. Joseph's PTA, Karen Liddle said, 'This is one of our major fund raisers for our school and once again it was a night to remember. It was so nice to see performances from the teaching staff as well as parents, past and present. The funds raised will go towards the refurbishment of our library which will benefit all the children at St Joseph's.'

Photograph and report by Jim Cooper



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Songs, stories and plenty of charity cash

Glossop folk who celebrated St Patrick's Night raised around £1000 for the Catholic charity CAFOD.

And next year it could be even more! Paul Boham, who helped organise the party in St Mary's Church Hall, Glossop said, "Tickets were in high demand, we sold out in a few weeks."

"With a maximum of 200 people in St Mary's Hall, another venue may have to be sought for next year so that everyone who wants to come can do so. "The evening raised more than £1000 which will go to providing humanitarian aid in developing countries and £135 for Good Things to help support local community events."

Father Greg Tobin's band "The Prodigal Sons" played to a capacity crowd who soaked up the atmosphere and a pint or two of the black stuff with some genuine Irish fare.

Between sets, Tony Walsh was caller and lead the ceilidh dancing.

At 7pm Maddie Brown read a bed-time story for the children before they went home leaving the adults to master some more complicated dance moves, The evening ended with a lively set from the Prodigal Sons.

by David Jones
Glossop Chronicle



Volunteer voiceovers

By Cafodnottingham

"A few weeks ago I was given the opportunity to travel to Romero House, the main offices of CAFOD in London for a volunteering task. I'd been invited to record the voiceover for a new e-learning module which will enable CAFOD staff and volunteers to understand more about what CAFOD does throughout the UK and further afield.

Having previously worked in local radio, and have recently started volunteering for CAFOD, I hoped I would be able to use my skills to help with the voiceovers whilst learning more about what CAFOD does. As a new volunteer, I discovered so much! Now I will be able to go back to my parish of St Peter's in Leicester and tell parishioners what I've learnt.

These e-learning modules will eventually mean that people becoming CAFOD volunteers can complete some of their training and induction online. It will make it easier for those who have busy schedules or find travelling to specific venue difficult.

The team at Romero House was very friendly and while I was there I took the opportunity to have a tour of the building. It is a relatively new building which makes use of energy efficient building techniques and recycled materials. I visited lots of different departments, seeing aspects of the work carried out here in the UK in schools, parishes and communities but also saw work being done on overseas projects such as human rights campaigns going on in Brazil in the build up to the World Cup. It was great to see this wonderful work in action and to know that just by doing a little bit, I am making a contribution to the bigger picture of just one world."

Mairi-Frances McKay,
Leicester

Faith Formation

The Good Shepherd Church in Nottingham has a long standing Faith Formation programme in place which takes place every Thursday evening in the parish centre. The format contains a DVD presentation by renowned speakers which have included Fr Robert Barron, Christopher West and Jim Cavins to name but a few. It takes place in a relax atmosphere, encouraging all to deepen their faith edifying each other with great results. Discussions are informal but adhere close to Catholic teachings with the evenings attended by the parish priest, Canon Philip Ziomek, for guidance when he is available. We encourage all to attend and would like to extend an invitation to other local parishes to come along and share in these valuable resources.

Cheryl Broodryk of The Good Shepherd Church

Details Of Faith Formation Programme On Offer

DVD SCREENINGS OF THE FOLLOWING TALKS PLUS DISCUSSION

| DATE | TOPIC |
|--------------------|--|
| June 19, 2014 | THEOLOGY OF THE BODY DVD BY CHRISTOPHER WEST Theology Of The Body: An Education In Being Human |
| June 26, 2014 | Theology Of The Body: The Great Analogy Of Spousal Love Theology Of The Body: Man & Woman He Created Them Theology Of The Body: Man & Woman He Redeemed Them |
| July 3, 2014 | Theology Of The Body: The Resurrection Of The Body Theology Of The Body: Celibacy For The Kingdom |
| July 10, 2014 | Theology Of The Body: Marriage As An Sacrament Theology Of The Body: The Language Of Sexual love |
| July 17, 2014 | INTERVIEW WITH MARCUS GRODI Interview With St Paul |
| July 24, 2014 | THE GOSPELS DVD BY LAVINIA SPIRITO Overview Of The Gospels |
| July 31, 2014 | Gospel Of Matthew Gospel Of Mark Gospel Of Luke |
| August 7, 2014 | Gospel Of John SERIES PILLARS I+ PILLARS II CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH BY SEAN INNERST |
| August 14, 2014 | Pillar I: Preparing For The Journey |
| August 21, 2014 | Pillar I : The Journey Begins |
| August 28, 2014 | Pillar I: Message From Beyond. |
| September 4, 2014 | Pillar I: God's Innermost secret |
| September 11, 2014 | FLOWER FESTIVAL- NO FAITH FORMATION |
| September 18, 2014 | Pillar I: God Carries Out His Plan |
| September 25, 2014 | Pillar I: God's Image |
| October 2, 2014 | Pillar I: The Beginning Of The Middle |
| October 9, 2014 | Pillar I: The Beginning Of The End |
| October 16, 2014 | Pillar I: His Ascent and the One He Sent |
| October 23, 2014 | Pillar I: Born In The Father's Heart |
| October 30, 2014 | NO FAITH FORMATION |
| November 6, 2014 | Pillar I: The Church's Four Marks |
| November 13, 2014 | Pillar I: The Four Last Things |
| November 20, 2014 | NO FAITH FORMATION |
| November 27, 2014 | Pillar II: Preparing For The Journey |
| December 4, 2014 | Pillar II: Liturgy & The Sacramental Economy |
| December 11, 2014 | Pillar II: Celebrating The Liturgy |
| December 18, 2014 | Pillar II: Liturgical Families and Baptism |
| December 25, 2014 | MERRY CHRISTMAS NO FAITH FORMATION |
| January 1, 2015 | HAPPY NEW YEAR NO FAITH FORMATION |
| January 8, 2015 | Pillar II: Baptism & Confirmation |
| January 15, 2015 | Pillar II: The Eucharist in the Two Economies |
| January 22, 2014 | Pillar II: The Eucharist And it's Effects |
| January 29, 2015 | Pillar II Confession |
| February 5, 2015 | Pillar II: Anointing Of The Sick |
| February 12, 2015 | Pillar II: Holy Orders |
| February 19, 2015 | Pillar II: Marriage |
| February 26, 2015 | Pillar II: Sacramentals and Funerals |

Catholic Parish in the News

St Mary's Church Derby

St Mary's extends a warm welcome to all visitors who call in at the church and experience the splendour of the building itself. If you have time, do go to one of their services where everyone is always welcome. Their sister parish, Holy Family, based in Blenheim Drive, Allestree, Derby, is served by St Mary's priests. Please refer to the website www.stmarysparish.co.uk for Holy Family Mass and Service Times.

"St Mary's, without exception the most magnificent thing that Catholics have done in modern times in this country" Dr Wiseman (1839)

Introduction

The original mission statement of the Church was given to us some two thousand years ago when Jesus said to his apostles: 'Go and teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'

Therefore our parish mission statement must relate closely to this:

"St Mary's Parish Community exists to give glory to God, to foster the personal holiness of its members, and to bring Christ to the world."

The foundation stone of St Mary's church was laid on 4th July 1838, Queen Victoria's Coronation Day. The building was completed by 9th October 1839. During the Pontifical High Mass to mark the dedication of the church, Doctor (later Cardinal) Wiseman began his sermon with the words: "St Mary's, without exception the most magnificent thing that Catholics have yet done in modern times in this country." The architect was Augustus W N Pugin, who had only recently become a Catholic. A first restoration of the church took place during 1927/8 after it was discovered that the tower would probably have collapsed unless urgent remedial action was taken. A survey revealed that many slabs of stone had been cut the wrong way, and eventually the weather had penetrated the mortar pointing and the stone had deteriorated to an alarming extent.

A second restoration project took place during 1986-1989, at a cost of around £750,000, to address the external and internal wear and tear of 150 years. Also, the interior of the church was reordered to meet on a more permanent basis the liturgical changes required by the Decree on the Liturgy from the Second Vatican Council.

The Early History



Drawing of church dated 1927

There was a church and parish of St Mary

in Derby before the Norman Conquest of England in the 11th Century. After he was crowned king, William I (the Conqueror) rewarded his Barons and Knights with grants of land throughout the country. He retained the town of Derby for himself and afterwards made a gift of one of the town's six churches to the Abbot of Burton Abbey. This donation was later confirmed by Pope Lucius III when he issued a Papal Declaration, notating all the lands and privileges granted to the Abbey:

"At Verona, 3 September 1185. By kind favour and grant by William, King of England, of happy memory Saint Mary of Derby, with two mills and land in the same town."

A map of Derby from the Domesday Book shows that St Mary's Church was then situated on the corner of St Mary's Gate and Queen Street, almost opposite All Saints Church.

Little more is known about the early history of St Mary's, other than that it appears to have ceased to be a Parish Church by the late 13th Century.

Penal Times

(16th to 18th Centuries)

In the 16th Century King Henry VIII severed all ties between Rome and the Church in England. English Catholics were subsequently persecuted and driven underground for over 250 years, until the Relief Act of 1791 when Catholic worship again became legal in England provided that the clergy and buildings were registered with the local Justice of the Peace. (The word 'church' however was strictly reserved for Church of England buildings and 'chapel' denoted places of worship for 'Papists' and other Dissenters.)

Although the Relief Act was passed in 1791, there is evidence of Catholic worship in Derby some 25 years prior to this. In a letter to the local magistrates dated 12 September 1836, Rev. John Chaloner wrote: "Mr Jos. Smith, now living, remembers people assembling to hear Mass in an ancient house occupied by his father, situated in the Corn Market, Derby, seventy years ago."



The 19th Century The Catholic Chapel

Rev. Chaloner was a Catholic priest who was responsible for the 'Derby Circuit' from 1815 to his death in 1836. In a report to the Vicar Apostolic for the Midland District, Rev. John Milner, dated 11 November 1815, Rev. Chaloner mentions a Catholic Chapel in Derby. It appears to have been well established at this date and had a good congregation. These included some of the local landed gentry such as Lord and Lady Scarsdale of Kedleston Hall, Mr and Mrs Beaumont of Barrow Hall, and Mr John Talbot who later became the 16th Earl of Shrewsbury.

The Catholic Chapel stood at the corner of Chapel Street and Orchard Street and was built about 1813. Initially it could accom-

modate 100 people, but was later extended to cater for a congregation of up to 300. A high wall had to be erected round it against the over-zealous local Protestants! Under the ministry of Rev. Chaloner the congregation increased and he started a school which initially had 26 boys and 30 girls. About 1827/28 Rev Chaloner and the Trustees of the Chapel decided that a larger building had to be found. It was about this time that the Hon. Edward Strutt decided to move his household to Belper and so the whole of the vast estate was split up into building plots, and the surrounding streets were named after members of his household.

Rev. Chaloner purchased the prime plot of land as the site for the new church; it is reputed to have cost £1400. The site stretched from Bridge Gate through to Edward Street, and had two houses on the Bridge Gate frontage. Rev. Chaloner made one his presbytery and rented the other to the master of the Derby Free School. The money to buy this site came from Bishop Walsh of the Midland District, who liquidated all the endowments which, in accordance with the practice of the previous century, had been left by various benefactors to the Derby Mission. An entry in Bishop Walsh's Diocesan Book under the Derby heading reads: "All the above monies, except £13 paid by Lord Shrewsbury, was absorbed in the purchase of land for the site of the new Church and Chaplain's house, and in the new buildings erected on it."

The Building of

Saint Mary's Church, Derby

The purchase of the site with a view to building a church for the Catholics of Derby coincided with the passing of the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829. This Act was the culmination of a process which had been continuing for a number of years of removing the civil disabilities and oppressive regulations which had been imposed on Catholics in England by various statutes dating back to Henry VIII.

After nearly three centuries of oppression, the building of St Mary's, along with other new Catholic churches around the country, powerfully symbolized in stone and reinforced in practice the resurgence of the Catholic faith in England.

Rev. John Chaloner, who had effectively prepared the groundwork for the new church, died in 1836. He was replaced by Rev. Thomas Sing who immediately started to develop the plans for the larger church on the Bridge Gate site. The influx of Irish immigrants was making the need for a larger church even more urgent.

St Mary's Church

Without the benefit of modern construction techniques and project management expertise, the church was built in less than eighteen months. The Derbyshire Chronicle and Midland County Advertiser, dated 16 October 1839, reports:

"On Wednesday 9th October 1839 the newly erected church in the Bridge-gate Derby, which has been dedicated to St Mary, was consecrated by the Right Rev. Dr. Walsh, Catholic Bishop of the Midland District, assisted by the Right Rev. Dr. Briggs, Catholic Bishop of the Northern District, and Rev. George Spencer and the clergy of Oscott College, and sixty or seventy clergymen."

The above information is taken from the parish website www.stmarysparish.co.uk/ where further details may be obtained regarding this wonderful church in our diocese.

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Date for your Diary

1 July

Emmanuel House: Open Day

Celebrating Past, Present and Future. Emmanuel House is having an open day on Tuesday 1st July from 1:15 pm, followed by a service of Thanksgiving at St Barnabas Cathedral at 5:30 pm.

6 July

Institution of Lectors & Acolytes

6.00 p.m. Mass with Institution of Lectors & Acolytes at St Barnabas' Cathedral

13 July

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Padley

12-13 July

12-13th July 2014 Celebrate Cleethorpes Family Conference

"Celebrate is something all Catholics would enjoy and feel spiritually and physically re-created"

Bishop Malcolm McMahon OP

http://www.nottingham-diocese.org.uk/01_Comm/New_resources/CelCleethorpes.jpg

Celebrate Cleethorpes is a non-residential weekend conference for the whole family. Over the last 20 years, up to 1500 people have attended the Celebrate Family Conference in Ilfracombe. Young and old alike have joined together in a vibrant faith-filled atmosphere to celebrate the love of God. Since 2008 there have also been regional weekends and in April 2013 we enjoyed our first weekend in Cleethorpes. Our regional 2014 event at Holy Family Catholic Academy in Cleethorpes will take place in July. There will be presentations on the main stage including teachings from Sue Whitehead, Sister Andrew Fava and Pippa Baker. There will also be thought-provoking drama from Steve Murray and the local Puppet Power team along with a range of smaller workshops. We will come together to celebrate Holy Mass together on both days, and Bishop Malcolm will preside at the celebration of Mass on Saturday 12th July. There will be a full programme for all young people from the age of 4 through to 21.

We are now open for bookings ('early bird' discounts available) and to find out more please visit our website at www.celebrate-conference.org/weekends/cleethorpes where you can also find details of booking, or telephone 07513 931615 for further information and booking forms.

13 July

Padley Annual Interdiocesan Pilgrimage

Pilgrims meeting at 3.00 pm. The Pilgrimage will be led to the Chapel by Bishop John Rawsthorne who will be the main celebrant at Mass. Guest speaker will be Mgr

David Hogan.

14 - 19 July

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 28th July - 1st August

Society of St Gregory Summer School
This year's summer school, to be held at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, will provide participants with an opportunity to explore how the Second Vatican Council, and, in particular the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy Sacrosanctum Concilium, provides a sure compass for our liturgical practice and the life of the Church in and for the world. Last year, to mark the Year of Faith, the Society funded a number of free summer school places for younger people involved in liturgical ministry. The scheme was oversubscribed and very successful, not least in terms of the calibre of people it attracted. This year, a further fifteen free places for young people aged between 18 and 35 are being funded by the Society. Please visit www.ssg.org.uk

Saints Joachim and Anne Feast day - 26th June

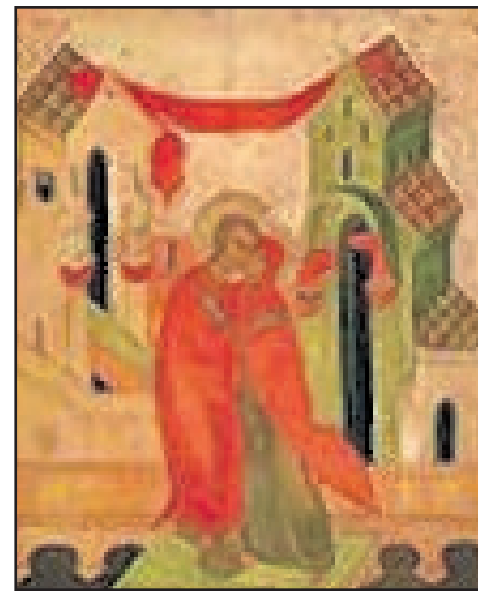
By tradition Joachim and Anne are considered to be the names of the parents of Mary, the Mother of God. We have no historical evidence, however, of any elements of their lives, including their names. Any stories about Mary's father and mother come to us through legend and tradition.

We get the oldest story from a document called the Gospel of James, though in no way should this document be trusted to be factual, historical, or the Word of God. The legend told in this document says that after years of childlessness, an angel appeared to tell Anne and Joachim that they would have a child. Anne promised to dedicate this child to God (much the way that Samuel was dedicated by his mother Hannah -- Anne -- in 1 Kings). For those who wonder what we can learn from people we know nothing about and

how we can honour them, we must focus on why they are honoured by the church. Whatever their names or the facts of their lives, the truth is that it was the parents of Mary who nurtured Mary, taught her, brought her up to be a worthy Mother of God. It was their teaching that led her to respond to God's request with faith, "Let it be done to me as you will." It was their example of parenting that Mary must have followed as she brought up her own son, Jesus. It was their faith that laid the foundation of courage and strength that allowed her to stand by the cross as her son was crucified and still believe.

Such parents can be examples and models for all parents.

Anne (or Ann) is the patron saint of Christian mothers and of women in labour.



Prayer:

Parents of Mary, pray for all parents that they may provide the loving home and faithful teaching that you provided your daughter. Amen

The Sherwin Society - Rodsley Pilgrimage 2014 Sunday 29th June 2014 3.00pm, The Crossroads

Sermon - Canon Alan Burbidge - St Georges, Derby

British Sign Language Assistance Available- From Fr John Trenchard, Chaplain

When selling a house the seller is advised to make sure that a potential buyer's first impression is positive. As the buyer comes through the front door the hall has to be tidy, clean and inviting. What is true for the home is also important for a church. This is why, in recent weeks and with the help of parishioners, the very small porch of St Joseph's church has been tidied up. The main notice-board has been moved outside and the two tables, which previously were filled with a huge variety of disposable goods belonging to over five hundred parishioners, are now used only for essentials. At least, that's the idea! Recently, one of those "essentials" that were placed on the tables were the prayer-cards of St Ralph Sherwin. I expected these cards to be there for a very long time. And, as so often happens, I was totally wrong! The prayer-cards were gone within the week. And so were the cards that were put out to replace them. A prayer-card with a picture of St Ralph Sherwin (a photograph of the stained glass window of the saint in St Joseph's Church Martyrs chapel) with a prayer to Saint Ralph Sherwin, obviously means a great deal to very many parishioners at St Joseph's.. St Ralph Sherwin died for his faith We

who follow him in the same faith have a real sense of identity with St Ralph. We recognise that we are fortunate in not having to follow him in martyrdom but we can follow Jesus, with St Ralph's help, in realising what is most important and what really matters. As followers of Jesus Christ we are called to live in love and to share God's love with others. Our identity is bound up with the recognition that we are loved by God. The beauty of the prayer card, which reflects the colours of the stained-glass window and the prayer (which is printed below) bring home to us the beauty of God's love which is within us. The prayer is written by Jonathan Whitby-Smith, who is currently studying for the priesthood in Allen Hall and who set up the current, excellent, web site and Facebook site, (just 'search' Saint Ralph Sherwin) providing information and resources associated with St Ralph Sherwin (www.ralphsherwin.com).

Jonny began this work last summer whilst working for a month in St Joseph's Church, Derby. If you haven't viewed the web-site it would be great to do so.

The prayer refers to how we "follow" the Lord and his call. In this regard it reminds us how Jesus called his disciples to "follow" him at the beginning of his public ministry. That privilege is also ours. But, at the end of the day, to "follow"

Jesus means that, in a certain sense, we only see the back of him. At the completion of his public ministry Jesus did not ask his disciples to "follow" him. Instead, he addressed them as "friends". It was an invitation to sit down with him "face to face". That privilege is complete for St Ralph

Sherwin. For us, it is something we can look forward to but already anticipate as we sit down with Jesus in the Eucharist.

Prayer to St Ralph Sherwin
Most Holy Priest and Martyr, Saint Ralph Sherwin, you gave your whole life freely and earnestly, forsaking all risk to yourself, seeking to do the Lord's will "today rather than tomorrow". You died for love of Christ and his Church, as a witness to bring others to the truth.

Pray that we might follow the Lord more earnestly, with eyes fixed firmly on his Son, never putting off till tomorrow what can be done today. Obtain for us the grace to share your courage and conviction, to live lives transformed by love of Jesus, following His call wherever it may lead, sharing Him with all whom we meet. Amen.

"Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, be thou unto me Jesus." The final words of St Ralph Sherwin, prayed repeatedly during his martyrdom until he could speak no more.

Matrimony Matters

Sometimes life is hard and we can get lost in the daily grind of making ends meet, of getting things done, and forgetting to 'smell the roses'.

Then, quite suddenly, a change occurs through a little show of affection: a kiss, a hug or a loving gesture from my beloved. As a result life is transformed. We feel so much brighter; the sun is shining, it's great to be alive and all is well in my little world. When we take the trouble to reveal the true nature of our love for each other, there will be a real transformation in our relationship.

Each married couple has experienced this at sometime in their lives together. The question we have to ask ourselves is this: if this is all true, if this is how we become better wives and husbands, why are we not doing it all the time? When we live in this way we also become better parents for our children. One thing our children want, perhaps more than anything in the world, is to see us, their parents, being loving towards each other.

PRAYER

Lord, help us to reach out with love to each other continuously and so transform our relationship, so that it becomes a bright beacon of your love, shining out for all your people.

Amen.

Did you go to Manor House Convent School in Brigg? Were you a pupil there when the order changed in 1959 and the Convent became known as St. Clare's Convent School until it closed in 1972?

You might be interested in a Reunion on Monday 29th September at 12 noon at The Angel Suite, (formerly the Angel Hotel), Exchange Place, Brigg. The cost will be £12 including buffet lunch and a welcoming drink. If you wish to attend, you need to book by 22nd September. Barbara Walker (nee Morrison) can be contacted on 01732 452414 or e-mail barbarawalker2210@btinternet.com. (If you prefer a local contact in Lincolnshire then ring 01427 615938).

Retired priests appeal

During the last 3 months much has happened but our task, our obligation to care for our priests remains the same as many priests aged between 75 and mid late 80s finally retire.

Meanwhile, Carla Brown, our appeal coordinator brought into the world Amelia Lily, her and Darren's third child. I will miss Carla's hopefully temporary absence. Meanwhile Cathy Latimer and Mandy Smith will run our Newark office.

The help in Newark has made life easier than I can say, together with when I seek it, the quiet support from Fr Michael O'Donoghue, its parish priest. As some parishes have completed what we asked of them, some are on the way, and a few, with good reason have just embarked on the task. To each we offer thanks and support.

Today's Catholic News records two events.

The first reflects how parishes which having already sought individual parishioners' contributions move on, showing how the parish in Gainsborough set to matters. They are not alone and I welcome reports from other parishes to add to our package of fundraising ideas which you can find on www.retiredpriestsappeal.com.

The second is how one (not the only) group of Catenians in Peterborough made a collective effort to help; Nottingham based brothers have supported concerts in local schools.

John Curran
Appeal chairman

In the Habit of fundraising

Early on Saturday 7th June, the Vigil of Pentecost, a group of eight male and female cyclists of Nigerian, Polish, Zimbabwean, South African and British nationalities, embarked on a 44 mile charity cycle challenge with a difference. They were dressed as nuns and a bishop, to the bemusement of other early risers passing by.

Dubbed the "Holier Than Thou" cycle challenge, in tongue and cheek homage to the nuns' habits, they raised much needed funds for the Nottingham Diocese Retired Priests Appeal.

Bang on 6.45am came the first spots of rain just as they started from St Barnabas Cathedral, waved off by its dean, Canon Hunton, and the appeal chairman, John Curran.

Canon Hunton said, uncomplainingly, he wouldn't have been able to sleep anyway given the noise of the preparations, but probably guessed it was all part of the plot.

The team ended at St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Church Gainsborough in Lincolnshire, around 12.30pm. Horrendous downpours and punctures, which caused some delays didn't dampen their mood and they all made it back to St Thomas where they were greeted by family, friends and fellow parishioners.

The gruelling route was led by St Thomas's parish priest Fr Gabriel Offor, dressed as the bishop with a seasonal red mitre atop his helmet. Given that the see of Nottingham is vacant, Nigerian born Fr Gabriel who is used to dressing in traditional



African attire, found the prospect of becoming 'bishop' for the day quite humorous and was keen to get involved. While the rest of the team were engaged in last minute preparations Fr Gabriel was spotted almost out of sight limbering up in a serious fashion.

The challenge organiser Clare Mannix, a parishioner at St Thomas has been overwhelmed by the response. "The idea started off with just myself and Fr Gabriel cycling the route in a bid to raise much needed funds for the Retired Priests Appeal but we are delighted with the number of people that took part and the wonderful support we have received. Included in

those participating were parishioners from other parishes wishing to cycle for St Thomas as well as a parishioner cycling to raise money for the Appeal for St Norbert's Catholic Church in Crowle." She continues by saying, "I would personally like to thank all of those who took part and helped in the organising of this event. It is such a fantastic cause and without their help, none of this would have been possible."

If you would like to make a donation or sponsor this event, please go to www.mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/stthomasofcantebury

For more information on the appeal, please go to www.retiredpriestsappeal.com

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'St Mary's School Statue Blessed by Fr John Martin'

"After choosing a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary for their Peace Garden, Children from the Chaplaincy Team and School Council at St Mary's Primary School and Nursery (Derby) arranged for the school to properly celebrate her arrival. The colourful statue shows Mary holding baby Jesus in her arms. The children were delighted that Fr John Martin from Christ the King Church in Mackworth was able to come into School on Friday May 9th to bless the statue. Fr John spent time with the Bible Story Club during lunch, and they told him all about the things the children do at St Mary's to deepen and grow in their faith. A special whole school liturgy, dedicated to Mary, had been prepared by the Chaplaincy Team. This included the traditional hymn, 'As I Kneel Before You' and the more modern John Burland song, 'Mary a Woman of Faith,' complete with prayerful actions showing how Mary helps to bring us to her son. The children acted out the story of the Annunciation and the first miracle, Jesus turning water into wine during the wedding at Cana. They emphasised what we can learn from Mary's role in these events - say 'yes' to God and do whatever Jesus tells us.

Fr John spoke about how Jesus gives us Mary to be our mother too. She protects and guides us and helps us to be better people. The children were encouraged to shout out a resounding 'YES' that they believed this!

The children led us in a litany of Mary's titles, including 'Mother most lovable,' 'Gate of Heaven,' 'Holy Mother of God' and 'Queen of Peace,' asking her to pray for us. After the liturgy, the School Council joined the Chaplaincy Team in processing the statue down to the Peace Garden, where



she was surrounded with flowers and each class's blue candle. After singing 'Holy Virgin by God's Decree,' several children read prayers that they had written to Mary, and Fr John blessed the statue. It was a lovely celebration, Mary's statue will make a prayerful focal point for the garden, and it is hoped that children and staff will enjoy spending special moments with Our Lady there."

'St Alban's School Raises Over £400 for the British Heart Foundation'

On Tuesday 3rd June children, parents and staff from St Alban's school in Derby held a sponsored walk around the school – the 10 laps meant it was nearly 3 miles! They were supporting the British Heart Foundation in memory of Stephen Wilkinson, a 41 year old father who died of Ischaemic heart disease in April 2013. The walk was the idea of his son Thomas, who is in Year 6 at the school. Thomas wanted to do this as the charity needs money to help people like his Dad, and those even younger, who are affected by heart disease. The School's Chaplaincy Charity Team led an assembly highlighting to the children the importance both of looking after our hearts and raising money for further research into heart problems. The walk was a great idea as it allowed everyone to do both of these activities at the same time. The fastest



walkers were Max and Matthew who each won a British Heart Foundation balloon.

It was wonderful to see so many people join in the walk from children in the Foundation Stage to grandparents, Thomas himself commented, "I was gobsmacked about how many people came to support the charity." Luckily the rain held off too!

The children were very aware of why they were taking part, Millie in Year 4 spoke of wanting "to help more people to survive and have a chance to see their future." Well done to Thomas for being the driving force behind this fundraising event, as his Mum, Patsy, put it "after everything he's been through, I'm so proud of Thomas for looking for ways to help others avoid dying too young."

Grace Dieu Young Cricketers' Success

Grace Dieu had a very successful day at the prestigious Uppingham 6 a side Under 11 Cricket Tournament recently. In a competition which featured 10 schools from as far apart as Cambridgeshire and North Yorkshire, Grace Dieu won all but one of their 4 games to win the Plate Competition after defeating Wellow School (Notts) in the Plate Final.



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

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