



Saturday, 13th September
•Saint John Chrysostom,
bishop and doctor

Catholic News

MORE THAN 16 YEARS OF BRINGING THE
NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER



Flower Demonstration
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Celebration of Silver Jubilee

Sunday 20th July marked a significant milestone for Fr Paul Newman, he celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood. St Alban's Church in Derby came together to celebrate this moment along with friends, family members and former parishioners of Fr Paul. His career has taken him to many communities in the Diocese including St Joseph's Derby; Our Lady and St Joseph's Matlock; Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Belper; Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Bulwell; the Diocesan Youth Centre at The Briars; and currently to the people of Chad-desden and Oakwood.

The affection and respect that Fr Paul evokes was witnessed by the huge number of people who attended the 10am Mass, ne-

cessitating the use of the day Chapel for the overflow.

Fr Mervyn Tower read the Gospel and preached the homily. He talked about the start of his friendship with Fr Paul who he first met when teaching at Oscott college where Fr Paul was a seminarian and how they have stayed friends ever since. He spoke about how Fr Paul has lived up to the promises he made at his ordination – preaching the Gospel, teaching the faith, praying for the people entrusted to his care, celebrating the Sacraments and encouraging all to truly know Christ. We also heard about his love of cars, watches, holidays and musicals!

Touchingly, at the conclusion of the Mass, Fr Paul publicly thanked his Dad for all



the support he has shown him over the years, and presented him with a beautiful rose bush as a sign of his love and appreciation for all he has done. He also thanked Susanna Aitchinson for his new stunningly embroidered vestments, and all the good wishes he has received, including those in his tribute book from the parishes of St Alban's and Oakwood.

Such an auspicious occasion could not go by without a word from His Holiness Pope Francis, who sent an official Apostolic blessing for Fr Paul, invoking abundant divine graces.

After the Mass, there was a tasty spread of strawberries, fruit baskets, scones, homemade cakes, Prosecco wine and an impressively sculpted Roman Missal and Lectionary cake that many people had to have a second look at before they were convinced it really was edible! The Chairman of the Parish Council, Geoff Rowlands, led the thanks to Fr Paul, presenting him with a beautiful gold and wooden ciborium, along with a sizeable cheque. The day was blessed with wonderful weather and many stayed to enjoy a picnic lunch together."

by Fran Wickes

St Mary's Children Raise Money for Macmillan

Children from the Chaplaincy Team and Class 12 at St Mary's School in Derby held an after school fayre in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. They spent weeks organising for the stalls and activities including guess the name of the teddy, face painting, cakes, old toys, strawberry and marshmallow chocolate dip, loom band making etc.

They were blessed with excellent weather and children and parents took the opportunity to spend in aid of such a good cause and then relaxed on the grass eating delicious home made cakes.

Huge thanks to everyone who supported the Fayre and to the children for their creativity and hard work. They raised an impressive £107.11!



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MORE THAN 16 YEARS OF BRINGING THE NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER

The monthly paper for the Diocese of Nottingham

The Catholic News

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Wanted Parish Correspondents

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

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

£1,200 raised



Marie (left) admires the plants on the stall



Gill and Kath prepare the food in Marie's kitchen

Two of the older members of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Eastwood, Nottingham our parish have helped raise money for their parish's connect2:Ethiopia programme.

Marie Lowe held a garden party at her home. She invited friends and family for tea and cakes in her beautiful garden on a sunny afternoon in June. Everyone paid £3 for their refreshments and bought plants and gifts to take home as well.

When it was Olive Maslowska's 90th birthday, her daughters gave a party for her friends and family. Instead of giving gifts to Olive, it was suggested that people make a donation to CAFOD if they wished.

Together these two events raised £1,200. Thank you Marie and Olive!



Olive with her birthday cake



Olive gives Kath Butler, a member of our parish CAFOD group, a cheque for the money raised

CAFOD's response to the situation in Gaza

The conflict in Gaza has left hundreds of thousands of people without food, water, shelter or medical care. Thousands have been killed and injured.

CAFOD has been working with our long-standing partners on the ground in Gaza, Caritas Jerusalem, Catholic Relief Services and Islamic Relief Palestine, who are working round the clock to get food, water, medicine, hygiene kits and emergency supplies to thousands of people, often at great personal risk.

The really pressing need is for aid to get through to the most vulnerable families. Our partners' humanitarian aid workers can't reach some of the worst hit areas without both Israeli and Palestinian authorities agreeing to allow humanitarian access to those in need of aid.

"We have to continue tirelessly to pray for peace. Prayers alone are not enough, there must also be a serious effort to reach a peace accord." Bishop William Shomali, Auxiliary Bishop of Jerusalem

But aid alone is not a sustainable solution to this crisis. We can't continue to watch this cycle of violence, both in Gaza and in Israel. So as well as immediate relief, CAFOD is committed to working for long term peace and justice for the region.

This is why we are primarily asking supporters across England and Wales to call on our UK government to show stronger support for a comprehensive and perma-

nent ceasefire, humanitarian access, and a long term solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Please ask the Foreign Secretary, Philip Hammond, to push for a comprehensive ceasefire and humanitarian access, and long-term measures to end the suffering and deal with the root causes of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

See www.cafod.org.uk/Gaza to join in on-line. Keep in your prayers those who have lost their lives, those who are grieving, and all those injured and left homeless in the bombing.

A Prayer for the people of Israel and Gaza

We pray for the many people whose lives Have been torn apart by conflict in Gaza and Israel.

We remember especially those who have died,

those who are grieving,

the injured and those now without food, shelter or medical supplies.

We pray also for those who have the power to bring peace.

May they be touched by a spirit of compassion and kindness.

Amen

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- ✓ Do you work with children, teen or adult enquirers?

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NOTTINGHAM

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- ✦ RCIA
- ✦ Baptism
- ✦ Confirmation and Catechesis with Young People
- ✦ What is Catechesis?
- ✦ Scripture & Catechesis
- ✦ Who is the Catechist?
- ✦ Children's Liturgy of the Word
- ✦ First Holy Communion

There are 12 sessions of two hours, 7-9 pm, on a Wednesday in Mansfield, Tuesday in Shepshed and Monday in Nottingham, ending with a Retreat Day and Commissioning Mass on 20th June 2015. Courses starting in Autumn 2014 at:

Our Lady and St Patrick's Parish Hall,

Launder Street, The Meadows, Nottingham. NG2 1JQ

Dates: 29th September, 13th October, 3rd & 17th November, 19th January, 2nd & 23rd February, 2nd & 23rd March, 20th April, 18th May and 1st June 2015

St Philip Neri Parish Centre,
3 Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield,
Nottinghamshire.
NG19 7AB

Dates: 8th & 22nd October, 12th & 26th November, 13th & 25th February, 13th & 25th March, 22nd April, 6th & 20th May and 10th June 2015.

St Winefride's Annexe,
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LE12 9QF

Dates: 23rd September, 14th October, 4th & 18th November, 20th January, 3rd February, 3rd & 24th March, 14th April, 5th & 19th May and 2nd June 2015

The cost of the whole course is £75

To book a place, complete a form (from your parish priest who may also pay on your behalf) and return it to:

Course Administrator, Adult Formation, Willson House, 25 Derby Road, Nottingham. NG1 5AW. formation@nrcdt.org.uk 0115 953 9814
 Visit: www.nottingham-diocese.org.uk/formation.html



Bishop's Certificate in Catechesis

TEA IN THE GARDEN

Holy Trinity (Newark) Ladies' Guild has once more held a successful Afternoon Tea in the Presbytery garden, by kind permission of Fr. Michael, our Parish Priest. Yet again the weather was in our favour and everyone enjoyed the event, which started as usual with a glass of Pimms! The generosity of parishioners was evident in the number of cakes and assorted goodies available – the more calories

the better! The funds raised go towards the Ladies' Guild charities, including the Future Priests and Retired Clergy funds, and also the work of Dr. Margaret McDougald, a parishioner currently working in Ethiopia for the Barbara May Foundation. Many other charities benefit from such occasions and we are grateful to all who respond so generously. EC



HELP TO GHANAIAN SCHOOL

The President and brothers of Market Harborough Circle of the Catenian Association were again delighted to extend a warm welcome to Fr. John Mensah from Kumasi, Ghana, as their guest for dinner following their August meeting. For the last 12 years Fr. John has come to Market Harborough to look after the Parish of Our Lady of Victories whilst Parish Priest, Rev. Canon Owen O'Neill enjoys his annual holiday. Fr. John's annual visit is very special this year as August marks the Silver Jubilee of his ordination. To mark this special occasion a cheque was presented to Fr. John by Circle President Keith Webb on behalf of the Circle. In thanking President Keith and the Circle, Fr. John said how very much he appreciated the donation which would be put to improving the sanitary arrangements at his local school in Kumasi, Ghana.



Circle President Keith Webb (right) making presentation to Fr. John Mensah

Jim Cooper



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| 3. MINISTRY TO OLDER YOUTH | 7. FAMILY LIFE ISSUES |
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BOOKINGS NOW BEING TAKEN: please contact Adult Formation, Willson House, 25 Derby Road, Nottingham NG1 5AW. Telephone: 0115 9539841 or email formation@nrcdt.org.uk or visit the diocesan website: www.nottingham-diocese.org.uk/formation.html

FOUR YEARS OF COMMEMORATION



9:00AM Mass on Sunday 3rd August at St. Ralph Sherwin Church, Chellaston, Derby; saw the start of 4 years commemoration of WW1 with prayerful musical reflections, deeply researched floral arrangements and contributions from many members of the community. Candles were distributed and one wall of the church has been designated as a place of prayerful remembrance where the names of those who died are being written on wooden crosses.

Terry Spencer

St Mary's Year 6 Leavers Mass

On the last Sunday of term, the Family Mass at St Mary's Church, Derby, was an opportunity for parishioners to wish the Year 6 St Mary's School children all the best as they prepare to begin the Secondary phase of their schooling. Children gave the Readings and led the prayers of intercession. At the conclusion of the Mass, which was said by Fr Peter Ingman, the Head teacher of St Mary's, Mrs Amanda Greaves, gave each of the children a wooden hand-held prayer cross, as a remembrance of their time at the school. Family, friends and many staff attended to offer their prayers and support to the Year 6s.

Fran Wickes



Flower Demonstration

by Rebecca Newell



Late Friday afternoon on 25 July at 4.30pm, over 60 parishioners and friends gathered in the Marian Hall of the Good Shepherd Church, Nottingham, to observe a flower demonstration followed by a cream tea. Rebecca Newell (Flowers by Rebecca) is part of the Good Shepherd Flower Ministry and is the Director of the Flower and Music Festival, which will be taking place at the Good Shepherd Church from 10-14 September 2014. Many of the parishioners expressed their delight at being at this event, picked up many tips and interesting facts about arranging flowers as well as enjoying Rebecca's very professional, humorous and engaging delivery of her topic, enthralled as a beautiful floral arrangement took shape before us. Part of

the ticket price for the event included a cream tea, which was supplied by the parishioners. The costs of the flowers for the display was covered by a generous benefactor, for which we are very thankful. Tickets also included a chance at a raffle prize, a pink floral table arrangement which was won by a parishioner, Ann Manley. While parishioners indulged in a cream tea, Jenny Raw, from the Girls High School in Nottingham played on the piano in the background, very talented and accomplished, adding to the wonderful atmosphere. We were extremely blessed by a great turnout, raising £215 in support of the forthcoming Flower & Music Festival in September 2014. Thank you to all who supported this event. God bless.




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Thoughts from Elston Hermitage.....



September is the month when we think of Angels. If we are people for whom seeing is believing then we will certainly miss out on a great deal of God's Creation. Simply because we cannot see something does not mean that it does not exist, a significant amount of God's creation is invisible to the human eye.

In the Apostles Creed we say, 'I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth' and in the Nicene Creed 'of all things visible and invisible' angels then are part of that invisible side of God's creation and so worthily deserve our attention.

We are not told how many were created only 'myriads upon myriads' and thousand upon thousand as St. John writes. Angels are spirit beings which do not have human flesh and blood, neither marry or reproduce in Heaven of course angels are visible. The prophet Isaiah sees and hears angels gathered around God's throne and describes them in great detail singing the Sanctus, in his revelation of heaven St. John also sees angels, speaks with them and we are assured they are sent to earth on special missions.

The Old Testament reveals to us a great amount of angelic activity here on earth too, they are in the garden of Eden, they visit Abraham and Sarah, an angels bids Isaac stand down just as he was to sacrifice his son, there are angels everywhere, while Israel is in slavery in Egypt and during the long trek through the desert. Angels appear to Kings and Prophets even to donkeys!, there are angels of life and angels of death.

It's pretty much the same in the New Testament, an angel appeared to Zechariah to tell of Elizabeth giving birth to John and of course the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and Joseph for telling the birth of Jesus. It was angels that announced to the shepherds the birth of Jesus, they were present at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan, they attend the temptations of Jesus in the desert and are found doing the explaining at Jesus's Resurrection and forty days later at his Ascension. It was an angel that broke Peter's chains and an angel that struck King Herod down because of his wickedness.

In all Angels are mentioned 125 times in the books from Acts to Revelation and therefore it is hard to ignore or forget this invisible yet prime part of God's Creation. Angels are God's messengers not only for great occasions but we can be assured they are constantly looking after us too as promised by the Psalmist 'The Lord will command his Angels to guard you in all your ways, they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone' (Ps. 91 11-12). Angels then are body and soul guards, and each of us has a guardian angel to watch over us.

I hope that on the 29th September the Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels we will take a few moments to reflect on the power of the angels and of things that are invisible to the human eye, but never the less exist and were created by God.

Richard Hermit of the Diocese of Nottingham

Why climate change matters to CAFOD supporters



As a member of The Climate Coalition, we've joined together with hundreds of other charities to tackle climate change with our For the love of campaign. Since last April, many of you have been getting involved by sharing what you love with us.

Get involved: Tell the world what you love Climate change is something which affects everyone and the simple truth is we all love something that's affected by it. By joining together and speaking out about climate change we can make sure that our politicians realise how important the issue is. This is your opportunity to contribute directly to the climate movement and we want to hear from you.

What you've been saying
It's clear from the huge response we've had

to the campaign that you want action on climate change. You've been letting us know exactly what you love that is already threatened, or will be in the future, by climate change:

CAFOD supporter Barbara Hungin from Middlesbrough diocese said: "We must act on climate change for the love of children and future generations."

"I want my grandchildren to grow up in a secure world. So for the love of Sam, Josh & Lydia, speak out on climate change."

– Carol, a CAFOD supporter

Alice from London shared her love for seasons: "I like knowing when I can expect to be warm and when I can expect to be cold; sun in the summer, snow in the winter.

Variety is good for us, and our range of seasons is one of the best things about

Britain. Climate change threatens this. Summer, winter, spring and autumn will segue into one mass of indistinct weather."

Chris from Cheltenham thinks of his friends in Zambia: "Life is hard enough there, but climate change is making everything tougher. Unpredictable rainfall for the past few years has resulted in poor harvests and much hunger."

Show you care about climate change If you haven't got involved yet, there's still plenty of time to share what you love. Have a think about something that really matters to you and add a few words which describe it. Your message will be added to our For the love of wall and presented when we join with other organisations for a day of global action on Sunday 21 September.

FRANKLY SPEAKING

The plight of children particularly was truly horrific to say the least

There was no shortage of sad news during the closing days of July and the first week of August which in Britain is regarded as the main holiday period. On a daily basis the television pictures from Gaza were possibly the worst many of us will have seen and the plight of children particularly was truly horrific to say the least. On August 5th the news that a British aid worker had been killed was relegated to page 13 of one of our serious newspapers, sadly as an estimated 1875 Palestinian deaths had already been reported, death in that tragic corner of the world was not the main news any more. I just hope and pray that when you read this article the words of our Prime Minister "This slaughter, this killing has to end" will have actually happened. We should not forget that thousands of people will now need aid with water, medicines and much more in what will be a huge undertaking.

One story which pushed Gaza off the

front pages was the anniversary of the First World War. Many television and radio programmes along with newspaper articles have been devoted to the events of August 1914 which surely was right and the candlelit vigil at Westminster Abbey followed a day of commemoration in both Belgium and Britain. In Belgium the Duke of Cambridge reminded his audience of the words of Edith Cavell a British nurse who had saved soldiers on both sides in that dreadful conflict. "I have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone" she said. On Radio 4s "Daily Service" on August 6th the preacher reminded listeners that on the eve of her execution this brave lady sang the well known hymn "Abide with Me".

There is no one alive today who has personally memories of that "Great War" but we are fortunate to have many recordings and stories passed on by family members. My first Parish Priest was a Cambridge educated Doctor of Divinity. Christopher

Campion ordained in 1913 was both kind and wise. In the last century he was a curate in 1914-18 and in charge of a parish during the Second World War. On a school visit in the 1950's he had clearly grown tired of claims that religion causes wars. "Wars are caused by sin" he told the pupils, He did not need to say more. As the rest of 2014 moves on the summer of memories from Gaza and of the World War One services may be forgotten by many but all of us need to reflect on what lessons have been learned. August 4th 1914 brought our country into a war which tore Europe apart. On another Radio 4 service General Lord Dannatt supported the words of Christopher Campion by saying that God was not the cause of wars. During that Westminster Abbey vigil I lost count of how many times the name of Jesus was mentioned, Edith Cavell would surely have approved

Frank Goulding
Holy Trinity Parish, Newark

Give them the Rainbow

My years of study in Rome were wonderful. The grandeur and horror of the ancient city, the challenging history of the Church (Mystical Body and [sometimes] corrupt Institution), the vibrant city of streets, squares, fountains, beautiful churches - endlessly fascinating for student, pilgrim and tourist.

Our studies were good: the Word of God explored far beyond the glimpses I knew, the teaching of the Church in its development and consequent changes, the sadness of disputes and disagreements that scarred the beauty of the Gospel and its teaching. "You must know the truth," said our teachers, "so that you can answer those who ask, friend or opponent: to know and understand, as far as we are able, the divine and human (at times horrifying) in the Church of Christ."

When the happy years came to an end we were told, "Go home now and share with your people what you have been given."

I did. With students at school, the people in the parishes, at conferences and retreats, in discussion groups: new understanding as people sought the "new and old" promised by Jesus in the Gospel.

An invitation came to speak to a Catholic Teachers' Federation. I mused on my approach. I would take two approaches, familiar to every teacher: (1) bring the students to what they already thought they knew and show them new ways of seeing and understanding; (2) take them on a path they had probably not previously travelled and let them discover and explore.

The familiar I decided would be the story of the loaves and the fishes. There are six tellings of this story, I told the teachers, and all different. Would you give the students/pupils all six or would you tell them the story as you remembered it? How many people were fed? Three of the stories say "5000," but the other three have a different number. Which number would you choose? How many loaves were there? Four stories say "5" and two say "7". How many fish? Four stories say "2", two stories say "a few". There is a boy in one of the ac-

counts. Where did he come from? He has the loaves and the fish. Why don't the other five accounts know about him?

When I was seven the teacher told us that the boy was a delivery boy fascinated by Jesus and the crowds, and he forgot to deliver the food. I'm sorry she told us that. We were seven and we accepted it, but we grew up and we knew she had told us nonsense. Why would she tell us nonsense? A good teacher is not afraid to admit to not knowing. In two of the Gospel accounts Jesus says the people had been with him for three days and must be hungry. Three days! Who'll carry five loaves and two fish for three days and go hungry? More, there are farms and villages nearby and the Gospel points out it was easy to buy food. So why are the people hungry and why multiply loaves and fishes when ample supplies are nearby?

The children in the classroom need to have the chance to see those questions and to seek answers. The poor teacher does not want questions, they simply want the students/pupils to listen and learn. But education means opening the mind and heart to truth, knowledge and understanding - the children must be involved. Encourage their questions.

What does three days mean? (A beautiful answer awaits). Why does one account say the loaves were barley loaves? (Of course!). Why do Matthew's accounts add "not counting women and children"? (the Exodus!). Why does one account have the people sitting in hundreds and fifties, another in fifties, and sitting on the "green grass" (what other colour could it be)? Let the children explore the differences in the six Gospel accounts and share their insights. Many classrooms have pupils/students more intelligent and more perceptive than their teachers. Every good teacher recognises that. Learn from the children's questions. How would you answer the child who says "I wouldn't stand in a queue of five thousand people for a piece of dry bread and a slice of raw fish if I could go to a local shop"?

The Gospel is a rainbow of four vivid

colours - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Mix these colours badly and you get a grey sludge. No good teacher or preacher should offer a grey sludge of their own vague memory and understanding when they could offer the rainbow. Speak only from memory and you offer "your" version, but who wants "yours" when there are six original versions available?

As the children explore they will see the central moment of each of the stories: Jesus took the bread, blessed, broke and gave it to the apostles, to the people. It is the Last Supper! It is Holy Communion! It's what they see every time they go to mass: the four actions of Jesus - taking (Offertory), blessing (Eucharistic Prayer), breaking and giving (Holy Communion). The original event(s) of the loaves and fishes the Church remembers through the mystery of the Last Supper and tells the six stories as images, prophecies, of the wonder that Eucharist and Holy Communion will always be.

The children will understand. They can visualise a crowded church and a small ciborium of altar breads that become the sacramental body of Christ and everyone is satisfied with a fragment. In every church what is left over is carefully reserved in the tabernacle (the baskets . . .).

The loaves of Holy Communion. The children will understand, and the picturesque details they will appreciate in the different tellings of the story. They will enjoy the symbolism of number (seven and twelve), the glorious meaning of being fed on the third day. Tell them "the Third Day" is the most dynamic phrase in the whole of the Bible, occurring over thirty times and every time it is a day of wonderful blessing. The supreme example is the Resurrection of Jesus and thus every "Third Day" story (help them to find them) becomes image and prophecy of the greatest third day which is the promise of eternal life.

Tell the children "your" version of the loaves and fishes and it is dead. Why would Jesus bother when there are farms and villages close by? It seems meaningless, a puzzling act of divine intervention. Let the children read all six versions and the mystery is opened for them. They will have insights the teacher doesn't. Every good classroom should be like this. Every good church should be, too.

The Resurrection. Can you tell the story? No, please! When did it happen? There are four different times in the four Gospel accounts. Which would you choose if you dared tell your version? How many women



came to the tomb? Matthew has two, Mark has three, Luke has three but not the same three, and John has one. The first line - and you don't know the time nor the number of women! You can't even start the story. Don't. Let the children know there are four different accounts that cannot be fitted together and explore with them the meanings: angel/angels, shroud/grave cloths, seeing/not understanding, believing/not believing. Let the children ask the questions.

Water into Wine. How would you tell that story? Again, don't. Let the children read it. Let them discover that there are no names, only shadows. Only Jesus has a name, all the others have titles (the disciples, the servants, the mother, etc.). The water is washing water, not drinking water. The amount of wine is ridiculous - 150 gallons. There is no bride. Where is she? She is there. Help them see. Let them protest the story is meaningless - who needs all that extra wine late at a wedding? Help them understand how beautiful Jesus' answer is to his mother - but you must see for yourself, first, how differently Jesus' words can be interpreted.

When their questions and comments die down tell them Cana does not exist. Although it occurs three times in John's Gospel account it occurs nowhere else in the Bible, nor in the history or geography of the Holy Land. It is John's mystical place for a story of shadows, of a wedding without a bride, for a story full of symbol. The water symbolises the Law of the Old Testament. It is not drinking water. The wine symbolises the New Testament, the sacramental blood of Christ, it is not ordinary drinking wine. In this beautiful story the Old Testament Law of Moses passes into the New Testament Law of Christ and the heavenly wedding feast is symbolised.

Continued on page 8

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Pope Francis, July 2014

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A Job well done

Tony Norton, Headteacher of St Mary's Catholic Primary Voluntary Academy in Brigg, after 27 "wonderful" years is leaving for retirement.

Mr Norton, a well-loved Headteacher, started teaching in Grimsby in 1972 before moving to St Mary's to become Headteacher in 1987. He said the school has transformed over the time he has been there. "We had 155 pupils when I started and now we have 180. There's been big changes. The building was in a very basic state, with a leaky roof and no Headteacher's room. Now we have seven class rooms. Becoming an academy in 2012 has given us new opportunities."

best out of everybody. If they can become good citizens that is a wonderful thing. I want to thank the parents, the staff, the officers and the local authority who have helped so much over the years. We don't do this job on our own."

Mr Norton's legacy will live on as four former pupils are set to become teachers there in September. He said: "I am delighted about that. It must be a record."

"What my legacy will be I don't know. Hopefully I've left it in a good position and now it's for others to take it on."

Mr Norton, who was born in Birmingham, said one of his most memorable times was going to China with other teachers to enhance relations with the country. "One of the ways you can improve your relationship with a country is through education," he said.

However, he doesn't think he will be any less busy in retirement and his time will be taken up by his 10 grandchildren. He said: "I've got a lot of good friends to go and visit and I will enjoy every moment of my retirement. "Being a teacher has not just been a job or even a vocation. It has been a spiritual journey".

Assistant Headteacher, David Sidaway will take over from Mr Norton.

Well done James

James, 22 years old, has been part of the musical life of the Parish since 2002, when he joined the music group. In 2005 he started playing the organ for Parish Masses and Sacramental and other celebrations. He has been studying at Nottingham Law School for the last four years and has just been awarded the degree of Bachelor of Laws, with First Class Honours. James starts his Master's degree and Legal Practice course in September 2014 and will begin his training as a solicitor in September 2015.



The article in the Scunthorpe Telegraph states that the school was rated 'good with outstanding features' by Ofsted last year.

Having served the children of Brigg for so long Mr Norton said he's at that age now when it's time to step down. "I like to think this is a nice place to come and learn, and a cheerful place to work. The best thing has been getting to know so many people and so many children during my time here, and I'm always thrilled to hear how well they've developed."

"I like to encourage the children to be themselves and to be individuals. Everybody is different and they have their own identity. Our job is to get the

Continued from page 7

The "miracle" of water into wine occurs in every vineyard in our world every year, just as the "miracle" of feeding a large crowd occurs every year in our harvests. John calls his stories "signs", not miracles. A sign is small but signifies something greater. The sacramental body and blood of Christ are sign of eternal life and sign of feeding the whole world.

Then show them the great detail they missed (did they?). The sign occurs on the third day. Those are the opening words of the story at the beginning of chapter two of the Gospel according to John. The Third Day! The wonderful day of God's blessing right through the Bible. Just as the feeding of the crowd, so the giving of wine, is a sign given on the third day. God's supreme blessings. Let the children enjoy the mystery of the wonders of God told through symbolic story – which was the way of thinking of those who composed the Gospel almost two thousand years ago. Children are quick to understand language. They will understand new ways of looking at familiar story.

The new pathway I offered the teachers was Limbo. I told them our lecturers in Rome had told us there was no Limbo, it had only ever been an idea and would now be allowed to fade away. We students were angry. We knew of the sorrow in families when a child had been lost, in the womb or just after birth, and no chance of baptism, and of the unfeeling teaching from the Church that the family would never see the child - a double sense of loss and sorrow. Shouldn't the Church apologise for allowing such teaching, we asked? It is not the Church's way to admit to mistakes, we were told, for fear of scandalising or upsetting the faithful. Limbo would simply be allowed to fade away.

How true. In 1994 the new Catechism was published. There was no mention of Limbo, nor even that it had been a common teaching. The word does not occur in the book, and there is no explanation nor apology for its being a common Church teaching. People continued to teach Limbo! Pope Benedict XVI had finally to announce officially that there is no Limbo, therefore never had been: it was an idea whose usefulness had faded away.

I challenged the teachers how they would speak about the meaning of baptism, the meaning of original sin, the glorious mystery of universal salvation – questions that must be seen in a new light if a Limbo of natural happiness does not exist. Where are the loved children who die in the womb or before baptism?

The teachers would need to explore the questions for themselves if they were to help the children understand God's love for everyone, the whole human race. What a path to follow! I hoped they would enjoy looking at salvation in a new way. They rejected the suggestion, continued to teach the little red Catechism. Limbo stayed alive and well. Baptism was necessary for salvation. How do you explain that to a world the lives in God's universal love?

Not all the teachers were impressed by my talk. I left after the break for refreshments and was later told that, at the business meeting that followed, some of the younger teachers suggested I be invited to give a series of talks on Scripture and Church teaching. More senior teachers disagreed, one in particular. She had been teaching her way for thirty years, she said, and was not going to change now (imagine saying that to an Ofsted inspector). My speaking had got up her nose, she said (best way to block your ears is to let someone get up your nose), and she thought they should ignore all I had said.

Strange. I had done what all teachers do – challenge the students

to look at truth in a different way, offering pathways they might not have explored, and some of the teachers resented me for doing it. I was never invited back, nor did they arrange any study of the Gospel to help them to new understanding. They wanted to carry on as they always had and the young teachers would have to cope alone as they had done.

I was disappointed. Some of those teachers wanted only a repetition of the Church's traditional teaching without the new understandings that come with the development of doctrine: they seemed to prefer a simple literal reading of the Gospel and Bible, when I hoped to share with them the fascination of what our lecturers in Rome had given us years before. God's universal love has to be at the centre of the Church's message and as we grow in knowledge and understanding so our perspectives change and we see truth in different ways.

I had seen the rainbow and its vibrant colours and I wanted the teachers to bring the rainbow to the classroom. I still do. The Gospel, the Church's teachings, so beautiful, so alive, always challenging, always open to new understanding. The Lord has promised the Holy Spirit will guide us until the end of time, and the freshness of children's questioning minds are part of the guidance.

John Daley IC



The Wounded Meditator: a practical guide

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Saturday 20th September 2014
10.30 to 16.00

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Catholic Parish in the News

English Martyrs Parish, Alvaston

English Martyrs Parish is part of the Derby Deanery, clustered with St. Albans Chaddesden and St Hugh's Borrowash.

The Parish Priest is also the RC Chaplain to Derby University, where there is Mass every Sunday during term time. The Catholic Chaplaincy is based at Newman House, at 98 Broadway; for more information see: www.newmanhousederby.co.uk

With the re-establishment of a Catholic Hierarchy in England in 1850, an ambitious building plan was initiated throughout the country. In Derby this began with the building of Saint Mary's church to a design of Augustus Pugin (www.stmarys-parish.co.uk). Out of St Mary's parish a new chapel was founded in 1909 in Alvaston. From 1909 until 1918 it was served by St Mary's until its first parish priest, Fr John Keogh, was appointed just after the 1st World War, a post he held until 1921. From 1921 until 1922 Leo Frederick Bermingham (died 31st October 1947) was the vicarious. Then from 1922 until 1937 Alvaston was again served from Saint Mary's, this was in no small measure due to the lack of funds to sustain a resident priest; indeed, from 1924 to 1925 the chapel was closed, and only reopened for Midnight Mass in 1925. A number of priests names appear in the registers for this period a list of whom can be seen on the parish website.

In October 2000 the Chapel of Ease at Chellaston dedicated to Saint Ralph Sherwin was incorporated into the parish. The people of Chellaston had until 1971 worshiped in Chellaston Old Hall on Maple Drive, but in that year a new Chapel of Ease was opened on Swarkestone Road.

The responsibility for Chellaston was with Saint George's, Normanton until 1979 when the parish of Holy Spirit Sinfyn was created which included Chellaston within its boundaries. When the parish of Sinfyn was suppressed Saint Ralph Sherwin at Chellaston was allocated to English Martyrs.

English Martyrs Church was built in 1952, replacing an earlier and much smaller church which operated on the same site from 1909. The present building was constructed in 1952 by a local company Ford & Weston, to a design of the Manchester based firm of Architects, Reynolds and Scott. The style of the design was described at the time as 'modern Romanesque',

and originally included a tower to the right of the main entrance; subsequently abandoned due to cost. Ford and Weston were not new comers to church building; Richard Weston had worked on St Osmund's Anglican church further along London Road and Thomas Weston had directed the building of the Sacred Heart Monastery. Ford and Weston were particularly proud of English Martyrs'. The foundation stone for the new church was laid by Bishop Ellis on 16th March 1952 and was officially opened and consecrated by him, a year later, on Sunday 10th May 1953. In 1986 after consultation with T.H. Thorpe Associates (Architects and Surveyors) a plan was drawn up to close off the tower space. Although this was considered prudent at the time to save on heating costs the loss of the tower space has diminished the original concept of Reynolds and Scott for an increased sense of space.

The name of the church 'English Martyrs' was originally reflected in the choice of Saint John Fisher and Saint Thomas More as the principal saints of the church. Each Saint is represented three times in the church; two stained glass rose windows (north and south transepts) bearing the initials, iconography and dates of the saints; two mosaic roundels on the sanctuary floor bearing initials and iconography; two statues carved in wood approximately four feet high flanking the sanctuary looking into the nave.

The sanctuary is largely covered with mosaic

An Italian family did the laying of this toward the end of the construction period in 1952. There are three roundels on the high sanctuary; left (facing east), Saint Thomas More, initials and iconography; centre, the silver and gold keys of Saint Peter and the Holy See; right, Saint John Fisher, initials and iconography. The crucifix on the apse wall was imported from Italy and is a representation of Christ as King and High Priest.

The original High Altar was moved forward during the re-ordering of the church following the Second Vatican Council.



Sadly the original sanctuary rails and pulpit were removed during a later re-ordering of the church in the 1980's. The present sanctuary rails are new.

The left panel of the mural



In 2008 a mural for the apse wall was commissioned from local artist Lesly Holliday. The mural contains life-size figures of the Catholic Saints martyred for their faith between 1535 and 1679. Although there were numerous martyrs from this period, perhaps as many as 300, forty were chosen to be canonized on 25th October 1970 by His Holiness, Pope Paul VI. Full details can be obtained from the parish website

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Book Reviews

A Passion for Life: Fragments of the Face of God

Joan Chittister / Lentz, Orbis Books, 2014, 224 pages, ISBN-13: 978-1626980600, £16.99.

Through the icons of Robert Lentz and the reflections of Joan Chittister, *A Passion for Life* presents the lives of over two dozen saints, prophets, and witnesses, who speak to the urgent spiritual questions of our time. The icons in this book are male and female, Christian and non-Christian, married and unmarried, religious and lay. They are people like us. With one exception, perhaps. In their eyes burn the eyes of a God who sees injustice and decries it, sees poverty and condemns it, sees inequality and refuses it, sees wrong and demands that it be set right. These are people who gave themselves entirely to the impulses of God for the sake of the world.

Joan Chittister, OSB, is one of the most popular present day religious writers. A regular columnist in the *American National Catholic Recorder*, she lectures globally, raising a prophetic voice. She is the award-winning author of books such as *The Way of the Cross*, *For Everything a Season*, and *The Way We Were*. She is a member of the Benedictines in Erie, Penn-

sylvania.

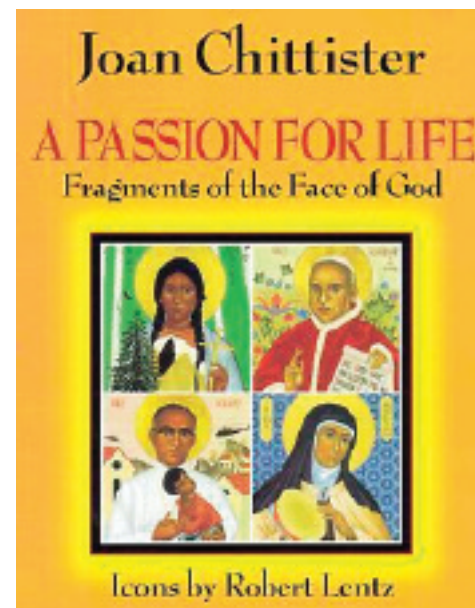
Artist Robert Lentz, a Franciscan friar, is one of the best-known contemporary icon painters in North America. His apprenticeship was with the Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Monastery in Boston. His icons also appear in *Christ in the Margins* (text by Edwina Gateley). He currently lives and works in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Chittister describes a number of people who have struck her as inspirational travelling 'an excursion through time'. She tries to 'determine the relevance and meaning of each of the figures to our own time'. In her research seminars, many more people were identified as worthy of inclusion in this book, but she regrets to say that space was limited. Thus this collection is richly endowed from the discussions that went on during such research. We benefit from all of this thoroughness in the pleasing way in which each contribution of some five pages is constructed.

As you read through this book, or perhaps

dip into it initially, you might be surprised by some of the people you meet. I certainly was. And as I became more familiar with its pages I became more surprised, and then intrigued with the people I thought I knew about, and then struck further by those who were almost new to me. I was delighted to see Gandhi, for example, Pope John XXIII, Oscar Romero and Edith Stein, amongst the well known saints such as Benedict and Scholastica, Catherine of Siena, Teresa of Avila, Francis and Clare, Martin of Tours, Eve, Amos and Mary Magdalene from the Scriptures, rubbing shoulders with great writers and mystics like Juliana of Norwich, Thomas Merton, Baal Shem Tov and Hildegard of Bingen, other great leaders in Rumi and Joan of Arc, and to modern times, Dorothy Day, Franz Jagerstatten, Martin Luther King, Pedro Arrupe and Simon Weil.

The book is well produced with a very readable text, wide margins, and icons, which though bright and detailed, have no gloss. They are however, or nonetheless, striking. Though there are some thirty subjects written and described by Chittister, there are only twenty or so of these modern day



icons by Robert Lentz. There is a useful section of 'recommended reading' which follows a thought-provoking Epilogue.

This is a refreshing read for anybody, and it really has to find its way into school libraries and staffrooms, firstly as a personal read, and then used for school gatherings and assemblies. Leadership material, even! A delightful presentation.

The Little Oratory; A Beginner's Guide to Praying in the Home

By David Clayton and Leila Marie Lawler. Sophia Institute Press



This book addresses the question: how do we live our Faith outside Mass on Sunday? It is a question every Catholic parent must reflect on; the authors, both fired with a sense of what Catholic culture is about, provide an answer. They emphasise that they are only making suggestions to help other families start to pray together, something surprisingly hard to establish in the hurly-burly of home life. Interestingly, both authors are converts; thus they come to faith and how to incarnate it at home with fresh, invigorating ideas. They say half-humorously: "How does one manage to fit in daily Mass, the Divine Office, the Rosary, the Divine Mercy chaplet, the Jesus Prayer, devotion to the Sacred Heart and everything else – on top of a family life?"

The answer is, within the Church's liturgy and much-loved devotions, you prioritize. Their own preference is incorporating the Liturgy of the Hours into the prayers of the little oratory as, after the Mass, it is the most important form of the Church's worship. But they are also at pains to say that each family must find the right form of family prayer life appropriate to them. What matters is to create a "sacred space" at home that is central to family life yet also uplifting, so that the supernatural becomes part of the natural activity of the "domestic church".

David Clayton is also a painter. Several well-known icon pictures are included at the end of the book for framing in a little oratory. The point of an oratory is harmony: holy objects that have a personal and sacred resonance, along with candles and flowers on a table or shelf, that are kept loved and cared for, rather than a clutter of holy pictures in a neglected corner. Harmony matters because ideally an oratory should radiate its aura throughout the home. It should also be beautiful. The authors believe "we should avoid the ugly, the superficial, the sentimental and the downright kitschy." Having grown up with sickly representations of the Sacred Heart I know what they mean – but I also know an old Irish Catholic lady whose home is full of highly sentimentalised religious art, brought back from pilgrimages to which she is devoted, so I think we must also recognise that good taste and bad taste are less important than the presence of the Holy Spirit in the home.

The authors point to the important role of fathers in leading prayers at home: "The present crisis of fatherhood will be resolved only in families, where the father is allowed to regain his position of servant leader." They also give sensible advice on the difficulties of praying as a family – unruly children and a chaotic house, for example. They conclude, "The important thing is to pray, not to 'say prayers.'" This is a book to ponder, on a crucial subject too often neglected.

Francis Phillips

New inclusive church resources from DLT

DLT is soon to publish a new series to help churches everywhere to be equipped to welcome all people who live with disability or a mental health issue. Each title contains firsthand personal experiences of people such as Susan, who have felt excluded from churches because of either their disability or their mental health, theological reflection, resources, addresses, websites and practical advice for making churches more inclusive.

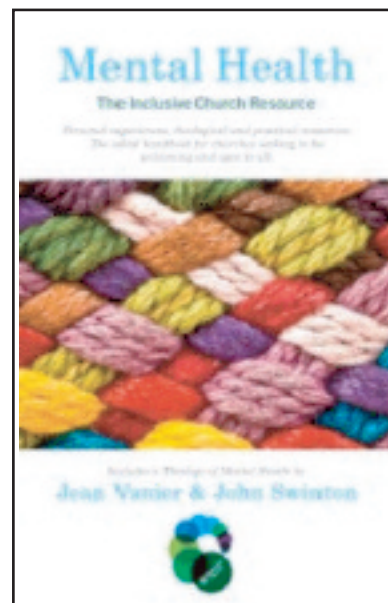
Susan has epilepsy. But not the kind where she needs to seek medical attention: "My arms jerk and my head jerks and my voice gets louder and sometimes I bark like a seal. I look weird. People seem to think I can control what is happening to me". "My biggest problem with epilepsy is other people".

There are over 40 different types of epileptic seizures, only five of which are triggered by flashing lights. Some are triggered by sounds, and four years ago Susan developed a simple focal seizure of this kind. She says: "I can't be near a saxophone, but can stand beside a bagpipe all day" and yet routine noise from construction work, a cappuccino machine, to the low hum of muted conversation can be dangerous and debilitating.

It was Jesus woundedness that brought Susan to the church, and in 2012 her church, St Martin-in-the-Fields, in collaboration with Inclusive Church, organised the first conference for Disability Inclusion at St Martin's.

Susan's story illustrates how greatly acceptance and inclusion in society and in the church really matter, and how lives can be changed with more welcoming attitudes towards people with a disability.

Disability: The Inclusive Church Resource, and Mental Health: The Inclusive Resource are the first two books in a six part series, that will also tackle issues of poverty and sexuality (to be published in November 2014), as well as gender and ethnicity (to be published in March 2015).



Diocesan Spirituality Network

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15 November 2014	Session One	Spirituality is...	Venue: St Joseph's, Monks, near Mt. St. Bernard's, LE67 5UP
2015			Venue: Presentation Convent, Matlock DE4 3FT
10 January	Session Two	Developing Listening Skills	
21 February	Session Three	Myers Briggs Personality Types	
14 March	Session Four	Prayer and Temperaments Kathaphatic / Apathetic	
18 April	Session Five	Ignatian and Augustine Projection and Transposition	
16 May	Session Six	Franciscan and Thomistic	
06 June		Retreat and Commissioning	

OBITUARY

Wendy (Phyllis Anne) Rayner MBE 19th December 1928 to 1st July 2014

Wendy was born in New Malden in south London where she lived until marrying Desmond in Raynes Park in 1948. They had two children, Lesley and John, and moved to Lincolnshire in 1962 through Desmond's work as a probation officer.

Within a few years Wendy became involved in many organisations: the Catholic Deaf Fellowship (for which she received a diocesan medal), the Scouting movement, Girl Guides, St. John Ambulance and many more. She also served, with Des, on the Catholic Marriage and Family Life Commission. In later years she was a volunteer at Lincoln Cathedral, working in the Treasury and manning phones during the Christmas Market. However, her two greatest achievements were her work as a Samaritan for over 30 years and as a Prison Visitor for over 25 years.

It was for this selfless dedication that she received the Maundy Purse in 2000 and the MBE in 2002. Through her life and work she touched many lives in many different ways. She will be remembered for her positive and happy outlook on life and her wonderful stories.

Wendy's funeral Mass was celebrated by Canon Colin Taylor on 16th July at Our Lady of Lincoln Church. The eulogy (ex-

tracts from which are printed below) was delivered by John Campbell, a close friend of the family.

'I suspect there may have been some confusion at the gates of heaven early on the morning of July 1st. The listings for the day would be ready and Phyllis Anne Rayner would have been on the top, and Wendy Rayner nowhere to be found. We can only imagine the dialogue as Wendy explained how she became known as Wendy, "Well, Dear...it's like this..." how her parents were shocked after her baptism, having just named their daughter Phyllis-Anne, a bus passed with an advert on the side advocating the benefits of a certain tonic to 'fortify the over forties!' The next bus to pass by had an advert for J. M. Barrie's Peter Pan with the word WENDY emblazoned on the side, and from then on Phyllis Anne became Wendy.

Like Peter Pan's Wendy she was someone who did not quite conform, reluctant to grow up but took responsibility when she did, not quite of her age, ready for an adventure, being a carer not only of her immediate kith & kin, but taking others under her wing. I suspect we could all, in one way or another fall into the category of being one of Wendy's 'lost boys.' She al-

ways had a story to tell. They were graphic and may have been a little embellished, dropping in names like Attlee, Bevan and Mrs Liberty of the Regent Street store fame.

A convert to Catholicism she took her church and her God seriously: committed to her Saviour, but at times questioning her church, describing herself as a 'grey Catholic' with definite views on controversial issues; but such was her enthusiasm for her church that Des followed her some years later; however Wendy was always astute and often referred to Des as the only Roman Protestant she knew.

Wendy acknowledged that the church is not restricted to the fabric, its building, its liturgy, or even the communities who subscribe to its creeds, but the church in its widest translation: the people of God. Her involvement with people within and without the church was phenomenal. Lesley and John, I suspect, will never know the full extent of her impression on society.

Interested and interesting, Wendy was adept in asking and listening; a skill gathered from the Samaritans maybe, she had the art of asking one question and popping in a supplementary to get to know the latest news hot off the press -




telephone bills will be greatly reduced around Minster Yard and 'Up Hill Lincoln'. Her thirst for news carried on until the end. The day before she died, whilst being visited by Fr. John in hospital, she took off her oxygen mask and asked "Any Gossip?"

Death can be a thing of fear or a thing of faith. For Wendy there was no fear, no reason to question. She had faith and was confident that whatever the future held it would be ok; and as she said to me when last we met "Well, if it happens, I'll get to see Des sooner rather than later"

*John G. Campbell, Dean's Verger,
Lincoln Cathedral*

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10-14 September 2014

The Good Shepherd Church

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 Mr Tom Huggan
 On Bagpipes: Andrew Haig
 On Guitar: Hugh Millington
 "Music from Mozart
 to the Musicals"
 Alex Patterson & Choir
 includes refreshments:
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Thursday 11 Sept 2014
 Holy Mass: 9.15am
 10am - 7pm:
 Flower Festival
 11am - 12 noon:
 The Linden String Quartet
 2pm - 2.45pm:
 Lady Chapel:
 Letters to Lizzie
 Poetry & Song
 Polly Smallwood
 3pm - 4pm
 On organ
 Michael Bussey

Friday 12 Sept 2014
 Holy Mass: 9am
 10am - 7pm: Flower Festival
 10.30am: Bob Hudson
 Jazz Pianist
 1.30pm - 2.30pm:
 Primary Children
 Pax Christi Academy: _
 St Margaet Clitherow
 School
 Good Shepherd School
 Christ The King School
 3pm - 4pm: On Organ-
 Robert O'Farrell

Saturday 13 Sept 2014
 Holy Mass:
 9.15am & 6.30pm
 10am - 6pm:
 Flower Festival
 10am - 6pm:
 Ride and Stride
 10am - 11am: On Organ:
 Michael Bussey
 12noon - 2pm: Cultural
 Cancas in parish centre
 Hand henna painting
 3pm - 4pm:
 Good Shepherd Parish
 Youth Musical Jam

Sunday 14 Sept 2014
 Holy mass: 10am
 Thanksgiving Mass with Good
 Shepherd
 Church Choir
 Holy Mass:
 11.30am & 5.30pm
 12.30am - 4.30:
 Flower Festival
 2-m - 3pm: Alison Mee
 on the Flute

Sunday 14 Sept 2014
 Starts: 6.30pm - 10pm
 Thanksgiving
 Closing Event
 Ticket £5 (adult) £3 (child)
 BBQ, refreshments
 & drinks in
 parish centre

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