



St Stephen
First martyr Feast day -
26th December

Catholic News



MORE THAN 16 YEARS OF BRINGING THE
NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER

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20p WHERE SOLD

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A Diamond Celebration in Market Harborough

by Mary O'neil



On September 13th this year the Parish Priest Fr O'Neill as well as Fr Alan Burbidge and Fr Peter Wade (both Harborough born) and Parishioners of Our Lady of Victories joined the Presentation Sisters in celebrating sixty years of Presentation ministry in this lovely part of the Diocese.

It was August 1954 that the Congregation was invited by Fr Douglas Key to join the parish and two Sisters began ministry in St. Joseph's school, travelling daily from Hallaton where the Vocation Sisters there accommodated them whilst a house was being prepared for them on Coventry

Road. Like all new beginnings there were challenges to be met and hurdles to be overcome but the work soon began to bear fruit, numbers of pupils increased, and the buildings, though scattered and old, housed happy groups of teachers and children. Over the decades St. Joseph's has provided a sound education and watered the seeds of Faith for the children of Market Harborough and surrounding villages. The Sisters were delighted to have many Parishioners, well-wishers and friends celebrate with them this Diamond milestone.

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Beatification Mass of Paul VI

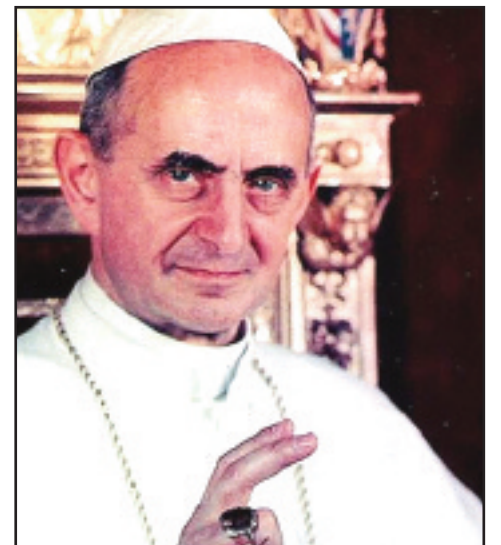
"When we look to this great Pope, this courageous Christian, this tireless apostle, we cannot but say in the sight of God a word as simple as it is heartfelt and important: thanks!"

The beatification for Paul VI was held on 19 October 2014 at the Vatican, with the deceased pontiff receiving the title "Blessed". The next step would be the recognition of another miracle, which would result in his canonisation. His tomb underneath Saint Peter's Basilica was modified the week of the beatification with the inscription "BEATVS" ("Blessed") added before his name.

Here is the translation of the Holy Father's homily at the Celebration of Mass for the Closing of the Synod of Bishops and the Beatification of Pope Paul VI.

We have just heard one of the most famous phrases in the entire Gospel: "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (Mt22:21). Goaded by the Pharisees who wanted, as it were, to give him an exam in religion and catch him in error, Jesus gives this ironic and brilliant reply. It is a striking phrase which the Lord has bequeathed to all those who experience qualms of conscience, particularly when their comfort, their wealth, their prestige, their power and their reputation are in question. This happens all the time; it always has.

Certainly Jesus puts the stress on the second part of the phrase: "and [render] to God the things that are God's". This calls for acknowledging and professing – in the face of any sort of power – that God alone is the Lord of mankind, that there is no other. This is the perennial newness to be discovered each day, and it requires mastering the fear which we often feel at God's surprises. God is not afraid of new things! That is why he is continually



surprising us, opening our hearts and guiding us in unexpected ways. He renews us: he constantly makes us "new". A Christian who lives the Gospel is "God's newness" in the Church and in the world. How much God loves this "newness"!

Continued on page 6

Ordination of Deacons



An ordination of Deacons took place at St Barnabas Cathedral on 1st November 2014 at 11.30. Bishop John Sherrington of the Westminster Diocese was chief celebrant.

The five new Permanent Deacons from left to right are Michael Browne Christ the King, Alfreton, Martyn Chambers, St Mary's, Boston, Martyn Farrell, St Mary's, Derby, Anthony Weldon, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Sleaford, Juan Carlos Valer, St Alban's, Derby.

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The monthly paper for the
Diocese of Nottingham

**The
Catholic News**

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The Catholic News is looking for
a Parish Correspondent in your
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publication in this newspaper.

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Pope says annulment process should be cheaper and more efficient

By Francis X. Rocca

Pope Francis said the church's marriage annulment process should be more efficient and perhaps even free of charge, and he decried any attempts to exploit it for profit.

"Some procedures are so long and so burdensome, they don't favour (justice), and people give up," the pope said. "Mother church should do justice and say: 'Yes, it's true, your marriage is null. No, your marriage is valid.' But justice means saying so. That way, they can move on without this doubt, this darkness in their soul."

The pope made his remarks Nov. 5, in a meeting with diocesan officials and canon lawyers enrolled in a course offered by the Roman Rota, the Vatican tribunal primarily responsible for hearing requests for marriage annulments.

Pope Francis said participants at the Oct. 5-19 Synod of Bishops on the family had expressed a desire to "streamline the process" of judging requests for annulments, and he noted that he had recently established a special commission to do so.

As an example of the burdens faced by those seeking annulments, the pope recalled that a tribunal he oversaw as archbishop of Buenos Aires exercised jurisdiction over dioceses as far as 150 miles away.

"It is impossible to imagine that simple, common people should go to the tribunal. They have to take a trip, they have to miss days of work, also the cost, so many things," the pope said. "They say, 'God will understand, I'll move on this way, with this

burden on my soul.'" Pope Francis warned that annulment cases must not fall within the "framework of business," which he described as an all-too-frequent occurrence.

"I am not talking about anything unusual. There have been public scandals," he said.

Apparently referring to his time in Buenos Aires, the pope recalled: "I had to dismiss one person from the tribunal, some time ago, who said:

'I'll handle both proceedings, civil and ecclesiastical, for 10,000 dollars.'"

Noting that some participants at the synod had called for making the annulment process free of charge, Pope Francis said "we will have to see," but added that, "when the spiritual is attached to an economic interest, this is not from God."

Pope Francis has related difficulties with the annulment process to the situation of divorced and civilly remarried Catholics whose predicament he has said exemplifies a general need for mercy in the church today.

According to church law, such Catholics



may not receive Communion unless they obtain an annulment of their first, sacramental marriage or abstain from sexual relations, living with their new partners as "brother and sister."

A proposal by German Cardinal Walter Kasper to allow some divorced and civilly remarried Catholics to receive Communion without meeting either of those conditions was one of the most controversial topics at October's synod and is likely to come up again at the world synod on the family in October 2015.



Rosmini Centre House of Prayer Programme 2015

**Second Saturdays:
Talks and Reflections on
current issues in the Church**
[10.30 for 11.00 am - 1.00 pm followed
by shared lunch]

Consecrated Life

14 February - Unique features of the
Consecrated Life

14 March - Tracing the variety of
Consecrated Vocations

09 May - The vow of poverty in today's
world

Complexities of Today's Relationships

13 June - Married Life

11 July - Single Life

Ecology

12 September - Stewardship of Creation

10 October - Misuse of Resources

14 November - Pope Francis and Ecology

**Fourth Saturdays: Afternoon
Retreat and Mass**

[3.00-7.00 pm,

includes Divine Mercy Chaplet, Talk,
Adoration, Confession and Mass]

28 February - Praying with the Psalms

25 April - Praying Alone or with Others

27 June - Prayer in the Family

26 September - Praying with St. Therese

24 October - Praying with/for the Sick

Healing Mass - 7.00 pm

06 March, 05 June, 04 September,
20 November.

Sunday Retreat Days

[10.30 for 11.00 am - 4.00 pm]

22 March - Blessed Antonio Rosmini: a

Spiritual Guide for today

31 May - Healing of the Family Tree

12 July - Desert Day

29 November - Advent Retreat

Night Vigils

Pentecost Charismatic Vigil -

23-24 May

23 Saturday 10.00 pm to 5.00am,

24 Sunday

Praying in the New Year -

31 December

11.00 pm - Adoration/thanksgiving for

2014

12.00 midnight - Mass of the Solemnity of

Mary Mother of God

Contemplative Prayer

[2.00-3.00 pm]

2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the Month

Adoration and Intercession -

Every Wednesday

6.00-7.00 pm - an Hour of

Adoration/Vespers

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(Response will be made after 1 October 2014)

Charitymessiahmickleover.tumblr.com



Parish Retreat at Wykes Manor

On the 11th of October, members of St. Mary - Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Boston Lincolnshire, attended the 3rd Parish Retreat at Wykes Manor near Donington in Lincolnshire. The theme this year was journeying together with each other and with God. The twelve attendees met together in beautiful, comfortable surroundings to listen to God in scripture, in silence, and in the companionship of their fellow retreatants. In previous years there had been a greater focus on activities, but this year things had been pared back further to allow a greater amount of the silence - often needed in today's busy world, to hear the voice of God. This greater focus on silence was a point of particular importance for the Parish priest Fr. Alex Adkins who officiated at the early afternoon Mass, which was made possible by Wykes Manor having its own site chapel. Refreshments and general support were provided by Emma Van Spyk and family, who run Wykes Manor and provided a very warm welcome. The day was well received by all who attended, with all the feedback being positive, and looking forward to next years retreat!

Chris Morgan



Our Lady Visits



The travelling statue of Our Lady of Lourdes made a weekend stop at the Church of The Good Shepherd, Woodthorpe, Nottingham arriving on the 12 October prior to the 6.30pm Vigil Holy Mass. This was arranged by the Kerala Community, who processed Our Lady to the church Sanctuary where she was beautifully displayed, welcoming her into the church community. Canon Philip Ziomek led the prayerful meditation of the Holy Rosary accompanied by a nearly full church, all reciting the

rosary together, united in faith pleading for Our Lady's intercession, especially for much needed peace in the world. Assistant parish priest, Fr Biju Joseph was also present adding support to this event. We are very grateful to the Kerala community for making us part of this annual event which enables us to deepen our community prayer life as well as strengthening our individual faith. God is good. Amen.

Cheryl Broodryk

First Briton to be the Vatican's foreign minister

Pope Francis has appointed the first Briton to be the Vatican's foreign minister - a post regarded as a possible stepping stone to the papacy itself.

Paul Gallagher was promoted as part of a reshuffle at senior levels of the Vatican, which Francis used to sideline the main spokesman of a conservative faction at last month's synod. The 60-year-old, from Liverpool, is currently the Vatican's nuncio (ambassador) in Australia.


An acquaintance of Gallagher, speaking on condition of anonymity, described him as "a discreet man, but with a calm and engaging personality. He is not over-formal and really quite proactive."

Gallagher, who holds the rank of archbishop, will head the Vatican section charged with overseeing its worldwide diplomacy.


Before being sent to Australia, Gallagher had served as the pope's envoy in Guatemala and Burundi, both countries that had been torn apart by civil war. In Burundi, he took over from a predecessor who had been assassinated.



Archbishop Michael Courtney, from Ireland, died of gunshot wounds after his car was attacked in 2003 as he was returning to the capital, Bujumbura. Gallagher also spent five years as an official in the secretariat of state, the Vatican department that doubles as a form of interior ministry, looking after relationships with the various national churches, and as a foreign ministry. He is regarded as well versed in the often Byzantine ways of the Roman curia, the central administration of the Catholic church.






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Research challenges Catholic parishes and schools to work more closely together

Parish and school collaboration is essential to reach out to non-churchgoing Catholics, according to an extensive research project on evangelisation in England and Wales. Acknowledging the good work currently being done, the research calls for the Church to be more responsive to the experience of parents who have sent their children to Catholic schools. The research paper titled, 'Challenges and Opportunities for the New Evangelisation: A Case Study of Catholic Primary School Parents in England and Wales' was published in Westminster to coincide with a one-day Evangelisation Symposium on 5 November. It was commissioned by the Bishops' Conference Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis and was written by Dr Ann Casson.

Rt Rev Nicholas Hudson, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, led the Symposium day and said: "I was deeply moved when I had the privilege of reading the whole paper at one sitting. I believe anyone with a pastoral heart can't help but be touched by it. What is original – strikingly original – about this piece of work is that we're being allowed to hear the voices of parents who send their children to Catholic schools in a way we've not heard them before. One of the things, which comes over very strongly from a reading of the report, is that our Catholic schools provide an invaluable threshold for meeting non-churchgoing Catholic parents." He added: "What struck me when reflecting on the research findings is that many of the potential pastoral responses could be very simple, yet in their simplicity they could have a transforming impact on the faith journey of a non-churchgoing Catholic parent. Most of what the parents share in Dr Casson's case study is significant but uncomplicated, with the main obstacles relating to fairly basic practical things that could be easily addressed if the parish and school perhaps worked together in a more joined-up way."

The research is the latest expression of the Department's Crossing the Threshold project which has as its focus the development, with partners, of strategies and resources to

reach out to non-churchgoing Catholics. The paper explores the spiritual needs and interests, as well as the faith and practice, of a sample of Catholic parents of children in Catholic primary schools in England and Wales.

Around 70 delegates from dioceses and groups across England and Wales attended the day Symposium at which a summary of the new research was presented, and workshops were offered to showcase existing good practice and resources. An important part of the day was receiving insights and feedback from those gathered to affirm current, and to inform new, pastoral and evangelistic outreach.

Fr Peter Harris from Bishop's Stortford attended the Symposium and said: "It is so important for us to come together and to share the reality of people's lives of faith and especially to focus on the daily miracle of how the family of the Church constantly renews itself in strengthening, inspiring and challenging each other. I am taking home many practical examples and insights."

Meanwhile Nichola Hurley from the Maryvale Institute in Birmingham said: "A day of inspiration, hospitality and sharing of God's gifts and Church resources. An important time of listening, prompting us to persevere in sharing the Gospel message." Marie Potter, Vice President of the Catholic Women's League in Southwark Archdiocese, shared: "I gained a deeper understanding of the issues for parents engaging with parish life and excellent strategies for making families feel truly welcome in our parish."

The full research paper can be found at: <http://cbcew.org.uk/case-study-catholic-primary-parents>. A breadth of partners were involved in and supported the research and include the Bishops' Conference Home Mission Desk, the Catholic Education Service, and the Marriage and Family Life Project Office. Discussion questions for on-going reflection are offered at the end of each chapter to assist the making of local responses in service of Catholic evangelisation.

Top prize for church architecture

Awards for the best new and conservation church architecture were announced at a ceremony held at Westminster Cathedral Hall, recently and The Presidents' Award for new church architecture was won in 2014 by Evans Vettori Architects for the new hall at St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Derby.

The Presidents' Award is presented annually on behalf of the Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors Association President and the National Churches Trust's Joint Presidents, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York.

The eye-catching new building in the centre of Derby consists of a multi-purpose hall with kitchen, storage and toilet facilities. A new opening with sliding folding doors, created in the wall of the existing church, allows the hall to be opened up to the church space.

Dan Greenaway, Director of Evans Vettori Architects Ltd said: "Evans Vettori Architects are delighted to receive the President's Award for the New Parish Hall at St Josephs, Derby."

"For many years, an aspiration of St Joseph's parish has been to strengthen the relationship between the church and local community. Our brief was to fulfill this aspiration through the creation of an extension to the main church building. The end product aims to convey clarity of concept with simple elegant design, to enhance rather than diminish the importance of the existing church and its central worship space."



Father John Trenchard, (pictured) Parish Priest at St Joseph's said: "Financial difficulties led to long delay periods in the project, during which the design was approved by the parish and the Trustees of Nottingham Diocese. When I came to St Joseph's Parish four years ago, a great sense of pessimism became apparent to me, with cynical concerns amongst the parish congregation as to whether the new building would be large enough or adequate for purpose. Since completion of the Hall, I have not heard a single word of criticism. This is quite remarkable."

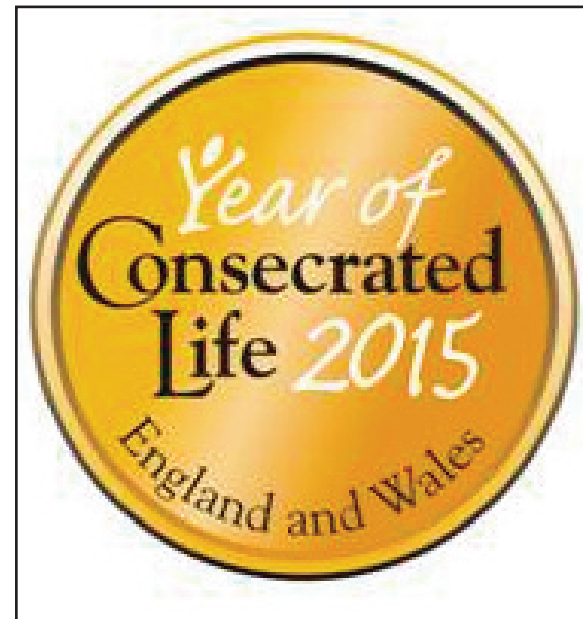


The teams conducting the Retired Priests Appeal announce that just over £2,000,000 has so far been raised through the generosity of donors. A full report will appear in January's Catholic News.

Thoughts from Elston Hermitage.....

Pope Francis has announced that 2015 will be a year dedicated to the promotion of Consecrated Life, and is asking that the Church's religious sisters, brothers and priests to "wake up the world" with their testimony of faith, holiness and hope. The Year of Consecrated Life begins on 30th November 2014 Advent Sunday, and will end on February 2nd 2016, the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life, which is the Feast of Candlemass when we light candles representing Christ the Light of the world, depicting the light of the world which our religious hopefully proclaim. During these 14 months celebrations diverse meetings will take place with the objective of highlighting the various dimensions of consecrated life. Throughout the history of the Church from very earliest times there have been different forms of Consecrated life – varied ways of individuals expressing a desire to follow Christ with an undivided heart. Through vows of long life celibacy and often through vows of poverty and obedience, men and women have sought to follow Christ's own example as closely as possible through the evangelical counsels. Consecrated life is then lived as a member of an institute such as a religious congregation, or as individuals where vows are made to a diocesan Bishop. Even long before the emergence of formal religious life, men and women consecrated themselves to God in various ways and had a distinct identity within the Church. Within the course of the next 14 months some of the religious in our diocese will be telling us of their life and charism here in the pages of the Catholic News. The Consecrated life in the canonical sense defined by the Catholic Church, is a stable form of Christian living by those faithful who are called by Christ, to live more closely to Him under the actions of the Holy Spirit, to the up building of the Church and to the salvation of the world and the service of the kingdom of God.

Pope Francis said "today's religious men and women



need to be 'prophetic' capable of "waking up the world" – showing that they are a special breed who have something to say to the world today. He said "the Church must be attractive, be witnesses of a different way of doing things, of acting and living out our lives, showing it's purpose to live differently in this world. Religious need to live and behave in a truly different way, recognising one's weaknesses and sins, but acting with generosity, detachment, sacrifice, forgetting oneself in order to take care of others. This certainly brings a great challenge to us religious within our diocese and throughout the world, giving us a three pronged focus, the renewal for men and women in religious life, an opportunity from the faithful for thanksgiving for the service of sisters, brothers and priests and an invitation for the young to discern a religious vocation. It makes us aware that we should cherish God's vocation in us and reminds us that it must be constant, effacious and loving. All the different religious orders and individual religious contribute their particular gifts to the Church.

During the Year of Consecrated Life, please pray for our Religious, consecrated to God for the life of the Church and pray that God may bless us with many more vocations.

*David H.D.N. +
Hermit of the Diocese of Nottingham*

Annual Travellers Mass

During 2014 the pastoral ministry to the Travelling community led by Sister Bernadette and a small team of lay representatives across the Nottingham Diocese, culminated at the Annual Mass on Saturday 11th October.

The mass was celebrated by Father John Joe Maloney at Blessed Sacrament Church in Leicester due to the number of children and young people of the local travelling community in this area requiring Holy Communion and Confirmation. Over the preceding months a programme of sacramental preparation was provided to 22 children and young people, this included 12 children for Holy Communion and 11 young people for Confirmation.

On the day the pastoral team from across the Diocese provided reception to the church and were involved in the Liturgy; family members of two of the candidates took up the offertory gifts and Confirmation candidates read the bidding prayers with the Holy Communion children reading prayers after Communion. It was a joyous occasion with the community coming together to support their children and young people during this time.

Faith and family were clearly evident at this celebration; with many proud children and young people standing with Father John Joe and then their families for photographs after the mass.

As a community; Blessed Sacrament parishioners were involved in the preparation of candidates, the mass celebration with our local altar servers, prayers of the faithful at all masses remembering the candidates who had received the sacraments and finally the Parish Team provided a reception in the Hall which was enjoyed by all.

Karen Scott



Pope Francis will visit the Shroud of Turin



Pope Francis will visit the Shroud of Turin during its public display in Turin's cathedral April 19-June 24, 2015, as well as commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of St. John Bosco.

According to tradition, the 14-foot-by-4-foot linen cloth is the burial shroud of Jesus. The shroud has a full-length photonegative image of a man, front and back, bearing signs of wounds that correspond to the Gospel accounts of the torture Jesus endured in his passion and death. The church has never officially ruled on

the shroud's authenticity, saying judgments about its age and origin belonged to scientific investigation. Scientists have debated its authenticity for decades, and studies have led to conflicting results.

The archbishop and other organizers of the exhibition told reporters they expect at least 1 million people from all over the world to visit during the two-month-long public exposition.

All donations made by pilgrims during the event will be earmarked for a hospice for the terminally ill, officials announced.

A religious sister, living the eremitical life within the Nottingham Diocese, is seeking accommodation near a church with daily Mass. In return she is willing to do an amount of work. If you are able to help please ring 07825040375

EBOLA CRISIS APPEAL

Thousands of people have died from the deadly Ebola virus, in the largest outbreak ever known.

"Ebola leaves orphans in its wake who have now lost their source of food, education, love and care. It has taken our farmers away from the fields. It has shut down our roads and market places – destroying future economic prosperity." **Patrick Jamiru, Director of Caritas Kenema in Sierra Leone**

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Scunthorpe Deanery Pilgrimage to Poland

Parishioners from the two Scunthorpe parishes of Holy Souls and St Bernadette's, and also the parish of St Norbert's in Crowle took part in the Scunthorpe Deanery pilgrimage to Poland. They were accompanied by the Dean Father Eddy Jarosz and also by Father Colin Taylor from the parish of Our Lady of Lincoln in Lincoln.

Whilst in Poland the pilgrimage was based in the historic city of Krakow and the first full day of the pilgrimage was spent visiting the city including its ancient university, castle, cathedral, and market square. The next day included visits to the Basilica of the Divine Mercy at Lagiewniki, the birthplace of St John Paul II at Wadowice, and the nazi concentration camp of Auschwitz which was the site of the martyrdoms of St Maximilian Kolbe and St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. On the final full day the group visited the Polish na-

tional shrine of Czestochowa and were privileged to be able to have Mass in front of the icon of Our Lady. The final day included free time in Krakow or some pilgrims took the opportunity to visit the famous salt mines at Wieliczka before the journey back to Lincolnshire.

As well as the opportunity for pilgrims to visit the sites associated with various saints it also gave pilgrims an opportunity to learn a little bit about Poland which is the home country of many of our new parishioners. Finally it was a good example of how a Deanery can work together to achieve something that would be beyond the capability of any single parish to achieve on their own. This was the second Scunthorpe Deanery pilgrimage following a similar pil-

grimage to Rome in 2013, and hopefully further such pilgrimages will follow in the years ahead.



Continued from page 1

"Rendering to God the things that are God's" means being docile to his will, devoting our lives to him and working for his kingdom of mercy, love and peace. Here is where our true strength is found; here is the leaven which makes it grow and the salt which gives flavour to all our efforts to combat the prevalent pessimism which the world proposes to us. Here too is where our hope is found, for when we put our hope in God we are neither fleeing from reality nor seeking an alibi: instead, we are striving to render to God what is God's. That is why we Christians look to the future, God's future. It is so that we can live this life to the fullest – with our feet firmly planted on the ground – and respond courageously to whatever new challenges come our way.

In these days, during the extraordinary Synod of Bishops, we have seen how true this is. "Synod" means "journeying together". And indeed pastors and lay people from every part of the world have come to Rome, bringing the voice of their particular Churches in order to help today's families walk the path the Gospel with their gaze fixed on Jesus. It has been a great experience, in which we have lived synodality and collegiality, and felt the power of the Holy Spirit who constantly guides and renews the Church. For the Church is called to waste no time in seeking to bind up open wounds and to rekindle hope in so many people who have lost hope.

For the gift of this Synod and for the constructive spirit which everyone has shown, in union with the Apostle Paul "we give thanks to God always for you all, constantly mentioning you in our prayers" (1 Th 1:2). May the Holy Spirit, who during these busy days has enabled us to work generously, in true freedom and humble creativity, continue to guide the journey which, in the Churches throughout the world, is bringing us to the Ordinary Synod of Bishops in October 2015. We have sown and we continued to sow, patiently and perseveringly, in the certainty that it is the Lord who gives growth to what we have sown (cf. 1 Cor 3:6).

On this day of the Beatification of Pope Paul VI, I think of the words with which he established the Synod of Bishops: "by carefully surveying the signs of the times, we are making every effort to adapt ways and methods... to the growing needs of our time and the changing conditions of society" (Apostolic Letter *Motu Proprio Apostolica Sollicitudo*).

When we look to this great Pope, this courageous Christian, this tireless apostle, we cannot but say in the sight of God a word as simple as it is heartfelt and

important: thanks! Thank you, our dear and beloved Pope Paul VI! Thank you for your humble and prophetic witness of love for Christ and his Church!

In his personal journal, the great helmsman of the Council wrote, at the conclusion of its final session: "Perhaps the Lord has called me and preserved me for this service not because I am particularly fit for it, or so that I can govern and rescue the Church from her present difficulties, but so that I can suffer something for the Church, and in that way it will be clear that he, and no other, is her guide and saviour" (P. Macchi, *Paolo VI nella sua parola*, Brescia, 2001, pp. 120-121). In this humility the grandeur of Blessed Paul VI shines forth: before the advent of a secularized and hostile society, he could hold fast, with farsightedness and wisdom – and at times alone – to the helm of the barque of Peter, while never losing his joy and his trust in the Lord.

Paul VI truly "rendered to God what is God's" by devoting his whole life to the "sacred, solemn and grave task of continuing in history and extending on earth the mission of Christ" (Homily for the Rite of Coronation: *Insegnamenti I*, 1963, p. 26), loving the Church and leading her so that she might be "a loving mother of the whole human family and at the same time the minister of its salvation" (Encyclical Letter *Ecclesiam Suam*, Prologue).

Continued from page 1

By happy coincidence this year also saw their saintly Foundress, Nano Nagle, being declared 'Venerable' by Pope Francis. She was the 18th century heroine who took on the Penal Laws of Ireland which forbade education to Catholic children and, risking imprisonment or worse, secretly opening her schools for the lost and abandoned children of her day. She rightly saw education as their means of escape from the degradation of poverty and ignorance. Her Sisters remain true to her inspiration and charism and are no less willing 'to be of service in any part of the world' which was her great vision and desire.

Today, the Sisters of Venerable Nano Nagle can look with pride and gratitude to God for their contribution to Education, to watering the seed to healthy growth and to their continued ministry of "presence" in Market Harborough, we honour the people of the Parish and the Town and feel privileged to celebrate our years among them as keepers of the memories.

We thank God and say "Ad Multos Annos".

Knights of St Columba in the News



The Knights of St Columba's National Action Project has been the focus of Council 333 in Newark for the past 12 months. In total the KSC have raised in excess of £45,000 and the fund raising is not yet over.

However there was even more to celebrate in Newark as a group of Knights of St Columba and friends gathered for a dual celebration. The Newark Brothers were formed in 1939 and celebrated their 75th anniversary and the Lincolnshire Province of which they are part had reached 65 years of service to the Church in Lincolnshire and Newark. A buffet Lunch was followed by speeches by Richard Mitchell of Loughborough and Frank Goulding of Newark. A thoroughly enjoyable occasion full of memories also raised £560 for the Newark Children's Bereavement Centre. On a separate occasion in November after a Mass for deceased Brothers of Council 333 Fr Michael was presented with his Member of Honour Certificate by Brother Brian Marto. (pictured)



“A JOURNEY OF PERSONAL FAITH” WITH LEICESTERSHIRE CATHOLIC ACTIVE YOUTH

On Sunday afternoon 12th October 2014 “A Young People’s Afternoon Retreat” was held at the Rosmini Centre, led by Leicestershire Catholic Active Youth. The theme chosen was “Our Journey of Faith” - with time to share and discuss more fully “The Emmaus Story”. Approximately thirty people enjoyed an afternoon of “Reflection”, “Worship and

Praise, “Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament” and “Meditation”. The Meditation was prepared and led by the young people – an opportunity to feel close to Our Blessed Lord in our modern world. The afternoon concluded with the Celebration of Mass which was concelebrated by Fr. David Cain and Fr. Simon Gillespie. “.. and they recognised him at the breaking of

bread”, Luke C 24 v 30 – 32. Fr. David Tobin, of the Rosmini Centre, made everyone welcome and shared time with us explaining the history of the Rosmini Centre.

Ed Pike, a Catholic Chaplain at Lowdham Low Security Prison, spoke about his own journey of Faith and also his more recent journeying in Faith with prisoners, which was particularly appropriate as it was “Prisoners’ Sunday”.

The afternoon finished with Pizza’s! Enjoyed by all! Need we say more! Much support was received from “Jesus Youth” at Sacred Heart, Leicester, young people from St. Thomas More, Leicester and St. Mary & St. John Bosco, Leicester. Representatives and young people from St. Paul’s School also joined us for the afternoon.

Leicestershire Catholic Active Youth has been working together for just over a year now and slowly things are growing with the young people of Leicestershire. We have had a lot of support from Leicester East Deanery and we plan to go as a group from the Nottingham Diocese to “Flame 2”, to be held at the Wembley Arena in March next year! Our thanks

also go to the Catenians who are supporting us financially to help our young people to take part in this event. Young people are a joy – the Church of today and tomorrow! Let’s help them to grow in their Faith by sharing the Gospel!

by Pauline Payne



St Stephen - First martyr feast day 26th December

Stephen's name means "crown," and he was the first disciple of Jesus to receive the martyr's crown. Stephen was a deacon in the early Christian Church. The apostles had found that they needed helpers to look after the care of the widows and the poor. So they ordained seven deacons, and Stephen is the most famous of these. God worked many miracles through St. Stephen and he spoke with such wisdom and grace that many of his hearers became followers of Jesus. The enemies of the Church of Jesus were furious to see how successful Stephen's preaching was. At last, they laid a plot for him. They could not answer his wise argument, so they got men to lie about him, saying that he had spoken sinfully against God. St. Stephen faced that great assembly of enemies without fear. In fact, the Holy Bible says that his face looked like the face of an angel. The saint spoke about Jesus, showing that He is the Saviour, God had promised to



send. He scolded his enemies for not having believed in Jesus. At that, they rose up in great anger and shouted at him. But Stephen looked up to Heaven and said that he saw the heavens opening and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. His hearers plugged their ears and refused to listen to another word. They dragged St. Stephen outside the city of Jerusalem and stoned him to death. The saint prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" Then he fell to his knees and begged God not to punish his enemies for killing him. After such an expression of love, the holy martyr went to his heavenly reward. His feast day is December 26th.

FRANKLY SPEAKING


Contemplate the Flight into Egypt

Perhaps like me some readers keep the occasional Christmas card for a special reason. One greeting I have kept from 5 years ago depicts the flight into Egypt, somehow this year that card entitled “The Journey” seems particularly relevant. Frequently churches have used this description as a background for parish activity, but for refugees this year some journey’s have been horrific. The background to much of this is the politics of immigration. We have been informed that our Prime Minister will be making a “long awaited” announcement on immigration after the Rochester and Strood by-election on November 20th so when you read this article we all may be better informed. We have also been told by the media that if we limit migration from the European Union then Germany will no longer fight to keep Britain in the EU. To add to all of this some at Westminster want to block all benefits to EU migrants until they have been in Britain and paid tax for two or three years. I now turn to the horrendous plight of refugees trying to reach southern Europe in open boats, yes open boats. It seems that the European Union including Britain is party to making matters worse if the proposal to let the Italian navy close down its search and rescue operation is implemented. To its credit the Italian navy has rescued around 150,000 people but many hundreds are known to have drowned. If this new policy comes into effect the EU will sponsor a much more limited effort to simply pa-



trol Italian coastal waters. Are we saying innocent lives of genuine asylum seekers will be lost? Is this now how we see immigration policy towards the people who have fled from fearful persecution in their homelands? There must be a better solution in the area of the Mediterranean where many of us have taken holidays. As we commence the season of Advent the plight of so many of our fellow human beings will not fade away. We cannot solve the problems of the unprecedented refugee numbers from Syria and other countries easily. Our politicians who sometimes claim that Parliament has not enough to discuss could surely sort out a better strategy and more use of compassion towards asylum seekers. On a visit to Westminster Cathedral; this year a priest said to me “Please pray for Syria”. When we buy our Christmas cards this year we might just contemplate the Flight into Egypt as well, its message will be with us well into 2015.

Frank Goulding
Holy Trinity Parish, Newark



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One year on from Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines

Survivors of Typhoon Haiyan, which devastated the Philippines last November, have thanked the people of Nottingham Diocese for their support on the one year anniversary of the disaster.

Over £194,700 was given by parishes, schools, groups and individuals across Nottingham Diocese to CAFOD's Philippines Typhoon Appeal, which has helped provide food, water, sanitation, permanent homes and fishing boats, as well as helping people who lost everything make a living again in the year since the storm struck.

Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines in the early hours of 8th November 2013 with winds of up to 170mph, affecting 14 million people. 6,000 people lost their lives, five million people lost their homes and 33 million coconut trees were destroyed – the main source of income for many.

CAFOD's Philippines Typhoon Appeal raised £5.4 million in total, and by working alongside local partners the Catholic charity has reached more than 135,000 people so far.

One of the affected families was that of Prospero and Elena Abuama, who live on the Guiuan peninsula, the first place to be hit by the typhoon.

Elena said: "We were so scared. There was a terrifying noise, like a whistling and then boom, our roof fell down on the kitchen table where we were hiding and rain was



pouring in. The storm lasted six hours. We thought we were about to die." Today, thanks to donations to CAFOD, Prospero and Elena have moved into a new home, specially designed to withstand future typhoons.

Prospero said: "Our new house is better than our old house. I helped design it and I

wanted it to be simple and strong. It's a good house and we're happy. My message to people who donated is simply, thank you."

Romila, 37, was eight months pregnant when the typhoon hit. When her house began to collapse, she and her husband raced through the storm to take shelter in the local church. All they had left was the towel she was holding, some wet clothes and one pot. Her husband's fishing boat and equipment was all destroyed. Thanks to your donations to CAFOD, Romila, her husband Ronald and their baby Mary-Kate have moved into a new home and Ronald is earning money as a carpenter helping others build their homes.

CAFOD's manager for our diocese, Marie Molloy said: "Typhoon Haiyan was the deadliest storm ever to hit the Philippines, tearing apart the lives of millions. Thanks to the incredible generosity of people in this diocese and beyond we were able to deliver food, water and emergency shelter immediately after the storm.

"We've also been able to build hundreds of solid, typhoon-resistant homes for people like Prospero and Elena and Romila and Ronald and their baby, and we'll continue to build more over the coming months. One year on from the disaster the donations we received really have transformed lives and will continue to do so. Thank you."

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National Youth Sunday 2014



On Sunday 23rd November, the feast of Christ the King this year, the Catholic Church in England and Wales make young people the particular focus.

The theme for this year is 'How happy are you?' and we're challenged to think about what really makes us happy. They've used the Beattitudes to help us think about this:

- Be Humble**
Let God work through you
- Be Sorrowful**
Grieving is ok, it shows your love
- Be Gentle**
It will get you further than you think
- Be Just**
The truth sets people free
- Be Merciful**
We all need forgiveness
- Be Pure**
Open your heart and you will see God
- Be Peaceful**
Everybody is a child of God
- Be Courageous**
Dare to do good so God can work through you

On National Youth Sunday, we as young people are challenged to be proud of our faith, and as Pope Francis said at World Youth Day, to "have courage, go forward and make noise," about what we believe. Go to the website <http://www.catholic-news.org.uk/Home/Featured/National-Youth-Sunday-2014> to find some great videos, quotes and materials to use to have a think about what makes us happy, our role in the Church and what we can do to be noisy about our faith!

Faith Formation Programme

The Adult Faith Formation programme continues at the Good Shepherd Church in Woodthorpe, Nottingham every Thursday evening at 7.30pm in the parish centre in the Marian Hall. A new programme has been released, details published below, until the 23 April 2015 inclusive. Those attending have commented on how helpful, enlightening and edifying these teachings have been, exploring the Catholic faith amongst friends, in a relaxed and informal atmosphere. The format includes a DVD presentation from sound catholic resources, followed by discussion. If commitments allow we are grateful for the attendance and input of Canon Philip Ziomek on the night. It has been wonderful to see individuals grasping a better understanding of their catholic Faith, gaining in confidence and hopefully equipping themselves to be better and more effective Evangelists, when called upon to give account of their joy! We extend an invitation to neighbouring and local parishes to come along and join in. All are most welcome. If you would like a copy of the Faith Formation programme or more details, please email address details to Cheryl Broodryk at cbroodryk@aol.com for a copy of the programme. God bless.

Details Of Faith Formation Programme

DVD SCREENINGS OF THE FOLLOWING TALKS PLUS INFORMAL DISCUSSION

| |
|---|
| 4 December 2014: Pillar II: Liturgy & The Sacramental Economy |
| 11 December 2014: Pillar II: Celebrating The Liturgy |
| 18 December 2014: Pillar II: Liturgical Families and Baptism |
| 25 December 2014: NO FAITH FORMATION - MERRY CHRISTMAS |
| 1 January 2015: NO FAITH FORMATION - HAPPY NEW YEAR |
| 8 January 2015: Pillar II: Baptism & Confirmation |
| 15 January 2015: Pillar II: The Eucharist In The Two Economies |
| 22 January 2015: Pillar II: The Eucharist And It's Effects |
| 29 January 2015: Pillar II: Confession |
| 5 February 2015: Pillar II: Anointing of The Sick |
| 12 February 2015: Pillar II: Holy Orders |
| 19 February 2015: Pillar II: Marriage |
| 26 February 2015: Pillar II: Sacramentals and Funerals |
| 5 March 2015: Mary, the model Disciple + The Scriptural Mary |
| 12 March 2015: The New Eve + Ark: Of The Covenant |
| 19 March 2015: Queen Mary + Our Mother |
| 26 March 2015: The Blessed Virgin's Merit + Who Are His Brothers? |
| 2 April 2015: NO FAITH FORMATION - MAUNDY THURSDAY |
| 9 April 2015: Immaculate Conception + Mary Ecumenism |
| 16 April 2015: The Joyful Mysteries + Sorrowful Mysteries |
| 23 April 2015: The Glorious Mysteries |

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[] Yes, please send me the free booklet on the Tyburn Martyrs
 [] Yes I'm interested – please send me vocations details.
 [] I'd like to help your Mission Foundations in other countries.
 My gift of £ is enclosed payable to Tyburn Mission.

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Catholic Parish in the News Parish of St Peter's Leicester

Welcome to the parish of St. Peter's in Leicester. St. Peter's is a vibrant parish on the western side of Leicester City, just outside the city centre. The parish is made up of people originating from many different countries around the world, which reflects the multicultural nature of Leicester City itself, and reminds us of the universality of Christ's Church. The information below is taken from the parish website from which much more information may be obtained at stpetersleicester.org.uk

The Catholic Faith is thought to have been brought to Leicester about the year 653, although the original Diocese of Leicester was not constituted until 737. By the time of the Dissolution in 1538-39, the city boasted many Churches and was served by several Religious Orders of men and women.

The development of the Faith in post reformation times is due to the Black Friars, the Dominicans, whose original Priory was founded in 1245 by Simon De Montfort, Earl of Leicester.

The first post reformation Masses were, however, said by Jesuit priests, who occasionally said Mass at the home of Mr. Byerley, in Elgrave. One of those who provided this service was Fr. William Bennett, S.J., who was later imprisoned, escaped, imprisoned again and eventually died from starvation and neglect in Leicester Gaol on October 30th, 1692.

In 1746, Fr. John Clarkson, O.P., came to Leicester once a month from Aston Flamville to say Mass in the Byerley home. In 1774, Fr. Peter Robson, O.P., became the first resident, priest.

A small chapel was established in Causeway Lane in 1798, and it is indicative of the dangers Catholics faced in those days that all who came to the chapel were scrutinised through "spy holes" and that the priest used to arrive disguised as a hawker carrying a basket of fruit or flowers.

The dedication of those early pioneers is illustrated by Fr. Thomas Norton, O.P., who, in one day, attending to sick calls, walked from Hinckley to Leicester and back, then to Coventry and back, a distance of 54 miles.

At about this time there were no more than seven Catholic Families in Leicester.

In 1817 the building of Holy Cross Church was begun. 1824 saw the opening of schools at Wellington Street and Belgrave Gate the latter being the beginning of the Parish of St. Patrick.

Emancipation came in 1829 and was celebrated with a Solemn High Mass and an out door procession.

Further Missions were eventually established Wigston in 1880, the Sacred Heart in 1886.

In 1896 the Mission of St. Peter was placed under the care of the secular clergy

Fr. J. R. Kane took up residence and Mass was said for some months in his house. He was followed in the same year by Fr. C. E. May, and in 1897 by Fr. H. Fitzgerald. At this time Mass was said first in a classroom of King Richard's Road Board School, then in a warehouse in Noble Street, where a small house was rented for the priest. Canon Caus with Altar Servers 1920 Fr. Felix May served from 1899-1902, and Fr. Michael Griffin from 1902-1903.

The next resident priest, who became the first Parish Priest, Fr. (later Canon) Francis Isidore Caus, was, in the words of Bishop Brindle, "practically the founder of this Parish of St. Peter."

Born in Elst, Belgium, on June 7th, 1868, Fr. Caus was a seminary student at Alost in 1892 when Bishop Bagshawe visited the



seminary to try to recruit priests for the English Mission. Fr. Caus came to Nottingham, where he was ordained on Rosary Sunday, October, 1894. After service at St. Augustine's and St. Patrick's, Nottingham, and at Whitwick and Lincoln, he came to St. Peter's in the Spring of 1903, and was subsequently appointed Parish Priest on February 13th, 1905.



Fr. Caus immediately set about the task of providing the Parish with a permanent Church. Early in 1905 he organised a magnificent Bazaar which made a profit of over £500. As a result of this and other efforts, the foundation stone of the new church was laid in the presence of a great crowd by Bishop Brindle on June 13th, 1905.

St. Peter's Church, designed and built by a Parishioner, Mr. F. J. Bradford, who lived in King Richard's Road, was opened on October 15th, 1905.

The new church was the scene of a Mission to Non Catholics, which was given by Fr. John Filmer, who had previously been a clergyman in a Protestant church in Leicester.

School accommodation was provided by the Sisters of the Convent of The Nativity of The Blessed Virgin Mary.

Later, the Presbytery was completed in 1925 a cost of £1,250.

Canon Caus died on January 18th, 1931, leaving the Parish free of debt the church, presbytery and land had all been paid for. Fr. Vernon Whiteman was appointed priest in charge temporarily, and was followed by Fr. John Toomey, who left in February, 1932.

The next Parish Priest, Mgr. R. Barry Doyle, arrived in 1932 after an illustrious career both as an Army chaplain, during which he served on every battle front and was decorated by all the Allied Powers, and as an International organiser for post war relief for children in the Near East.

He began the formidable task of providing a Catholic School and had plans prepared for a school costing some £12,000. Towards this he organised an Empire Fair at Blackfriars Hall, for which he enlisted the assistance of Bishop McNulty, Lady Mary Savile, Lady Odin Pearse, and many of the leading clergy of the Diocese.

However, he was not to live to see his plans realised, as he was called to his rest in March, 1933. His funeral was on March 11th, in the presence of the Bishop and fifty priests.

Canon Henry A. Hunt, a native of Leicester, was appointed in March, 1933. The altar of St. Peter's Church was a gift from his father.

Fr. (later Canon) John Farmer came in 1934.

As yet the Parish had no social centre but this was rectified when, on land given by Mr. Bradford, St. Peter's Guildhall was built, the official opening being on October 14th, 1937.

At this time the old convent in Kirby Road was bought for a school but this plan was thwarted because of the outbreak of the 1939 War.

In 1938 a Chapel of Ease, the English Martyrs, was blessed by the Bishop on the vigil of the Ascension. This was served by the priests of St. Peter's until the arrival of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers.

In 1944 Father (later Canon) Francis Thornhill was appointed but his health broke down and he was succeeded by Father (later Canon) Michael Gilleran.

On March 26th, 1946, Canon Gilleran bought "Ashleigh" and four acres of land on the Gimson estate for £8,500. Plans were drawn up and Christ the King Primary School was opened in 1951, at a total cost of some £75,000.

The Parish was responsible for the setting up of the Mother of God Parish and for the new church there which was opened on October 11th, 1957, at a total cost of some £35,000.

St. Peter's Parish, under Canon Gilleran, played a major part towards the English Martyrs' School on Anstey Lane. The site was £4,250 and the contract price for the school was £215,608, which was officially opened on May 4th, 1965.

Canon Michael Gilleran, who was the driving force behind these remarkable achievements, passed away suddenly on August 3rd, 1976.

He was succeeded by Father Joseph Jones who was previously Parish Priest of St. John Bosco Parish on the other side of the city. Father Jones took up residence on October 1st, 1976, and was joined on November 5th by Father Thomas McGovern who was formerly assistant priest at St. Joseph's Church in the city.

It had been known for some time that the parish would lose its presbytery church and church hall because of a new road scheme for the inner city area, but it was not until January 8th, 1977, that work began on the new site which had been acquired on Hinckley Road. Work on the new presbytery was completed by the end of the year and the priests moved into their new home on December 21st, 1977. Work continued on the new Parish Church and Hall. The last Mass in the old church on King Richard's Road was said at lunch time on the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul, 1978, and the first Mass in the new church was said the same day in the evening after a Procession of the Blessed Sacrament from the old to the new church. Both Services were conducted by Father McGovern because of the illness of Father Jones, the Parish Priest. He was assisted by Father Shanahan and Father Jenkinson of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers.

Parish information
Location LEICESTER
Church St Peter, Hinckley Road
Clergy Rev John Cahill, PhB STL VF
Address 21 Hinckley Road,
Leicester LE3 0TA
Phone(s) 0116 251 9802
Mass times Sa 6.30 pm;
Su 8.45; 11.15 am
Holyday Masses 10 am; 7 pm
Confession Sa 5.30- 6 pm
Adoration Thursday
10.30-11.30am & 5.30-6.30pm
School Christ the King Primary

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Book Review

Defending Marriage: Twelve Arguments for Sanity

Anthony Esolen. St Benedict Press.

Anthony Esolen, professor of English at Providence College in the US, has written a serious, well-argued reflection on what marriage is traditionally meant to mean, why it matters and how it has been deeply undermined by recent new legislation that seeks to re-define it. His point is that it is not too late to "rebuild among the ruins" of what many western governments have done to marriage in legalising for a completely new form viz. marriage between those of the same sex. Dr Esolen argues that marriage is not simply a romantic relationship between two people (which is what the modern liberal establishment defines it as being); it also brings together two different sets of families, with all their interrelationships, in the making of a new family. Society has always privileged this unique institution because "it is the family, and not the abstracted, autonomous individual that is the foundation for the community." He is not afraid to point out what many people realise but refrain from saying aloud: that "the whole of the sexual revolution has been a colossal failure and has wrought untold human misery."

Although a Catholic, the author does not argue his case from a religious perspective

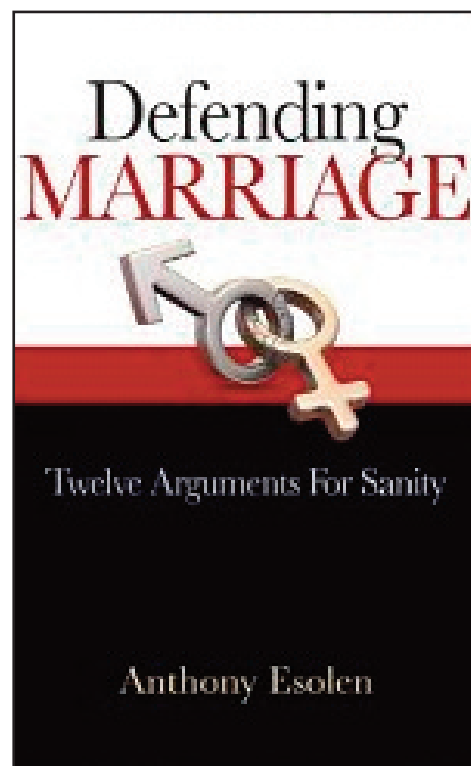
but from the standpoint of what human societies require to be healthy and prosperous. Among his closely-reasoned, eloquent arguments in defence of marriage are that the institution is a public one for the good of society as a whole; that without support from society it is hard enough to make heterosexual marriage flourish, let alone a new, experimental model; that we need to recover the virtues of modesty, self-restraint and purity that in the past were associated with marriage; and that the redefinition of marriage undermines the ancient bond of male friendship. He emphasises that those who are most damaged by fragile adult relationships and divorce are the children. We have to learn to put the interests of children before adult selfishness, which is what happens when we deliberately deprive them of a mother or father, thus damaging their emotional development. Esolen is also stern about divorce which he

believes should only be allowed in exceptional circumstances, such as physical or moral danger; he is clear that no-fault divorce, while seemingly a more compassionate response to unhappiness, has been destructive of all those marriages that might be difficult or unsatisfactory but which, in the past, were loyally maintained for the better security and wellbe-

"the whole of the sexual revolution has been a colossal failure and has wrought untold human misery."

ing of the children involved.

Analysing the moral chaos of modern relationships Esolen's book can sound somewhat negative, but it should be read as a warning on how and why western governments and states have taken a wrong path without properly reflecting on the long-term consequences. In arguing for "sanity" the author hopes his book will make ordinary people, not just those of religious faith, recognise that to destroy traditional marriage affects the whole of society in ways they may not have realised; it is a book well worth pondering and debating.



Esolen articulates what most people know but cannot formulate: why governments have no business meddling in the ancient institution of marriage between a man and a woman.

A Salesian Way of Life

Salesian Publishing Houses, Don Bosco Publications, UK.

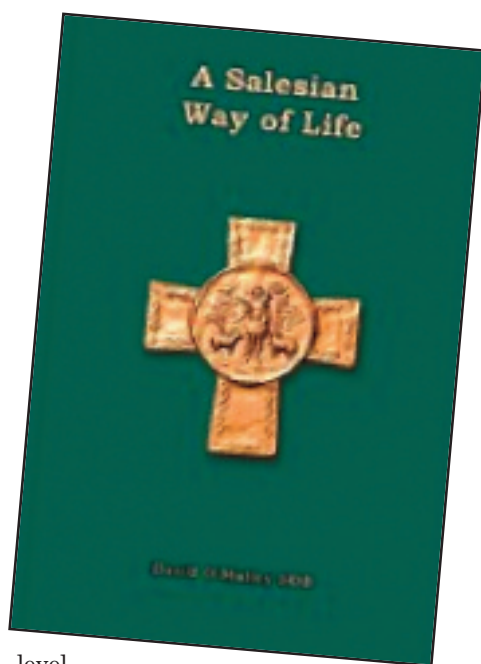
One of the really 'great little' Salesian Publishing Houses in the world is Don Bosco Publications, UK. They keep coming up with ideas that meet the needs of a general audience. They manage to 'translate' Salesian spirituality out of what can sometimes sound like hagiographical hogwash - at least for the ordinary and uninitiated. The latest effort, *A Salesian Way of Life* is a real treasure. The best 43 pages for the least handful of cents (or pennies) you are likely to spend for a while.

We know that a 'Rule of Life' is common to religious communities, with roots going back to Benedict and other 'Greats'. But a 'Rule' might still be off-putting for some today, so it was an inspired little touch to come out with *A Salesian Way of Life*, and as the author, Fr David O'Malley, describes it, not far into this brief but profound and inviting invitation to 'be Salesian' whoever you are, whatever gender, faith background ... "This small book uses the word 'Way' in its title. In some respects it resembles the first part of the Rule of Life followed by vowed Salesians. It is not a list of rules but a way of living ..."

Not so different in dimensions (though not in thickness) from the Salesian Constitutions and Regulations, in bottle green rather than the burnt sienna of the C&R, it even mirrors certain aspects of the latter, the emblematic picture of Don Bosco handing over the Constitutions to the 1875 first missionary expedition, and a little appendix with Don Bosco's signature 'borrowed' from the Letter from Rome which includes just a daily prayer, a pic of the Salesian Coat of Arms, and an extract from his circular *On Good Books*. In some ways, if you have seen an actual copy of one of Don Bosco's 'Catholic Readings', it is about that size and maybe it has much the same purpose, really, to bolster the faith of ordinary people.

Other than Don Bosco, who simply shines through the pages without the need to hammer his name at every turn, we find this work dedicated to Margaret, his mother, and Francis de Sales, along with Jane for that matter - and here, in a simple way, the book will immediately appeal to women too.

The similarities with the C&R at a physical



level probably stop here but not at the level of 'deep content' inasmuch as the substance of the Rule of Life are translated into the Way of Life. It's all there: presence, moved by an inner spirit, a worldwide network, awakening a family likeness ... a Gospel pathway, Mary ... but you immediately notice how Salesian spirituality has been translated into vibrant, normal English - a rare treat indeed!

Here's a little passage, just by way of example, since 'loving kindness' is a typical and central Salesian virtue and practice and it might be good to see how it is handled:

The only proper response to this presence living within you and in those around you are gratitude and loving kindness. Gratitude opens you up to receive a family spirit moving in all people and in creation. Loving kindness becomes the outward sign of the respect for this sacred presence living at the heart of all people; it breaks through the isolation of all individuals and builds community.

We all know that our Salesian Way of Life is a treasure, but what a real treasure to find it so masterfully presented for a wide range of human beings. The SDB will see his Rule jumping out at him at every point - some of the words, phrases, and certainly concepts; the lay person does not need that background, he or she is simply invited in and made to feel at home. As the author says "It is a small contribution to the renewal of Salesian spirituality as we celebrate Don Bosco's Bicentenary."

Girl with a White Dog

Anne Booth, Catnip Press, 2014.

When my brothers and I were growing up we had a story-telling game; you might call it 'And Then.' Disaster upon disaster would descend upon the hapless hero, who starts off peaceably going about his business: 'He's cycling up the hill, when a wolf jumps out of the bushes and pulls him off his bike,' 'And then the police come along and arrest him for blocking the highway,' 'And then ...' 'And then ...' Do girls play such games? Do they help young people to grow up into well-rounded human beings, able to treat triumph and disaster just the same? Anne Booth clearly thinks so.

Jess, her thirteen-year-old protagonist, finds life disrupted by a series of events that would feel disastrous to many an adult, let alone a teenager. Her father's unemployment, her aunt and uncle's divorce; school bullies conspiring with her cousin to make life purgatorial for Jess and her friends; tensions between locals and Central European workers, and I haven't even mentioned her grandmother and the white dog: Booth sets out to entertain her young audience with 'And then ...' 'And then ...' 'And then ...'

This is no Lemony Snicket fantasy; Booth's style is realistic. Jess has loving parents and a beloved grandmother, but the old lady is another worry, as she seems to be losing her memory at the same time as half recalling and half trying to hide episodes from her past. Jess's life spins more and more out of control when the old lady gets herself a white

German Shepherd puppy, then promptly falls ill.

Grandmother and her dog provide a key to this story which challenges intolerance, at an age when young

people may still be forming their views and be receptive to challenging ideas. Certainly Jess comes across many manifestations of intolerance in her village and school, often coupled with the sort of bullying and closed minds that are difficult to challenge.

Anne Booth is concerned that what happened then - in 1930s Europe - could be happening now, in 21st Century Britain. But as the story unfolds, there is hope - hope for Jess and her friends, for her cousin and her grandmother; Booth's readers are not offered an easy happy ending; instead they are shown that no girl is an island, but can, as part of a community, make a difference to her own and others' lives.



Parish to commemorate Christmas Truce

30 people from St. Peter's Catholic Community, Hinckley, Leicestershire are set to mark the 100th anniversary of the so-called "Christmas Truce" in a unique way. They are to stage a play, specially written by their parish priest, Fr. Frank Daly, outside in the field behind the church on Sunday December 21 and Monday December 22 at 7.30pm. The event is familiar to many people and is featuring in a production of the same name currently on in Stratford and of course in the Sainsbury's Christmas advertisement. The Hinckley play is called "Aim High", after the instructions the soldiers gave to each other once they had met and 'fraternised' over the Christmas period exactly one hundred years ago. It is presented in dialogue but also using the text of actual letters sent home by the soldiers of both sides and newspaper reports from the time, and forms a timely parable for the present age. Tickets for the production are £4 for adults and £3 for concessions and all the proceeds will be donated to the Help for Heroes charity. More details available from 01455 634443.

Cross country rickshaw

A student from Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy in Derby set off recently on a 450-mile cross country rickshaw TV challenge for BBC Children in Need.

Matthew Humphreys was chosen to take part in The One Show fund-raiser through his involvement with Cerebral Palsy Sport, a national disability sports organisation funded by BBC Children in Need.

The 16-year-old was part of a five-strong team taking it in turns to ride a rickshaw from BBC's Media City near Manchester to the EastEnders set in London.

The team set off on Friday, November 7th from BBC's Media City near Manchester and arrived at the EastEnders set during the BBC Children in Need appeal on Friday, November 14th.

Matt Baker, a presenter on The One Show, was cycling alongside the riders, who have all benefited from projects supported by BBC Children in Need.

Matthew attends the Enhanced Resource Base at Saint Benedict CVA, which is designed for visually and physically impaired students.

He suffered severe brain damage following an accident at home when he was 10-years old and doctors feared he would not survive.

His mum Sarah said: "When we got to the hospital we didn't think that he was going to survive and it took eight hours to stabilise him. Although he couldn't talk we knew he recognised us, his eyes lit up as different family members came into the room.

"It's been very slow progress, he can talk but it's difficult for him and part of the rickshaw challenge is that he will have to do a speech about himself and his motivations for the challenge."

Sarah, of Swadlincote, said that she and Matthew were both thrilled that he had been selected for the TV challenge.

She said: "I am very proud of him and al-

though it's was a bit daunting he really wanted to do it. Before his accident he was very sporty and loved rugby, running and cycling.

He still cycles now and uses a large trike, he's part of British Cycling and takes part in competitions."

Matthew has been attending Cerebral Palsy Sport, which enables children with mobility impairments to take part in athletics, for two years.

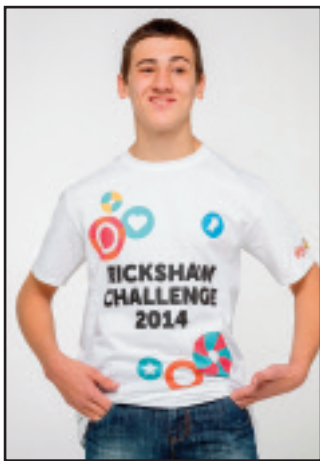
He said: "Since I got involved with Cerebral Palsy Sport I've become a big fan of biking and race running, so I'm hoping that my practising pays off. I've always been a really sporty and thanks to the charity I'm able to carry this on. It's given me a new lease of life and now I'm able to get back into competing rather than being sat on the side lines.

BBC Children in Need has really helped me, and I hope I can help it do the same for others."

Kevin Gritton, head teacher at St Benedict CVA, said the academy were cheering Matthew on.

He said: "I had a chat to Matthew the other day about his challenge and he was very excited and a little daunted. It will be a great achievement and we are all extremely proud of him here at Saint Benedict. We wish him the very best of luck."

We understand the organisers have now confirmed the cyclists have raised more than £2.5million for the charity appeal (with the total still climbing).



Harvest Festival in Leicester



Pupils at St Thomas More Primary, Leicester raised £500 for CAFOD's Harvest Fast Day Appeal by inviting parents and parishioners to come and join in with their Harvest Festival and then buy the food which made up the Harvest display. The day started with a Harvest Liturgy, led by the children, and it was followed by a range of Harvest inspired activities throughout the day. All of the school community got involved learning about why we have our Harvest Festival and why it is important to share what we have.

At the end of the day, some of Year 6 students, helped by the PTA, organised the sale of the massive array of food and produce which had been donated for the Harvest display.

Thanks to all those involved, especially Year 5 who wrote prayers and poems and

year 6 who made posters and Dan McGlynn, the Chaplain.



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Grace Dieu Remembers



Children and staff gathered for a whole School Remembrance Service at Grace Dieu to mark the 100th Anniversary since the outbreak of WWI. School Chaplain, Father Denis led the prayers supported by Head Boy, Leo Parry, and Head Girl, Katie Hanford along with Carter Walker, Poppy Jelley, Rosie Lewis and Thomas Mansbridge from Year 8 on Tuesday morning at 11 am. Special thanks to Mr Reeves who played the traditional 'Last Post' on his bugle as the flag was lowered to honour those who lost their lives fight-

ing for the freedom we enjoy today. The moving occasion was brought to an end by a reading of McCrae's famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'. Headmaster, Peter Fisher commented: "It is a School tradition to gather together and collectively pray for and remember the brave men and women who have lost their lives in conflicts around the world. Our pupils are reminded of the sacrifices made by generations before them. We were all moved by the solemnity and spirit of this important occasion."

Christ the King's Mandarin Academy Goes to China

Christ The King Catholic Voluntary Academy in Arnold is embracing the importance of 21st Century super-power China by offering Mandarin lessons to pupils. The school has created a Mandarin Academy, alongside its Nottingham Forest Football and Rugby Academy programmes, to offer students the opportunity to learn the language.

Working with specialist Mandarin teaching provider Little Dragons, Christ The King introduced the language in January 2013 and pupils can now study right up to GCSE level. Teaching is supported by a partnership with Nottingham University, with their MA TFSOL trainee Chinese teachers assisting in the classroom.

Not only are Christ The King students learning Mandarin at school, they were also able to use their new language skills for real on a trip to China in October 2014. A group of 16 students and 2 teaching staff travelled to China for a 10 day trip taking in Beijing, Shanghai and Xi'an, home of the famous Terracotta Warriors. This was a trip of a lifetime which included the students visiting the Olympic Park and Tiananmen Square, The Great Wall of China and The For-



bidden City to name but a few great historical sights. They also went to a school in Shanghai, with which Christ The King has developed strong links in order to enhance pupils' Mandarin learning experience. The students kept a diary of their experience and took a plethora of photographs. Christ The King's Principal Carlo Cuomo said, "We are thrilled to be able to offer our pupils the chance to learn Mandarin Chinese up to GCSE level. We want our students to be well-equipped to meet the challenges of 21st Century working life and speaking Mandarin will serve them well."

The programme has been so popular it is due to be extended into other schools within the Pax Christi Academy Trust this year.



Celebrating our Schools



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