



St Anthony of Egypt
Feast day
January 17th

Catholic News



**MORE THAN 17 YEARS OF BRINGING THE
NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER**

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**Christmas
Edition 2014**

20p WHERE SOLD

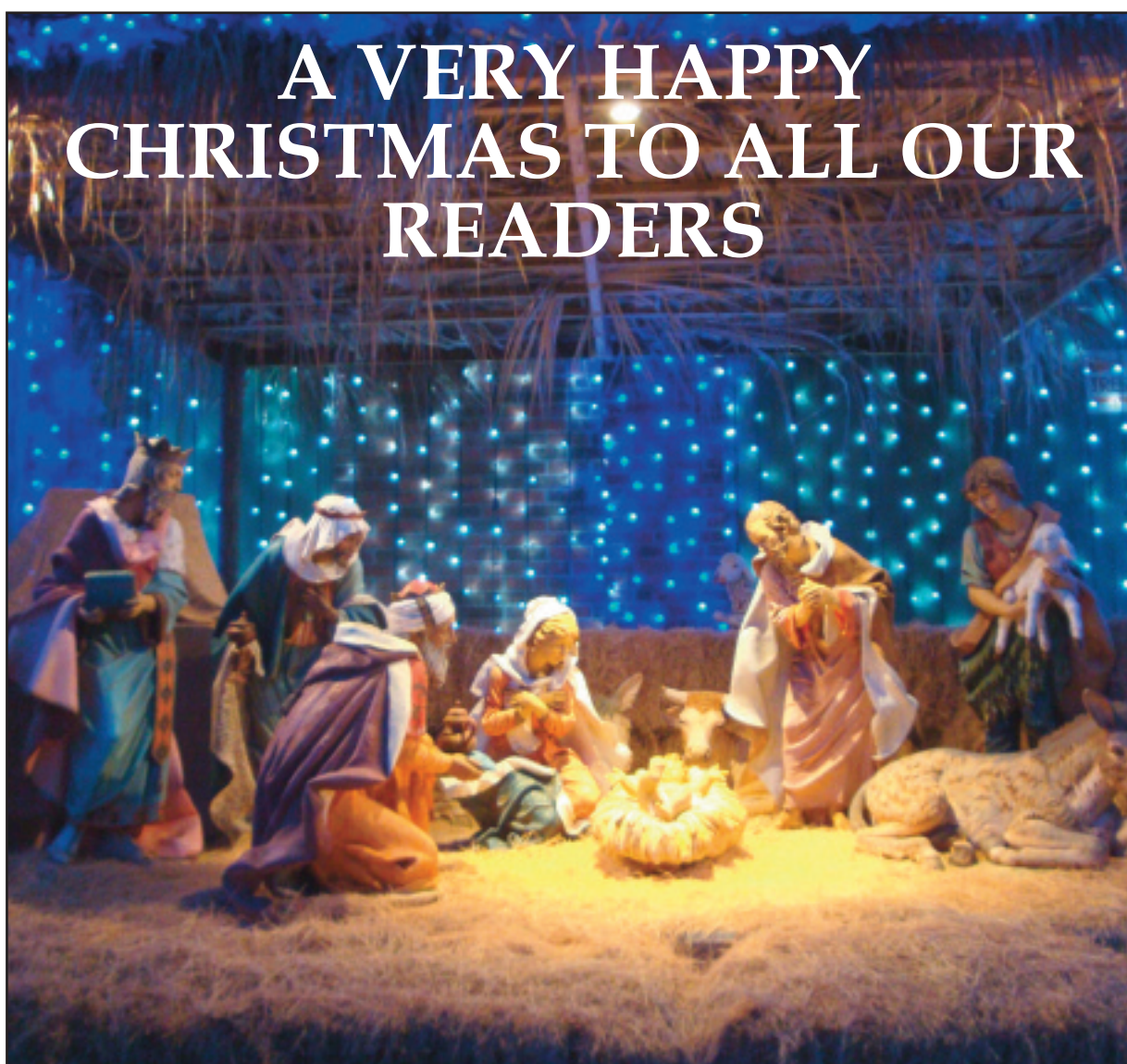
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Proclaim '15: New national initiative in support of parish evangelisation

Proclaim '15 is the name of a new initiative being launched in the New Year by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales to support, enthuse and equip parish evangelisation. This practical initiative exists to support the good work already being done in our parish(es) and aims to provide resources and encourage local events to support parish mission. It has five parts including: the provision of free parish small group materials; the organisation of a National Catholic Evangelisation Conference in Birmingham on 11 July 2015 for 850 attendees representing every diocese; an invitation to join in prayer with parishes across England and Wales by hosting a parish Prayer Vigil on the night of 11 July 2015; the invitation to dioceses, deaneries and parishes to have their own Proclaim '15 events in autumn 2015; the publication of new evangelisation resources as a fruit of the National Conference to equip local evangelisation. Please do get involved in what is a signif-

icant new step in service of the proclamation of the Gospel. The inspiration for the initiative is Pope Francis and the content of his Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, in which he writes: "I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelisation marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come." Join us in confidently communicating this joy and discovering new paths for evangelisation! Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, writes: "This pioneering initiative, inspired by Pope Francis' *Evangelii Gaudium*, is for all clergy, religious and lay people. Why? Because we all share the one mission – to PROCLAIM the joy of the Gospel. The wide range of practical ideas offered for planning and carrying out fruitful parish evangelisation will help us all to be better missionary disciples. Please put the 11 July in your diary and don't let this opportunity pass you by."



**A VERY HAPPY
CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR
READERS**

St Wilfrid of York Coalville - Sick and Retired Priests' Appeal

A Parish Team was appointed to make a plan of action to raise money for the Sick and Retired Priests Appeal. This included gathering contact details from parishioners, pulpit announcements and presentations to explain the aims and reasons for the appeal. See the story on page 3
Father David Cain extreme left, our Parish Priest followed by the Appeal Team and on the extreme right, **John Lycett** Deanery Leader



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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

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION COMMISSIONING MASS 2014



The Commissioning Mass for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion for the Nottingham Diocese took place on Saturday 15 November 2014 at St. Barnabas Cathedral Nottingham.

As we currently do not have a Bishop the mass and the commissioning of candidates was presided over and celebrated by Monsignor Thomas McGovern the Diocesan Administrator of the Diocese of Nottingham. Monsignor McGovern carried out the whole commissioning Mass with his usual thoroughness for which our commission is extremely grateful.

Our day commenced around 9.30am by arranging everything into place e.g., seating arrangements, distribution of mass service sheets and stewards before the candidates started to arrive.

This year there were 127 candidates to be commissioned, a good mixture of young people and the more mature from across all areas of the diocese. Unfortunately our track record of having perfect weather ran out this year (for the first time). This resulted in a lot of wet and bedraggled candidates and visitors arriving at the cathedral. However this was overcome without complaint, thanks to everyone's positive approach and the cathedral's heating system which provided several useful drying points for both candidates and visitors alike.

During the mass the "Rite of Commissioning" took place with Mon-

signor McGovern asking each candidate: - are they resolve to undertake their ministry with reverence and care to our brothers and sisters, and to treat the Body and Blood of Christ with the upmost reverence to which all candidates replied - "I AM"

When mass had finished everyone one was ready for a well-earned cup of tea or coffee and the swapping of shared experiences with one another in the hall. Refreshments were provided by the cathedral staff. The commission would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who helped on the day and a special thanks to Canon Geoffrey Hunton Cathedral Dean and parish priest for making us welcome and providing all the facilities we required. A huge thank you also goes to Alex Patterson, Director of Music and the cathedral choir for more than helping to bring the music to life.

**Alan Simmons
Pictures by
Michael Henchy**



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.

Saturday Retreat Days

[10.30 for 11.00 am - 4.00 pm]

21 March - Blessed Antonio Rosmini: a
Spiritual Guide for today

30 May - Healing of the Family Tree

06 June - Desert Day

28 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**

Rosmini Centre, 433 Fosse Way, LE7 4SJ

Tel: 01509 813078, Email: rosminicentreinfo@gmail.com

www.rosminicentre.co.uk

Please phone or e-mail to attend any of the programmes.

Donations appreciated to cover costs.

The Centre is available for retreats, meetings and other activities.

Please do contact Fr. David Tobin IC.

An Open Weekend

The Spilsby Catholic church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs held an open weekend over four days from Friday November 21 to Monday November 24 in thanksgiving for the restoration of the Organ and the rebuilding of the Bell Tower. An exhibition focused on the seven sacraments which were depicted in displays around the church featuring Baptism, Conformation, Eucharist, Penance and Reconciliation, Anointing of the sick, Holy Orders and Matrimony. Refreshments were served throughout the four day event by a willing team of helpers.

On Saturday morning Father Brian Dazeley, who is

parish priest for Skegness and Spilsby, welcomed Father Stephen from Oakham who gave an organ recital.

Picture right: Father Brian Dazeley parish priest of the Sacred Heart church in Skegness and Our Lady and the English Martyrs in Spilsby pictured left welcomed Father Stephen from Oakham who gave an organ recital on the newly restored organ at Our Lady and the English Martyrs Spilsby

(Photo Eileen Chantry)



An English Saint Returns Home

Celebrations were held recently at the Good Shepherd Church, Woodthorpe, Nottingham where the icon and a relic of St Gilbert of Sempringham were installed and solemnly blessed by Canon Philip Ziomek the parish priest. Members of the Oblates of St Gilbert and parishioners were present at the ceremony. The icon made by the Shrewsbury based iconographer Sister Petra Clare, depicts the saint surrounded by his first seven women members of the order along with the canons and brothers. Also included on the left are the Cistercian St Bernard and St Malachy (holding the staff), who were supportive to St Gilbert in establishing his Order. On the far right is Pope Eugenius III who advised St Gilbert to continue with his own order rather than unite with the Cistercians as St Gilbert had wished at that time. The apex of the icon shows Our Lord overlooking the tower of St Andrews Church Sempringham – the birthplace of the Gilbertines, and at the base of the icon a small clear compartment enclosing the relic. It was at Sempringham that the 'seven maidens' were enclosed on the north side of the church to start their lives as contemplatives in 1131. The church is there today standing isolated in the flat south Lincolnshire fenlands near Bourne, and Mass has been celebrated there annually, usually in September since 1985.

Until recently the whereabouts of any relic of St Gilbert remained a mystery as the priory at Sempringham along with his Shrine was destroyed at the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1538. All that remains now where the priory that housed around two hundred canons, lay brothers and



nuns, are some earth mounds and the site of the former fishponds that served the priory. Memphis based Oblate Trudy Hoch-Mong, has made it her research task to follow what happened to the Shrine and its relics. Her journey took her to Italy and to churches in Altino and Casoli and it was in Casoli that she discovered that the relics had been taken by three of the monks via Rome for safekeeping with the intention of continuing the order in an old Benedictine monastery – this never happened according to Trudy.

The Gilbertines were the only truly English monastic order and one of the first to have double houses – separate parts of the priory for men and women, each under the observance of a prior and a prioress. It was in 1984 following events the previous year at Lincoln cathedral that celebrated 900 years since St Gilbert's birth, that a group of parishioners at The Good Shepherd wished to remember this local man and his way that could be adapted to modern day living – hence the Oblates of St Gilbert, (a lay association of men & women) was born under the spiritual guidance of Fr Hilary Costello OCSO of Mount St Bernard Abbey.

St Gilbert's feast day is February 4th. Further information available from: Rev Melvyn Harwood Tel: 01902 798489 or Liz Hodson Tel: 0115 9553101

**Photography by John Westby.
Story by Cheryl Broodryk**



Families and Faith Diocesan Day for the Diocese of Nottingham

On Saturday 22 November Bishop John Sherrington hosted a 'Families and Faith Day' for the Diocese of Nottingham. 150 people came from across the Diocese to hear Bishop John talk about how we can encourage faith in the family. Workshops were also available and they included: building parish family groups; passing on faith to grandchildren; supporting marriage, family catechesis, and supporting families in loss and bereavement. One participant said: "It was a great day, very informative and helpful, lots of resources and ideas." The event was hosted by Christ the King Catholic School and Bishop John's power-point presentation is available on the Nottingham Diocesan website, his talk will be available soon.



St Wilfrid of York Coalville Sick and Retired Priest's Appeal

Preparations for the Appeal began in February 2013. A Parish Team were appointed who made a plan of action their first priority. This included gathering contact details from parishioners, pulpit announcements and presentations to explain the aims and reasons for the appeal. The presentations were well received by our parishioners who were very generous in making donations, an encouraging start for everyone.

Parishioner donations continued up to and over the summer holidays increasing our total substantially. From Christmas 2013 numerous fundraising events were organised, including a Beetle Drive, quiz night, and a Male Voice choir concert. Our Parish Priest, together with two parishioners also ran a well sponsored half marathon. In total the fundraising made up 20% of all sums donated.

The final transfers of donations to the Ap-



Tricia Simpson, Kate Abbott and Mary McStravick our Appeal Team the Appeal Team

peal office was made in late October 2014 taking us 21 months to reach the amount required by the Diocesan Appeal Team. It was a true team effort by everyone.

We can offer these 'plan to succeed' notes:

Plan constantly

Maintain momentum – engage with everyone

Recognise there is no substitute for persistence.

Keep your parishioners informed. Follow the guidelines prepared by the Appeal Office as far as possible.



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Raised over £200

Saint Patrick's Catholic Church raised over £200, from their inaugural Christmas Tree Festival, that they will be donating to the Sick and Retired Priest's Fund. The event itself took place over three days from Thursday the 20th to Saturday the 22nd of November within the Church on Beaumont Leys Lane.

Parish Priest, Father Martin Hardy praised his parishioners, and the local community for their help and generosity "It's difficult to put into words my admiration for the volunteers that give of themselves so freely to organise and stage such events." Father Martin continued "events such as this are an important part of parish life, not only because of the vital part they play in achieving our maintenance and development goals, but also because of the way in which they bring people together and welcome the wider community."

"We hope to make this an annual celebration and the success of this debut festival is really encouraging going forward." The Festival theme was "Countries of the World" and it attracted 24 entries ranging from Sierra Leone to Norway. The eventual winner was The Carpenter's Tree - "St Joseph's of Bethlehem" which garnered the most votes from the paying public.



Schools come together for a special development day

On Thursday 20th November School Chaplaincy Teams from across Derby City primary schools came together for a special development day. It was the first time that an event such as this has been held in our area. The day was organised by the Diocesan Youth Outreach team - Reach4 and was hosted by St Benedict's School. Children were present representing St Mary's, St George's, St Joseph's, St Alban's and St John Fisher Schools.

After some ice breaker games with the Briar's Team, the children were divided into mixed groups from across the schools to talk about their chaplaincy roles and develop their presentation skills using fairy tales to help them work on their delivery style.

The afternoon saw the children put the theory into practice as they worked in groups to produce all the elements of a first class liturgy - gathering, presenting the Word of God, responding to the Word and creating a mission. The theme of the liturgy was Advent, and the children pulled out all the stops to create an imaginative and engaging time of worship - liturgical dance, role play, music, art and the power of silence



were used to great effect.

The children said about the day:

"It was really fun" - **Jacob**

"A great experience" - **Alicia**

"The best part was learning new songs, my favourite was

'King of Heaven'" - **Mariette**

"It was good getting to know other chaplaincy members" - **Helen**

"The Briars team are really fun and nice" - **Erin**

Hopefully this is the beginning of an exciting time in the development of school chaplaincy in Derby city primary schools."

by **Fran Wickes**

Grace Dieu Christingle Service



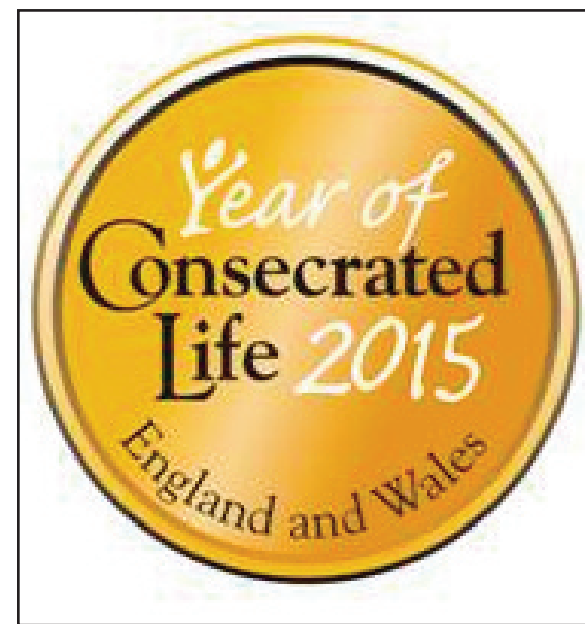
Pictured are some of the Pre-Prep children on their way to the School Chapel for their Christingle service with friends and family.

Thoughts from Elston Hermitage.....

The year of Consecrated Life dedicated by Pope Francis 2014-16 is now under way and hopefully within this year we shall hear much about it through the media and learn much from those who endeavour to live out this calling. Each one of us is called through our birth and baptism to love and serve each other, Jesus came to show us how to love, He is the ultimate example and source of love and it is only through loving God and our fellow men as he did that we able to find true happiness, peace, joy and meaning in life. This is the basic mission of all people, God calls us to do this in four ways of life, through Marriage, Single Life, Priesthood, and Religious Life.

Those called to the Consecrated life are the men and women who, by professing vows, dedicate their whole lives to loving and serving God, the Church and all people through prayer and ministry. Some may live within the structure of a religious community, others bound and dedicated to God in a less formal sphere of religious life. These men and women have made vows which are the characteristics of religious life, these vows are the way and means by which Religious dedicate their lives to God. A vow is a solemn promise to God. All Religious profess three vows: Poverty, Chastity and Obedience. Often these vows are not fully understood outside the realm of religious life, therefore now is a good opportunity to reflect on them. Jesus is our model in the religious life and His life is its pattern. The three vows were inspired by Jesus, simple, single and obedient. The purpose of these vows is to free up Religious in order that they can love in a radical way through prayer and ministry.

The first Vow, that of Poverty, also takes its inspiration from Jesus' simple lifestyle and teaching that



wealth and possessions can distract us from what is really important and meaningful- which of course is to love God and each other. All Christian people, of course, are called to live simply, however Religious go beyond this, following the example of Jesus they not only live simply but they surrender the right of personal ownership, sharing all things in common with their religious brethren like the early apostles had nothing of their own but shared all things together.. Of course religious, like anyone, need a place to live, clothes to wear, food to eat and are often questioned why do we need a car,? having taken a vow of poverty. However, religious truly believe that through the vow of Poverty our life will be freed so that we are more able to fulfil the Lords commandments. Religious believe that the vow of poverty assists in directing our thoughts and turns our life's direction towards being focused and called to salvation by being guided and guarded and attaining the unity of faith, and the growing knowledge of God and His love.

Richard + H.D.N.
Hermit of the Nottingham Diocese

Venerable Nano Nagle and the Presentation Sisters

The foundress of the Presentation Sisters was known as "the Lady of the Lantern" because, at great personal risk, she opened several schools in Cork, built a home for ladies and visited the homes of the poor, in 18th century, Ireland. Nano Nagle was born

Honora Nagle in Ballygriffin in Cork in 1718, a turbulent time in Irish history due to the Penal Laws. The Nagle family was a wealthy Catholic family and Nano had the benefit of a European education and privileged lifestyle. She devoted her life to God and to working with people on the margins of society.

Her mission of educating the poor began in a 'little school' in Cove Lane in Cork in 1754. In setting up schools in defiance of the established colonial order she sided with those made poor and challenged the institutional injustice that perpetuated marginalisation and poverty. Nano responded to the needs of her time and developed an educational curriculum suitable to the individual capabilities of her students.

Hers was a global vision as in 1769 she wrote to a friend: *"For I can assure you my schools are beginning to be of service in a great many parts of the world."*

Nano's famous words "If I could be of service in saving souls, in any part of the globe, I would be willing to do all in my power."

In 1775, she gathered a small group of women around her and founded the Presentation Sisters on Christmas Eve 1775, the culmination of twenty years of a life of devotion to the cause of improving the circumstances of others. She died in Cork in 1784 and is buried in the grounds of South Presentation Convent in Cork



city, in a location which has become a place of prayer and pilgrimage in her honour. The Presentation Sisters can be found in the five continents working with those made poor and enabling them to secure a better standard of living for themselves,

their families and their communities. The Sisters teach, nurse, engage in development work, visit the sick, comfort those who are struggling, work at the UN for a better deal for those made poor.

To this day Presentation Sisters and friends of Nano remain committed to working with those most in need through a broad range of ministries. Those ministries include spirituality, faith development, lifelong learning and innovation, social finance, social inclusion, outreach, human rights and justice, ecology and sustainable living and healthcare projects.

On the 31st Oct 2013, Pope Francis proclaimed Nano Nagle, Venerable, The Universal Church has recognised Nano, as a woman of faith, hope and heroic virtue, whose vision and work transformed the lives of so many. For our Sisters, Associates and Friends of Nano throughout the world, Nano has been and continues to be a source of inspiration and challenge, as we respond to the needs of today, in fidelity to the Gospel and in the spirit of Nano."

The Presentation Sisters came to Manchester in 1836, from Clonmel, Co Tipperary, Ireland.

To-day we minister all over England. In the Diocese of Nottingham, we can be located in Derby, Leicester, Matlock, Market Harborough Nottingham and War-sop.

For more information, visit www.presentationistersunion.org

CHILDREN and the ORGAN



The Derby & District Organists' Association recently paid a visit to English Martyrs Church in Alvaston, Derby at the invitation of St John Fisher School.

A group of year 5 pupils came along to find out about the world of the pipe organ and all its interesting aspects which involve many strands of the National Curriculum [Music, Technology, Science and Design] They were encouraged to listen and watch as the organ was played by Margaret Eades [the resident organist], taking note of all the skilful manoeuvring needed to play Bach's famous Toccata in D minor. This was followed by some detailed listening games, designed to show off the range of sounds the organ produces and how they can be mixed. Then on to a range of workshops that explored the subject in more detail. These included playing organ; finding out about how organs work, using our own 'mini' table organ; exploring how to play with your feet [and which shoes work best]; finding out about all aspects of the organ world, with an exciting Powerpoint programme and designing an organ case using dummy wooden pipes.

To round off – more detailed listening, spotting how repetition is used to build up a piece for music.

The pupils were very engaged, asking many questions and participating with obvious enthusiasm. We hugely enjoyed their visit and our thanks to the staff at St John Fisher, Margaret Eades and Fr Brentnall for hosting the event.

Margaret Eades

Are you a past student of Endsleigh College? I am trying to contact students of the 1962-85 cohort with a view to organising a reunion to mark the 50th anniversary of our graduation next summer. Please contact me at angela.brewer@ntlworld as soon as possible.

Angela Brewer (nee Crisp)

FRANKLY SPEAKING

Pondering upon wisdom

My dictionary definition of wisdom speaks of "good sense and judgment". On January 4th on the first weekend of the new year the Gospel for the feast of the Epiphany speaks of wise men who travelled to Jerusalem from the east. Wisdom is often quoted both in scripture readings and in decisions made by our politicians. Wisdom is not the sole possession of those fortunate enough to have had a good education.

Writing this article two days into advent I find myself wondering on the wisdom of some public figures who made the news in late November.

Three either former or current MP's who have all reached high office, had a good education and are apparently quite wealthy must have reached low points in their lives due to the lack of wisdom and the subsequent publicity resulting from this. If we thought that the expenses scandal had closed the door on bad political example we sadly have to think again. I now turn to two public figures whose actions surely enhanced their reputations. The Home Secretary Theresa May who many see as a possible future Prime Minister talked about her faith in the long running Radio 4 programme Desert Island Discs. A lifelong Anglican who chose amongst her favourite music the "Tantum Ergo" and "When I survey the Wondrous Cross" both of which will be familiar to Roman Catholics and many Christians. If only other Christian MP's would follow her example when the opportunity arises as it will in the com-

ing General Election.

The second public figure who surely enhanced his reputation just before Advent was Pope Francis. The Papal visit to Strasbourg when he spoke to the politicians of the European Union was both necessary and relevant. Europe has moved on and not always for the better since Saint John Paul II recalled in a similar visit that the EU's founding father's had drawn on Christian faith for inspiration. There is clearly much concern for the direction in which Europe is going and Pope Francis was surely telling the leaders of the continent that he is willing to not only advise them with the moral vision that is surely lacking but that the Mediterranean must not become a "vast cemetery" due to the humanitarian issue of refugees trying to reach southern Europe. Pope Francis then flew to Turkey for a three day visit to this mostly Muslim country which has taken more than 1.5 million refugees within its borders. It must have been a delicate act of diplomacy and wisdom as he had to speak out against the violence against Christians and others in Syria and Iraq.

So we start 2015 in a world crying out for both leadership and wisdom. Many of all faiths' and of none will need both compassion and help as well and the Epiphany is a good place to start. A Happy and Peaceful New Year to all readers

Frank Goulding
Holy Trinity Parish, Newark

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**

In Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia, our partners are spreading the word about hand washing and good hygiene, as well as distributing soap and chlorine, providing safe burials, and providing food to quarantined families.

Please give to our Ebola crisis appeal today.

Registered charity no. 285776

R53141

CAFOD
Just one world

cafod.org.uk/ebola or call 0500 85 88 85

Pictures you m



*St Mary's Children
Raise Money for Macmillan*



*Holy Trinity (Newark) Ladies' Guild held a successful Afternoon
Tea in the Presbytery garden raising funds for local charities*



Climate change matters to CAFOD supporters



Diocesan Study Day devoted to the "You Are Living Stones"



Barbecue in East Leake raises funds for CAFOD



*The Good Shepherd Church, Nottingham
hosted their "Indian Curry Night and raised much needed funds for the
church restoration fund*

ay have missed



*Diamond Wedding Anniversary Celebrated
Fr Michael presents Audrey and Wasyl Dutka with a Papal Blessing
at Holy Trinity Church in Newark on the occasion of their
60th Wedding Anniversary*



Centenary Mass held at Our Lady's Convent, Loughborough



Help from Aspley



"Mother Mary" makes £3,200 for charities near and far



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Rome - An Unexpected Pilgrimage

By Matthew Flitter

As part of my position as a Care Assistant at the Presentation Sisters Care Centre, Matlock, I have been required to escort many of our residents on journeys outside the Home, simply for a couple of hours to and back again. A trip to Rome to visit the Pope is a different request altogether! I felt extremely honoured and privileged when I was first asked if I would accompany Monsignor (Mgr) J F Phelan on a much longed-for pilgrimage to the Vatican City. Mgr had been hoping to make the journey the previous June as part of his Golden Jubilee of ordination to the priesthood, but had to postpone due to illness. It was with great joy that he had finally managed to reorganise and, through contacting the Vatican, had arranged that he would have the special honour of not only seeing the Pope in the flesh at a special audience in St Peter's Square, but personally shaking his hand and receive a blessing.

He chose two companions: myself as his registered carer, and the newly retired Headteacher of Saint Benedict Catholic Academy in Derby, Christopher Reynolds. Christopher is an old friend of Mgr who was recently appointed as a Knight of St Gregory by the Pope for services to Education, one of the highest honours the Catholic Church can bestow. Not being a Catholic myself I was pleasantly surprised that Mgr had chosen me and viewed it as a once-in-a-lifetime experience that I would never forget.

The journey being a pleasant one, we arrived at our hotel, the Domus Sanctae Marthae (House of Martha). Not only is it right in the Vatican City itself, directly opposite the Dome of St Peter's Basilica, but it is also the Pope's own residence. We dined in the same room with him every meal-time, even seeing him serving himself and using the microwave!

Our first full day in Rome we had arranged

a tour of the city in a little golf buggy, perfectly sized for us and our tour guide who filled us with facts as we drove around. This being my first time in Rome I loved the chance to see everything and get a feel for the place. Having a passion for photography I took hundreds of pictures and enjoyed hearing about the history and stories of the place.

The majority of this time we spent in the buggy, allowing us to see the sights without it being too much for Monsignor. We had a drive around the vast gardens of the Vatican and then ventured out into the city. We saw the magnificent architecture, the beautiful carvings, statues and mosaics, the traditional cobbled streets and the brilliantly decorated fountains, which also supply drinking water on one that I sampled.

We saw the smallest house in Rome and the house of Michelangelo, which had been relocated and rebuilt in order to preserve it; the original floor level of the city and the ruined foundations of centuries-old structures which have been unearthed by archaeologists, a fraction of the over 900 churches, the city's houses, the fabulously carved obelisks and the impressive water viaducts, a feat of Roman engineering still standing and in use today.

The Pantheon was one place where we got off the buggy to see up close. Built in the early part of the second century it is notable for its unusual dome, which has a hole in the very centre, and protects the beautifully cared for tombs of some very well-known figures including a certain Queen Margarita, who had the pizza named after her. It was brilliant to be there to enable Mgr to experience all these places and to share the experience with him.

The next day we had a private tour guide show us around the Vatican itself. Again,



intricate statues and carvings, and some of the most well-known artwork in the world, leant itself to my growing photographic collection. I found the mingling of old and new interesting, as the Vatican has begun to embrace modern technology, with even its own observatory with which it contributes to current debates concerning our solar system and wider universe. Climbing to the top of the Dome of the Basilica was a particularly memorable moment and the view from up there was stunning.

The Coliseum was a place I was particularly keen to go back to, and did so when I had some free time one afternoon. The history and sheer size fascinated me and I spent a good couple of hours wandering around and taking it all in. I would love to return one day so I could explore further the underground places and arena floor where the gladiators trained and fought.

The main event however, came the day after. We could see St Peter's Square set up for the special Audience, full of chairs ready for the thousands of people to arrive. We had special tickets that enabled myself and Mgr, due to his need to be in a wheelchair, to sit right at the front and be greeted by the Pope individually. We waited in the square, the weather dismal and not looking promising. Just as the Pope arrived however, it stopped raining. He said prayers and blessed everyone in the crowd as well as their families, friends and loved ones. Then he made his way around the people lucky enough to have the special tickets. The joy and emotion on Mgr's face as he shook hands with the Pope and received his personal blessing was immense and incredibly pleasing to see.

It was wonderful to be there with him, to have enabled him to have the chance to travel and have this experience, which is so close to his heart, so important to him. I have created a video of a selection of the best photos I took so that we can all retain the memories of this unique journey.

Monsignor J F Phelan was assistant priest at the parish of The Annunciation, Chesterfield in 1968 before moving on to become parish priest at several churches in the Diocese. In 1974 he took on the role of assistant secretary to the Diocesan Schools' Commission (covering five counties including Derbyshire) and in 1982 became its secretary. Mgr Phelan was instrumental in the provision of a voluntary aided Catholic Primary school in Matlock, St Joseph's.

In 1977 Father Phelan was given the role of Diocesan Chaplain to the Catholic Nurses Guild, continuing with this important pastoral work until 1999.

As a mark of the great value placed on Mgr Phelan's work in the Schools' Commission, in 1983 Bishop McGuinness appointed him as a member of the Cathedral Chapter and the Vatican recognised his dedication in May 1987, writing to Bishop McGuinness expressing 'appreciation and admiration' for the work of the Diocesan Schools' Commission.

Having retired in 2013 Mgr is now a resident at The Presentation Sisters Care Home in Matlock.

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Catholic Parish in the ^ News

St Patricks, Leicester

St. Patrick's church is an open and growing community, sharing activities and ministries. We have a Parish Pastoral Council affording the opportunity, through the different teams and groups, to work together in Parish Ministry and social events, and also supporting and caring for each other. St. Patrick's Parish dates back to 1854 when Fr Nickolds OP of Holy Cross built a school chapel dedicated to St. Patrick in Royal East Street. This school chapel continued to be served by the Dominicans until 1894 when the Mission was handed over to the Bishop of Nottingham.

In July 1920 Fr. Holland who was then Parish Priest purchased land earmarked for a chapel of ease dedicated to Our Lady in Canon Street and later the same year a house was bought to serve as a presbytery. This Chapel of Ease was opened in August 1922 and in 1927 Fr Bernard George became Priest and served the Parish for twenty years. He was responsible for the building of St. Patrick's School. The school in Royal East Street closed in 1937 and moved to Harrison Road and the Parish itself in Royal East Street closed in 1940. The Parish then became known as Our Lady and St. Patrick (in Moira Street).

In 1949 on the appointment of Fr. Hill as Parish Priest of Our Lady and St. Patrick's a Mass Centre had been set up in the grandstand of the Stadium in Parker Drive and land acquired in Beaumont Leys Lane for a Church, Presbytery and Parish Hall. Approximately 50 people were attending Mass at the Stadium and the numbers steadily grew. The nucleus of the future parish, with support from the parishioners of Our Lady's, worked hard to raise funds and on St. Patrick's Day 1957 the Ceremony of Cutting the First Turf took place. The first turf was dug by Mr John Maloney, the oldest parishioner of St. Patricks and Fr. Hill blessed the site assisted by

Canon Merrigan and Fr Cullen. Other members of the various parochial societies continued the cutting to make the form of a cross on the site of the High Altar.

The two presidents of the UCM cut turf on the site of the future Lady Chapel. On 4th October that year the foundation stone was blessed and laid by Bishop Ellis.

The Church was blessed and officially opened by Bishop Ellis on St. Patrick's Day 1959.

The Church continued to be served from Our Lady's until Fr. Sullivan was appointed Parish Priest in October 1961.

Fr. Sullivan built the Parish Hall which was blessed and opened by Bishop Ellis in January 1964 and took an active part in establishing the English Martyrs School which was opened in 1964. Fr. Sullivan was also responsible for the completion of the interior of the Church by the addition of the Stations of the Cross, the statues of the Sacred Heart and St. Joseph the Worker, together with the Cross of Christ Triumphant and the two stained glass windows in the Sanctuary.

After Fr Sullivan the Church was served by the Blessed Sacrament Fathers until Fr Neary was appointed Parish Priest. Fr Neary was responsible for the

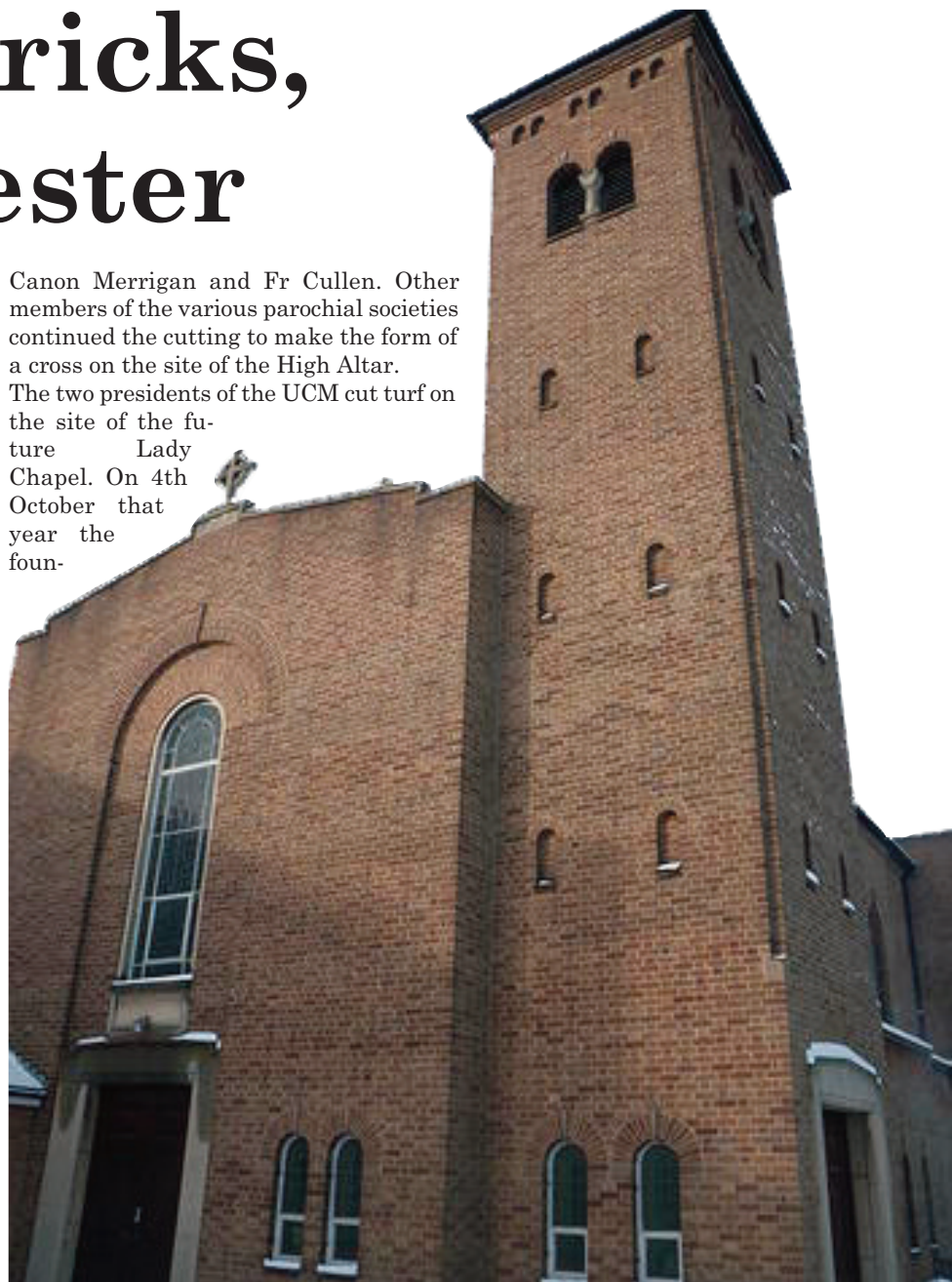
church redecoration and establishing a Mass Centre at the Old Hare and Hounds in Anstey through the good offices of the late Mr Partridge and his widow. On her retirement the Parish Council kindly offered the facilities of the Memorial Hall for Sunday Mass.

Fr Neary was succeeded by Fr Tutto who continued with the plans for further improvements. In 1980 an extension to the Church, in the form of a utility room and cloakroom was completed and the Sanctuary was elevated and carpeted and re-ordered to meet the requirements of the liturgy. During 1982 and 1983, thanks to the generosity of benefactors, the St. Patrick's Chapel was completed by the addition of St. Patrick's statue of carved wood and parish banner.

The land around Beaumont Leys has been developed and built on since then giving an increased catholic population and under the guidance of successive Parish Priests the Parish has grown and thrived. Fr Tutto was succeeded by Fr Stephen Lennon in 1986 and in 1996 Fr Michael Lynch was appointed Parish Priest. Fr Lynch re-furnished both the Parish Centre and the Presbytery and also organised the repaving around the Church.

Father Jimmy Browne was our Parish priest from 2000 - 2009 and during this time the church was redecorated and the sanctuary refurbished to make St. Patrick's the bright welcoming church it is today. Many of our Parish groups and the Parish Pastoral Council began at this time and Father Jimmy enjoyed celebrating the golden anniversary of the Parish before returning to his native Ireland.

Father Martin Hardy arrived in the Parish in April 2009 and is our present priest.



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Annual Christmas Bazaar

The Good Shepherd Church of Woodthorpe, Nottingham, Christmas Bazaar took its annual place on 22 November 2014 from 10am-3pm. As always our fantastic community came together to support it in both donating and spending to raise a fantastic amount of money for the parish restoration fund, in the region of £3 800. It is always heart warming to see the parish community come together for a catch up and an Irish coffee. Many of the paying stall holders request their spot for the year after straight away as they are made to feel to welcome!!! No matter how many years pass, the bazaar remains an essential part of everyone's Christmas build up. With sincere thanks to the unsung heroes who appear and make it happen every year. It couldn't happen without you!!

Andrea Kelly



Friendship Club Visit to Chatsworth House



On Thursday 4th December 35 members of the Good Shepherd Church Friendship Club, from Woodthorpe, Nottingham visited Chatsworth House. The theme for this year in the main house was Alice in Wonderland. However, on arrival at Chatsworth everyone, pursued their chosen activities of eating, shopping or walking in the lovely grounds. The weather was very favourable which enabled time to be spent in the fresh air walking round, and admiring the beautiful gardens. The group then gathered together at 1300hrs to enter the house itself and see the displays.

On the return journey the coach driver kindly diverted to the famous Chatsworth Farm Shop. As anyone can imagine, this was an Aladdin's cave of magnificent food and drink, in particular the butchery. The Skills coach company with Pete behind the wheel brought us all safely back to the Good Shepherd Church for 18.15hrs. A big thank you goes to our photographer John Evans for all his skill and vigilance in capturing the essence of the day.

My thanks to everyone for making this a very enjoyable and fun day

Book Review

Holy Spirit Parish – A Century of Change

What do Bing Crosby, the Ryder Cup golfers, Apollo astronauts and a fictional priest detective have in common?

They all form part of the rich history of a Heckmondwike church which is celebrating its centenary with the publication of a commemorative book.

The book, which will be launched next week, is the culmination of four years' research by a team from the Holy Spirit RC Church in Bath Road.

Packed with history, anecdotes, memories and photographs spanning more than 100 years, Holy Spirit Parish – A Century of Change will raise money for the church's £270,000 centenary appeal which has seen the landmark building restored to its former glory.

The church was given a £170,000 grant from English Heritage for the project and had to raise the additional £100,000 itself. Book co-editor Peter Moreland said: "With our centenary approaching, we thought it would

be a good idea to tell the story of the Catholics of Heckmondwike, who had sacrificed so much for us in building our beautiful church

"From a blank piece of paper, and an idea that we might just get enough material for around six or seven chapters, we were completely overwhelmed with the response and ended up with more than 30 chapters!"

The book traces the parish's origins, from when Catholics first began meeting in rooms in Union Street and Brighton Terrace, to permanent premises, initially at the former St Patrick's Catholic School in

Darley Street, and then at the current site in Bath Road.

The priest tasked with building the new church was Father John O'Connor who sold his own extensive private art collection to help pay for it. He was also a great friend of the author G K Chesterton who modelled his famous fictional detective character Father Brown on him.

Another prominent priest who played an important role in the church's history was Father Paddy Roche, who was there from 1963-1977.

He was a great friend of the Hollywood actor Bing Crosby – who is even said to have attended Mass in Heckmondwike – as well as the American Ryder Cup team and the Apollo astronauts. In April 1972 Father Roche was invited to the launch of Apollo 16 and gave the crew a hand-painted blessing made by pupils from the Holy Spirit School. It was taken to the surface of the moon by the lunar module pilot Charlie Duke, whose own memories of the priest have been included in the book.

Other famous names who have contributed material include astronaut Eugene Cernan, Ryder Cup golfer Jack Nicklaus and English professional golfer and BBC television presenter Peter Alliss.

The book also looks at the history of St Patrick's School, which later became the Holy Spirit School, and contains memories of former pupils and teachers.

"The stories they tell are wonderful and give a valuable and precious insight into what life was like both at school and the church," said Peter.

"Sadly, some of the people we interviewed



Father Paddy Roche with the Apollo prayer and pupils from the Holy Spirit School. The photograph is signed by several of the astronauts.

for the book have since passed away. In hindsight, we should have started this years ago, but at least their memories will live on in the pages of this book.

"We have been completely overwhelmed by the response. We had more photographs than we could accommodate in the book, so we will also be bringing out a DVD of the extra pictures in the next few weeks."

The launch takes place at the Healds Hall Hotel, Leeds Road, Liversedge, on Thursday November 27 at 7.30pm and copies of

the book will be available for sale on the night, priced at £10.

"We hope lots of people will come along and buy copies which will make ideal Christmas presents. It will also be of interest to non-Catholics as it gives a fascinating insight into what life was like in Heckmondwike from the late 1800s," added Peter.

For more information, or to purchase copies at £13 including pp, please call Peter on 07760 205122 / 01924 501774 or email petermoreland@hotmail.com.

Students take over for the day

Students turned the tables on teachers at Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy when they took over for the day. The academy's Student Leadership Team was given the responsibility of planning the day, which included a revised timetable alongside some special events.

A major change that students implemented was to move form time from mid-morning to 9am, they also brought in a new lunch menu and organised activities during lunchtime and break.

Lewis Dunne, 17, who is a member of the Student Leadership Team, said planning for the day had begun at the beginning of the new school year.

He said: "We started making plans as soon as we came back to school after the summer."

"Moving form time was the thing that most students wanted to see because at the moment lessons start at 9am, this means students whose buses are late miss part of

their lesson.

"If form time was at the start of the day, rather than in the middle of the morning, then they would miss part of that instead rather than their lesson."

Students organised a flash mob in the dinner hall at break time, got every student involved in creating a piece of art for the academy and arranged for a talk by Derbyshire police.

They were also given three tasks which included giving their views on the possible re-branding of the academy, prioritising refurbishment works around school and voicing their opinion about the introduction of a new website for GCSE revision.

Kevin Gritton, head teacher of Saint Benedict CVA, said the students did a great job.

He said: "Takeover Day is about young people having a say in how their school is run, and feeling that they have a voice. At Saint Benedict CVA we feel very strongly that all of our young people should feel that



their school is there for them and that they have a big part to play in its success.

"Our wonderful Student Leadership Team took on the challenge of running the school for the day and made some real changes to the way we operate as a school - some of which we are considering adopting on a more permanent basis.

"The maturity and professionalism they showed in their leadership roles was humbling, highly impressive and as tired as they were at the end of the day, they really seemed to enjoy the experience.

"We are already looking forward to what next year's Student Leadership Team come up with."



Admissions Policy for Christ the King Voluntary Academy

Christ the King Catholic Voluntary Academy Admissions Policy for the academic year 2016-2017 has been drafted and is undergoing a consultation period of 8 weeks. The full draft policy and supplementary form can be found on the school website www.christtheking.notts.sch.uk. The academy welcomes any comments on the policy during this time. These can either be addressed to the school c/o Office, Christ the King Catholic Voluntary Academy, Darlton Drive, Arnold, Notts, NG5 7AJ or emailed to office@christtheking.notts.sch.uk

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St Mary's School Gets Heroic for Children in Need

St Mary's School got fully into the superhero spirit of this year's Children in Need - with everyone creating their very own superhero character. We had Apple Man bringing everyone their '5 a day'; Eco Girl saving the rainforest; Pink Girl turning the world pink; Colour Man - lighting up with real lights! and plenty of other examples of creative and original heroes helping others.

Even the teachers got in on the act! Our School Chaplaincy Team awarded prizes to every class for the best costumes - it was not an easy task to judge as everyone had clearly put in so much time and effort. A big thank you goes to all the children and parents who helped us raise an impressive £274.80 for Children in Need."



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