

St Joseph Feast Day  
19th March

# Catholic News



MORE THAN 17 YEARS OF BRINGING THE  
NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER

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## International Swimming Altar Server in Leicester

As the majority of our congregation continued to grapple with the winter season in December one of the Blessed Sacrament Church, Leicester altar servers was across the globe at the International Children's games in Australia, competing with teams from over 30 countries.



Kieran Wheatley aged 15, was travelling with a group of seven other swimmers from Leicestershire who were representing Leicester and England; the party left England on 3rd and then spent 10 days at the event.

Kieran, who is also a student at English Martyrs School in Leicester, has been swimming since he was aged 4 using the local pool at Braunstone and has been an altar server at the Church which is a short distance from the pool for nearly 9 years.

At the International Children's Games, Kieran competed in 4 individual races, successfully attaining a bronze medal in 200 metres Individual Medley, as can be seen in the photo.

We are very proud of his achievements and continue to wish him every success in future years.

## The changing face of Ecumenism

### A Catholic's perspective

The Catholic theologian Gerry O'Collins describes current thinking in his church as having moved from an 'either / or' to a 'both/and' mentality.

Applying this to ecumenism I believe he is describing the seismic shift at Vatican II from a mind-set which regarded the path to Christian unity as a call to other denominations to 'convert', to one which values and affirms the activity of the Holy Spirit in the witness and outreach of separated Christian communities. This has led to a shift of emphasis away from 'doing ecumenical things' which can merely entrench points of difference, to 'doing things ecumenically' where the focus is on the task or the project and Christians from across the spectrum are involved in a joint enterprise.

In Derby some good examples of this would be the Street Pastors, the work of the Padley Centre with the homeless, the Hope Centre's Food Bank, and Derby City Mission's Night Shelter In Nottingham we have Em-

manuel House day centre, food & clothes banks, the Police and Churches Refugee Forum and a winter night shelter Leicester and Lincoln also run very similar ventures to help the vulnerable and homeless.

Pope Francis has not, so far, made any detailed pronouncements of importance on Ecumenism but he is promoting a major internal reform of the Catholic Church challenging her to place the emphasis on evangelisation. He wishes her to be "... a poor church for the poor", and "... a church which goes forth". In this he is promoting a shift from a church which is preoccupied with her own internal workings and with safeguarding her own doctrines to one whose effectiveness will be judged by her service to the poor. In doing this I believe Pope Francis is connecting with the lively ecumenical spirit at grass roots level in our communities.

Doctrinally, there are major obstacles to convergence which



can't be wished away but I feel that if Pope Francis's revolution succeeds, a more outgoing and outward looking Catholic church will continue to find new ways of connecting with the outreach programmes of other Christian communities. The energy created by this will force new ways of approaching ecumenism based on what we can do together rather than on what keeps us apart. The path to Christian unity has never been a predictable one. Those who engage in it must do so trusting that the Holy Spirit is on their side, not knowing precisely what the outcome will be or when things will begin to happen. Anyone who can approach ecumenism on this basis will discover that we are living in interesting times!

Paul Chipchase

## CANDLEMAS SOCIAL

On Sunday February 1st the Polish Community of St. Paul's and St Margaret Marys Community of Sacred Heart Leicester, celebrated the feast of Candlemas with a joint social evening to mark the end of the Polish season of Christmas.

The evening began in the church before the Nativity Scene with alternate carols being sung in Polish and English and ending with a joint rendition of 'Silent Night' before moving into the bar area to continue our evening.

Once there we were greeted with mulled wine, tea and coffee, polish cake, hot sausage rolls, a various assortment of cakes and biscuits and the bar was also open for those who required something a little stronger!

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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  
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publication in this newspaper.

All items to be emailed to  
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# Persecuted for faith, Christians are united in bloodshed, pope says

By Carol Glatz

Christians are united in bloodshed as they suffer from violence and persecution in various parts of the world, Pope Francis told Christian leaders.

Today's martyrs are men and women, who through their witness to Jesus, are "persecuted and killed because they are Christian," the pope said Jan. 25 during an ecumenical prayer service marking the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Those who persecute them make no distinction about "which denomination they belong to. They are Christians and for that (they are) persecuted. This, brothers and sisters, is the ecumenism of blood."

With Orthodox, Eastern Orthodox, Anglican, Lutheran, Methodist and other Christian representatives present and reading some of the prayers, Pope Francis presided over the service at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

The service began with Pope Francis, Orthodox Metropolitan Gennadios of Italy and Anglican Archbishop David Moxon, the archbishop of Canterbury's representative in Rome, bowing in prayer before the tomb of St. Paul on the feast of his conversion.

Closing the Jan. 18-25 Week of Prayer for



*Pope Francis greets Brother Alois Leser, prior of the Taizé ecumenical community in France, at the conclusion of ecumenical vespers at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome Jan. 25. (CNS/Paul Haring)*

Christian Unity, the pope said Jesus showed that encountering those who are different "from us can make us grow."

Basing his homily on the Gospel story of Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well, the pope said the encounter is marked by dialogue, patience and respect, showing people today that "in order to understand each other and grow in love and truth we have to stop, welcome and listen to each other."

Unity comes about by journeying together, the pope said; nothing comes from standing still.

In fact, "Christian unity will never be the fruit of refined theoretical discussions in which each one will try to convince the other of the validity of one's opinions," he said before asking: "Will the Son of Man come and find us still having talks?"

Christians must recognize that "we need each other, to come together and face each other under the guidance of the Holy Spirit who harmonizes diversity and overcomes conflicts," he said.

Because of the Holy Spirit, "we have become one with Christ" and loving children of God, he said.

"This mystery of love is the most profound reason of the unity that binds all Christians and is much greater than the divisions that occurred throughout the course of history," he said. That is why the closer each Christian draws to Christ in humility, the closer "we will draw to each other, too."

So many people in the world are tired and thirsting for truth and meaning, the pope said. All churches and Christian communities, being called to evangelize, can do so more effectively by not being self-enclosed, exclusive or bent on "imposing uniformity according to purely human calculations."

"The common commitment to proclaim the Gospel permits overcoming every form of proselytism and temptation to compete. We are all at the service of

the one and same Gospel," he said.

Among those attending the prayer service were men and women belonging to Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican and Protestant religious orders; they had taken part in a three-day meeting on their role in ecumenism.

The pope, who met with them at the Vatican Jan. 24, said consecrated men and women were particularly suited for promoting unity because religious life is about seeking union with God and fostering greater unity within the community.

Religious life also shows that "unity is not born of our efforts, but is a gift of the Holy Spirit who achieves unity in diversity."

Unity is achieved by "walking together," he said, along a path of "fraternity in love, service and mutual welcoming."

The more individuals strive to live holy lives in conformity to the Gospel, the closer people will be in union with God and "the more deeply and easily will they be able to grow in mutual brotherly love," he said.

## Annual Day of Recollection for Catechists Saturday 4th July 2015

The theme will be the spirituality of St. Teresa of Avila and will be led by  
Dr Heather Ward.

To book in contact Diane Williams at <formation@nrcdt.org.uk>

Further details in the next Newsletter.

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## Loughborough Catenians Visit to the King Richard III Visitors Centre

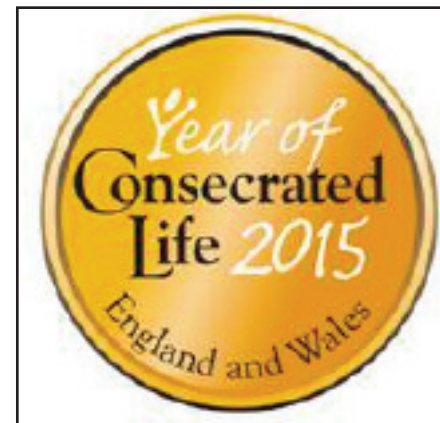


The Loughborough Catenians recently enjoyed a fascinating visit to Leicester's new King Richard III Visitors Centre. The centre was established following the exciting discovery of the remains of Richard III in 2012 and it stands on the site of the medieval friary of the Grey Friars where the king's remains were buried over 500 years ago. The visit was hosted by Loughborough Catenian Martin Traynor, who is Chair of the King Richard III Visitors Centre Trust. Following a warm welcome and a splendid reception buffet there was plenty of opportunity to tour the fascinating exhibits that cover the history of King Richard III and his death at the Battle of Bosworth as well as all of the research, archaeology and sci-

ence that led to the discovery and identification of the long lost remains of the king. Everyone who went on the visit had a wonderful time and it's easy to see why the centre has recently been acclaimed as one of the world's most innovative attractions for 2105. The remains of King Richard III will be reinterred in Leicester Cathedral which is located just 100 steps away from the visitor centre, in March 2015. Martin would like to extend an invitation to any other Catenian Circles who are interested in an opportunity to visit the Centre. If you would like to arrange a visit please contact Martin by email on traynor.m@btinternet.com

## Thoughts from Elston Hermitage.....

The Year of Consecrated Life is now well advanced there having already been many gatherings nationally and within our own Diocese. Through the pages of Catholic News some of our consecrated women, men and communities have told us of their lives and hopefully will continue to do so throughout this year. From the hermitage here in Elston we have looked at the Vows which consecrated people make at their profession, those of Poverty, Chastity and have briefly reflected on these and tried to evaluate them. This month we look at the third Vow - that of Obedience. The vow of Obedience, like the other two, were instituted in an age when bishops, abbots and abbesses were generally better educated than their underlings. Their subjects were to obey them. Before Vatican II this model was visible in the Church however, the second Vatican Council ushered in major changes and therefore the military style interpretations of this vow no longer met the demands of present times. The vow of Obedience of course, like the other vows, still finds its inspiration in Jesus' obedience to God the Father, even when it meant His death on the cross. Jesus taught that true happiness only comes through obedience and doing God's will. All of us, of course, are called to be obedient to God but Consecrated women and men go beyond this. Following the example of Jesus they are obedient not only to God but also to the authorities of their Orders/ Communities. This vow then implies that Religious are to be open, responsive, ready and eager to respond to the will of God. The vow of obedience makes consecrated people ready to go wherever they are needed. It is a vow of



complete flexibility, responding to the will of God and at disposal to God's service. The vow of Obedience then is the voluntary binding of oneself as a consecrated person under oath to obey their religious superiors. The Second Vatican Council declared that "moved by the Holy Spirit, they (Religious) subject themselves in faith to those who hold God's place, their superiors". The deepest meaning of the vow of Obedience then is expressed in the fullness of the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. "Christ became obedient unto death". And so it is that professing the vow of Obedience that Religious and Consecrated women and men offer a full surrender of their own will as a sacrifice of themselves to God and therefore are united permanently and securely to God's saving will. And far from lowering the dignity of the human person, religious obedience leads to maturity by extending the freedom of sons of God. This vow of all the vows may have seen some change but according to St. Thomas Aquinas, Obedience is the chief of the Vows, for liberty is dearer to man than anything else. In Obedience, consecrated people offer to God their own will, in likeness to Christ. "My food is to do the will of Him who sent me".

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

## Popular Bottle Stall



The Knights of St Columba in the Parish of Our Lady of Victories have a bottle stall every year which is very popular and this year contributed considerably to the Parish funds. The attached photograph shows the Grand Knight Keith Shiers and the Provincial Grand Knight David Bebb at the stand just before it opened. All of the organisations within the Parish contribute to this very popular event.

*Ken Lilley*

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*If any of us has a problem we turn to a family or a friend.*

*He can't do that, but the Circle listens and that is probably the most valuable thing.*

*Nicola, a volunteer with Yorkshire and Humber Circles of Support and Accountability.*

PICTURES:  
TONY JOHNSON



## BREAKING CYCLE OF SEX CRIME

ALAN (not his real name) is in his early 60s and says he has always been a loner. He has never had a very close loving relationship (even within his family) and has no children.

He has had a series of factory jobs and friendships in the past, although no-one he ever called a best friend. A couple of years ago he was convicted of sexual assault, after attacking a highly vulnerable woman he knew from the local area. He was given a two-year suspended sentence, but ended up spending 11 months in prison after committing another sexual assault. He spent the rest of his sentence released under licence in the community.

Alan has had plenty of time to think about his crimes, but still finds it difficult to explain what made him commit them. "I can't answer that, although I've tried," he says, wringing his hands and clearly agitated. Lack of money due to gambling, threatened homelessness and few functional relationships are part of what he thinks drove him to the first attack.

Staring downwards, he says: "I am very sorry for what I did and don't ever want to do it again. I felt I had nothing in my life. I think I committed the second crime so that I would go to prison, so that I'd have somewhere to go."

Today Alan lives in another part of Yorkshire, away from his victims. He has a flat in a housing project and lives on benefits, but has lately found a few hours work a week as a volunteer in a shop.

He must live with the damage he has done to two women and their families, as one of 46,000 convicted sex offenders living in the community – 4,445 of them in Yorkshire and the Humber. The statistics around sex offending are frightening: there was a 31 per cent rise in people caught or convicted of sex offending in 2013-14, and 50 per cent of the increase in the country's prison population in the last year is accounted for by sex offenders.

Nationwide, there were 23,000 sexual offences recorded against children last year. Awareness and discussion of sex crimes are greater than ever before, with stories breaking almost every week about allegations of historical sexual abuse and reports that some authorities around the country mishandled or ignored claims made years ago.

While in prison, sex offenders are separated from other inmates for fear of reprisals. Offenders attend training



***Why would you volunteer to work with convicted sex offenders when there are so many other less controversial ways to give your time? Sheena Hastings finds out.***

courses which analyse their behaviour and try to retrain them to think and feel differently after their release. When they rejoin society they usually live away from their home community and may be estranged from their family.

Initially they are monitored by the overstretched Probation Service. But what then? How does a loner like Alan avoid the feelings that led him to carry out sexual assaults, and get his life on track after his probation order or any treatment he is undergoing ends?

All the while, his adjustment to a different life has to be played out discreetly to avoid possible repercussions from those who don't believe a sexual predator will ever change their spots.

As the number of sexual offenders being processed by our judicial system grows, the

question of how to stop history repeating itself has to be addressed. There are no easy answers, but some years ago a religious group in Canada came up with a scheme now replicated across the UK. It involves the identification of offenders who are assessed to be at high risk of reoffending and putting them together with a Circle of Support and Accountability – a small group of volunteers from the community who meet the offender (called the "core member") every week for a year after their release from prison.

Following an initial full disclosure from the offender about his crime(s), support is given. A bond is formed but if concerns persist, police and other authorities are alerted.

"No more victims" is the slogan of the charity Circles of Support and Accountability. The volunteers listen to the offender talk about his problems and attempt to help him to create a social network and engage in activities that will give meaning to his life. They are ordinary individuals who are committed to protecting the community, and they must believe that it is possible for an individual to change. Alan has been seeing his group in North Yorkshire since last August. They meet in an anonymous and private town centre location, where Yorkshire and Humber Circles of Support and Accountability (YHCOSA) started working last year.

It's one of 14 Circle projects across the country, all of them working closely with police and the probation service and receiving some government funding. One volunteer is ill this week, but in the room are Nicola, a 60-something former prison

chaplain; Andy, who is in his 30s and works in housing; and Jess, who is in her early 20s. They are keen to know about Alan's week and how his first shifts at the shop have gone.

He is relaxed and cheerfully discusses the need to keep busy by finding cheap activities to fill his time and meet people. He has never really had hobbies, but might join a local club and dreams of having a dog. The volunteers gently urge him towards more volunteer work.

The conversation touches on a group outing to play ten-pin bowling recently and how Alan can eat healthily but inexpensively. His only complaint about the group is that the meetings are too short.

Behind all of the chat is a concerted effort to counteract the isolation and emotional vacuum that have been assessed as his triggers to offending. "We want to support him without creating dependency," says Nicola later. "If any of us has a problem we turn to family or a friend. He can't do that, but the Circle listens and that is probably the most valuable thing. At the same time the Circle is encouraging new routines and stability in his life so that things don't get out of control and spiral downwards again."

YHCOSA director Tammy Banks says the evidence that Circles Of Support works is incontrovertible.

"In Yorkshire and the Humber, we have worked so far with 56 men and none has been reconvicted of a sexual offence. Two have been recalled to prison for breaching their Sexual Offence Prevention Order, and that came about because they told the Circle about certain feelings and the Circle informed the authorities."

Andy says he could have volunteered elsewhere, but this project was urgently needed. "I offered because I'm interested in the treatment of sexual offenders. If more people work with them to help them to change, the less likely they are to reoffend and that has to be good for society. "We've seen Alan change and become more confident in the last few months, too, so it feels like things are starting to work out for him."

"I think everyone deserves a second chance."

*First published in the Yorkshire Post*

### How you can lend an ear to charity

YORKSHIRE and Humberside Circles of Support and Accountability (YHCOSA) needs more volunteers to work with perpetrators of sexual crimes who are committed to avoiding further offences.

No previous experience is necessary and both selection and training are rigorous.

YHCOSA covers Scunthorpe and Grimsby. The Coordinator for the Humberside area is John McNally a parishioner at the church of St Francis of Assisi in Hull who takes this opportunity to thank the clergy and safeguarding coordinators in the Nottinghamshire and Middlesbrough diocese for their continued help and support. He is responsible for recruitment and management of the Circles in this area. A retired police officer who has experienced at first hand the devastating results for victims of sexual abuse, he recognises the need for the community to help prevent offenders repeat their crimes.

A Circle is made up of four to six volunteers, who receive supervision and ongoing training for two hours a week.

A volunteer can be an adult of any age and from any walk of life. Life experience is very important, as is a commitment to safeguarding the community and a belief that people have the capacity to change.

For information about volunteering with YHCOSA call 01904 630911 or email [info@yhcosa.org.uk](mailto:info@yhcosa.org.uk)



**TOUGH TOPIC:** Top, Nicola listening to a former offender in one of the charity's support groups; above, Nicola with fellow volunteers Andy and Jess.

## Adult Faith Formation at the Good Shepherd Church, Arnold

# "We cannot love what we do not know"

*St Catherine of Sienna*

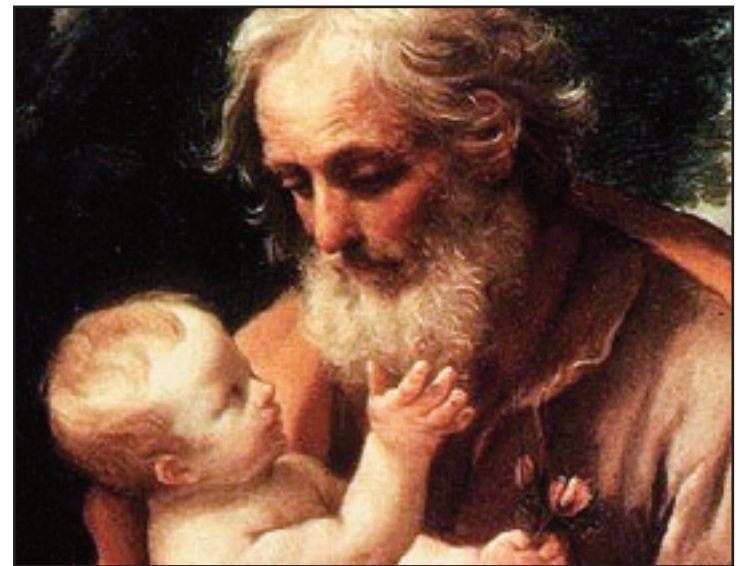
From June 2012 the Good Shepherd Church in Nottingham instituted a regular, weekly Faith Formation - a DVD presentation programme taking place on Thursday evenings at 7.30 pm in the parish centre. Cheryl Broodryk writes all about it.... "The idea of this Adult Faith Formation Programme is to inform Catholics about their Faith, it is about sowing good seed founded in Truth. We use sound resources which are easy to understand, non-threatening, encouraging informal discussion, and building the confidence of those attending as we all learn together. There is a great community spirit as we share experiences, seek help from one another and edify each other in faith. It also is a great way to refresh your faith, perfect to help parish Catechists and topics are diverse, appealing to many different individuals along their journeys. I would strongly encourage all parishes to explore the formation of a similar program in their parishes if they do not already have something in place. The Salvation of souls is and must be the aim of all baptised Catholics; we are obligated to use our gifts to help build the Church, and what better way to do this than by a deeper understanding of our Faith?"

Please visit the website: [www.goodshepherd-arnold.org.uk](http://www.goodshepherd-arnold.org.uk) and click on the "Faith Formation" link to see information on past and current programmes. If you are interested in sharing these talks with your parish please do not hesitate to contact Cheryl at [cbroodryk@aol.com](mailto:cbroodryk@aol.com). The current programme is on the subject of Mary and used resources produced by Professor Scott Hahn.

## Saint Joseph's Day March 19

Saint Joseph's Day, the Feast of St. Joseph is in Western Christianity the principal feast day of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It has the rank of a solemnity in the Roman Catholic Church; Catholics who follow the Missal of 1962 celebrate it as a first class feast.

March 19 always falls during Lent, and traditionally it is a day of abstinence. This explains the custom of St. Joseph tables being covered with meatless dishes. If the feast day falls on a Sunday other than Palm Sunday, it is observed on the next available day, usually Monday, March 20, unless another solemnity falls on that day. Since 2008, if St Joseph's Day falls during Holy Week, it is moved to closest possible day before 19 March, usually the Saturday before Holy Week.



## Bishop's Certificate in Catechesis— MISSED A SESSION?

If anybody would like to attend a session they have missed, just let us know.

MANSFIELD St Philip Neri	Session	SHEPSHED St Winefride's	NOTTINGHAM, MEADOWS Our Lady & St Patrick's
25th March	7. Sacraments & Liturgy	3rd March	2nd March
11th March	8. RCIA	24th March	23rd March
22nd April	9. Baptism	14th April	20th April
6th May	10. Eucharist, 1st Communion	5th May	18th May
20th May	11. Children's Liturgy	19th May	1st June
10th June	12. Catechesis & Young People	2nd June	

## FRANKLY SPEAKING

### Need to examine our purpose in life

When you read this article Lent 2015 will have commenced. To be a Christian in the early years of the twenty first century is not easy and the season of Lent this year will be no exception to this.

There are so many issues to concern us in national or international affairs so we may wonder what we as individuals can achieve. Perhaps there is a great need for all of us to examine our purpose in life.

To those who are looking after children or relations with special needs their purpose in life is not hard to define, they can face particular problems and hardships each day and need our love and support. When any Christian makes a decision to step out of their comfort zone it can sometimes mean a long commitment to work with or support others. In our troubled world the 24 hours rolling news agenda frequently brings scenes of human suffering which can sometimes be quite harrowing. There are a number of Catholic (and other) agencies who work to relieve human misery, they receive little publicity, want no medals and have clearly found their purpose in life. Long after the television crews have left they remain committed to their vocation. We are frequently asked to give them financial and spiritual support, so what else can we do? I myself am somewhat weary of the arguments over the "politics" of foreign aid. In 1970 the spending of 0.7 per cent of our GDP was agreed to be given to developing countries who need help in what we call the

third world. This figure featured in the two 1974 General Elections literature, I believe it was never achieved until 2013. I find it truly astonishing that civil servants recently went on a £1 billion spending spree to hit aid spending targets. If our governments cannot sort out how to spend this much needed aid money can they not leave this task to reputable agencies? Can our politicians not stop the frequent critics of foreign aid as we face up to £30 billion of cuts or tax rises planned for 2015-16. In the coming General Election there may not be many votes in campaigning for foreign aid but I hope that all who support the principle of help to the third world will still lobby their parliamentary candidates on that United Nations 1970 pledge.

Barely a week goes by this year without words of wisdom from Pope Francis. Speaking on the Catholic Church's World Day of Communications the Pope said "The great challenge facing us today is to learn once again how to talk to one another". He urged families to put aside their iPhones and Twitter feeds and not simply generate and consume information. Note that this message is aimed at "families" which are a sure foundation to examine our purpose in life. Mothering Sunday and the feast of St Joseph this year are just four days apart. What a week for families to talk to one another and to celebrate St Patrick as well.

*Frank Goulding  
Holy Trinity Parish, Newark*



**St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy**  
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2 Primary Teachers –KS2  
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In May 2014 OFSTED judged Saint John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy to be GOOD in all areas.  
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The Directors of St John Fisher CVA are looking to appoint two enthusiastic Key Stage Two class teachers who would like to join us on our journey towards Outstanding:

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The interview process will be in two stages:  
Stage 1 – Lesson observation

Teachers will be observed teaching a 30mins Literacy and 30mins Numeracy lesson on Wednesday 25th February or Thursday 26th February 2015

If successful the candidate will move to stage 2.

Stage 2 – Formal interviews will be held on Friday 27th February 2015

St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check.

Visits to the school are strongly encouraged.  
For an application form and further details, please contact Mrs Harlow the School Business Manager.

Closing Date for applications is Monday 23rd February 2015 at 12:00pm

# FAMILIES KEY TO PASSING ON FAITH




On Saturday 22 November Bishop John Sherrington attended a 'Families and Faith Day' hosted by 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. He said: "The family is the fundamental cell of society, where we learn to live with others despite our differences and to belong to one another; it is also the place where parents pass on the faith to their children". Workshops were also available and they included: building parish family groups; pass-

ing 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 held at Christ the King Catholic School, Nottingham and Bishop John's power-point presentation and talk are available on the Nottingham Diocesan website: [www.nottingham-diocese.org.uk/formation.html](http://www.nottingham-diocese.org.uk/formation.html)



## PROCLAIM '15

There is a national event on evangelisation called PROCLAIM '15 in Birmingham on 11th July. Guest speakers include Cardinal Vincent Nichols and Rev. Nicky Gumbel from Alpha. There are limited places available— to find out more visit: [www.catholicnews.org.uk/proclaim15](http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/proclaim15). If you would like to attend the event then contact Diane Williams at the formation office. Email: [formation@nrcdt.org.uk](mailto:formation@nrcdt.org.uk)



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# Pope recognizes martyrdom of Archbishop Romero

By Cindy Wooden



After decades of debate within the church, Pope Francis formally recognized that Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero was killed "in hatred of the faith" and not for purely political reasons.

Pope Francis signed the decree Feb. 3, recognizing as martyrdom the March 24, 1980, assassination of Archbishop Romero in a San Salvador hospital chapel as he celebrated Mass.

The decree clears the way for the beatification of Archbishop Romero. The postulator or chief promoter of his sainthood cause, Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the Pontifical Council for the Family, was scheduled to brief the press Feb. 4 about the cause.

Archbishop Romero's sainthood cause was opened at the Vatican in 1993, but was delayed for years as the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith studied his writings, amid wider debate over whether he had been killed for his faith or for taking political positions against Salvadoran government and against the death squads that were operating in his country. As head of the San Salvadoran Archdiocese from 1977 until his death, his preaching grew increasingly strident in defense of the country's poor and oppressed.

Pope Benedict XVI told reporters in 2007 that the archbishop was "certainly a great witness of the faith" who "merits beatification, I do not doubt." But he said some groups had complicated the sainthood cause by trying to co-opt the archbishop as a political figure.

Seven years later, Pope Francis -- the first Latin American pope -- told reporters that "for me, Romero is a man of God." However, he said at the time, "the process must go ahead, and God must give his sign. If he wants to do so, he will."

During his general audience Jan. 7, Pope Francis quoted words that Archbishop Romero had spoken at the funeral Mass of

a priest assassinated by Salvadoran death squads: "We must all be willing to die for our faith even if the Lord does not grant us this honor."

Although not seen as exercising any pressure to move the cause forward, St. John Paul II made it a point of praying at Archbishop Romero's tomb in the San Salvador cathedral during visits to the city in 1983 and again in 1996.

During his first visit, he told people gathered in the cathedral, "Within the walls of this cathedral rest the mortal remains of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, a zealous pastor whose love of God and service to his brothers and sisters led to the very sacrifice of his life in a violent way as he celebrated the sacrifice of forgiveness and reconciliation."

When Pope John Paul returned 13 years later, he told the people that he wanted to pray again at the tomb of Archbishop Romero, "brutally assassinated while he offered the sacrifice of the Mass." The pope said he was pleased that the archbishop's memory "continues to live among you."

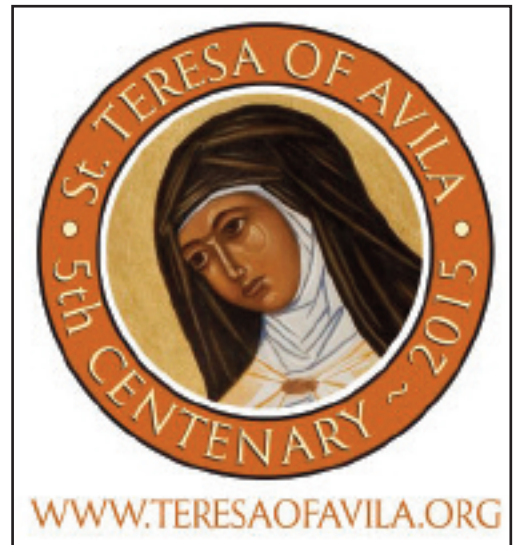
An official decree of martyrdom removes the beatification requirement of a miracle attributed to the candidate's intercession. Generally, a miracle after beatification would still be needed for canonization.

The same day that Pope Francis formally recognized Archbishop Romero's martyrdom, he also signed a decree recognizing the martyrdom of two Polish Conventual Franciscans and an Italian missionary priest who were murdered by Shining Path guerrillas in Peru in 1991. Franciscan Fathers Michal Tomaszek and Zbigniew Strzalkowski and Father Alessandro Dordi, a diocesan priest from Bergamo, were killed in separate incidents in August 1991.

Dates for the beatification of Archbishop Romero and the Peru martyrs were not announced immediately.

# Teresa of Avila Exhibition

This specially designed Teresa 500 exhibition is now touring the UK. Designed to provide a powerful introduction to the life, times and teaching of St Teresa, the exhibition is made up of six free-standing banners. These cover topics such as Teresa's teaching on prayer, her understanding of the human person, and her relevance for today. Additional leaflets and prayer cards accompany the exhibition. Over the centenary year, the exhibition will be visiting 16 cathedrals across Britain, as well as two Carmelite monasteries and the National Shrine of Our Lady, Walsingham. It will be in St Barnabas Cathedral, Nottingham between : 13th - 23rd October 2015



In about 60 days our country will go to the polls to elect a new government. This means we have just over two months to reflect, engage and pray. If there is one thing we can be sure of, it's that the direction of our country will be shaped by the decisions made on 7 May.



Who you vote for at an election is a personal and private decision, and as people of faith we have a responsibility to pray for and question those who represent us on the issues that stand at the heart of the Gospel. Thousands of you have already successfully contacted party leaders and MPs to ask them to tackle climate change for the sake of creation and our global neighbours.

Now join us by asking your parliamentary candidates what their parties are doing to end poverty at home and abroad. When we speak out together as a Catholic community we have a louder voice. This is why we are joining CSAN, the domestic social action agency of the Catholic Church, to ask questions of parliamentary candidates at a time when they want to hear about the issues that matter most to

you.

Whether you are attending hustings meetings where candidates debate and answer your questions, or responding to canvassers on your doorstep, the 2015 election offers us an opportunity to speak out against injustice with a united voice. The Chairs of Trustees for CAFOD and CSAN, Bishop John Arnold and Bishop Terence Drainey, have said together: At a general election we are asked to think about the world we want to live in. As Catholics, we are called to speak up for the poorest and most vulnerable people at home and abroad. CAFOD and CSAN are asking supporters to reflect and act on some pressing challenges that we face both in the UK and around the world. "We hope you will embrace this opportunity to reflect, act and pray during this important time and we wish you every grace and blessing."

# Flame

Flame2 is the largest National Catholic Youth event of 2015, taking place in the SSE Wembley Arena on Saturday 7th March 2015.

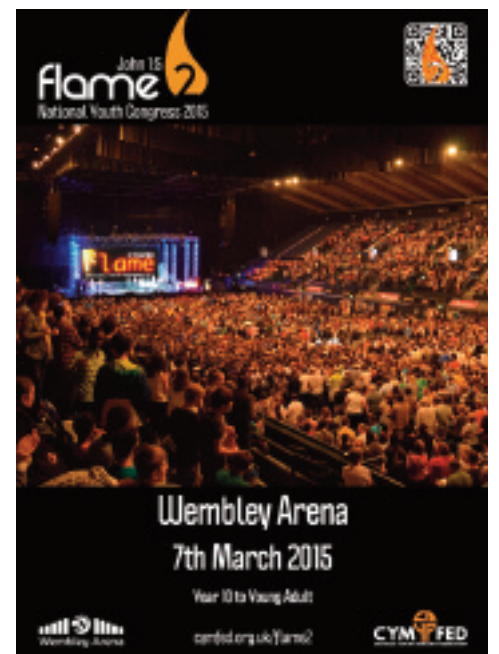
Doors open at 11, and Flame2 starts at 12, finishing at 5.30pm.

The SSE Wembley Arena will be filled with 10,000 young people from across the country, receiving faith-filled inspiration from world class speakers. Confirmed speakers include Cardinal Luis Tagle from Manila, Philippines; Baroness Sheila Hollins; Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP; and David Wells. Throughout the day speakers will give bursts of input, interspersed with world class music and drama, in an atmosphere full of joy. Music will be provided by double grammy award winning Matt Redman and his band. The day ends with a time of Adoration led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols.

Flame2 is open to anyone in school year ten and above, up to young adult (i.e. aged approx. 14-21).

Bookings will be accepted from groups of ten or more, and a booking form can be downloaded on the website <http://cymfed.org.uk/flame2/>

-Bookings must be made in advance – we are anticipating a full Arena, and there will be no provision for bookings on the day.



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## 24 HOURS FOR THE LORD

The Holy Father has welcomed the idea of proposing once again the 24 Hours for the Lord initiative which was celebrated last Lent with great participation. The next edition of the 24 Hours for the Lord, therefore, will take place on Friday, March 13 and Saturday, March 14, 2015, according to the calendar set by the Holy Father. The theme that will guide the reflection is: God rich in mercy (Ephesians 2:4).

During the days indicated above, according to the possibilities and the needs of individual local Churches, it would be important to provide an extraordinary opening of churches, offering the possibility for Confessions and Eucharistic Adoration. The day could conclude with the celebration of Holy Mass on Saturday evening. Further information can be found on their website: <http://www.novaevangelizatio.va>

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# The Russian Ushakov medal presented

David Hill, a Knight of St Columba, received the Ushakov medal from a Sergey N. Fedichkin, third secretary to the Russian Embassy who came from London to present the medal. David was overwhelmed by the presentation and the letter of sincere thanks from the Russian people. In 2013 David received the British Arctic Star, through the post from the Ministry of Defence. It took our country 70 years to recognise the valour and sacrifice of the sailors who fought in the Arctic. During WWII, 78 convoys delivered 4 million tons of fuel, armaments, and vital equipment to Russia, through the icy arctic waters, but at a high cost of men and ships. Ever since then the Russians have wanted to thank and reward the surviving veterans. David says, "I am no hero, but I am pleased to accept both medals not for myself but for all of those who served in those treacherous waters."

It has taken even longer for the Russian medal to arrive. They couldn't present it because we had put a ban on the award of foreign medals unless the action had taken place before 5 years had elapsed. President Putin must have persuaded our government to act because in 2013 he gave the first medal to some of the Arctic convoy veterans in London when he made a State visit. Two others, apart from David, received the Ushakov medal this week they



are Harry Darby and Mr Gee both of whom live in Market Harborough.

At the present time, the Russian Federation awards this medal for acts of gallantry to individuals in the Russian navy. The medal commemorates Admiral Ushakov who fought 12 sea battles in the Russo-Turkish wars of the 18th century and

never lost a battle. Today he is the patron Saint of the Russian Navy, canonised by the Russian Orthodox Church. Congratulations David, a Knight of St Columba, who celebrates his 90th birthday in October of this year.

Press Officer Ken Lilley, Council .621 Province 9.

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# The Cup That Cheers

by Julia Beacroft

Much as I love the season of Lent, it can be quite a relief to reach Easter at last. "Why," you may ask, "when we try to make time for extra prayer and reflection, fasting and almsgiving? Surely it's the time, when we try to get our own spiritual house in order." Well, of course this is all true. But I now regard Lent with a little more caution... I used to find the whole idea of 'giving something up for Lent' an exciting and encouraging prospect. I had conversations with my daughters about what we thought we might be able to do without. Of course, chocolate is always a popular one: "I'm giving that up, not you," my daughters would argue in true Christian spirit. I thankfully don't smoke, so that was never a contender and I had already given up alcohol, cakes and chocolate in previous years. I could of course repeat one of these but I rather fancied the idea of a new challenge...

ADDICT Other people's comments on the subject aren't always exactly helpful either. They have varied from, "Why bother to give up anything at all?" to "Give up talking! That's a better idea!" But such comments didn't solve my problem. So a couple of years ago, after much brain-racking, I thought, "I've got it! I'll give up coffee for Lent." I ran the idea past my nearest and dearest, whose expressions varied from sceptical to puzzled. "But you're a coffee addict," I was told. "Are you sure this is a good idea?" Yet I was determined to do it... Never had six weeks seemed so long to me in all my life! I couldn't believe how difficult it was to manage without that lifesaving cup - or in my case, mug - throughout the day. And tea just didn't cut it either. Apparently I became ever grumpier, bad-tempered and frazzled as Lent progressed. "For heaven's sake, have a coffee!" I was told, but I stubbornly refused.

TEMPTATION I fought my way through Lent that year without those longed-for coffee



breaks of my dreams and I didn't give in to temptation once. However, I snapped, snarled and growled my way towards the celebration of our Lord's Passion and Resurrection.

The giving up of coffee was not prayerful or reflective and I was too preoccupied to think about giving the money I had saved

to a worthy cause. I felt fed-up and made everyone around me fed-up too. So now, in hindsight, I don't give up anything for Lent any more - I try to do something extra instead, something that will spill over into the Easter period, if at all possible. And I enjoy my coffee, for all it's worth...

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# THE LATIN MASS IN HOLY ROOD AGAIN

Back in October of last year, I was approached as a member of the Parish Pastoral Council of Holy Rood, Market Rasen, by Michael Carroll, the Latin Mass Society Representative for Lincolnshire. He had come to the conclusion from his county-wide peregrinations that the geographical position of Market Rasen and the size and relative antiquity of Holy Rood would be very suitable for the celebration of the Latin Mass.

By that term I refer to the Mass in the *usus antiquior* (or extraordinary form) of the Roman Rite, using the 1962 Missal, permission to celebrate which was granted all Priests by the *Motu Proprio* of Benedict XVI: *Summorum Pontificum*.

The first step in this process was the collection of signatures from a reasonable number of parishioners who would form a stable group likely to attend such a Mass regularly. Double figures have usually been expected since this development began. In a fairly short time I had 44 on my clipboard, which I am told is a record for England and Wales.

The first Mass was celebrated on the evening of Friday 24th October last year by Father Dominic O'Connor of St. Mary's, Brigg. It was a very unpretentious, well-attended Low Mass, with some singing from a small schola of stalwarts from Louth. Father Dominic had driven back all afternoon from Devon and David the Server came all the way from Hull.

Since over forty people had come, Michael Carroll and I felt it important to maintain momentum and arrange another Latin Mass not too soon after the first but not too long either. We picked true Epiphany,

Tuesday 6th January, and started the arranging. Everything depended upon the availability of the indefatigable Father Dominic and, of course, the continuing support of my Parish Priest at Holy Rood, Father Thomas Breslin. We are grateful to both of them for their indispensable contributions.

Michael warned me that almost all over England and Wales it has been the pattern that the second Latin Mass has always been more poorly attended than the first, so on the night we had no idea exactly what was going to happen. We had advertised the fact that it would be candle-lit and so it was, even down to small individual hand-held candles. Another member of Holy Rood PPC, Lisa Pearce, wrote in the Brigg Newsletter that the Mass had been "spectacular and beautiful". It was followed by Benediction for which Father Dominic was vested in a particularly gorgeous red chasuble.

To our astonishment and delight we counted the attendance at over 60 worshippers, a number which included over fifteen teenagers. Everyone took away one of the small pieces of blessed chalk with which to inscribe on the lintels of their front doors the initials C(aspar), M(elchior), B(althazar).

It was a truly unforgettable event which demonstrated that people now familiar with the New Mass in English can still draw spiritual sustenance from the Old Latin Mass. The two forms are not in competition: they can be two lungs that enable Christ's Church to breathe better.

David Lightfoot



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# Promising future ahead of talented young organist



Ratcliffe College Student Eric Chan with Director of Music, Mr Edward McCall

Music at Ratcliffe College is alive and flourishing! One of its Year 13 students, Eric Chan, from Hong Kong, joined Ratcliffe as a full-time boarder in Year 9, when he already had Grade 8 Violin. As one of the College's most gifted musicians, he has exceeded expectations regarding his outstanding musical giftedness. Having recently been awarded his ATCL associate diploma from Trinity College of Music on the Piano, his options were always going to lead to a career in music. He took his Grade 8 Organ last summer (and was awarded a Distinction); during the same time he gave his debut Organ recital in Melton Mowbray

Parish Church. Following this, he was asked to give a number of other concerts. Word quickly spreads, since he was offered the opportunity to perform on the Organ at the Royal Albert Hall, where another Ratcliffe's Head Girl and recent recipient of an offer to read Engineering at Oxford, Sally Croysdale, was also performing in the Youth Proms as principal clarinettist. Eric's Organ teacher and Director of Music at Ratcliffe College, Mr Edward McCall, commented: "We are extremely fortunate to have students of Eric's calibre and his success underlines the opportunities which stem from

a deep and rounded musical education. Eric will be a huge success as his career in music progresses". Eric has recently accepted a place at the Royal College of Music to study this September, focussing jointly on piano and organ. In the meantime, Eric will be kept busy giving recitals and playing concerts, including Haydn's Nelson Mass with the Music Department, along with the impressive choir and chamber orchestra, where the majority of the musicians performing are already of Grade 8 standard.

## FR ERIK VARDEN - GUEST CELEBRANT AT GRACE DIEU MANOR SCHOOL MASS

Grace Dieu marked the start of a New Year and new Term as they held a whole School Mass with Father Eric Varden, a guest Celebrant and Superior at Mount Saint Bernard Abbey, along with School Chaplain Father Denis Labartette. A powerful, yet reflective service kept the children engaged and interested. Headmaster, Mr Peter Fisher, commented; "Grace Dieu is a Catholic School with its education rooted in its faith. It was wonderful for our pupils to celebrate Mass with Father Erik who spoke about The Feast of Epiphany in the context of gifts generously given and gifts graciously received, with Jesus being a wonderful gift to us all."



## Sisters of Providence of Ruillé-sur-Loir

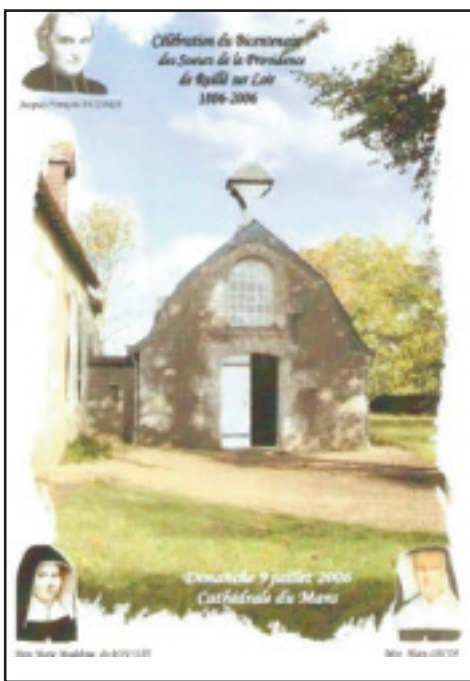
We were founded in 1806 in a small village in north-western France about 50 kms. south east of Le Mans. At the time France was still suffering spiritually and materially from the horrors of the French Revolution. A priest, Fr. Jacques François Dujarié, was sent to the small village of Ruillé-sur-Loir. He desperately wanted to bring help to the people in a hamlet about 4 kms. from the village where there were children who had no education and sick people who had no one to care for them.

With the help of the local people he built a small house which became known as 'The Little Providence'. Two women agreed to care for the needy of the area. The house still stands today, with its tiny Chapel built in 1811, as a place of pilgrimage for our Sisters, family and friends....our present Mother House dates from 1820 and is in the village. From these humble beginnings the Congregation spread over the next hundred years to America in 1840 (where it became an autonomous Congregation)..... (the leader of the small group that went out to the United States, Mother Theodore Guerin, was canonised in 2006.)

Our Sisters came to England in 1896, to Belgium and Holland in 1897.

The Sisters arrived in Lincoln in 1902 and opened a School, also helping in the local Parishes and catechising the Catholic children in the RAF camps. We closed our School in 1993 but it continued as an educational Establishment as The Lincoln Minster School. Today our Sisters are also in Bedworth, London and Oxford.

In 1948 our Sisters went out to Sri Lanka to run a TB Hospital and in 1963 when the Marxist Government no longer wanted Europeans the Congregation responded to a request for Sisters in Madagascar. Our



Congregation is still present in these islands

Sisters of Providence bear the name which identifies our charism, the particular gift of the Spirit that is ours. The motto of our Congregation is 'Deus Providebit', and our Congregation cross bears the first letters of these two letters DP... ..based on the Old Testament story of Abraham being tested to sacrifice his only son Isaac... ..but God provided an alternative Sacrifice and Isaac was spared.

To what do we feel called as Sisters of Providence? To be instruments of this protective care of God for our brothers and sisters...by witnessing to the love and goodness of the Father in responding to the needs of today within the Church or in society

according to our age and possibilities.

The Feast of Christmas is our patronal Feast and so the Incarnation holds an important place in our spirituality as we try to live of the hope that Christ brought to our world in complete trust, simplicity and joy.

### Continued from page 1

To keep us interested and amused we then heard the narrative of 'The Innkeepers Tale' (a Christmas poem), a couple of seasonal jokes and we had an 'End of Christmas' table quiz to keep us occupied before we introduced our guest speaker, Kazia Myers.

Kazia is a member of our Polish community whose parents were refugees and survivors of Stalin's labour camps and who settled in England after the war. She has written two books, 'Stolen Years' and 'The Journey' that she dedicated to them and their generation so that their wartime experiences imposed on them by their oppressors should not be forgotten.

## Book Review

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

By David Clayton and  
Leila Marie Lawler.  
Sophia Institute Press

This book addresses the question: how do we live our Faith outside Mass on Sunday? It is a question every Catholic parent must reflect on; the authors, both fired with a sense of what Catholic culture is about, provide an answer. They emphasise that they are only making suggestions to help other families start to pray together, something surprisingly hard to establish in the hurly-burly of home



life. Interestingly, both authors are converts; thus they come to faith and how to incarnate it at home with fresh, invigorating ideas. They say half-humorously: "How does one manage to fit in daily Mass, the Divine Office, the Rosary, the Divine Mercy chaplet, the Jesus Prayer, devotion to the Sacred Heart and everything else – on top of a family life?"

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

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

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

Francis Phillips

She very kindly came along to talk to us and share some of her experiences of those times and the writing of her books which have received wide ranging customer reviews.

She had brought along several copies of her books and at the conclusion of her talk was kept busy for quite some time chatting and signing copies for those interested.

And so after three hours the evening drew to a close and once again we had enjoyed the friendship of our two communities with religious celebration and social interaction. It's not often that we finish Christmas and begin Lent in the same month but what a pleasant way to do it!

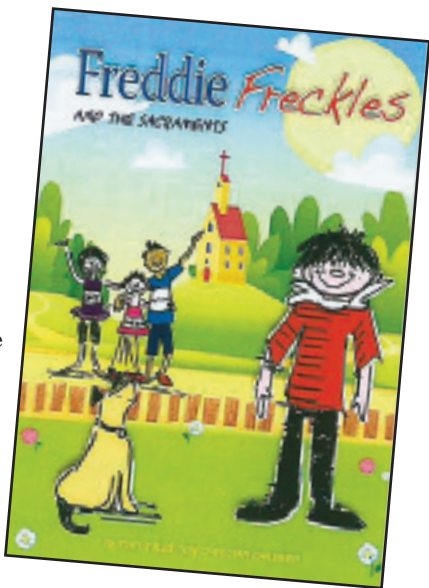
Ted Keller

# Book Reviews

## Freddie Freckles and the Sacraments

by Fr Tim Buckley C.Ss.R  
ISBN 978082314180

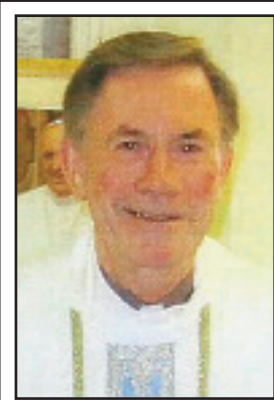
Join Freddie as he goes on a journey where he learns more about the sacraments. This collection of short stories is written for children aged seven to nine and explore many rites from the Catholic Church – looking back to the significance of their baptism and forward to their confirmation. Along the way Freddie also learns the true meaning of Easter and Christmas and begins to have a better understanding of prayer and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. For each chapter Fr Tim has written helpful guides for when to tell each story along with scripture references. Ideal for small groups of children but also great for children to read on their own. Freddie Freckles is a gentle way to teach them about the sacraments. Freddie Freckles and the Sacraments is perfect for children aged 7-9 and its entertaining stories will help children to be excited about their life in the Catholic Church



## Being a Catholic Mother

Elizabeth Davies  
ISBN: 9780852314104

It may be that the life of a Catholic mother has never been harder where faith is concerned. But if that is the case, it has never been more important that Catholic women take time out to think deeply about what it is they do as mothers, and how and why they do it. This book offers a way to begin to do that. The contemporary design and beautiful photographs make this a real pleasure to read with personal advice and anecdotes from many Catholic mothers.



Father Tim has spent his adult life working as a parish priest, Vocations Director for the Redemptorists and Publishing Director at Redemptorists Publications. He currently has three books published - What Binds Marriage?, Take Heart: Expand Your Vision or God and The Adventures of Freddie Freckles. The new book Freddie Freckles and the Sacraments follows Freddie of his latest adventures.



To order your copy of this book contact Redemptorist Publications, Alphonsus House, Chawton, Hampshire GU34 3HQ Telephone 01420 88222 online [www.rpbooks.co.uk](http://www.rpbooks.co.uk) or e-mail [sales@rpbooks.co.uk](mailto:sales@rpbooks.co.uk) RRP £6.95

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It has a circulation of 4,500  
Adverts start at £19. Please phone Alice on 01440 730399 to book an advert in the paper.

# St Mary's School joins forces with DCFC to help St Trizah's School in Kenya

Derby City Football Club have asked St Mary's School to help with fundraising for St Trizah's School in Nakuru, Kenya. This is the fourth year that the Rams have been involved with this school and much has been accomplished in the time - class rooms built, water butts put in, chicken coops and livestock provided. The School has had to be re-built several times due to landowners evicting the School, fortunately DCFC have now been able to buy St Trizah's its own land so this won't happen again.

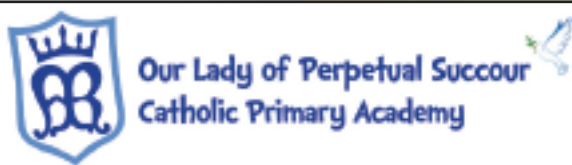
This year 48 volunteers will be going to Nakuru to help build the new school, as well as local teachers providing support to the Head, Madame Zapora.

Paul Newman and Craig Tice (a parent of St Mary's) from the project came to talk to St Mary's children about what life is like

for the children of St Trizah's. They were fascinated by the differences - crowded classes of up to 50; children making things to sell in the school shop to raise money; the many orphans at the school who live in dormitories; 10 year olds looking after the Head's baby while she teaches; the exotic local wildlife and beauty of the safari parks. But much of course is universal for children everywhere - the love of sport, play, laughter and enjoyment.

There is so much that the children can learn from each other about the similarities and differences in their lives, and Paul encouraged St Mary's children to sign up as pen pals with those from St Trizah's, as well as looking for ways to raise money to build the new school."

*Fran Wickes*



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