

Catholic News



MORE THAN 17 YEARS OF BRINGING THE NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER

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The General Election 2015 A letter to Catholics in England and Wales from their Bishops

“... Remembering the mercies of God... let the renewing of your minds transform you, so that you may discern for yourselves what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and mature.”

(cf Romans 12:1-2)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

The Gospel is radical and challenging. It is the saving message of Jesus Christ. It is a way of life. It teaches us to value each person: the vulnerable child inside the womb; the parent struggling with the pressures of family life; the person striving to combat poverty; the teacher inspiring students to seek the truth; the stranger fleeing violence and persecution in their homeland; the prisoner in his cell in search of redemption; the child in a distant land claiming the right to a future; and the frail elderly person needing care and facing the frontier of death.

As Catholics, we are called to work for a world shaped by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Gospel proclaims the mercy of God and invites us steadfastly to love God and our neighbour. Our relationship with God leads to the desire to build a world in which respect, dignity, equality, justice, and peace are our primary concerns.

Pope Francis tells us that we are 'missionary disciples' who witness to the

mercy of Christ through the faithfulness of our lives and the world we wish to build. In the light of the Gospel we can be messengers of hope as we challenge the political candidates about the policies they wish to implement and the reasons why. At this General Election we are asked to think about the kind of society we want here at home and abroad. Whom you vote for is a matter for you alone. Our aim is to suggest how you might approach this important question in May 2015 and to suggest some key issues for your reflection as you make your own decision.

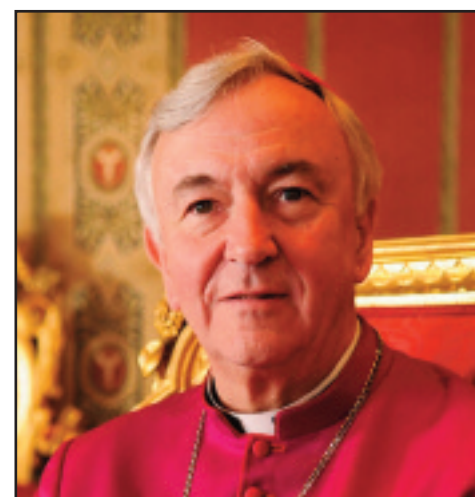
Voting in a general election should seldom, if ever, be based on a single issue. Elections involve a whole range of issues, some without doubt more central than others, particularly those concerned with the dignity and value of human life and human flourishing. In this letter, we highlight some important issues – but not the only ones. In each case we suggest a question which you may wish to bear in mind.

Respecting life
Human beings are created in the image

and likeness of God. Each person matters and the foundation of Catholic teaching is the respect for human life from conception to natural death. We support policies that protect the fundamental right to human life. The unborn child is vulnerable and defenceless and, tragically, in our society often the innocent victim of abortion. We oppose calls to introduce assisted suicide or euthanasia. We urge better support for carers and more high quality palliative care and a robust National Health Service on which we can all rely. The House of Lords has been considering a Bill to legalise assisted suicide, and it is likely that there will be renewed efforts by some in the next Parliament to pass such legislation.

Where do the candidates in your constituency stand on assisted suicide, euthanasia, abortion and other life issues?

Continued on
Page 2



Cardinal Vincent Nichols
President



Archbishop Peter Smith
Vice President

Liturgy Matters –

Annual Diocesan Music Day – Newark

“Sing & Play with Joy to God”

The Diocesan Liturgical Commission are delighted to announce the details for the Annual Diocesan Music Day.

Our day this year will be on Saturday 20th June, 2015, and will take place at the usual venue, the Holy Trinity Centre, Newark. The day will begin at 10am (with registration and refreshments from 9.30) and will conclude at 3.30pm. Please save the date! This is a day for all who make or aspire to make a particular contribution to the musical offering of our liturgies, whether with voice or instrument.

In recent years, we have been greatly enriched by visits from high fliers such as Philip Jakob and Christopher Walker.

Continued on page 3



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

The monthly paper for the
Diocese of Nottingham

**The
Catholic News**

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Wanted Parish Correspondents

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

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

Continued from Page 1

Supporting marriage and family life; alleviating poverty

The Christian understanding of marriage, founded on a loving and faithful relationship between a man and a woman, is the basic building block of society. It provides stability for the nurturing and education of children. Today, families are more diverse and fragile than they were and there are many families of all kinds where love and commitment are found. Society needs good and strong families which are dedicated to the well-being of their children. A commitment to support the family should be at the heart of social and political life.

Do your candidates have a commitment to support marriage and family life?

There are many families in our communities who are financially vulnerable and struggle to make ends meet; housing and living costs are high. Many people do not have a living wage to support them and their families. Too many have to turn to the state for additional income and to external voluntary support such as food banks. Government policies should be assessed on the ways in which they impact those most in need, including those who are homeless or hungry, and how they support and strengthen the family and its capacity to flourish. **Where do your candidates stand on directly helping the poorest and most vulnerable people in the UK and also helping them to transform their lives? Educating for the good of all**

The provision of good education is fundamental to the future of society. We want outstanding schools where success is not just narrowly based on league tables but on how the full potential of every child is developed. Catholic schools and colleges seek to develop to their full potential the God-given gifts of every child. This includes

the spiritual dimension of life in which we live as friends of Jesus Christ. Catholic schools serve over 845,000 children in England and Wales and are generally more ethnically diverse than many other schools. They make a positive contribution to society as they help pupils to become good citizens with clear moral principles to guide their lives and thereby help build up the network of relationships in society. Future government policy should ensure that the poorest have access to high quality education and that Catholic parents have true choice for educating their children in Catholic schools. **How will candidates in your constituency ensure the best outcomes for the poorest children? Will they support parental choice for faith-based education?**

Building communities

As human beings we share a common humanity and are members of a single human family. We rightly have ties to our own families and communities, but are always called by the Gospel to a wider solidarity with others and to help build a society based on love and justice, where decisions are made at the most appropriate level (whether local, national or international). The principles of solidarity and subsidiarity assist us in how to think about the future of Europe. **Where do your candidates stand in protecting these values in the debate about European institutions?**

For some communities many factors make life more difficult, including rising inequality, increased loneliness for many older people, job insecurity and overstretched community services. Building communities is something that can only be done by active citizens. It cannot only be left just to politicians or government. **Where do your candidates stand on the role of the voluntary sector and how its work can be enhanced?**

The private sector also has a vital role. Business should see itself at the service of society, solving problems and meeting needs. The market economy exists to serve humanity. People are not merely economic units to be exploited. The dignity of work should always be respected. **Do your candidates support a living wage and a thriving private sector committed to fair pay and the dignity of human work?**

Violence and conflict have led to the massive displacement of people, many of whom seek asylum or refuge. There are also workers and students from overseas who contribute much to the common good of our country. Indeed, most people who settle in this country find work in order to bring up their families and contribute to society's well-being. Immigration is a highly emotive issue and every country needs a policy to control immigration, as well as a positive commitment to policies that facilitate the integration of migrants into the mainstream of society. There is a great danger of blaming immigrants for the ills of society. We support policies which fairly regulate immigration and uphold the human rights of all, recognising the rights, dignity and protection of refugees and migrants. **Where do your candidates stand on issues of asylum and immigration?**

In recent years we have witnessed a dramatic increase both in violent extremism and in the persecution of people on the basis of their religious beliefs. Many have suffered appalling violence. The recognition and respect given to religious belief is now a crucial issue in many societies including our own. Catholics seek to recognise the signs of God's goodness everywhere, promote mutual understanding, defend the fundamental rights and freedoms of all, including the

right to practice their religion, both in private and in public, and the duty to strive to contribute to the common good of all. **Where do your candidates stand on these issues of religious freedom, mutual respect and the role of faith in God in contemporary Britain, and in defending fundamental human rights and promoting religious freedom overseas?**

Caring for the world

God has given us a good world in which to live and an abundance of gifts of which we are the stewards. Such gifts are distributed unevenly across the world. There is a great gulf between the rich and the poor. We are not the owners of these goods but the custodians of them and they should be for the benefit of all people. As members of one human family, the richer nations such as ours have a duty to help the development of the poorer nations. **What are the views of your candidates about overseas aid and development?**

We know that caring for the planet involves concern for the environment and protecting the livelihood of the poorest people in the world. **What are the views of your candidates on tackling climate change and supporting sustainable development?**

Conclusion

As followers of Christ, we work with him to renew the face of the earth. This begins with our daily personal encounter with him through prayer and the sacraments. We are called to live out his teaching through active love of neighbour wherever that may be; in our homes, in our work places, in our parishes and in the wider communities of which we form a part. As his disciples, we search for mercy, compassion and justice in all we say and do, and challenge where these are absent in our world. Together with the state and politicians, we are responsible for the kind of society we build. That is why our actions are more important than our opinions.

Politics is a vital and necessary vocation. It carries important responsibilities not only for policy decisions but also for shaping the hopes and aspirations of people. Political leaders can choose to appeal to our sense of hope or of fear, to our desires to care for others or for ourselves, and to our sense of solidarity or to our selfishness.

We expect politicians to be committed to the common good. We also each have a responsibility to be involved in the democratic process. It is important that we vote. It is a duty which springs from the privilege of living in a democratic society. In deciding how we vote the question for each one of us is then: **How, in the light of the Gospel, can my vote best serve the common good?**

Prior to casting your vote, you may wish to use the following prayer:

"Lord, grant us wisdom that we may walk with integrity, guarding the path of justice and knowing the protection of your loving care for all".

With our very best wishes

+ Vincent Nichols

Cardinal Vincent Nichols
President

+ Peter

Archbishop Peter Smith
Vice President

Place your church at the heart of the community



Join with churches across the UK on Sunday 14th June 2015

Hold your own Society Sunday service, a special service
of celebration for the work of Faith in society.

Find out more and sign up your church at
premier.org.uk/societysunday

St Mary's School children raise over £500 to help St Trizah's School in Kenya!

Children from the Chaplaincy Team at St Mary's School, Derby, came up with a fun way to help pupils at St Trizah's School in Nakuru, Kenya rebuild their school, after developers forced them to find a new site. Their 'Dress in the colours of the Kenyan flag Day' saw all the pupils raid their wardrobes to find green, red, white and black items – perhaps not the most flattering combination of colours but it was all in a good cause! The day raised £250, and along with a Film Night, means that more than £500 has now been added to the building fund. The children are working in partnership with Derby County Football Club, and got the whole school to sign a Derby County flag to be taken over as a gift in May when the building project will get started. For more information about how you can help the pupils of St Trizah's School please contact Paul Newman at paul.newman@dcfc.co.uk



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Rodsley Pilgrimage in honour of St Ralph Sherwin

SUNDAY 28TH JUNE 2015



Continued from Page 1

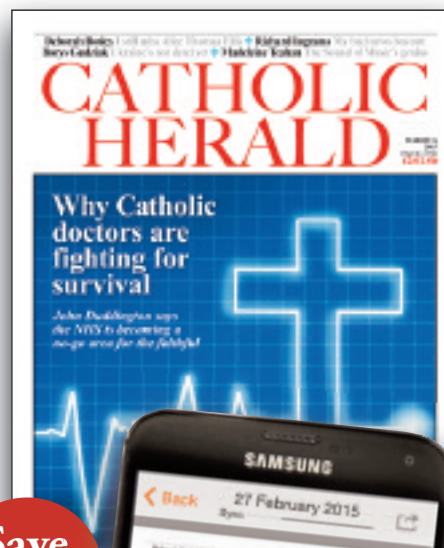
But - of course - we have much home-based talent too within the Diocese and so this year the day will be led by Tony Wheat (Holy Spirit, Nottingham), Alex Patterson (Director of Music at Nottingham Cathedral) and Fr Joel Nwalozie (Blessed Sacrament Leicester). Tony is well known across the Diocese for his support of Parish music. He writes 'The workshop for instrumentalists will offer a very practical session to help church musicians develop their skills to enhance the quality of liturgical celebrations. It will include arranging, harmony, improvisation and transposing. Bring your instruments and share your expertise and experience. If

there are specific issues you want to address, bring examples with you and we will do our best to work on them with you.' It will be largely a workshop day and will include for the first time a workshop for instrumentalists. So, all of you who play an instrument will have equal place with the singers. Cost is £10 per person, drinks will be provided, but please bring your own lunch. Booking forms are available from your Parish Priest, or you can request a form directly from the Commission, at sec@nr-cdle.org.uk We look forward to seeing you there.

Damian Norton
Diocesan Liturgical Commission.

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Countdown to 7th May - Making sense of the promises



by Stephanie MacGillivray
Parliamentary Officer,
Catholic Bishops' Conference and the
Catholic Education Service

In the lead up to what will be one of the closest fought general elections in recent times, education is one of the most hotly debated issues between the four main political parties. It is vital that Catholic voters are informed of each party's policies regarding education in Britain, and how they aim to provide for the next generation. The Conservatives' policies on education reflect their work over the last four years, primarily through proposals to protect the schools budget and continue the Free Schools programme, including placing a 50% cap on all faith-based admissions in new free schools. Should they win the General Election, the



Conservatives propose investing £18 billion in new schools, so that buildings and facilities match ambitions for the next generation.

The Conservatives aim to ensure teachers in England can spend more time in the classroom and are not overburdened, and also include plans to attract top graduates into the teaching profession, to raise standards across schools, and make it easier for head teachers to restore discipline and to tackle bullying in schools.

The Conservatives suggest that inter-school competition in the form of comparative league tables will drive the raising of standards in schools, whereas Labour argue that a system of collaboration and cooperation between schools will in fact achieve this. Labour propose to end the system of Whitehall oversight over 3500 academies and free schools, and will instead include a light touch curriculum framework and introduce Directors of School Standards (DSS) who will hold responsibility for raising standards, handling failing schools and outlines for new schools. School governors will be given greater support, including sharing best practice, being given better training, and making more use of data dashboards. In line with this, Labour will put in place a proper system for dealing with underachieving schools, including academies, allowing OFSTED to inspect academy chains and enabling academies to move between chains.

An important contrast between the parties' policies regarding admissions is that while the Conservatives would continue to place a 0% cap on faith-based admissions, Labour would aim to strengthen the Schools Admission Code but without any interference in the role of Diocesan authorities. The Liberal Democrats would allow schools to set their admissions policy, with local authorities holding responsibility for admissions to all publicly funded schools in their area.

The chief education policy of the Liberal Democrats is to improve schools through an "Investing in Teaching" package, supporting the creation of a Royal College of Teachers and a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) entitlement for all teachers.

Responsibility for decisions about any new schools required, and their organizational status, would lie with the democratically-accountable local authority, accompanied

by the general rule that all new schools should be free schools or academies. Local people, when they believe a school is consistently inadequate, would also be able to require the local authority to carry out a review of the school's management. The Liberal Democrats propose that all state-funded schools should teach the same core curriculum including a Personal, Social and Health Education programme (PSHE) containing sex and relationship education, balanced and non-partisan political education, and religious education – but not religious instruction.

UKIP's clearest education policy is the creation of new grammar schools and technical skills colleges, while also advocating vocational apprenticeships. Nigel Farage recently announced UKIP's aim to have a grammar school in every town. The reduction of bureaucracy in schools and easing the process of sacking bad teachers are additional aims in UKIP's manifesto. A large part of their approach to education argues that immigrants into Britain are taking up places in schools which are needed for British children. To tackle this, UKIP suggest that immigration must be controlled to prioritise local people in local schools, meaning immigrants must fully financially support themselves for five years, including through private education. In February 2014, Pope Francis spoke at the gathering of the Congregation for Catholic Education and addressed the role of Catholic education in today's world. He outlined the importance of the Christian message for all in education (Christians and non-Christians) in contexts strongly marked by cultural and religious pluralism. The Pope spoke about the need for well-qualified educators, rich in humanity, who undergo permanent formation throughout their life in these roles.

Educational institutions have a duty to be a living presence of the Gospel in the world. Teaching is an act of love, and in preparing future generations for life in today's world, it is important for Catholic parents and voters to be aware of the different parties' policies and reflect upon which of these reflect and protect them best in terms of support and provision for the next generation.

“£18 billion in new schools, so that buildings and facilities match ambitions for the next generation.”



“to put in place a proper system for dealing with underachieving schools, including academies”



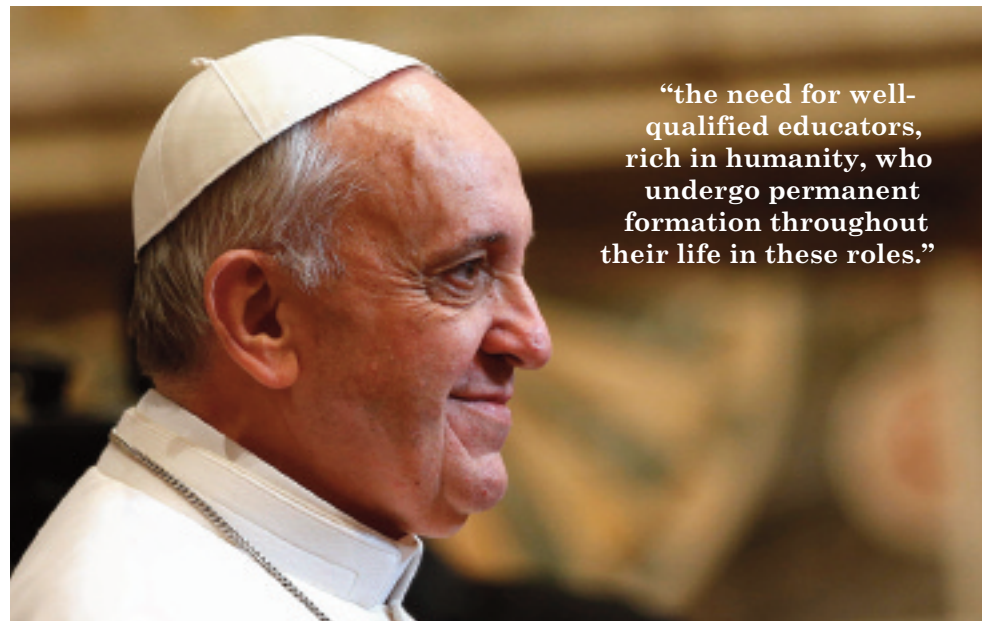
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CHARITY PRESENTATION - COPING WITH CANCER

The President of the Market Harborough Circle of the Catenian Association, Keith Webb, was pleased to present a cheque for £ 1125 to Alicia Wiseshall, Charity Manager, of the Leicestershire and Rutland charity, Coping with Cancer. The cheque represented the proceeds of Keith's nominated charity for his Presidential year of office. In thanking Keith and the circle for their generous donation, Alicia said how important such donations were to the valuable work of the charity, which currently needed around £300,000 each year to maintain its services throughout the County.



The charity is an independent Leicestershire and Rutland organisation that provides practical and emotional support to anyone affected by cancer. Their free services are invaluable to cancer patients, their families and carers from the point of diagnosis for as long as the support is needed. At any one time the charity is helping more than 1000 local people and supports at least an average of 50 new clients every month through a wide variety of support groups, information, counselling and complementary therapy. It was through personal family experiences of the valuable work of this

Circle President Keith Webb, presenting the cheque to Alicia Wiseshall Charity Manager, Coping with Cancer

charity which decided President Keith to nominate the charity for his year. Of particular interest to Market Harborough residents is the 'Drop in, Time out' therapy sessions arranged by the charity at Lubenham Village hall between 1.30 and 4pm on the second and fourth Thursdays in the month. Further information is available at www.c-w-c.org.uk



The Community of St Francis, Metheringham, Lincolnshire

The Community of St Francis is an Anglican order and has a convent, San Damiano, in the village of Metheringham, 10 miles southeast of Lincoln. The Sisters moved there in 2010, and welcome day visitors as well as having a room for one resident guest. We encourage people to come for individual or group quiet times, to pray, reflect or just to have time out.

The large room which serves as a chapel has moveable chairs, and can seat up to 24 people, but for retreat days we tend to cap numbers at 16 so as not to feel too crowded, especially if the weather does not encourage people to be outdoors. The smaller sitting room has 8 easy chairs, though chairs can also be brought from chapel as required. We have put a log cabin in the grounds, which is suitable for day use all year round as it has electricity to enable heating and drink-making facilities, and it is a pleasant space for one person to have a quiet time, or for spiritual direction sessions. Tea, coffee and biscuits are available all the time in the entrance area of the house, also. A labyrinth, of seven circuits and based on the Chartres design, is in the lawn near the front of the house, and anyone is welcome to come and walk that. The house is closed to guests on Monday and Tuesday each week, to enable the sisters to have Monday as a less structured day for reading and prayer and Tuesday as a free day, when there are no communal activities.

There are normally three Sisters resident at San Damiano: Liz, Judith Ann and Maureen. The rhythm of prayer which undergirds our life is based on a four-fold office with the addition of Eucharist on



Wednesday (evening), Friday and Saturday (midday), and worship in one of the churches in the benefice on Sundays. Sr Liz is ordained and has been involved part time in parish ministry, but is currently in transition to a new ministry. She and Sr Maureen are also spiritual directors and conduct individually guided retreats, and preached retreats, as requested. The Community has two or three open retreat days each year. There are other houses of the Community of St Francis in Leicester, Birmingham and London. A parallel order of brothers, the Society of St Francis, has friaries in Alnmouth, Glasshampton (Worcestershire), Leeds, Canterbury, London, and at Hilfield in Dorset. The Sisters and Brothers take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, and follow Christ in the way of St Francis of Assisi, seeking to proclaim the gospel, to build up Christians in their faith, and to serve those who are the poor ones of our society.

For more information or to visit the Sisters at San Damiano, please phone 01526 321 115, or email metheringham-csf@franciscans.org.uk. There is also information about the house on our provincial website www.franciscans.org.uk and occasional posts on the provincial Facebook page, The Community and Society of St Francis (European Province).

FRANKLY SPEAKING

Poll is about the kind of society we want, Bishops say

In their letter on the General Election (see page 1) the Bishops of England and Wales tell us the May 7th poll was about the kind of society we want here at home and abroad. I cannot recall a similar letter in previous elections which gave such detailed guidance and concluded "how in the light of the Gospel can my vote best serve the common good?"

As Christians many of us may well wonder for which party or candidate we should vote for. We may come to the conclusion "none of the above", this may be unusual but deciding which party comes nearest to our Christian beliefs and comes nearest to our Christian roots is I believe proving very difficult. In the 2011 census 59% of our population claimed to be Christian and yet those who deny this Faith in our country will wield all sorts of influence and seem indifferent to the suffering of Christians in many parts of the world. They rarely criticise Christians but in promoting their humanism or atheism they claim to be the solution to our problems and this can incorporate being opposed to religious schools. The best (or worst) examples of this can be found in our media. One respected provincial newspaper spoke of "Easter Friday" this year, had the journalist never heard of Good Friday? On Easter Tuesday a national radio presenter said, "I hope you all had a good bank holiday" thus avoiding the word Easter completely. It is against this background that the Bishops suggested

questions to parliamentary candidates become so important as clearly many in our areas of public influence will not be asking them. One Anglican vicar recently spoke of "how far we have strayed into abortion on demand since the 1967 Act". This election will be always digesting statistics but how many candidates will speak of over eight million abortions as the vicar did?

It is therefore highly appropriate that the first two questions in the Bishop's letter should be targeted at respecting life and supporting marriage and alleviating poverty. There is overwhelming evidence that the Christian understanding of marriage between a man and a woman will produce good and strong families which are dedicated to the well being of our children.

As a single man I am well aware of the problems of those who are in any sense a minority. Our politicians frequently give the impression they do not care about individuals or groups who will never lobby parliament or whose causes will not be in their opinion important, we need to impress on candidates that the most vulnerable need support which has been previously lacking.

We may have a new Parliament with no party majority but as the 2011 census showed we have a Christian majority whose voice must be listened to.

**Frank Goulding
Holy Trinity Newark**

CELEBRATE CLEETHORPES



CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC WEEKEND CONFERENCE

11 - 12 JULY 2015

Holy Family Catholic Academy, Cleethorpes

THEME: 'Your Word is a lamp to guide my feet' (Ps. 119:105)

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Honour for Past Supreme Knight Ron Lynch

On Saturday, 14th March, at the Cathedral Church of St Barnabas, Nottingham, Ron Lynch, the immediate past Supreme Knight of the Knights of St Columba, was bestowed with the Knighthood Honour of the Papal Equestrian Order of St Gregory the Great. This is one of the highest honours that a layperson can receive from the Catholic Church.

The investiture took place during the vigil Parish Mass, concelebrated by Father Marcus Wakely, Father Simon Gillespie from Leicester and the Very Rev. Monsignor Edward Walker of St Hugh's of Lincoln Parish Church in Nottingham. Deacons Keith Bunyan and Richard Walsh, who are both members of the Knights of St Columba, assisted on the altar.

After the homily, Monsignor Marcus Canon Walker gave a speech and citation on the work and achievements of Ron Lynch in both the Church and his community. He then called him forward to present him with the Knights of St Gregory insignia and the documentation which accompanied the honour.

Ron's wife, Barbara, his sisters and their families from Middlesbrough, his daughters and grandchildren, were present in the Cathedral to witness the ceremony. The Papal Equestrian Order of St Gregory the Great, to quote the citation, is an order of merit to be bestowed on "Gentlemen of proven loyalty to the Holy See who, by reason of their nobility of birth and the renown of their deeds or the degree of their munificence, are deemed worthy to be honoured by public expression of esteem on the part of the Holy See".

The present Supreme Knight of the Order, Charlie McCluskey and his wife Sandra, attended the investiture together with two past Supreme Knights, directors and a great many members of the order from all over Britain.

The order of the Knights of St Columba, founded in Glasgow in 1919, is an organised body of Catholic men who pledge total loyalty to the Holy See. It is based on the Fundamental virtues of Charity, Unity and Fraternity, all of which were much in evidence at the ceremony in Nottingham, demonstrating the strong relationship between the Knights of St Columba and the Catholic Church.

Supreme Knight Charlie McCluskey commented: "All of us in the Knights of St Columba warmly congratulate Brother Ron on this award from the Holy Father. It is well deserved for all the work he has done for our



organisation, the Church and his community. He is continually in our prayers."

*By Tom Knight,
National Press Officer
Knights of St Columba*

Picture: Ron Lynch wearing the insignia of a Knight of the Order of St Gregory the Great.

Pic by Bertie Grogan

Received a Papal Blessing

Matthew and Margaret Barr receiving their Papal Blessing from Fr Michael O'Donoghue Parish Priest at Holy Trinity Newark at the Mass of Thanksgiving on the occasion of their 60th Wedding Anniversary on 14th March 2014. Earlier that day had had also received a telegram from Her Majesty the Queen.



Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust

Ride+Stride 12th September 2015



Bear Grylls Champions Sponsored Bike Ride

"Many historic churches, chapels and meeting houses are battling to survive. Roofs leak, ancient timbers rot and medieval stonework crumbles. Now you can help by joining the Ride+Stride adventure, a sponsored bike ride or walk discovering beautiful churches which also raises money for their repair and preservation"

The Annual Ride+Stride takes place this year on the 12th September 2015 and we invite your church to take part. Open your church to visitors and take advantage of the publicity associated with the Ride+Stride and Heritage Open Weekend and invite the neighbours.

Riders and walkers who take part in the event raise money which is shared between your church and the Trust. Welcomers can also be sponsored. Even if it not possible to open your church you can still be a part of

the day and encourage others by displaying the Visitor's Register in your church porch or pinned to the door.

Download a Registration Form from our website or complete it online. <http://nottshistoricchurchtrust.org.uk/> The Trust makes grants for the repair of churches over 30 years old in the county of Nottinghamshire. You can download a grant application form from this same site. Any questions contact me by email- nhct@keithgoodman.com.

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Musical money raising in Leicester



Holy Cross Gospel Choir

In mid March various acts from the Leicester East deanery came together at Sacred Heart Church Hall in support of CAFOD. Around 80 people were entertained by a great line-up of acts including 'Danny, Brendan & Amanda', 'Holy Cross Gospel Choir', 'The Iliffe Acoustic', 'St Mary's Folk Group', 'St Paul's Girls', and 'Holy Cross Folk/Pop Group'. With professional performances by contributors from across the age range, the audience enjoyed a wide range of musical entertainment from gospel to folk and pop. The evening ended with an 'Open Mike' session where various solo performers performed their 'party pieces'.

The evening was a great success and raised just over £570 from tickets sales, donations and a raffle. There are already calls for a

repeat occasion in the not too distant future!

Brendan Johnson, Parish Volunteer at St Mary's and St John Bosco, said:

"It's always a pleasure to be involved with and organise such an event. The performers seem to enjoy the challenge of performing whilst raising money for a very worthwhile cause. The spectators enjoyed a night out whilst listening to some good music, having a chat, a drink and something to eat. The response and support was fantastic, a very humbling experience."

CAFOD's thanks go to Brendan, additional CAFOD Volunteers Anne Goodwin and Georgia White, MC Alan Wilson, Sacred Heart church community, the performers and all those who attended.



Danny, Brendan and Amanda

Pyjama Day to support Derby food bank

More than 350 pupils at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School took part in a pyjama day to support a food bank run by a Derby charity.

Each pupil brought in an item of food for the Hope Centre in return for being allowed to come to school in their pyjamas.

The children filled 16 large shopping bags with food including pasta, biscuits, porridge, baked beans and soup, which will be distributed as emergency food

parcels by the Hope Centre.

The event was organised by Year 6 students who are members of the Derby school's chaplaincy team as part of the Faith in Action award scheme.

Faith in Action is a national Catholic award scheme which allows young people to reflect upon how they live their faith in their daily lives and share it with others.

Pupils need to complete 20 hours of activities in order to achieve Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. Lisa Farmer, a teacher at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School who also runs the chaplaincy team, said they had all been working very hard.

She said: "We are extremely proud of all of our pupils and staff who helped us to collect such an amazing amount of food for the Hope Centre."

"The chaplaincy team worked very hard to organise pyjama day and it was a great success. They have been incredibly enthusiastic and all of their work will go towards helping them to achieve their Faith in Action award."

The Year 6 members of the chaplaincy team who organised the event were Vonyee Johnson, Shardaina Burton, Enrique Kuzimbila, Niamh McDonnell, all 10, Nadia Chimanuka, Grace Brearley, Trevor Muyomba, all 11.

Niamh said everyone was astounded by the amount of food that was brought in.

She said: "Our school is helping the Hope Centre and we did this by asking every child to wear pyjamas and bring in a packet or tin of food. The chaplaincy team chose the Hope Centre because we have done a lot of work for Cafod but we wanted to help a local charity this time."

Grace said she was very pleased with the school's contribution to the food bank.

She said: "I think it is a great thing to do, to collect food for the needy because they don't have as much as us. Some children brought in more than seven tins of food each."



Return of the Beauvale Cartulary

Good news, the long awaited Beauvale Cartulary has returned to Beauvale Priory after nearly five hundred years.

We can only speculate how the Cartulary or Ledger, was taken, but a very strong possibility is that it would be on the day that the charterhouse surrendered on July 19th 1539. About four of the monks found employment as tutors and librarians with Sir John Willoughby who was known to be interested in acquiring the priory and the land. We know that he was also sympathetic towards the plight of the brethren, I refer to the Cartulary as a copy because the original has been kept in London since 1815, at which time it mysteriously re-appeared in the attic of William Stretton, a notable historian, at the house he had had built in the ruins of Lenton Priory. (Coincidentally the house in later years became known as Nazareth House) The Cartulary was posted to the British Library by a clergyman from Mansfield. A copy of the letters concerning this are included in the Cartulary

The two questions I am asked the most are -What made you want to undertake such an arduous task and what is a Cartulary?

My reason was to bring back the Cartulary to Beauvale where it belongs. I think that we are so fortunate to have such a beautiful priory ruin on our doorstep especially when it has very poignant associations with the Martyrs. I couldn't believe that there



were people born and bred living nearby, who didn't know about Beauvale until the tea-shop opened. I realized that there was also a cartulary in existence which would tell me much more about the Priory, of the monks, the local people and unchanged field names. Local places are mentioned, some of which thrived, other places are now mere hamlets and a fine Norman manor house in ruins and virtually unknown. Most exciting, although now a farm, is what was almost surely part of the royal hunting scene in Sherwood Forest and where at least one charter was signed by Edward III. This is the section we have had translated. How could such a great store of our history be left unread? A cartulary, or ledger as it is sometimes referred to, is a copy of all the charters, lands and property donated to the priory, listed neatly in an account book.

Continued on page 11

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St Alban's Church Celebrates Traditional Polish Custom

St Alban's Church, Derby, celebrated the traditional festival of Swieconka on Easter Saturday for the first time. It involves the Blessing of Easter Food - meat, eggs and bread at the end of Lent and is a Catholic tradition particularly popular amongst Polish people. However the celebration was embraced by many in the parish community not just Poles. Fr Paul Newman blessed the baskets of food, prepared and brought to church by families - with the sprinklings of Holy Water bringing much amusement to the children! The baskets of food were taken back home to be shared amongst family and friends on Easter Sunday."



Homemade bread and soup enjoyed in Narborough

More than 20 people attended a Lenten Lunch in St Pius X Parish, Narborough, Leicester to mark Lent Fast Day. Parishioners welcomed visitors from the neighbouring parishes of Lutterworth and St Peter's Leicester, as well as Fr Alan and his wife Elizabeth, from All Saints Anglican Church in Narborough.

After an interesting talk on the City of Troy, given by Karen Wilson de Rose, all shared in the CAFOD Fast Day prayer before sitting down to a delicious lunch of homemade soup and bread, kindly donated by some Narborough parishioners.

The gathering ended with a traditional raffle - compulsory at any parish event! Altogether the event raised a wonderful £124 for CAFOD's Lenten Appeal. As CAFOD has been awarded UK Aid Match funding, this generous donation will be matched pound-for-pound by the UK Government will be worth twice as much. Many thanks to Claire Harold and Sharon Burman for organising the lunch and to all who attended.



Enjoying homemade soup and bread

Thought Provoking Stations of the Cross in Keyworth

CAFOD supporters at St Margaret Clitherow, Keyworth marked Lent Fast Day with Stations of the Cross using the CAFOD resource focused on Myanmar.

This version of Stations of the Cross allows participants to meditate on Jesus' journey to the cross whilst reflecting on the reality of the lives of people who experienced Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar (Burma) in 2008. With the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of the Second Vatican Council's Pastoral Constitution Gaudium et Spes, there is also reflection on that document's call to make our own the joys, hopes, griefs and anxieties of all the People of God.

In preparation the images from the PowerPoint were printed A3 and placed alongside the existing Stations of the Cross images in the church. Participants began by listening to 'Open my eyes, Lord' by Jesse Manibusan and continued with the prayers and reflections provided for each station. The service finished with the reaffirmation of Gaudium et Spes plus the Open My Eyes prayer and Fast Day prayer

The parish has a Stations of the Cross with a CAFOD focus every Lent. The organisers felt that this year proved to be one of the most successful. The timing was just right too – not too long and not too short; with the opportunity to pause for a short while at each station to let people think about what had been said and the questions posed. They received very positive feedback – “thought-provoking”, “beautiful”, “very interesting”, “relating each station to a real life scenario made the whole thing come alive somehow”

Thank you to all those involved.



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A great success



The St. Patrick's Night Ceildidh was a great success with over 60 people attending. Fiona and Schuggie provided excellent music and dancing. Our talented Irish dancers and equally talented young Master Vessey who played the Penny Whistle with flare provided additional entertainment matching the flavour of the evening. Thank you to all who came and supported the evening and had an enjoyable time. The Social Committee are very pleased to be able to make a donation of £150.00 to the Good Shepherd Church building fund.



Thoughts from Elston Hermitage.....

Towards the end of this month forty days after Easter we keep the Feast of the Ascension. In his book Jesus of Nazareth, Pope Benedict reflects on the mystery of the Ascension, asking questions which resonate in our hearts..

.....the Risen Lord, now exalted at the right hand of God is he not for that reason completely absent? Or is he somehow accessible? Can we penetrate to the right hand of God? Is it not the case that he will come to us only on some unknown last day? Can he come today as well?

These questions, which rise before us, can be reduced to two questions: where did the Lord go? and secondly can we follow him?

To address the first question; where did he go? Scripture says: "And when he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight (Acts 1:9) This forms for us an image, the cloud signifying the presence of God, like at the Transfiguration and like many other manifestations of God in the Old Testament, the use of an image of the cloud presents Jesus' departure, not as a journey to the stars, but as his entry into the mystery of God. As Pope Benedict says. Jesus is now to be found beyond created boundaries, from now on he exists in the eternal presence of God, so for this reason he is more present now than ever before. Before the Resurrection and Ascension, he lived in a determined space, he was limited by a determined time. Now he is eternally everywhere. As Pope Benedict says "he is present with us and for us".

And so how do we follow him in his Ascension? How can we experience his presence. We know that his presence is multiplied.



Sacrosanctum Concilium a document from Vatican Council II says:

"Christ is always present in his Church, especially in her liturgical celebrations. In the Mass, not only in the persons of His ministers... but especially under the Eucharistic species. By his power He is present in the sacraments.... He is present in His word... He is present when the Church prays and sings, for He promised: where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them. (SC,7)

But of course the Lord is present in our interior lives as well. Because of our living relationship with Him. Within the spiritual life, we live with paradoxes. We want to follow the ascended Christ in heaven, going to the place where he has gone. He does however anticipate that, and so comes to us and establishes himself in the depths of our hearts. Often we struggle to find him, because we look in the wrong places. The other paradox of our interior journey, is that we can only reach him by engaging in an exodus from ourselves.

Ascensiontide is a reason for great hope in us. From that moment, the Lord Jesus is always with us. And we can experience his presence, in the measure which we are able, by the grace of God, to come out of ourselves and enter in the new dimension of the heart of God.

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'Born for this' raises money for CAFOD



Performers during rehearsals

Students from Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy in Derby have been taking their production of Born For This, a portrayal of the Stations of the Cross which tells the story of Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection, out into the local community – and CAFOD has benefited. There was no charge to attend but donations for CAFOD were accepted at each performance.

Born For This is by a musical production developed by CJM Music. Twenty-five students from across the school have performed at venues including St Joseph's Catholic Church and Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Derby as well as at

their own school.

Andy Clare, who is the chaplain at Saint Benedict CVA, said:

"This is the third year that we've done Born For This but it's the first time we've taken it out on tour. It's a musical reflection on the Stations of the Cross. It's quite unusual because there are elements of a stage show and a musical in there but really it's a prayer. It's about finding a creative way to tell an old story."

Many thanks to all those involved for giving their time and talents to support CAFOD's work – and to all the audiences who gave their money!

"Swiecone"

On 4th April, the Polish faithful of the Good Shepherd Parish, Nottingham brought their Easter Baskets, containing a sampling of Easter breakfast foods, to the church to be blessed by Canon Philip Ziomek. This is one of the most beloved Polish traditions on Holy Saturday. Each member of the family has a bite of all the blessed foods after Holy Mass on Easter Sunday. This is followed by a great feasting of salamis, eggs, salads and cakes.

The contents of the basket are symbolic – A Yeast Cake (Babka) – reminiscent of the Risen Lord.

Colourful dyed eggs – symbolise hope in Christ's Resurrection and new life.

Bread – symbolic of Jesus, the Bread of Life.

A Lamb figure – represents the The Paschal Lamb.

Horseradish – symbolises the bitterness and harshness of the Passion of Jesus.

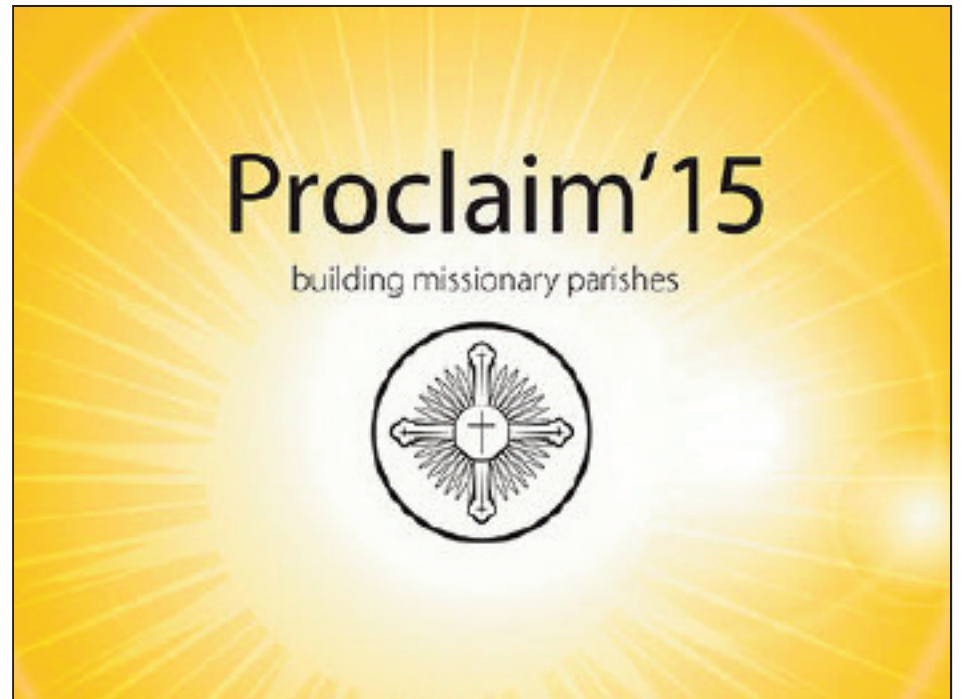
Salt – A necessary element of our physical life and to preserve us from corruption.

Polish Salami (Kielbasa) – indicative of God's generosity and favour.

Submitted by Julie Blazewicz-Bell



Proclaim '15: Sell-Out National Catholic Evangelisation Conference



The first event of its kind in living memory, a full capacity city-centre venue is preparing to welcome Cardinal Nichols, around 20 bishops, ecumenical guests and over 800 evangelisation leaders from across England and Wales, for a national event focussing on Catholic evangelisation.

Proclaim '15 is the name of a new Bishops' Conference initiative that aims to support the building of missionary parishes through promoting prayer and offering practical resources in support of parish evangelisation. A highlight of the year will be the National Catholic Evangelisation Conference at Birmingham Repertory Theatre on 11 July, for which a number of dioceses already have a waiting list.

Bishop Nicholas Hudson, the lead Bishop for the national conference day, said: "The generous response of the bishops and the Catholic community to Proclaim '15 has been moving. Inspired by the content of Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, to respond confidently to Jesus' and the Church's call to evangelise, the event on 11 July promises to be significant and the momentum is fast growing. It's a blessing to be in the position of there being such high demand for conference day passes and we're so grateful for people's prayers and support."

port."

He added: "Everyone can be involved in Proclaim '15 in some way, even if they can't come to the national event in July. Easy-to-download group materials are available for parish usage. A resource booklet has been prepared for those who'd like to organise a local Proclaim '15 day in their area in the autumn; video recordings of the keynotes from the July event will be available for showing on these days. The team has also created materials to encourage parishes to pray for the mission of the Church and its needs. Please do get involved as you can. As 2015 progresses resources are being made available in phases."

A parishioner, attending the National Conference has said: "This is a fantastic initiative. It'll be great to meet people from all over the country of one heart and mind in faith, as well as receive practical ideas to help us take new steps." Meanwhile, a priest of the diocese, said: "Although I'm not able to attend the national conference, I'm really looking forward to seeing how we can use the materials locally in support of parish outreach. It'll be good to know more about the means and methods of evangelisation that are working, and learn from them."

The Proclaim '15 web area is available at: www.catholicnews.org.uk/proclaim15

PROCLAIM '15 PRAYER

Loving Father,

*You so loved the world that you sent us your only Son,
that we might believe in him and have eternal life.*

*May we encounter Jesus Christ anew this day
and live the Good News with joy.*

*Through the power of your Holy Spirit,
help us to "go out to the whole world and proclaim"
our faith with confidence.*

*Give us the courage to witness to the Joy of the Gospel
by our words and actions.*

*Help our parish to become more welcoming and missionary,
so that you may be known and loved by all people.*

*We make this prayer through Our Lord Jesus Christ Your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever,*

Amen.

Our Lady, Star of the New Evangelisation, Pray for us.

Blessed John Henry Newman, Pray for us.

St Thérèse of Lisieux, Pray for us.

CELEBRATING ST TERESA OF AVILA



WWW.TERESAOFVILA.ORG

Celebrating St Teresa of Avila – who's she? It's a surprise to Secular Discalced Carmelites to find that so many of their fellow Catholics have never heard of St Teresa of Avila, even though she is one of the three women Doctors of the Church. Often, when they think they recognise her, it is, in fact, her spiritual daughter, St Thérèse of Lisieux they are thinking of. So this year it must be equally surprising for many Catholics to find that throughout the country (and the world) events are being held to honour the 500th anniversary of the birth of this remarkable woman.



So who was she? Born in Avila on 28 March 1515, Teresa was a great woman of prayer and teacher of prayer; a reformer of the Carmelite Order who developed a new way of monastic living for her nuns; a woman of great charm with an immense capacity for friendship. It could be said that friendship is at the heart of Teresa's life, prayer and teaching – first and foremost, God's greatest act of loving friendship in the gift to us of Christ. Teresa understood that God dwells within us, at the core of our being, so that God is an abiding presence with us, an ever-present Friend. She knew that God has made us to be capable of the deepest possible intimate friendship with him; only this is enough for us, only this can bring true fulfilment. The way to growth in this friendship is prayer, prayer understood as "frequent loving exchange with One whom we know loves us." So praying is not about finding the right words or following a method of any kind, but entering into heart-to-heart contact. It involves learning to live "present to the Presence", that is, learning to be attentive in faith to the God within us. This makes prayer possible for everyone. But Teresa also saw prayer of this kind as an act of friendship towards the world which stands in such need of its Friend. Living as "God's good friends", as she asked

of her sisters, is one way in which a world that is distant from God can be brought closer to him. Friendship, Teresa believed, is also vital for those who follow the way of prayer, they need the support, encouragement & wisdom of fellow-travellers. So she formed small communities, "little colleges of Christ", modelled on Christ and the 12 apostles, who would live together in prayer and simplicity, in a balance between solitude and community.

In the UK today 16 communities of nuns and 4 of friars live as followers of St Teresa as Discalced Carmelites. In addition, there are 23 communities of Secular Discalced Carmelites, "normal" lay people, married, widowed and single, together with some diocesan priests and deacons, for whom this ideal of friendship with God, for the world, and in some expression of supportive community is at the heart of their lives, and one of the gifts to them from St Teresa. The two Secular Discalced communities in the diocese, in Derby and Nottingham, began their celebration with an open Retreat Day at Mount St Bernard's Abbey on her birthday, 28th March. They will be following this with 2 Individually Guided Retreats, from 11 – 15 May & 25 – 27 September at Mount St Bernard's Abbey. These offer participants space for prayer and reflection, to deepen their own friendship with God, helped by daily meetings with a Secular Carmelite guide/spiritual friend together with time, if desired, to learn a little more about Teresian spirituality. On July 11 they will be joining fellow Carmelites and other friends of St Teresa on pilgrimage in her honour to Walsingham – and they will be hoping that many others might take this opportunity to come along in celebration. Many of our cathedrals during this year

will be visited by the Teresian 500 Exhibition, which offers insight into her life and teaching; this comes to St Barnabas cathedral from 9 – 15th October. Seculars will be making their contribution to this visit and will then conclude their celebrations with another Retreat Day at Mount St Bernard's Abbey on Saturday 31st October. If you attend any of our events you will be able to see our copy of the lovely icon prepared for this centenary celebration, which brings together so many themes of St Teresa's teaching.

Continued from page 7

It is in good condition but hard to access, hidden away in the British Library. It was seen as a task far too difficult by many academics and Latin scholars. There were many obstacles, the three major ones being, how could we get funding, next, who would have the time, the temerity and the belief in the project also, perhaps the biggest problem, who was skilled enough to translate it? By generous grants detailed below and the sale of the pages of translation concerning their town to quite a few Local History Societies plus the sale of the books, we were able to manage the finance. I was joined by John whose optimism and trust in my way of working was an untold help. The most outstanding stroke of luck came when we snared the expert in Medieval Latin to do the translation work. He was way too expensive at first, but in a weak moment and out of interest I suspect, he gave us a price within our budget and we snapped his hand off. I can't help feeling that the Saints were with us. The Cartulary is as near to being a facsimile as possible with a minimum of notes. We had permission from the British Library to print 10 copies some of which we sold to the University, the County Archives and the Central Library. The

If you want to know more about the celebrations nationally and about the icon, please visit www.teresaofvila.org.

If you'd like to know more about local events, would like a talk or evening of prayer in your parish or deanery or would like to know more about the Secular Order and our Spirituality Groups in Nottingham, please contact Heather Ward, tel 01773 599982, heatherward55@gmail.com

owners of local farms mentioned in the cartulary were also eager customers. Bishop Malcolm and St. Hugh's, Parkminster, the only Carthusian charterhouse in England, were also given copies. We also were helped with grants from Local Government sources. Most of all we are most grateful to the Beauvale Society for their trust and generous contribution. The cartulary will be available to look at in Eastwood Library thanks to the kindness of Councillor John Handley. I am happy with the end result of our project in that we have achieved what we set out to do in producing an attractive book that is of use. We have done our best and learnt a lot in the process. I hope that it is worthy of our dedication 'To the greater glory of God.'

Marie Roberts
(The ruins of Beauvale Priory lie eight miles north-west of Nottingham. It was a Carthusian Priory founded in 1343 by Sir Nicholas Cantilupe, surviving for almost two hundred years until it was surrendered to the royal commissioners on July 18th 1539. St John Houghton and St Robert Lawrence, pro-martyrs of the Reformation had both spent time as Priors of Beauvale. An annual pilgrimage to the Priory is made in their honour on the first Sunday of May each year.)

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An array of talent at St Benedicts

An array of talent was on show at the first music festival to be held by Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy.

More than 30 students auditioned in the heats before 21 students were selected to perform in four categories in the final at the academy in Duffield Road, Derby.

The junior vocalist of the year honour was awarded to Keilah Gilchrist, composer of the year was Emily Dawes and senior vocalist of the year went to Vanessa Mtambalika – who was also the overall winner of the competition.



In the instrumentalist of the year category there were two winners, Ellie McLaughlin and the Saint Benedict flute group, made up of Rosena Finnegan, Molly Dziunka, Caitlin Lewis and Ani Goddard.

The judges from Saint Benedict CVA were music teacher Jo Rowlands, chaplain Andy Clare and Jonathan Jarvis, music, music technology and media teacher.

Melanie O’Keefe is Director of Music at Saint Benedict CVA and organised the festival.

She said: “It was a superb evening. The standard of performance was excellent and the commitment of the pupils, both in auditioning and then rehearsing for the final

show was impressive. The audience helped create a fantastic atmosphere and we can’t wait to make next year’s show even bigger and better.”

Mr Jarvis said the students who performed made the judges’ task extremely tough.

He told the students: “You made our job really difficult. There were such a lot of different strengths and very good performances although we were unanimous in our decisions.

“A lot of you were really positive and played and performed so well but what we would say is don’t be afraid to enjoy your music.”

Kevin Gritton, head teacher at Saint Bene-

dict CVA, said the festival was a great success.

He said: “We are extremely proud of all of our students who put themselves forward to take part in our first music festival.

“It takes a lot of courage to perform on stage in front of an audience and all of those who made it through to the final thoroughly deserved to be there.

“We would like to congratulate all of our very worthy winners and thank parents who attended and the staff who organised this fantastic event.”



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