



St Ignatius of Loyola
Feast day 31st July

Catholic News



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

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Fund-raising walk from Kirk Hallam to Beauvale Priory

Students and staff took part in a fund-raising walk as part of Saint John Houghton Catholic Voluntary Academy's 50th anniversary celebrations.

The group walked seven miles from the academy in Kirk Hallam to Beauvale Priory, in Moorgreen, Nottingham, in the annual Diocesan pilgrimage.

More than £130 was raised and this will be

shared between the academy's charities; Street Child Africa, the Teenage Cancer Trust and CAFOD.

Some of the money raised will go towards the academy pilgrimage to Lourdes later this year.

On the walk, the staff and students stopped at Lady of Good Counsel Church in Eastwood where they had lunch and a rest



before completing the walk with staff and pupils from The Priory Catholic Voluntary Academy in Eastwood.

Father Joe Wheat, Father Christopher Thomas and Canon John Berry were a few of the Priests who had made the journey to be present at Beauvale, while Deacon Steve and The Beauvale Society led the way.

When the group arrived at Beauvale, a Mass was held with Head Boy Matthew Shepherd and Head Girl Leah Edge leading the bidding prayers.

Rachel Rose, chaplain at Saint John Houghton CVA, congratulated everyone who took part.

She said: "Such a lot of background work went into making this Mass possible and the staff and students would like to thank all those involved in the wonderful celebration. I would like to thank the staff who gave their time and energy and the pupils who were outstanding and a credit to their parents and school."

Student Olivia Bainbridge, 13, said they did not let the rain put them off.

She said: "When we started off it was raining and we got soaked but the rain did stop and it was good fun and definitely worth doing because it was for charity. There was a really good atmosphere."

CHURCH ORGANIST RETIRES AFTER 36 YEARS!

Our Lady of the Angels Church, East Leake held a party on 31st May to mark the retirement of Margaret Laird, our Church organist, after 36 years of organ playing at Church.

Margaret and John Laird, together with their children Julie, Stephen and Jane moved to East Leake from Manchester in 1978 and Margaret started playing at Mass in 1979. Since then she has played regularly at Sunday Mass as well as for weddings, funerals, etc.

Fr Michael Williams, Parish Priest at Our Lady of the Angels and St Margaret Clitherow, Keyworth, presented Margaret with a framed picture - a copy of a painting of St Cecilia, the patron saint of music, and an inscription thanking Margaret for her many years of service playing the organ at Our Lady of the Angels church. Margaret was also presented with a flower arrangement by Christine Houghton on behalf of the East Leake section of the Catholic Womens League. Margaret had been a member of the CWL for many years.

The Parish had organised a surprise party for Margaret after Mass on 31st May with a buffet lunch. This had been prepared by the ladies of the parish, and there was a wonderful array of food. There was also a 2 tier celebration cake, one tier was cut up for guests at the party and took the other tier home for her family. Margaret and her family were joined at the lunch by parishioners and friends who thanked her for her many years of dedicated service in providing wonderful music at Mass at Our Lady of the Angels.



Ann Sharpe

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The monthly paper for the
Diocese of Nottingham

**The
Catholic News**

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The Catholic News is looking for a
Parish Correspondent in your parish to
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newspaper.

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before 10th of the month

CAFOD supporters celebrate Romero beatification

CAFOD supporters in parishes and schools
across England and Wales marked the be-
atification of Archbishop Oscar Romero on
May 23rd 2015. Over 260,000 people at-
tended the celebration which took place at
10am (5pm BST) in the Plaza Divino Sal-
vador del Mundo in San Salvador.

Oscar Romero was the Archbishop of San
Salvador from 1977 until he was assassi-
nated in 1980. Romero spoke out against
the oppression, poverty, and human rights
violations in El Salvador during his time as
Archbishop – particularly after the murder
of his close friend Father Rutilio Grande in
March 1977. Romero was shot dead on 24

March 1980, aged 62, while celebrating
Mass.

Archbishop Romero was one of one of the
most remarkable figures of the 20th Cen-
tury, who deserves to be commemorated
alongside the likes of Martin Luther King
and Mahatma Gandhi as a peacemaker
who sacrificed his life standing up to injus-
tice. The Archbishop was declared a martyr
by Pope Francis in February, confirming
that he was killed because of his faith.
Romero's beatification is the last step be-
fore he can be confirmed to be a saint by
the Pope.

Marie Molloy, manager CAFOD in Not-



tingham Diocese said: "People might won-
der why a man who lived and was killed so
far away from Nottingham could be rele-
vant to people here, but Romero is impor-
tant because he is an inspiration to all
CAFOD supporters and anyone who works
for a more just world.

"CAFOD supporters in places such as Not-
tingham Diocese helped us support
Romero's famous radio broadcasts which
were often the only means by which people
in El Salvador could hear about the atrocities
being committed. When Romero's radio
station was blown up, money raised by
CAFOD supporters provided funding to re-
build it. CAFOD also helped to fund the
support given by the Church to thousands
of people who had fled their homes because
of the violence.

CAFOD continues to work in El Salvador,
helping farmers to improve their crops, as-
sisting communities in reducing the risk
posed by natural disasters, supporting peo-
ple living with HIV, building peace, and de-
fending human rights.

Marie Molloy said:

"We hope that people in Nottingham Dio-
cese will join us in giving thanks for Arch-
bishop Romero's life and all who fight to
make our world a more just place for every-
one."

For more information about Archbishop
Romero, please visit cafod.org.uk/romero



Retired Priests Appeal



Holy Trinity Church and Centre, Newark,
which has been the host for the last two
years to the Retired Priests Appeal Office,
was the location chosen for a celebration of
thanks on June 6th for the half way point
of the appeal. Parish representatives and
the Appeal Director presented their work,
and went through a 'toolkit' devised to
learn from others' experiences and to ask

robust questions. Fr Michael O'-
Donoghue parish priest and Mgr Brian
Dazeley, Bishop's Chaplain for Sick and
Retired Priests concelebrated Mass of the
feast of St Norbert; the readings could not
have been more apt for the occasion. After
lunch, representatives had informal discus-
sions with each other and the appeal team.

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Diocesan Ecumenical Commission Honours Secretary

Members of the Nottingham Diocesan Ecumenical Commission came together to express their thanks to Monica Purdue, who worked tirelessly as the Commission's Secretary for 13 years, representing the commission at Bishop's conferences amongst other national gatherings and reporting back. Monica was also a great supporter of the work done at local level and spent many hours visiting parishes around the Diocese offering advice and encouragement. Her work with Fr. Ken O'Riordan was especially close to her heart and to-

gether they organised the ecumenical weekends at Swanwick. An event which brought many denominations together for three days of fellowship and debate.

Fr. Michael Moore, the Chair of the Commission, presented Monica with a bouquet of flowers and a book token as a sign of appreciation for all she brought to the role. Monica's husband Noel, who has supported her wholeheartedly throughout the thirteen years, accompanied her to the thanksgiving meal held at 'Petit Paris' in Nottingham's King's Walk. We wish Monica well in her much deserved retirement.



South Leicester's No 1 Man

John Masding is shown receiving a thank you gift for all his hard work in organising the South Leicester Catenian group's activities. Jon Mickleborough, president of the South Leicester group said John's unfailing help in organising the setting up for their evenings and running their charity raffle was much appreciated by all his fellow Catenians. John had undertaken these tasks for 12 years and

deemed it time for others take on the work. John and his wife Joan are also involved in organising South Leicester's monthly pub lunch which is an opportunity for Catenian widows and current members to meet up socially and maintain friendships. John and Joan Masding are parishioners of Our Lady of Victories in Market Harborough.

Thoughts from Elston Hermitage.....

The month of July brings with it the great feast day of Saint Benedict on the 11th. This feast of Our Holy Father Saint Benedict has always been kept here at the hermitage with great solemnity, a day we have shared with our friends and fellow Religious in celebration.

Our life as hermits was one that St. Benedict fully approved of, the call to a life of solitude and prayer are indeed a gift from God. However, for ourselves this life must be a correlation between the hermitage and the world, taking hermitage to the world and the world back to the hermitage in prayer. A life called to hermitage, the eremitical life is an essential dimension of Christian life we believe for us. Of course priority is given to our daily rhythm of reading, prayer and work as Benedict's rule imposes, the eremitical call for most is hard and challenging, but nonetheless a joyful aura exists within hermitage life.

Saint Benedict's day this year will indeed be kept with even greater solemnity. At 11.30 our new bishop The Right Reverend Patrick Mc Kinney will be ordaining Richard and myself to the Sacred Priesthood in St. Barnabas Cathedral. The following day we will be Celebrating our First Mass in our parish of Holy Trinity Newark, where we will continue to serve both the parish and throughout the diocese in whatever way God calls us.

Please pray for us on this day that we may serve God, and the diocese faithfully and pray for Bishop Patrick and his new ministry here among us. Join us in rejoicing and thankfulness.



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



SECOND SATURDAY CATHOLIC CONVENTION AND HEALING SERVICE

11th July 2015

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Fr. Soji Olikkal

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CAFOD supporters in Diocese of Nottingham raise more than £55,000 for Nepal Earthquake appeal

Parishes, students and individuals in the Diocese of Nottingham have raised more than £55,000 to help people in Nepal recover and rebuild their lives in the aftermath of the recent earthquakes.

From straightforward collections and donations through to events such as 'Dress as you like' days, the people of Nottingham Diocese have responded quickly to CAFOD's appeal. With £21 providing clean water for 3 families for a week, £35 providing shelter for 15 families and £70 buying enough rice for ten families for a month, their generosity will make a huge difference to the people of Nepal.

More than eight million people have been affected by the two major earthquakes which hit the south Asian country in April and May, with over 8,000 people killed and 2.8 million forced to leave their homes.

CAFOD has delivered food, shelter kits, and emergency supplies in seven of the worst-hit districts. Over £56 million has been donated to the appeal launched by the Disasters Emergency Committee, of which CAFOD is a member.

Matthew Carter, CAFOD's Humanitarian Director, said: "Across the country, houses,

buildings, and schools have been flattened. Homes that families have lived in for decades and places of worship that have stood for centuries were destroyed in seconds.

"The money raised by CAFOD supporters is allowing us and our partners to provide emergency shelter to many of the families whose homes have been destroyed and who have been living outside or in crowded evacuation centres. This is an immediate priority with the monsoon season expected soon. We are also supporting tens of thousands of people by ensuring they have access to clean water and sanitation.

"In the long term, there needs to be rebuilding of an infrastructure that has been devastated. This isn't a short fix. The generosity of CAFOD supporters will allow us to be there for the long term, like in the Haiti earthquake and like in the Philippines typhoon."

Marie Molloy, CAFOD manager in the Diocese of Nottingham, said: "We would like to say how grateful we are to everyone across the Diocese who has supported the Nepal appeal. It is inspiring to know that in the midst of the disaster, families, schools, and



parishes are standing side by side with people in Nepal as they rebuild their lives. "We would ask everyone to keep the people of Nepal and all those working to help af-

ected communities in their prayers. CAFOD would like to thank everyone for their generosity."

Pope offers 'Stone Age' tips to youth for living the digital world well

By Carol Glatz

Whether you still stick to books or magazines or get everything online, Pope Francis said all media should encourage and edify -- not enslave.

Back in my day -- the Stone Age -- when a book was good, you read it; when the book was bad for you, you chucked it," he told hundreds of youth in Sarajevo June 6.

The pope ended

his one-day visit to the capital of this Balkan nation meeting with young people of different religions and ethnicities who volunteer together with the archdiocesan St. John Paul II Center. He set aside his prepared text and told the young people he would rather take some questions.

One young man said he read that the pope had stopped watching TV a long time ago, and wanted to know what led him to making that choice.

The pope said he decided back in the middle of 1990 to stop because "one night I felt that this was not doing me good, it was alienating me" and he decided to give it up.

He did not give up on movies, however.

When he was archbishop of Buenos Aires, he would go the archdiocesan television station to watch a recorded film he had picked out, which didn't have the same isolating effect on him, he said.

"Obviously, I am from the Stone Age, I'm ancient!"

Times have changed, he said, and "image" has become all important.

But even in this "age of the image," people should follow the same standards that ruled back "in the age of books: choose the things that are good for me," he said.

Those who produce or distribute content, like television stations, have the responsibility of choosing programs that strengthen values, that help people grow and prepare for life, "that build up society, that move us forward, not drag us down."

Viewers have the responsibility of choos-



ing what's good, and changing the channel where there is "filth" and things that "make me become vulgar."

While the quality of content is a concern, it is also critical to limit the amount of time one is tied to the screen, he said.

If "you live glued to the computer and become a slave to the computer, you lose your freedom. And if you look for obscene programs on the computer, you lose your dignity," he said.

Later, in response to a journalist's question on the papal plane from Sarajevo back to Rome, the pope said the online or virtual world is a reality "that we cannot ignore; we have to lead it along a good path" and help humanity progress.

"But when this leads you away from everyday life, family life, social life, and also sports, the arts and we stay glued to the computer, this is a psychological illness," he said.

Negative content, he said, includes pornography and content that is "empty" or devoid of values, like programs that encourage relativism, hedonism and consumerism.

"We know that consumerism is a cancer on society, relativism is a cancer on society, and I will speak about this in the next encyclical" on the environment, to be released June 18.

The pope said some parents do not allow their children to have a computer in their own room, but keep it in a common living space. "These are some little tips that parents find" to deal with the problem of unsuitable content, he said.

Derby Catenians Entertain The Clergy



Newly installed Brother Grand Vice President David Rowley and fellow brothers of Derby Circle had the pleasure of entertaining eight Priests of the Derby Deanery to dinner recently.

Fr Mark Brentnall pictured left responded to the Toast to the Clergy by thanking the Brothers and treating all those present to

an interesting and amusing talk on his experiences training at the English College Rome. Prompted by his talk other clergy shared anecdotes and stories of their own experiences at college, all in all an excellent evening. Pictured centre is Derby President Jim Wickerson.

New Stained Glass Windows at Holy Souls



When making plans to celebrate the parish centenary in 2011 parishioners at Holy Souls noticed that there were already stained glass windows in the church commemorating the silver jubilee of the parish in 1936 and also the golden jubilee in 1961. Therefore as part of the centenary celebrations it was decided to commission another set of windows to commemorate this anniversary, even though the windows were only completed and installed at the beginning of June 2015.

Parishioners, and especially young parishioners, were invited to come up with ideas and sketches and these were presented to Andrew Brepi of Brepi Stained Glass so

that he could design three windows that would be in keeping with the windows already present in the church, but also be in some way modern and contemporary, reflecting the year of the centenary 2011.

The windows depict three saints, each carefully chosen as part of the centenary celebrations. The first window from the left shows St Augustine Webster, one time Prior of Melwood Abbey and a martyr of the reformation. St Augustine was killed at Tyburn in 1535 for refusing to take the Oath of Supremacy. There is a lively devotion to him in North Lincolnshire with one parish and one school bearing his name and an annual pilgrimage to the site of



Melwood Abbey.

The central window shows St Jean Marie Vianney also known as the Cure of Ars. He lived between 1786 and 1859 and for over 40 years he was the parish priest of the small town of Ars in France. He is the patron saint of parochial clergy and was chosen as a recognition of the gratitude of the parish to the many priests who have served the parish during its first 100 years.

The third window shows St John Paul II, who was canonised as recently as 2014, and so this is probably one of the first windows showing him as a canonised saint of the church. This window is the contribution of the Polish speaking community which has been part of the life of Holy Souls since 1949. The inscription in Polish means 'in thanksgiving for an example of sanctity from grateful countrymen'.

FRANKLY SPEAKING

What is the future for NHS staff?

On Tuesday 2nd June the 6am news bulletins were interrupted by the unexpected news of the death of Charles Kennedy. It is fair to say that the world of politics was somewhat stunned by the loss at the age of 55 of a man who was certainly talented. The tributes to this Roman Catholic former MP and party leader poured in for the rest of the day. I am not an historian of Westminster politics but I doubt if any MP in the past has changed the agenda in the House of Commons within hours of their passing like Charles Kennedy did. The day after the news of his death was reported some seventy five minutes was devoted by MP's in a mixture of shock, tears and warm appreciation of genuine sadness that a man with considerable personal problems had gone to his eternal reward. Catholic MP's Sir Edward Leigh (Conservative) and Stephen Pound (Labour) both commented on the fact that Charles Kennedy, a former Liberal Democrat leader, had somehow cemented his undoubted popularity both with the voters and parliamentarians alike. The personal issues with which he clearly struggled could so easily have overtaken him when, as a prominent public figure, he took a strong stand as the only major party leader to oppose the Iraq War. This action to speak out against the invasion of the country, then under Saddam Hussein's control, witnessed 199 Members of Parliament supporting his stand. History has since judged him to be right as Weapons of Mass Destruction were never found. This instance was a clear lesson to all of us

never to take the easy route which may be convenient but you know deep down is wrong. May he Rest in Peace.

The Queen's Speech included a pledge to turn the NHS into a seven-day operation which would deliver an excellent standard of care around the clock. This is surely a welcome commitment but will this really happen? We have an ageing population which has contributed to doctors carrying out 40 million more consultations compared to just seven years ago, we observe hospital trusts having to engage in cost cutting due to their debts, so what is the future for NHS staff? We are also frequently being concerned by retiring GPs not being replaced and our hospitals being over reliant on doctors and nurses from abroad. In their letter prior to the election the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales spoke of "those concerned with the dignity and value of human life". It will be a test of the next five years to convince the electorate that the NHS will achieve this objective.

On a recent visit to London I observed in a public house that a pint of lager cost £4.60; in one of my local supermarkets I am told 20 cans of lager can be purchased for £10. One friend of the late Charles Kennedy commented that politicians should develop a "better understanding of alcoholism and take it more seriously". Surely this is now an urgent addition to a very full in-tray of the Health Secretary.

*Frank Goulding
Holy Trinity Parish, Newark*



Welcome by Bishop Patrick McKinney

Proclaim'15
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Resource Day

17th October 2015

Welcome to Witness



GUEST SPEAKERS: FR PAUL CANON, EPISCOPAL VICAR FOR EVANGELISATION, AND SHARON BEECH, PROJECT DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR FOR EVANGELISATION, DIOCESE OF SALFORD

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A First For The Diocese



On Saturday 6th June, our diocese experienced another "first". Five people were commissioned as Prayer Guides having followed the course arranged by the Nottingham Diocesan Spirituality Network. The following is their story as told by one of the new Prayer Guides, Ann Neale.

My journey in prayer accompaniment

began three years ago when having run out of excuses I signed up for a week of guided prayer in my parish. What a week and what a fantastic experience. My two most important points I remember were "Why had I not done this before?" and a comment from my prayer guide who said that I should look out for training and train to be

a prayer guide myself.

I had my doubts but I have always trusted that God would send me the things he wanted me to do so I began my search for a suitable course.

I finally came across the advertisement in the Diocesan newspaper "The Catholic News" from the Spirituality Network for just such a course so just over a year ago I set out, rather nervously, to St Joseph's, near Mount St Bernard's Abbey for the first session.

The group of people who arrived for the first few taster sessions had seen the advertisement in "The Catholic News" and were keen to learn and discover more about their prayer life.

For the first few months we were given an experience of a variety of different styles of prayer such as "Where is God in my life", "Deepening my Spirituality" and the use of colour in our prayer.

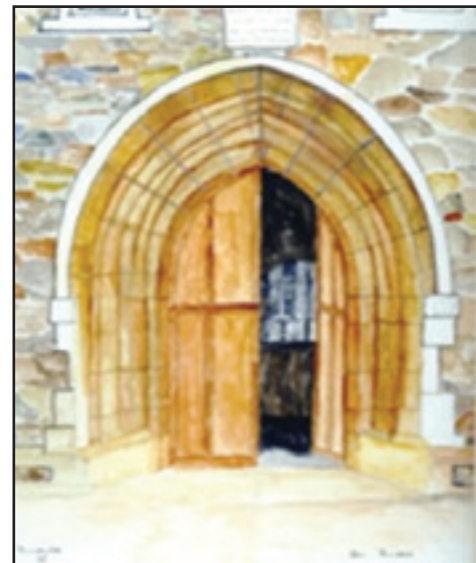
In the more focussed sessions we covered Franciscan, Ignation, Augustinian and Thomistic, prayer, in addition to Listening skills and Temperaments in Prayer.

The whole experience has been fantastic. I have learnt so much about different ways to pray and different moods of prayer but also how to listen and be receptive of the needs of others in their prayer life and how to journey with them. The support of both the Spirituality Network Team and the other members of the group who were learning, as I was, has been wonderful. Far from feeling as if I was missing out on my Saturdays, I have looked forward to each session with anticipation. Our Commissioning day began with a retreat led by Julia Palmer from the Adult Formation Team and this was followed by a commissioning Mass which was a wonderful experience. We all had our part to play both in the preparation and the Celebration. Fr John Guest gave a very inspiring homily. One of our guests commented that it was a very uplifting experience and she had felt privileged to be invited to it.

We share with you the brief reflections of two of the new prayer guides.

"Praying the Examen each day is a constant reminder that God is in all things" – Angela Fairbrother

"The course taught me so much it's hard to know where to begin.... But it's not just the knowledge, it's the growing awareness



of God's unshakeable patience and love that I value most from the whole experience" - Lis Martin

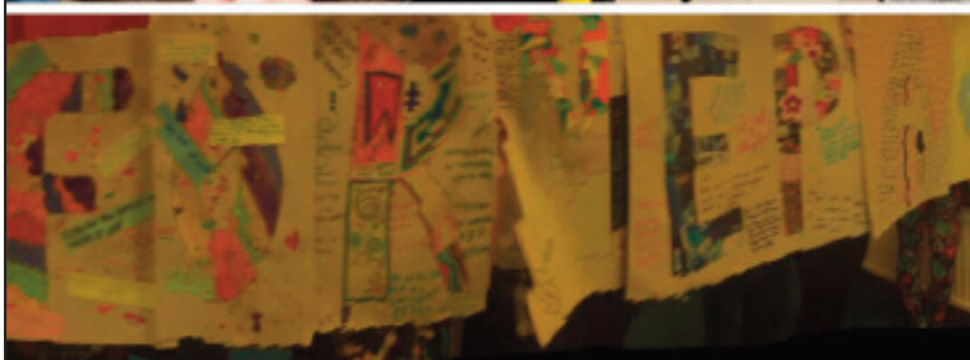
The last word from Sr Bernadette, on behalf of the Diocesan Spirituality Network! Being in a journey can at times be very scary. It is a huge privilege to be part of this particular journey, which began in September 2014 and you could say has come to a climax to day. You may remember, way back when we participated in our Diocesan Assembly and one of the named areas was Spirituality. One may ask, what is Spirituality? We have spent the last ten months praying about this topic, and acting on our findings, as a Team, by offering Days of Prayer.

Being more focused for the training of Prayer Guides, we decided to engage in a process, rather than a programme. Listening to our participants was a wonderful help. Being currently involved with the Jesuit Programme, Emmaus, gave the confidence needed to proceed, as did our training in Spiritual Direction. We worked together to create a Diocesan Programme and take it one step further, into a process. To-day was a day of retreat and celebration. We are delighted to congratulate five new Diocesan Prayer Guides.

What next? Enjoy the moment! Then in early September we gather for on-going formation, for supervision, for forward planning and preparation in order to offer three days of Prayer Accompaniment in a Derby Parish. Watch this space!

We ask you for your prayers as we place our trust in God's plan for us.

Tuck shop donations raise funds for Nepal Appeal



Year 8 students from St Mary's College, Hull spent time reflecting on the Nepal earthquakes during a recent residential retreat at The Briars, Crich.

In groups the students created temporary shelters from waste materials, considering what it would be like to lose your home, possessions and perhaps your livelihood in an instant, as well as potentially coping with the death of family and friends. The

young people also offered prayers for all those affected by the earthquakes and those trying to support them.

They decided to collect donations following their tuck shop break and raised an more than £200 for the CAFOD Nepal Earthquake Appeal in about 30 minutes. Thank you to all those involved for a truly amazing effort!

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St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Gainsborough

On the 9th & 10th May 2015 St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Cross Street, Gainsborough, participated in the West Lindsey Churches Festival. This was the first time a Catholic church had participated in the festival. The festival which is one of the finest church festivals in Europe had over 80 churches opening their doors to the public. The district of West Lindsey covers just over 450 square miles to the north of the cathedral city of Lincoln.

2015 was the nineteenth year of the Churches Festival which took place over two weekends, with the churches to the West of the district open on the 9th & 10th May and the churches to the East open on the 16th & 17th May.

The festival is organised by the West Lindsey Churches Festival Committee and sponsored by West Lindsey District Council and Systematic Print. The two weekends gave people the chance to look at the rich heritage of churches in Lincolnshire. The brochure which accompanied the festival stated "For the first time, the doors of St Thomas of Canterbury will be open. This grade II listed building, tucked away in the heart of Gainsborough is a must to visit".

Two of the parishioners of St Thomas of Canterbury, Mary Clark and Alison Richards, put on a fabulous display of antique Christening gowns in the church hall. The flower arrangers worked hard and the flowers on display were magnificent. Twenty eight parishioners volunteered to



fill time slots over the course of the weekend to welcome visitors and serve tea, coffee and refreshments in the hall. Many parishioners baked and assisted by spring cleaning the church in order that it should look its best. John Hanrahan cleaned the outside brick and stone work and Andy Mee arranged the hire of a cherry picker so that all the lampshades could be taken down and washed and difficult to reach parts cleaned. All the hard work paid off and over 70 people visited St Thomas. The following are some of the comments from the Visitor Book: "So pleased I came in – what a lovely peaceful place. Just walking

through the door gives the feeling of peace and quiet", "What a peaceful church and there is such a beautiful display of Christening robes", "A big surprise, beautifully maintained. Made very welcome", "Gorgeous flowers and interesting display of Christening gowns", "A lovely welcome, a beautiful and peaceful church. Well worth a visit. I hope you will open to the public again". The Archdeacon of Lincoln Cathedral made time to come and visit St Thomas on the Sunday. All the parishioners felt very proud of their church. The Churches Festival dates for 2016 are the 7th & 8th and 14th & 15th May.

Laughter and Smiles at St George's First Holy Communion Service

Laughter and prayer filled St George's, Derby, as the church welcomed twenty-four new communicants into the Faith on Saturday 16th May.

Although a smaller group than usual for the church, First Holy Communion leader and parish assistant, Karan O'Connor said "we've had more boys than ever, which is so unusual for us."

Fr Alan Burbidge Priest in charge lead the service with an entertaining homily on the need for food and to plan ahead to make sure you are never hungry. He then showed the children his shopping, rice-krispies, fruit squash for when he is thirsty, and especially for Fr Jude who has "gone big on beans" a tin of baked beans.

To much amusement he went onto explain that, "this food will become part of me and us and our bodies will grow but the bread of Christ will grow us spiritually."

He told the children it was important to "Carry God within you."

After the service the children sat together to eat a special 'breakfast' blessed by assistant priests Fr Peter Peterken and Fr Jude Eze Ebere.

Fr Jude noticed "The children are happy,



even the parents are happy, even the parent are happy. It's really nice to have everybody here. People came from different places, from London, Coventry and another group came from Birmingham, such support is so nice to see."

Fr Peterken said he thought the service had been "beautifully done and a lovely occasion."

Karan reflected on the significance of the day and what it means to all Catholics, "Everyone looks back and remembers their own first Holy Communion, no matter how

many years ago. But regardless of what year we are in every child and their families still feels the same emotions that come with such a special day."

To end the day Fr Alan told the congregation, "We have sown the seeds of faith, now we entrust this to the families. The family is the best place to grow, to be the disciples of the future."

"Family and faith are intertwined, it is in your homes that the future of our Christian faith will be secured."

Pope Francis: don't water down Christian identity



What exactly is our Christian identity? Pope Francis: don't water down Christian identity Pope Francis asked this question at the start of his homily this morning in the chapel at Casa Santa Marta. He suggested the congregation think of it as "a long journey" from ambiguity to a strong faith that we can bear witness to in our daily lives.

It is true that we are sinners, he said, and that we fall down, but with God's strength we can get up again and continue our journey. "Sin is part of our identity", he stressed, but we are sinners with faith in God "who has anointed us, put his seal upon us" and given us the Holy Spirit as a pledge in our hearts.

Christians are not people who follow a particular philosophy, but rather those who remain faithful to this God-given identity as the anointed ones who let the Spirit into their hearts, he said.

The beauty of this identity, can be seen through the way we bear witness to the world. But, the Holy Father warned, there are several ways in which this witness can be weakened or watered down: firstly by moving from our concrete faith in Christ to a kind of insipid religion of just prayers and ideas, along the lines of the Gnostics in the ancient world. These "modern Gnostics", Pope Francis said, are tempted to avoid the scandal of the Cross and are content to seek God through their "rather ethereal Christian spirituality".

Secondly, the Pope went on, there are those who forget they have been anointed and given the guarantee of the Spirit, so they are always searching for some "novelty" in their Christian identity. They say "Where are the visionaries who can tell us exactly what message Our Lady will be sending at 4 o'clock this afternoon?"

Finally, the Pope warned, there are those whose identity is weakened by moral and human "worldliness" and the desire to broaden the boundaries of their Christian conscience. They are like salt that loses its flavour, he said, yet throughout the history of Salvation, God has patiently led us from ambiguity to the concrete certainties of the Incarnation and of our Redemption through the death of his Son. "This is our identity", the Pope said, and we must ask the Lord for the gift of grace to bear witness to this truth.

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Day for the Religious of our Diocese 31st May 2015 at The Holy Trinity Centre, Newark on the theme: Growing a Culture of Vocations

The plans for this day started over a year ago when we began to plan a day gathering for the Religious of the Diocese in this Year For Consecrated Life. We were fortunate in being able to book Fr. Christopher Jamison OSB the Director of the National Office for Vocations and Sr Cathy Jones who is on the Centre's team and is sponsored by the Conference of Religious to promote Religious Life. There were over seventy applicants for the day although unfortunately at the last minute a few were unable to attend. However, we were about sixty-nine Religious who arrived at the centre for a 10.00am coffee, some having set out quite early and who were able to make the 9.30am Parish Mass before coming to the Centre. After a further session we broke for lunch at 1.00 p.m. to enjoy a



Our day started at 10.30 with a simple Morning Prayer including the singing of the Hymn inspired by the words of Pope Francis 'Wake the world with dawning joy' by Steve C. Warner. Sr Anna Pat of the Sisters of Providence in Loughborough had kindly recorded the music for us and with this help we made a good sound!



We had a short break for coffee/tea allowing the conversations to continue and to visit the Book-stand kindly set up by the Daughters of St Paul. Sr. Catherine Skelton had travelled down from Liverpool to provide a good selection of books.

to meet and there are always speakers of quality. Next year it will be Fr. Nicolas King. In the afternoon we looked together, under the guidance of Sr Cathy, at a 'Vocation's pack' that we had each received. This gave some helpful and challenging ideas. We were pleased to have our Diocesan Administrator with us for part of the day which enabled us to thank him for all he has done in the Diocese over the past 14 months. Those present were invited to sign

tasty buffet meal provided by a local caterer. At the start of the afternoon session, Sr Hazel Buckley, FMDM, the President of the ASR (Association of Senior Religious) spoke to us briefly about the Association. She spoke about the Annual Conference that takes place each year, the week before Holy Week at Hotels (side by side), on the front in Bourne mouth. This provides a great opportunity



a card addressed to our Bishop-Elect welcoming him to the Diocese and assuring him of our prayers. The day ended at 3.30pm and the feed-back received indicated that the day had been both inspiring and challenging. (Thanks to Srs. Maureen Brennan CSJP and Marie-Claire Cattel SP (R/L) for taking photos and to the staff at Holy Trinity centre for their welcome and hospitality). Having given you a taster of this day another article will follow sharing with you the inspiring and challenging words of Fr. Christopher and Sr. Cathy.

Sr Eileen Keane

Christian helpline appeals for volunteers

A national Christian helpline has put out an urgent call for more volunteers as it prepares to celebrate its 20th birthday - and more than 1,135,000 calls from people needing someone to talk to.

Premier Lifeline: the National Christian Helpline will be 20 on June 10 but is already looking to the future and recruiting new people to join its 160 Lifeliners, who volunteer for an average four hours a week on a 9am to midnight telephone service.

"The plan is to grow the number of volunteers to serve on the lines with a view to extending the opening hours over the next five years to create a twenty four hour service," said Jonathan Clark, Premier Lifeline's Director.

"Public need for our Lifeline is much greater than our ability to respond. Last month, for example, we only answered 7,522 calls of the 10,930 that came in." Premier Lifeline answers calls from people looking for emotional and spiritual support from a Christian perspective, along with the opportunity for prayer and, where appropriate, signposting to other specialist organisations.

"But it's also for people who simply need someone to talk to about life and faith," says Jonathan Clark. "We need help to enable us to grow our helpline to be the lifeline that people so desperately need. To do this we need to find potential volunteers and the funding to train and support them in this work."

Premier Lifeline calls are received at 0300 111 0101.

People who may be interested in volunteering their services to Premier Lifeline should contact lifeline@premier.org.uk

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25th anniversary of the priestly ordination of Fr Wlodzimierz Pajak SChr

A special Mass was celebrated at Holy Souls in Scunthorpe on Friday 22 May to mark the 25th anniversary of the priestly ordination of Father Wlodzimierz Pajak SChr. Father Wlodzimierz ministers to the Polish community of Scunthorpe, Lincoln, Grimsby, and Goole, and was joined at the altar for his Silver Jubilee Mass by Mgr Thomas McGovern (Diocesan Administrator), Mgr Stefan Wylezek (Rector of the Polish Catholic Mission to England and Wales), and priest friends and colleagues from the Nottingham and Leeds Dioceses and his own religious congregation. After Mass the celebration continued with a reception in the parish hall organised by members of the Polish community in Scunthorpe.'



Word in season Lord, teach us to pray

Many of us find it hard to pray. But there is one time-honoured form of prayer that has worked for thousands of believers—using the Psalms. Just pick one of the Psalms, any one you like, and read it slowly, or even sing it. Try to reflect on the words, maybe just one phrase. How does it relate to your present situation? How do you feel about what is expressed? In our lives we can feel happy one day and then worried or sad the next day. Our moods can change, depending on all sorts of circumstances. St Ignatius Loyola speaks of times of consolation (happiness) and times of desolation (difficulty). During the good times, we can say prayers of thanksgiving, and in the difficult times we can utter prayers of lament and petition. And for these ups and downs, there are Psalms that can suit each mood. The Psalms can express a great many of our feelings towards God. When we wish to express our longing for him, we can say: "Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God." When God has helped us out of trouble, we may say: "I will praise you, Lord—you have rescued me." If we are aware that we have sinned, we can pray the great penitential psalm: "Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion, blot out my offence." When we feel so troubled that God seems far from us and we can hardly pray, we can repeat the prayer uttered by Jesus on the

cross: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When we reflect on God's past kindness to us and look with hope to the future, we can pray one of the best loved Psalms: "The Lord is my shepherd—there is nothing I shall want."

At Benediction, when we adore Christ's presence in the holy sacrament, we can sing: "O praise the Lord, all you nations. Acclaim him, all you peoples. Strong is his love for us. He is faithful for ever." Finally, if we are mourning the loss of someone who has died, we can pray: "Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice." The Psalms give us words to express our feelings before God, on so many different occasions, and for so many different moods. We find ourselves using expressions that have helped countless others to pray in earlier generations. We could say that the Psalms serve as workhorses for our prayers. At Mass, after listening to God's word in the scriptures, we respond with God-given words from the Psalms. In fact, the Psalms nurture our relationship with God, giving voice to our love and our hopes, our sorrow and our needs. It can be good to take a favourite Psalm and pray it every day. By constant repetition we can gradually learn the words, so that we can say them without a book, whether we are walking or driving, working or relaxing. The rhythm of the Psalms can help to focus our minds and hearts on God, while at the same time reflecting our changing moods. That is why they have



been prayed each day by monks and nuns everywhere in the world and through the church's history. St Ambrose of Milan expressed well the value of the Psalms: "A Psalm calms anger, takes away our cares, and comforts our sadness. It protects us from the night and instructs us for the day. It is a shield for the fearful, a feast for the devout, a ray of tranquillity, and a guarantee of peace and harmony. Like a stringed instrument it combines diverse and unequal voices in a single melody. The Psalm is sounded at dawn, and at sunset it is still reverberating." Hence St Ambrose asks: "Is there anything better than a Psalm? David rightly says: 'Praise the Lord, for he is good. Sing to our God, for he is loving. To him our praise is due.' The Psalm of praise is a blessing pronounced by the people, praise to God by the congregation, acclamation by all, a word spoken by the universe, the voice of the church, a melodious profession of faith, the exhilaration of freedom, and an exclamation of joy."

Father Jeremy Corley

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Book Reviews

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

"The Great Reformer: Francis and the making of a radical Pope"

by Austen Ivereigh, publisher: Allen & Unwin, 2105

A recent profile of Pope Francis in Der Spiegel* reports a Vatican whispering campaign against the Argentine pontiff. When Francis highlighted the pomp and ostentation of the clergy, it was "an unspoken declaration of war, especially against the Vatican Curia." By challenging corruption in the Vatican bank, and ex-communicating Mafia bosses, Francis also confronted Rome's unsavoury vested interests, the article suggests. Those plotting against Francis accuse him of caring little for tradition or theology, wondering if his "confusion" will abate by the Synod of Bishops in October.

This whispering campaign makes Austen Ivereigh's biography of Jorge Bergoglio all the more timely.

The story of Bergoglio, as Ivereigh tells it, is also the story of Argentina. The reader must therefore be prepared for his rendering of the junta's dirty war in the 1970s and 1980s, liberation theology, and the resulting splits within the Catholic Church. To this day Bergoglio is a divisive figure because of what he did, or did not do during the dirty war.

There is also much about Peronism, a political label that defies Anglo Saxon understanding of left and right. Hence it is too

simple to label Pope Francis as a liberal or a conservative, when he should be viewed in the Argentine context.

Some commentators suggest the transformation of the authoritarian Bergoglio to the Francis who savages exploitative capitalism is due to a life-changing reassessment of his role during the dirty war. But Ivereigh carefully describes a more complex journey, where profound compassion has co-existed with a rejection of political extremes. Bergoglio was always more comfortable among the poor than the Church's ideologues and intellectuals. He also preferred attending fiestas in the slums rather than cocktail parties because "the poor celebrate Christ, not themselves."

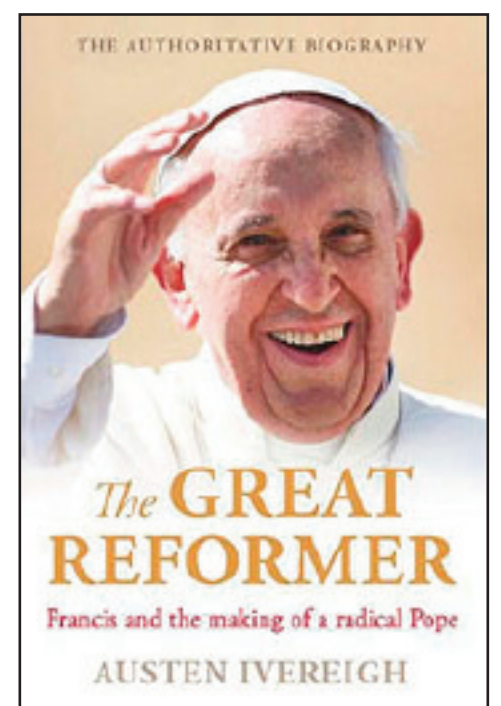
Ivereigh conveys a wonderful sense of the keen, earnest, bright young Bergoglio, and the lower middle class Buenos Aires in which he grew up. He has surprised people all his life with his frugality, shunning the trappings of office, using public transportation, making his own phone calls, and cooking and cleaning for himself and colleagues who are unwell.

During the dirty war Bergoglio's superiors instructed him to both protect Jesuits and assist the victims of the repression, which he did, at great risk to himself. "What he did not do was speak out publicly against the regime, but he could hardly have done so without sacrificing his objectives, for no obvious gain," writes Ivereigh.

Bergoglio felt social activism was dangerous at a time when the military government branded as Marxist any priestly activity in the slums. There is persisting controversy about two popular Jesuit priests whom Bergoglio dismissed, exposing them as fair game for arrest and torture, which duly happened.

He was not popular with his fellow Jesuits, being so out of step he was sent to Germany to study. His authoritarian reputation persisted when he returned to Argentina, and he later admitted he had not fitted in. However, when he became archbishop of Buenos Aires he immersed himself in the poor districts, living a life of extreme simplicity which he continues today. He was also forthright in offending the political elite by condemning white collar criminals who donate to their parties, while facilitating illegal drugs, human trafficking and gambling that decimate the slums.

Ivereigh warns the reader not to assume Pope Francis's views on capitalism – "No one can accept the precepts of neo-liberalism and consider themselves a Christian" – mean he is on the left. "Francis's radical-



ism is not to be confused with a progressive doctrine or ideology. It is radical because it is missionary and mystical."

By mystical he means Francis's respect for local religious customs and rituals, such as pilgrimages to shrines, asking saints to intercede, and reverently touching statues, all of which are popular in Latin America. Throughout his career there has been what Ivereigh describes as "a whiff of anti-intellectualism." Hence Bergoglio advised colleagues to spend less time polishing their theology and more time learning from the people. His regard for Latin American tradition was implicit criticism of John Paul II's centralisation of the Church.

Archbishop Bergoglio risked the contempt of bishops by attacking the "liturgical backwoodsmen" who turned the Church into a "museum piece," the property of a select few. He spoke of self-appointed guardians of orthodoxy "who spend their time inspecting and verifying rather than evangelizing." He associated Rome with "luxury, ostentation, hypocrisy and bureaucracy," comments Ivereigh.

As archbishop he had the Church's finances audited. He is similarly trying to expunge the Vatican of corruption, which he regards as an unforgivable sin "because in a corrupt soul there was no desire for forgiveness."

Ivereigh maintains Francis has quickly restored the Church as an admirable presence. "Catholics no longer had to hunker down defensively," he writes, looking forward to a new unity among the world's 1.2 billion faithful. Or in Francis's words, the Church is a tender mother rather than a harsh judge.

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2 COURSES STARTING IN AUTUMN 2015 AT:

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12 Sessions:

- ✗ What is Catechesis?
- ✗ Who is the Catechist?
- ✗ Scripture & Catechesis
- ✗ Jesus Christ & The Trinity
- ✗ The Church & Mary
- ✗ Living The Faith
- ✗ Sacraments & Liturgy
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- ✗ Children's Liturgy of the Word
- ✗ Confirmation and Catechesis with Young People

Immaculate Conception
Church Hall, 54 New Street,
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12 Wednesday evenings: 16th & 23rd
September, 14th October, 11th & 25th
November, 3rd & 24th February 2016, 9th
March, 20th April, 11th & 25th May, 8th June

Ending with a Retreat Day and
Commissioning Mass at St Barnabas
Cathedral on 25th June 2016

The cost of the whole course is £75

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

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



Bishop's Certificate in Catechesis



Diocese of
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A Course of Catholic Formation

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Core modules (6):

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- *The Church
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- *Christian Morality

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Diane Williams
Willson House
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Specialist modules (2):

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Eurovision Fever at Our Lady's Convent School

Whilst May 7th was the day when the UK went to the polls here in Loughborough there was another hotly contested competition pitting one European country against another. At 7pm the curtain rose on the first Eurovision Dance Contest at Our Lady's Convent School. Students from Nursery up to Year 11 represented European countries as they battled it out in front of 11 judges and an audience of nearly 300 to win the coveted first place in the inaugural OLCS Eurovision Dance Contest.

Our Lady's Convent School has a recent history of links with the Eurovision Song Contest, in 2012 the whole School was behind a member of staff's famous uncle – Engelbert Humperdinck and last year's UK entry, Molly Smitten-Downes was a past pupil. This year, Head of PE, Mrs Clair Knowland instated the Eurovision Dance Contest and through her own links with the OGAE (Organisation Générale des Amateurs de l'Eurovision) secured the support of OGAE President of the Eurovision UK, Mr Paul Marks-Jones.

Mr Marks-Jones, with 10 other judges, had the unenviable task of ranking the acts and eventually deciding on an overall winner. The students had trained for this event since September and had embraced the concept wholeheartedly. Audience members waved flags to support their chosen country and by the end of the evening the atmosphere was tense, as in true Eurovi-



sion style, the points were accumulated and the leaders fluctuated between several different countries. In the end the winning entry was France with the Year 10 and 11 students representing the film Burlesque. Speaking before one of the many rehearsals Mrs Knowland said, "I personally love the Eurovision contest and have attended the event several times, the atmosphere is electric and the supporters passionate. When I proposed to the students at the start of the year, my plans to host this event they were very enthusiastic and I have been delighted with how hard they have worked and how professional their performances are. The judges had a very tough job deciding on a winner."

Year 7, build a Tractor... out of Cardboard



This year in Art, all Year 7 students at Ratcliffe College, Leicestershire, were given the task of recreating a life-sized replica of one of the school's tractors, out of cardboard. Inspired by artist Chris Gilmour, who makes life-sized cardboard replicas of all sorts of everyday items, the students spent time drawing from, measuring and taking pictures of our old Massey Ferguson 230. This was an in-

credibly ambitious project; and it all had to be completed to a deadline for the finished piece to feature in an exhibition! Mr Dominic Berry, Head of Art and Design said, "From this project, the students have learned about working as a large team, that they can strive for an ambitious goal, that they can achieve what others perceive as impossible. What better way to educate them!"



Celebrating our Schools

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