



St Teresa of Avila Feast day
October 15th

Catholic News



MORE THAN 17 YEARS OF BRINGING THE
NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER

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SKEGNESS FAREWELL

Parishioners gathered recently in the Sacred Heart Catholic church Hall to say farewell to Monsignor Brian Dazeley who is retiring and moving to Leicester after nearly sixty years as a priest.

Tributes were paid to him by Peter Fitzgerald, who has known him since childhood, and by Jacinta Lewis who on behalf of the parishioners presented him with a cheque.

A This is your Life book chronicling his two and a half years at Skegness and Spilsby was compiled and presented by Eileen Chantry and Les Osborne, a decorated cake was presented by Mrs Christine Faithful.

Despite only having been here for a short time Father Brian has achieved much, most notably his efforts in a fund raising and refurbishment programme of both the Sacred Heart church Skegness and Our Lady and the English Martyrs at Spilsby.

In his reply Father Brian thanked everyone for their kindness to him and said Skegness and Spilsby and the villages between and beyond had been a delight.

Father Peter Wade, from Scunthorpe, is taking over the parishes of Skegness and Spilsby.



A cheque on behalf of the parishioners was presented to Monsignor Brian Dazeley by Jacinta Lewis at a farewell buffet in the church hall of the Sacred Heart church Skegness.

(Photo Eileen Chantry)

Queen Elizabeth II Longest reigning monarch

On Wednesday 9th September, Queen Elizabeth II became the longest reigning monarch in British history. The Loyal Address (*see page 3*) was presented to Her Majesty by Cardinal Vincent Nichols on behalf of the Catholic Church in England & Wales. Bishop Patrick asks us all to pray for The Queen in a special way.

For Queen Elizabeth II: that as Her Majesty surpasses the reigns of all who were before her as ruler of these lands, the Lord may strengthen her so that she may continue to serve her peoples in this country and the Commonwealth; and that we, after her example, may serve each other and seek the common good of all. Lord, hear us.



Continued on page 3

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The monthly paper for the
Diocese of Nottingham

**The
Catholic News**

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Pope: all European churches to welcome refugees during Year of Mercy

by Ann Schneible

Pope Francis issued a strong appeal to the entire European Church – including the Vatican – to take in migrant families as part of the lead-in to the upcoming Jubilee of Mercy.

“Faced with the tragedy of tens of thousands of refugees fleeing death on account of war and hunger, and who are traveling toward a hope for life, the Gospel calls us to be ‘neighbours’ to the smallest and abandoned, (and) to give them a concrete hope,” the Pope said.

He said it’s not enough to just say “Courage, patience!” because hope “is combative, with the tenacity of those who go toward a safe destination.”

“Therefore, in the imminence of the Year of Mercy, I make an appeal to the parishes, to religious communities, to monasteries, and sanctuaries of all Europe to express the concreteness of the Gospel, and to welcome a family of refugees.”

Pope Francis made this call following the weekly recitation of the Angelus prayer in St. Peter’s Square, adding that the Vatican’s two parishes will also each take in a refugee family.

His remarks came in response to the news of the hundreds of thousands of refugees flooding Europe from the Middle East and Africa.

According to the BBC, more than 350,000 migrants have crossed into Europe in 2015. Many attempt the crossing in overcrowded and unseaworthy boats, leading to scores of deaths due to drowning and starvation. The situation has reached a fever pitch in



recent days, with thousands of migrants arriving to Germany and Austria on foot from Hungary.

The plight of those fleeing war and violence also received renewed attention in recent days when a photo of a drowned Syrian toddler published recently began widely circulating the Internet.

Aylan Al-Kurdi, 3, drowned along with his mother and older brother in a failed attempt to reach the nearby Greek island of Kos from Bodrum, their most direct passage into the European Union. The photos of his body washed up on the shore of Bodrum, Turkey quickly went viral, leading many to criticize European leaders for not doing enough to help incoming migrants.

In his speech, Pope Francis extended his appeal to the European bishops, reminding them that “Mercy is the middle name of Love,” and cited the Gospel passage from Matthew: “Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.”

Before leading the faithful in the Angelus address, the Pope focused on the day’s Gospel from Mark, in which Jesus healed a man who was deaf and mute by touching his ears and tongue, saying “Be opened” as he looked up to heaven.

“The first thing Jesus does is bring that man who is far from the flock: he doesn’t want to give publicity to the gesture he is about to make, but neither does he want his word covered by the voices of the din and the gossip of the environment,” the Pope said.

He pointed to Jesus’ gestures of touching the man’s ears and tongue in order to re-

store the relationship with a man who was “blocked” from communicating.

The first thing Jesus did, he said, was to re-establish contact with the man, “but the miracle is a gift from on high, for which Jesus implored the father.”

One of the key lessons learned from this episode is that God isn’t closed in on himself, but is open and connects with humanity.

In his immense mercy, God “exceeds the abyss of the infinite difference between him and us, and he comes to us” by being made man himself, Pope Francis continued.

He said the Gospel is also directed to us, noting that frequently we are “folded and closed in on ourselves, and we create so many inhospitable and inaccessible islands.”

“Even the most basic human relationships sometimes create a reality incapable of reciprocal opening: the closed couple, the closed family, the closed group, the closed parish, the closed home,” he said.

Pope Francis closed his speech by praying that Mary would intercede in supporting all in their commitment to professing the faith and bearing witness to “the marvels of the Lord to those whom we encounter on our way.”

After leading pilgrims in the traditional Marian prayer, Francis recalled the life and work of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, the anniversary of whose death was commemorated on September 5.

Mother Teresa, he said, gave witness with her life that “the Mercy of God is recognized through our works.”

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Rt Revd Dr Rowan Williams Preaches at St Mary's Church, Derby

On Friday 7th August, St Mary's Church were delighted to welcome members of the Anglican Communion and other Christian traditions to a celebration of the Eucharist in thanksgiving for the 150th Anniversary of the Community of the Holy Name (CHN). The Anglican Sisters, whose main convent has been at Oakwood in Derby since 1990, live, work and pray in a number of places - Manchester, Peterborough, Lesotho, Zululand - combining a life of prayer with service to others. The Community began in Vauxhall, a deprived area of London, in 1865, supporting the parish priest. It later took as its dedication, 'The Holy Name of Jesus,' thus reflecting a vocation of reaching out to others in the name of 'Jesus, Saviour'. During his sermon, the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dr Rowan Williams spoke about the importance of names and having a sense of belonging.

Three other Anglican Bishops - Rt Revd Alison White, Bishop of Hull, Rt Revd Dr Alastair Redfern, Bishop of Derby and the Rt Revd Dr John Inge, Bishop of Worcester - participated in the celebrations. The setting of the Eucharist was the Deutsche Messe by Franz Schubert and the music was ably led by the Derby Cathedral Voluntary Choir.

St Mary's was privileged to witness such an inspiring celebration of the Eucharist, which was originally planned to take place at the Anglican Cathedral in Derby. However, the essential work that needed to be undertaken at the Cathedral during the Spring and Summer months meant a new venue had to be found. St Mary's was the obvious choice as they have been happily lending the Church to their Anglican friends for weekday Evensong and choir practice. It is a tribute to the warm ecumenical relations between the different Christian traditions in Derby that such an arrangement is possible. Both communities have enjoyed the opportunity for fellowship and worship together - including a joint



Fr Tim O'Sullivan with Dr Williams

celebration for the Feast of the Ascension. They hope that the links forged during the past months will continue to be strengthened in the coming years as we remember what unites us in Christ."

Fran Wickes

Photograph Michael Futers

Continued from page 1



*Almighty God,
we pray that Elizabeth
your Servant and our
Queen,
who, by your providence
has received the
governance of this
Realm,
may continue to grow
in every virtue,
that, imbued with
your heavenly grace,
she may be
preserved from all
that is harmful and
evil,
and being blessed
with your favour may,
with her Consort and
all the Royal Family,
come at last into your
presence,
through him who is
the Way, the Truth
and the Life,
our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns
with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and
ever.
Amen.*



*Loyal Address to
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
on the occasion of Her becoming the
longest reigning Monarch in British History*

Your Majesty,

It is an honour and a pleasure to express the great loyalty and gratitude felt by the Catholic community of England and Wales for the outstanding and unstinting service you give to our nation and to people throughout the world.

We express these sentiments with particular warmth and admiration as you celebrate the occasion of surpassing the length of reign of any other British Monarch.

Along with Catholics across the world, and especially in the Commonwealth, we join our prayers of thanksgiving to those of other Christians for the many blessings of your reign.

Your vocation as our Queen has been unstinting over these years. The burden of high office fell upon your shoulders at a young age, and yet through the many and varied circumstances of your Reign, you have held integrity of service as a high standard and as an exemplar for other heads of state and leaders of nations. We give thanks too for the constant support that Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, has shown you in your time as our Queen; his role as Prince Consort being a source of strength and stay.

We thank you too, for your steadfast insistence on the great importance of our Christian faith, given in both word and example, alongside your appreciation of the contribution made by other religions in our rich and diverse society today. Our hope is that, enriched by the presence of many beliefs and cultures, our country will always maintain respect for our Christian heritage and the sure foundations that it provides for a flourishing of true human fulfilment. The Gospel of Jesus, which we seek to serve, is a challenge to our society to think more deeply about the sanctity of life, the constant need for forgiveness and reconciliation, and the faithfulness required in love and the self-sacrifice which brings true satisfaction.

Your Majesty, it is my privilege to assure you of our prayers for you, now and in the future and, most especially, on the day when you become our longest reigning Monarch. All the Catholic communities in England and Wales have been asked to offer special prayers for you and your family on this most special of days.

May Almighty God bless Your Majesty, preserve you in health of mind and body, and grant you every grace and blessing, now and in the years to come.

Vincent Nichols

* Vincent Cardinal Nichols
President
Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales



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St Teresa of Avila Exhibition

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St Teresa of Avila, the fifth centenary of whose birth we are celebrating in 2015, has been popularised in Catholic imagination by Bernini's remarkable statue in the Santa Maria della Vittoria church in Rome. Bernini depicts Teresa lost in ecstatic rapture, her heart being pierced by an angel carrying a fiery dart. The scene is intensely ethereal; Teresa is lost to the love of God, floating apparently weightlessly, insensitive to earthly reality. With this incredible piece of art, Bernini attempts to convey the spiritual experience Teresa describes in Chapter 29 of the Book of her Life, sometimes described as the 'transverberation' or piercing of her heart. We know of Teresa's other mystical experiences from her writings and from contemporary accounts by her sisters; Teresa truly was a visionary, privileged with encounters with God the like of which few (if any) of us will ever experience. Yet when Teresa sets out her teaching on prayer she grounds it in the very down-to-earth realities of daily life, and writes as one who knows what it is to struggle with prayer, to know dryness, dissatisfaction and intense distraction as she endeavours to raise her mind to God. It is this, more than her esoteric mystical experiences, which makes Teresa the great spiritual teacher that she is, a doctor of the soul and a teacher of prayer for our times. The following article will focus on some key aspects of Teresa's teaching on prayer. It is important to remember however that, unlike many spiritual teachers, Teresa never set out a formal method for praying: she

does not so much teach a technique as guide us into the way of friendship with God. Teresa was also not writing for those skilled at prayer, for the expert meditators or accomplished contemplatives. Rather she is writing for everyone, confident that God calls each person, regardless of status or education, to an intense relationship with him. As such, Teresa advises that prayer is not so much a matter of thinking much, but of loving much. Teresa was convinced that for this love to flourish the starting point is attentiveness, taking time to be with and attend to the beloved. Thus for Teresa all prayer, whether simply reciting vocal prayers such as the Our Father, attending the church's liturgy, or practising silent meditation, hinges on our ability to focus our minds on Christ and direct our love towards him. The means of achieving this will, of course, vary from person to person, and here Teresa freely advises, 'do that which best stirs you to love.' Teresa's own intense love of God began with her consciousness of the incarnate Christ, of God become human in the person of Jesus. So Teresa's starting point in her own life of prayer was attentiveness to the humanity of Christ. She thus encourages us to look at him, to be conscious of his presence, to be aware of his loving gaze, to share with him our concerns and difficulties, and to accompany him in his suffering. Teresa, however, is nothing if not intensely realistic. She knows that most of us have minds like 'wild horses', that as soon as we begin to pray we will inevitably be plagued

by a whole load of distractions buzzing round like gnats on a summer's day. Her solution to this is 'determined determination.' We should not give up the effort to pray, nor should we expect it to be an easy ride, but in the beginning we may simply have to content ourselves with patiently bringing our mind back to Christ each time we become conscious of it having wandered off in some other direction.

Teresa's famous image of the four methods of watering garden is a helpful reassurance for all of us distracted in prayer. In the early stages, she readily admits, prayer is going to be a whole load of effort. It is like laboriously watering a garden with a bucket filled from the well. It is a lot of hard work, and we pretty much have to do it all ourselves. However, Teresa assures us that as we persevere in prayer, God will come to our assistance; it will become easier to concentrate on him, requiring less struggle and effort on our part. This is like a garden where a system of waterways distributes the water around the garden – we have less far to carry the bucket! As God's help increases, the soul gradually quietsens in prayer and the effort becomes even less. Teresa imagines this as a river or stream which brings the water straight into the garden without us having to draw it from the well. Finally, God takes over completely and all the soul has to do is be present and receive grace from him, like a garden being watered by torrential rain falling from heaven.

For Teresa the culmination of all prayer is union with God (as in the fourth stage of watering the garden) when the soul becomes united with God, enveloped in divine love and entirely conformed to his will. In Teresa's other famous image, the soul's task is to journey through many rooms to the centre of a castle where it finds God and is united with him. For all the divine ecstasy this implies, Teresa nevertheless remains resolutely practical in her approach. The result of prayer is not some kind of contemplative feel good factor, or self-satisfied smugness. Rather, Teresa insists that the fruit of prayer is 'the birth always of good works.' In other words, if prayer is not accompanied by a growth in love of our neighbour and an increased willingness to serve them, then it is not true prayer. Teresa has no time for nuns devoted to spending long hours in chapel enjoying spiritual delights, who then snap people's heads off as soon as they are asked to do the slightest task in community! In



fact, Teresa argues that as we progress in the life of prayer, we will become increasingly free to serve others, more sensitively attuned to their needs, and more energised in our efforts to help them. The active life and the contemplative life become less and less opposed to each other, eventually becoming a single way of living and being. And a good thing too, as Teresa comments scornfully, 'it would be a hard thing to bear if we were able to pray only when off in some corner!' Teresa, the great mystic and teacher of the spiritual life has no time whatsoever for holy huddles!

When Teresa wrote her advice on prayer she was acutely conscious of the times she was living in. Official church guidelines restricted women to simply reciting vocal prayers, many spiritual books on prayer had been banned, and the more developed techniques for prayer were often regarded as suitable only for the educated and holy. Teresa's own intense friendship with Christ persuaded her otherwise. Firmly convinced that prayer is for everyone, that it is fundamentally a task of love, she offered a spiritual teaching which is as relevant today as it was in the sixteenth century. Attentiveness and love are the timeless foundations for prayer, and its fruits are not ecstatic rapture or great mystical experiences, but the simple, selfless growth in love of God and one another. St Teresa of Avila, pray for us!

Jo Robson, OCD
Carmelite Monastery, Ware

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Ken Lilley Press officer for the Knights of St Columba, Council 621 Market Harborough.

Loughborough Catenian Circle Enrols New Member



The Loughborough Catenian Circle enrolled Michael Newton as a new member during their July meeting. Michael and his wife Angela live in the village of Wymeswold and are parishioners at Our Lady of the Angels RC Church in East Leake. Michael has recently retired from his professional role as a Consultant Engineer although he still remains busy supporting various industrial societies and his professional bodies. He had always promised himself that when he had enough time he would like the opportunity to join the Catenians and the Loughborough members were delighted to welcome Michael to their Cir-

cle. Michael has a fine voice and is in demand with both the choir in which he sings and as a regular cantor for his church. The July meeting was also attended by Reverend Father Paul Okello Wandera who has been visiting England from Uganda. The purpose of Father Paul's visit to England is to explore Catholic organisations for men and take the learning back to his own Diocese of Jingo. Following dinner Father Paul gave the members of the Circle an insight into how the church works in Uganda and some of the challenges they face in operating over very large diocese

FRANKLY SPEAKING

What is our strategy for the future?

On the first Friday in September the tragic migration crisis finally resulted in Britain taking in more refugees from Syria. Seven days earlier the Austrian police had found 71 victims including four children dead from suffocation inside an abandoned lorry.

If a week is a long time in politics what we have witnessed must have been like an eternity for some in parts of Europe. Yes the continent of our residence has not seen such a movement of people since 1945. There is no easy end to this story and the horrific sight of Aylan Kurdi aged three on a Turkish beach produced a photograph that seemed to shock our country and the rest of the world.

The humanitarian tragedy is set against the background of familiar arguments on immigration and our membership of the European Union. In some countries anti-immigrant feeling will be whipped up and whilst political leaders may have to tread a careful line that is no reason to not show compassion in what is a world crisis brought about by sheer barbarism in Syria and Iraq. Large num-

bers have also fled from African countries for a variety of reasons. Political asylum and sheer poverty are also sadly experienced together.

Did it take a drowned child to offer the hand of hope to our fellow human beings? What is our strategy for the future? Our role in Europe and our future response needs to be clear now we seem to have finally grasped that the refugees' of 2015 have faced appalling difficulties with great courage. At the time of writing this article an estimated 2,600 victims have died whilst crossing the Mediterranean Sea. The Christian response is surely the need for leadership, wisdom, understanding and compassion, we can only hope and pray that our political leaders will continue to respond as they gather for their autumn conferences. They could also respond to the lead given by Pope Francis who's appeal for parishes to open their doors and give concrete hope is directly linked to the Gospel.

*Frank Goulding
Holy Trinity Parish
Newark*

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Thoughts from Elston Hermitage.....

Since our ordinations life here at the hermitage has taken on a somewhat different aspect. Our daily life of prayer, work, study etc. continues unchanged, our balanced routine as prescribed by St. Benedict himself whose rule we follow is strictly adhered too. However, daily we are having more contact with many more people and are being more involved within the life of the diocese, for this reason our eremitical life seems to be taking on an equally active apostolate. A good number around the diocese have invited us to do supply, speak with them and share our life with them which we are very happy to do of course.

For a long time now it is often asked of us what the life of a hermit consists of and for most part people envisage this life to be one totally cut off from the world and in total isolation and this is certainly true for most part. However it is my experience that there are as many different expressions of living life as a hermit as there are people living it, so there are no hard and fast rules with nothing set in stone.

Some hermits prefer little contact with the world – others nowadays use the modern technology available to us with telephone, internet etc. even facebook and twitter. Here in Elston we share some of that technology, however we still do not have a television set and spend great deal of time in silence.

From the earliest of times those living committed to lives of prayer and solitude while sharing in the eremitical values, which are ever unchanged had different approaches to the life and the way they lived it. Some in complete solitude, others daily having people visit them for prayer and spiritual direction. Over the recent years retreat houses, monasteries and houses of prayer where people can find God in silence and prayer have grown up everywhere, people are thirsting for meaning and value to their lives in a secular and consumer world. For this reason the life of those consecrated to God as religious, monks and



nuns living a life of total dedication and simplicity has become an attraction to others for its values and great meaning. The Year for Consecrated Life has created much awareness and has unveiled the joys of living this life and the great satisfaction and fulfilment which it brings.

On the 6th October we shall be keeping the feast of St. Bruno who lived the eremitical life and went on to establish the Carthusian Order. He founded his own foundation in the Chartreuse mountains of France along with two more monasteries in Italy, he was noted for living in austere surroundings, with long periods of solitude, through this he draw many people to God. And so here in Elston the daily round of prayer continues, the Divine Office, daily Mass either here in our little oratory or in the parishes of our diocese. We pray that as both religious and priests we may be faithful stewards of the mysteries of God and draw many others too him. Pray for us!

Fr Richard Edey H.D.N.

Tramps and Buskers fundraising evening

St. Patrick's Church Justice and Peace group have arranged a fundraising event for their 2015 charity, Mary's Meals. The Tramps and Buskers evening will take place at 19:00 on Friday the 2nd of October at the St. Patrick's Parish Centre on Beaumont Leys Lane. Tickets will cost £4 and include entry into the raffle and a chip supper with sausage or fish fingers, peas and a buttered cob. The bar will be open for refreshments.

Funds raised will be donated to Mary's Meals, a registered charity that sets up school feeding projects in some of the world's poorest communities, where hunger and poverty prevent children from gaining an education. It was founded in

2002 and has grown from its first feeding operation of 200 children in Malawi, to a world-wide campaign, providing free school meals in hundreds of schools and feeding over one million children daily.

Those in attendance are encouraged to come dressed as tramps with prizes for the best/worst outfits as well as the best busker. One of the organisers, Joy Murphy, is still on the lookout for more buskers. To keep in the spirit of the evening the Buskers will need to have tin cans or hats to collect cash donations in. If you would like to get involved please contact Joy by email (robertandjoy@btinternet.com) or phone (0116 2351550).

Clergy appointments

Bishop Patrick has made a number of new appointments from Tuesday 8th September 2015:

Benedict Bullem Abuo	Parochial Administrator, Barton-upon-Humber
John Bland IC	Parochial Administrator, Brigg
Tom Breslin	Assistant Priest, Birstall with Rothley
Malachy Brett	Parish Priest, Coalville
David Cain	Parish Priest, Mickleover
John Cairns	Chaplain to the Youth Service
	Chaplain to the Education Service
	Parish Priest, Chapel-en-le-Frith with Tideswell (remaining as Parish Priest, Marple Bridge & New Mills)
Paul Chipchase	Parish Priest, Mansfield St Philip Neri
Victor Dakwan	Parochial Administrator, Bourne with Deeping St James
Simon Gillespie	Parish Priest, Stamford
John Kevin Gradwell	Assistant Priest, Marple Bridge & New Mills
	Assistant Priest, Chapel-en-le-Frith with Tideswell (resident in Chapel-en-le-Frith)
Richard Hardtaff	resident in Nottingham Gordon Road
Slawomir Hermanowicz	Assistant Priest, Borrowwash
	Assistant Priest, Chaddesden (resident in Borrowwash)
John Martin	Assistant Priest, Grimsby St Mary with Scartho
	Assistant Priest, Grimsby, St Pius X, Cleethorpes & Immingham (resident in St Mary's Rectory, Grimsby)
Paul Newman	Parish Priest, Borrowwash (remaining as Parish Priest, Chaddesden) resident in Mackworth
Robert O'Callaghan	Parish Priest, Grantham
Christopher O'Connor	Parish Priest, Scunthorpe St Bernadette
Dominic O'Connor	Parish Priest, Sibley
Clement Orango	Parish Priest, Syston
Jonathan Rose	Assistant Priest, St Barnabas' Cathedral
	Assistant Priest, Nottingham Woodborough Road
Saji Dominic IC	Parish Priest, Birstall with Rothley
John St John	Assistant Priest, Hinckley
Robert Thacker	Parish Priest, Market Rasen et al
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"Brother Sun and Sister Moon" Retreat Day



It was with keen interest I took up the open invite issued by St Barnabas Cathedral, Nottingham to participate in a day retreat, "Brother Sun and Sister Moon" hosted by the Poor Clares Monastery in Bullwell, led by Fr Robbie O'Callaghan. A full day programme started at 9.30am which included a very thoughtful reflec-

tion on the story of St Francis, meditation in front of the "San Damiano Cross" ending with a afternoon talk on St Clare. The day was well attended with 50+ people with more joining us for Holy Mass, being the feast day of St Clare. We were all given an opportunity to meet the Poor Clare Sisters for a short while offering

thanks for their wonderful hospitality as well as to submit prayer requests. There was a lovely selection of freshly baked cakes and jams on offer to buy to support the work of the monastery and these were quickly snapped up as gifts for family and friends. Fr Robbie delivered his talks with great humour and thought, maintaining a

high level of interest throughout the day. All those who attended were extremely happy to have made the effort to join in and are looking forward to many more such retreat days. God bless.

Cheryl Broodryk



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Offering Hope to People in Prison

Many prisoners (as many as one in four) in a Youth Offenders Institution are held in conditions bordering on solitary confinement spending 23 hours out of 24 confined to their cells according to the Howard League for Prison Reform .

“One in four boys in Feltham Prison is spending 23 hours a day locked up in his cell in conditions which amount to solitary confinement”. HM Inspector of Prisons This is widespread in our prisons as reported by HM Chief Inspector in February in his report on Rochester YOI in February this year and by the Prison Reform Trust in their report ‘Strangeways 25 years on’ in March:-

“A prisoner who is unemployed because there is no activity available for him might spend 22 hours a day, and eat all his meals, with another prisoner in a small cell designed for one, perhaps eight foot by six foot, with an unscreened toilet” HM Chief Inspector of Prisons

Against this background, prayer groups become very difficult to organise, and prisoners struggle on their own. Roman Catholic

Prison Chaplains are begging for Catholic Bibles and other catechetical resources to support the prisoners in their care in their journey of faith, a faith re awakened by their time inside and away from home.

“Thank you for the Catholic Bible. It is beautiful and has helped me with my faith. It has been a long journey and it has put me on the track to rightness, faith, hope and goodness” Mark HMP Isle of Wight.

Catholic Truth Society Prison Appeal 2015

The Catholic Truth Society launched its Prison Appeal 2015 at Easter this year with an Appeal to Members and Supporters of CTS. So far we have raised just over £12,000 of our target of £30,000 by Christmas 2015. There is some way to go! We wish to widen the Prison Appeal to all the dioceses and parishes in the country and need your help to do this.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please publicise this Appeal in all your

parishes including the following links in all communications.

[http://www.ctsbooks.org/filedepository/appeals/prison%20appeal%20\(interactive\).pdf](http://www.ctsbooks.org/filedepository/appeals/prison%20appeal%20(interactive).pdf) for donations to the CTS Prison Appeal 2015 via the CTS website

<http://campaign.justgiving.com/charity/catholictruthsociety/prisonappeal> for the leaflet which tells you more about the appeal and other ways of donating to the CTS Prison Appeal 2015

THE CTS MISSION

The Catholic Truth Society advances the Church’s Mission of evangelisation by publishing high quality Catholic resources at affordable prices. There are CTS publications for people in all situations and walks of life, supporting priests, teachers, parents and catechists, enabling them to pass on the gift of faith to new generations. We also reach out to schools, hospitals, prisons, seminaries, missions, the media and enquirers, not just in the UK, but worldwide.

I WAS IN PRISON AND YOU CAME TO VISIT ME

A number of Catholic Agencies offer support to prisoners and their families. Caritas is one of them.

Caritas works for the most vulnerable people of society across England and Wales, providing support for families and children, the elderly, the homeless, refugees, the disabled and prisoners.

The SVP offers support to people in prison.

Pact is a national charity which supports people affected by imprisonment. Pact offers practical and emotional support to prisoners’ children and their families and to prisoners themselves.

Below is Brian’s account of the help he received from Pact and the effect it had on him.



For many people coming out of prison can be a lonely and frightening experience. Without the adequate assistance of family or friends, many fall back into old patterns and end up replicating a cycle of crime and imprisonment over and over.

For the occasion of Prisoners’ Sunday, 11 October, Pact has interviewed Brian, a past beneficiary of Basic Caring Communities, a resettlement project made of four volunteers who put their faith into action to help an ex offender after release.

Brian, how did you get to know about Basic Caring Communities when you were in prison?

It was two weeks before my release, the chaplain came up to me and asked if I would be interested in having someone to meet out in the community. I took grip on the offer because I was a single man, with no family, nobody that would come meet me at the gate. It seemed a good option for me.

How was your experience with Basic Caring Communities?

If I have to be honest, the first couple of weeks it was the incentives rewarded to me that enticed me to go to the meetings. But after the second week I started to look forward to go to the meetings because of the people. It was nice to be able to speak to ‘normal’ persons who were out of the system and away from anything else that was going on. I was in supported housing with likeminded people who went through drugs and alcohol like me. It was good to be able to get out from that.

Obviously I would gravitate more towards the two gentlemen of the group because of the football, more things in common to talk about, but the two ladies were also really nice and supportive.

How long did they support you for?

They supported me for the full 12 weeks. And I must tell you that two of them now, after two years, are still really good friends of mine, and one of them I see on a regular basis once or twice a week.

Do you feel that you were prepared to be out in the world on your own after those 12 weeks?

Not exactly, you have to understand that it takes much longer to be able to stand on one’s feet after prison, but having that initial support helped me to change my way of thinking and reacting.

How do you think it would have been without the support of the Basic Caring Communities group?

I would be back in prison. The environment you live in becomes a problem for people like me, there were many issues coming up. Many times I felt like I was hitting the bottom. It was a Pact volunteer, a good friend of mine that would come and see me every week and keep me from giving everything up again. It would have only been a question of time before I’d be back on the streets, robbing, doing everything I used to do and start the process again.

At this time, after two years, I’ve not engaged in any crime, I’ve abstained from drugs and alcohol. I’m in college doing counselling course, doing English GCSE; I am also working with Pact, I just got a new position with them, so all is really good. Last month I also was received into the Catholic Church. This journey of Faith is something which the people at Pact have been a key factor in; I am immensely grateful.

What would you like to say to other people like you who are considering joining a Basic Caring Communities group?

I’d tell them that they must remember not



Brian

to put too many expectations upon the volunteer and be ready to do their part. Pact gives you a safe and friendly group of people that you can contact and you can phone on a daily basis and, although all these things seem small in their ways, they do help you. Many times the environment you’re in is the ultimate cause that brings you to achieving failure, so having someone separate from that was for me a huge and important help and so it will be for others.

If you want to learn more about the work of Pact and the opportunities to put your faith into action and volunteer in Basic Caring Communities or in other projects, please visit <http://www.prisonadvice.org.uk>.

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Harvest Fast Day: Romero continues to inspire young people this Harvest

CAFOD's Kathleen O'Brien is in our schools team and coordinates resources for secondary schools. Last February, I was privileged to be in El Salvador when the announcement came that Pope Francis had declared San Salvador's one-time Archbishop, Oscar Romero to be a martyr, meaning that a date could be set for his beatification. There was great joy expressed by everyone we met that day. One of the Jesuits at the university said to us, "The whole of Latin America has been waiting for this event for thirty-five years!"



Kathleen (back row, far left) in El Salvador

Schools in England and Wales are familiar with the name 'Oscar Romero'. Sometimes when our team visits a school we hear that 'Romero House' is the name chosen for one of the school house teams. That resonates with us, as we named our London office building 'Romero House' after our former CAFOD partner. Many pupils have learned about Romero's life in RE lessons during Year 6 of primary school or in the first two or three years of secondary school.

That's why, in this special year when Romero officially became 'Blessed Oscar Romero', we wanted to use El Salvador as the focus for our Harvest materials for schools. The materials look at the stories of Diego (8) and Isabel (15) from San Salvador.

Diego and Isabel are part of an inspiring project run by the Sisters of St Clare which helps children and young people in a poor and gang-dominated area of the capital city. In the spirit of Romero, the sisters give their lives to work alongside people living in poverty, bringing hope and making steps towards a more peaceful future.

We met Sr Cruz, who heads up the project, in the courtyard of the tiny house where the sisters live surrounded by violence. She told us how afraid she felt when bullets bounced against the outside walls of their house one night. She also told us of her love

for the young people and was visibly moved when she described what they meant to her: "I am not giving to them, they are giving to me."



Sister Cruz working with young people in the centre

Sr Cruz introduced us to Isabel, one of the young leaders being trained to work with younger children at the Saturday project. Isabel told us: "We will work with them so that when they get to our age they'll say to themselves 'Let's change things in our country!'" That Saturday, we witnessed almost 200 children and young people enjoying a safe space to play and socialise and receiving some vital professional psychological support.

Blessed Oscar Romero continues to be an inspiration for the people of El Salvador – murals of him are common. Close to the school where the Sisters' project is based there is a huge mural of Romero with the legend: "It is necessary to accompany the people who are struggling for their liberation."

Blessed Oscar Romero, pray for all those who follow in your footsteps, building a brighter and more peaceful future for people surrounded by poverty and violence in parts of El Salvador and around the world. Amen.



A Romero Cross from El Salvador

One aspect of being a Catenian



There are many Catenian groups in the Diocese; one aspect of Catenian life is socialising together. Above can be seen South Leicester Catenians racing together in twin engine 60 mph go-karts at a local race circuit. The winning Catenian was Tony Scarborough followed eventually by David Skilbeck, Jon Mickleborough, Martin Madden and Nik Novakovic.

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Book Reviews

How to get more out of Holy Communion

By St Peter Julian Eymard.

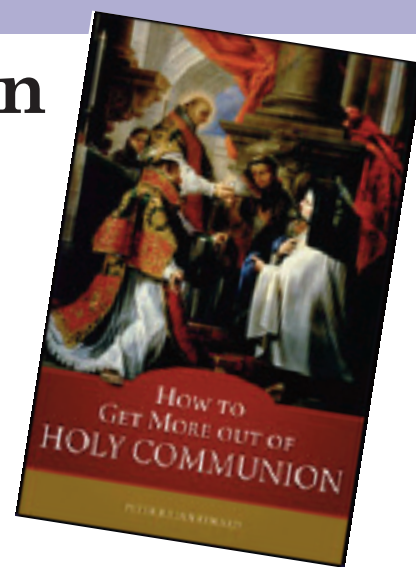
Sophia Institute Press. www.SophiaInstitute.com

This is a 19th century spiritual classic, now reprinted by this enterprising Catholic publishing house, that repays reading and rereading. Tackling how the reverent reception of Communion brings the recipient constantly closer to the source of all love, as well as deepening one's friendship with Christ, are only two of the themes discussed by the author, a saint who, not surprisingly, founded two religious orders to

promote adoration of the Eucharist. Although the author's style seems old-fashioned to modern ears, his advice is penetrating and timeless. In a chapter entitled, "How Communion drives sadness from your soul", he reflects that such "sadness" is common to holy people, advising that "human consolation" is not enough, "especially if God has sent an increase of sadness to test you." The only sure remedy

is Communion, where "Our Lord...enters into us to give divine combat to our sadness." This edition, with its cover painting of St Teresa of Avila receiving Communion, would make an excellent Confirmation present. It is a work combining catechesis and insight into the author's own life of prayer.

Francis Phillips



REMEMBERING THE UNBORN

At Our Lady of Victories Parish in Market Harborough, the Pro Life Group had been keen for a long time to erect a constant reminder, by way of a Memorial Stone, remembering the Unborn. After discussions with their Parish Priest, it was decided to try and link the erection of any such Memorial with the celebrations attached to Fr. Owen's Golden Jubilee of Priesthood. With this in mind, a small working party was agreed on, to



meet the target in June 2015. A local Artist and member of the parish, Suzanne Tanner, kindly agreed to draft a possible design having been told what the working group had in mind. After the first design was submitted, a few suggestions and alterations were offered. The working group were delighted with the second design. At this stage a possible site for the memorial had been targeted, on the outward buttress of the Church wall, which would be clearly visible to passers by from the street.

A local Stone Mason Company, Jonathan Stamp, a family member of J Stamp & Sons, our local Undertakers, was called on for advice and guidance. Jonathan inspected our proposed site and suggested that the most suitable material for our memorial, fitting in with the Church roof and contrasting with the surrounding brickwork, would be a nice polished slate. Jonathan agreed to take on the task at his workshop attached to "The Chestnuts" on Kettering Road, Market Harborough. His craftsman Richard Allsop was given Suzanne's design, with a request that the Working Party be given a sight of the early proof on the slate before continuing further. That request was granted, and having approved the initial draft, Jonathan was told of our target for completion which he said would definitely be met. The Parish was kept fully informed through the Newsletter about the project, design, commissioning and target.

On Sunday, June 28th. Fr. Owen unveiled and blessed the newly erected Memorial Stone to the Unborn Children. In the Parish Newsletter for that week end, Fr. Owen wrote: The newly erected memorial stone depicts a mother holding her baby watched over by angels. Hopefully this memorial will be a constant reminder to all who pass by and see it, of the vast number of unborn children, who were

not given the chance and right to life, and to the memory of the little children who were stillborn, or babies who died in infancy. Hopefully too, it will be a place where mothers and fathers who have lost a baby, can stop and reflect, and be strengthened and comforted by the fact that their little angel is remembered, recalling the words of Jesus "let the little children come to me".

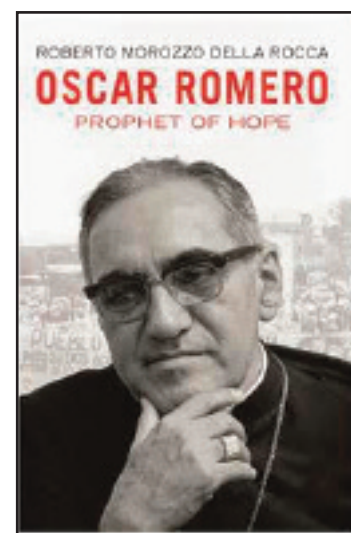
The thanks and appreciation of the entire Parish is offered to Jonathan Stamp and J. Stamp & Sons, Undertakers, who kindly donated the Memorial Stone in appreciation of the Catholic Churches involvement in the life of the local community and the town in general.

The photograph shows Fr. Owen with the Chair of the Pro life Group Maureen Douglas, together with some Altar servers, blessing the Stone, after Mass on Sunday the 28th. of June 2015, when the feast of St. Peter and Paul was celebrated this year.

Oscar Romero: Prophet of Hope

Oscar Romero: Prophet of Hope by Roberto Morozzo Della Rocca, published by Darton, Longman & Todd, is a comprehensive account of the martyred Archbishop of San Salvador's incredible journey of holiness and courageous witness in the face of cruel state oppression. Historian Roberto Morozzo Della Rocca draws directly on previously unpublished documents - some of which were used as evidence in the process leading to Romero's beatification in 2015 - to write the most authoritative biography of Romero to date.

Morozzo tells the complete story of Oscar Arnulfo Romero y Galdámez, from his humble roots in Ciudad Barros, El Salvador, to his ordination in Rome and his eventual appointment as Archbishop of San Salvador. It weaves a sensitive account of Romero's character - both public and private - with a mature appraisal of his theology and unfailing commitment to the poor, marginalised and persecuted of Latin America. The final chapter describes Romero's movements and words during the final months, weeks and days that led to his martyrdom - assassinated while celebrating Mass the day



after publicly appealing to soldiers of El Salvador's Revolutionary Government to refuse their orders to kill.

Roberto Morozzo Della Rocca teaches modern history at Roma Tre University and is a research specialist on Oscar Romero and the political and religious history of Latin America. He was invited to collaborate as an expert on the process for the canonisation of Romero. This new biography is therefore the result of many years of study.

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A passion for Jesus and his people

The world's youngest Catholic church

In 1992, Fr Wenceslao 'Wens' Padilla packed the warmest clothes he had and set off from his home country of the Philippines for the capital of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar. His mission was to share God's love with the people living in one of the harshest climates in the world, following the collapse of Communism. Today, he is the nation's first and only bishop.

The future Bishop Wens and two other priests arrived together, operating out of a hotel room. The three men would celebrate Mass with expatriates. Eventually, they in turn brought their Mongolian friends and, before long, the first Catholic Church building was constructed, supported by Missio.

During his first years in Mongolia, Bishop Wens worked hard to understand the needs of the people, leading to several initiatives that continue today. They include a care centre for children who were homeless, schools, clinics, and training centres for vocational skills. "All cater for the very poor," says Bishop Wens, "those who have no clothes to wear, no food, no family."

As Pope Francis reminds us in his message for this year's World Mission Sunday, "mission is at once a passion for Jesus and a passion for his people". This passion is what drives Bishop Wens and the work of the missionaries he works alongside. With the help of local catechists, they are reaching out, sharing the Catholic faith with the Mongolian people in a way that is relevant and meaningful to their own culture.

Gantulga's family is just one example of

people whose lives have been dramatically transformed thanks to missionaries sharing God's love. The family first learned about the Catholic Church when they moved to the rural town of Arvaiheer ten years ago. Along with his wife, Uurtsaikh, and children, Gantulga sought refuge after tragically losing all their livestock, and therefore their livelihood, due to the freezing conditions.

While Uurtsaikh and the children started attending activities run by the church, Gantulga was haunted by his alcohol addiction and destructive behaviour. Sadly, in Mongolia alcoholism, domestic abuse and extreme poverty is widespread.

Seeing the changes in his wife's behaviour, Gantulga was inspired to learn about the Catholic faith and started going to church with Uurtsaikh and their children.

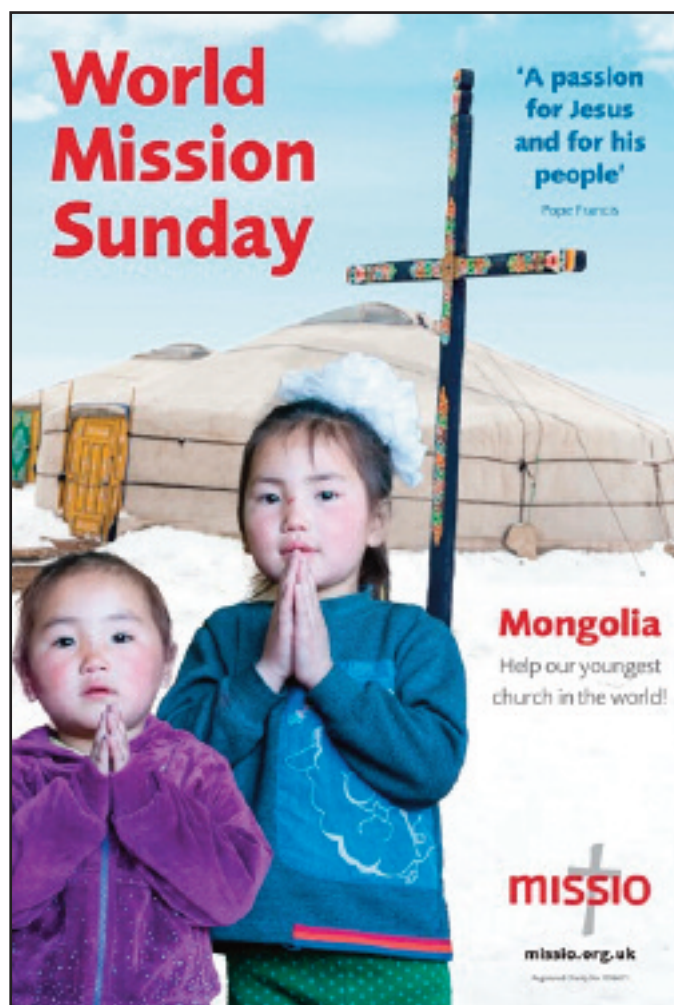
Gantulga was baptised at Easter two years ago, and is now a parish catechist. He says, "When I started going to church and feeling how God's mercy reaches me, I felt that I had to receive baptism. Now I can say I am a better father and husband because I have received God's mercy and can be merciful to others."

On Sundays young and old gather in the traditional ger (tent) church, sharing their faith with one another and supporting each other. Gantulga explains, "There is a positive influence of the Church here in this whole community. There is more joy and happiness around us and there has been a big change for the better in the lives of many people."

Mgr Canon James Cronin, the National Director of Missio in England and Wales, reminds us, "World Mission Sunday is an opportunity for the family of the Church to support its youngest member, the Church of Mongolia."

In order to share God's love, Bishop Wens and his fellow missionaries rely on the worldwide Catholic family, through the Pope's own charity for overseas mission, Missio. He is incredibly grateful for this support and says, "Although I've seen many Mongolians come to know Christ, there are still so many more that need to be reached. I want to continue reaching out to the poor and am grateful for the love and support of our sisters and brothers in England and Wales."

Sunday, 18 October is World Mission Sunday, when every Catholic church around the world, whatever its circumstances, gives what it can to help and support the Church where it is



too young or too poor to support itself. Find out more at missio.org.uk/wms2015

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St. Elizabeth of the Trinity

A young saint of dazzling simplicity

Her simple message is: 'Just let your God love you.'
Elizabeth was canonised in 1998 by Pope John Paul II.

He acknowledged that she was one of the saints that had most influenced his own life.

For Elizabeth the words "God is love," held the meaning and foundation of everything. There is at once a contemplative tidal wave and a fabulous innocence in her teaching.

She says: "We are here on earth so that we can be drawn into God's vortex of love. So just let your God love you. If we can do that we are holy with the holiness of Jesus."

Elizabeth insists it is God's embrace, God's love, that makes us holy. There is no such thing as 'our' holiness. Holiness belongs entirely to God alone, but each of us according to our openness, our giftedness, our temperament, our longing, our readiness, is open to receive God's love in a way unique to ourselves. In Jesus, Elizabeth contemplated a fathomless love.

She declares: "It is this intimacy with him within that has been the beautiful sun illuminating my life, making it already an anticipated heaven."

This doctrine of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, was the key to Elizabeth's own spiritual life and is at the centre of her teaching. God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit are at home, she says, in the human heart. Elizabeth spoke out of the lived reality of her own life. Known today as 'Prophet of the Presence of God', she invites us to accept the gift of God's immediacy and to open our hearts to God's reality within.

Elizabeth declares: "In that little inner sanctuary of my soul I find him at every hour of the day and night." She contends: "He is always there, although you do not feel it. He is waiting for you and wants to establish a 'wonderful communion with you.'" Elizabeth insists that prayer is much more than a technique; it has to mature to become a relationship. Our listening in stillness has to fuel the content of our silent prayer.

In that rather shocking style of a saint Elisabeth insists: "It is so simple to love. It is the surrender of yourself to all his wishes. She advises us: "Right in the depths, in the heaven of your soul, you must build a little cell within. I do this. Remember that God is there and enter it...He wants to be the friend you can always find. He is standing at the door of your heart. He is waiting; open to Him."

In all this, Elizabeth of the Trinity, who had this implicit awareness of God as community; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, was drawing deep on her Carmelite tradi-

tions.

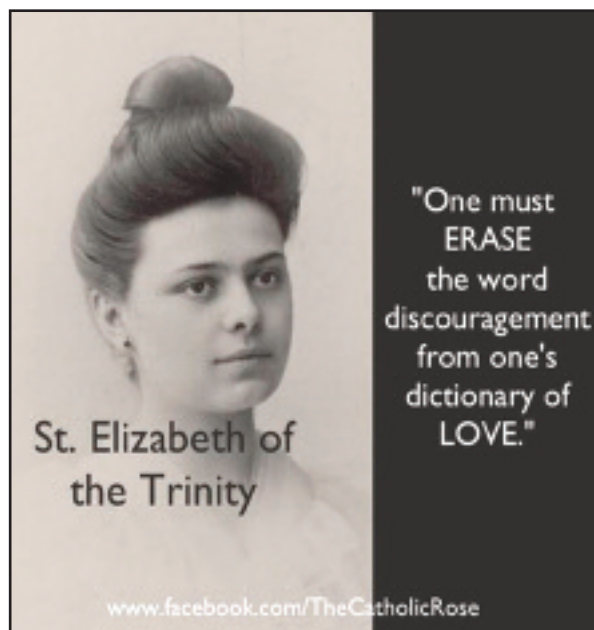
"In the evening of life," she declares, "love alone remains...I have only to let myself be loved, all the time, through all things: to wake in love, to move in love to sleep in love."

Elizabeth declares: "It seems to me that if I saw death, even despite all my infidelities, I would abandon myself into the arms of my God like a child who falls asleep on its mother's heart."

The simplicity of Elizabeth's way can be a powerful corrective. She advises us to keep returning to the New Testament and learn directly from Christ.

She encourages us: "If you got to know him a little, prayer wouldn't bore you anymore. To me it seems to be rest and relaxation. We come quite simply to the one we love. Stay close to him like a child in the arms of its mother and let your heart go. There is no need for beautiful thoughts, only an outpouring and an out-reaching of your heart. The only wise thing is for us to do is to abandon ourselves trustfully into God's hands."

David Mahon



Towards a Culture of Safeguarding

The Church has a responsibility to ensure all those who undertake work in the name of the Church are adequately trained in safeguarding matters. The Catholic Church is dependent on Clergy, Religious and Lay



people using their skills and talents to nurture and support the Catholic community. Some will be paid employees, but the majority undertake their work on a voluntary basis. Whilst some will recognise their role as a volunteer, many rightly see their caring and support contribution as part of their Christian responsibility and ministry. But we all have a role to play in safeguarding the young or adults who may be at risk and it is for this reason that the Catholic Church in England and Wales has worked with EduCare to bring you an e-learning package that will raise awareness throughout the Catholic Community in our countries. The e-learning package is part of the Church's commitment to safeguarding, and is available to all members of the Catholic community free of charge.

Please download the brochure from the diocesan website to see the courses available and how to access them.

What do I need to do to access this training resource?

1. Email Admin@familycare-nottingham.org.uk to register your interest.
2. Your email should contain your name, email address, the name of your parish/order/congregation, and your role. For example: Priest, Member of the Religious, Safeguarding Representative, Youth Worker, Teacher, SVP or Other Volunteers, Parent/Grandparent/Guardian, or Other.
3. On receipt of your email the safeguarding administrator will register your email address with EduCare.
4. You will receive a Welcome Email from EduCare where you will set your password.
5. You will then have instant access to the training programmes.



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