



St Hugh
of Lincoln

Feast day
16th
November

Catholic News

MORE THAN 17 YEARS OF BRINGING THE
NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER



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20p WHERE SOLD

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Pope Francis in the Americas



The Blessing of Peace

Sunday 8 November 2015, 3.45pm

John Carol Case (1923-2012) was one of Britain's best-known and best-loved baritones. As well as the standard concert repertoire (he was a celebrated Christus in the Bach Passions), he sang and recorded English music by Vaughan Williams and Elgar, and was a superlative singer of English song, working with both Ralph Vaughan Williams and Gerald Finzi.

Born in Salisbury, Case attended Bishop Wordsworth's School and at the suggestion of the headmaster there, Dr Frederick Crossfield Happold, went on to become a choral scholar at King's College Cambridge where among his contemporaries was the late David Willcocks. His studies were interrupted in 1941 when he was called up to serve in the Second World War, but he later returned to Cambridge, graduating in 1947.

*The original sketch for Requiem for an Unknown Soldier was worked out in 1943. Case was still serving in the Army and was granted special leave to conduct the first and only performance by the choral society at Bishop Wordsworth's School in Salisbury in July 1944.

This concert programme has been tailored around the Requiem for an Unknown Soldier, which will thus receive its first public performance since the premiere 71 years ago. The Choir of Nottingham Cathedral will also perform works by those English composers with close ties to Case - Vaughan Williams's haunting setting of The Souls of the Righteous (composed for the dedication service of the Battle of Britain Chapel in Westminster Abbey in 1947), Elgar's stirring Give unto the Lord (a setting of Psalm 29 written in February 1914 before the outbreak of World War One) and choral arrangements of Finzi's Fear no more the heat o' the sun and Let us now praise famous men, together with his serenely beautiful Interlude for oboe (soloist Anna Williams) and string quartet.

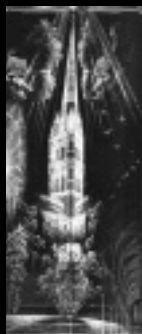
Pope Francis leaves the
San Cristobal Cathedral in Havana
following afternoon prayers

Full story on page 11

NOTTINGHAM CATHEDRAL
The Cathedral Church of St Barnabas

The Blessing of Peace

Elgar
Give unto the Lord
Vaughan Williams
The Souls of the Righteous
Finzi
Interlude for oboe & string quartet
John Carol Case
Requiem for an Unknown Soldier



NOTTINGHAM CATHEDRAL CHOIR

Oboe: Anna Williams
Conductor: Alex Patterson
Organ: Robert Gower

'an exquisite feeling of peace
and fulfilment'
Reviewer on the first performance of
Requiem for an Unknown Soldier in 1944

Sunday 8 November 2015, 3.45pm

Tickets £8 (conc. £7, students £5) available at the door
Tea and cakes will be served following the performance in Cathedral Hall.

part of the Music at the Cathedral concert series
www.stbarnabascathedral.org.uk

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MORE THAN 17 YEARS OF BRINGING THE NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER

The monthly paper for the
Diocese of Nottingham

**The
Catholic News**

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

All items to be emailed to
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Fidelity, truth, love must guide church outreach to families, pope says

By Cindy Wooden

In a world filled with challenges to marriage and family life, the Catholic Church is called "to carry out her mission in fidelity, truth and love," Pope Francis said at the Mass opening the world Synod of Bishops on the family.

Formally opening the synod Oct. 4 with a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, the pope said the church must encourage families and defend faithful love, the sacredness of every human life and "the unity and indissolubility" of marriage.

At the same time, he said, the church must carry out its mission with charity, not only "not pointing a finger in judgment of oth-

ers," but also seeking out all who are lonely and in pain, caring for "hurting couples with the balm of acceptance and mercy." The synod was scheduled to last until Oct. 25, discussing ways to strengthen the church's support of families and its outreach to those struggling to live fully the Catholic ideals of marriage and family life. Marriage preparation, sexuality, procreation, communication, support for couples at risk of separation, accompaniment of divorced Catholics and possible ways to bring back the divorced and civilly remarried were all expected to be on the synod's agenda.



The readings for the Mass were the same as those used in Catholic parishes around the world for Oct. 4, the 27th Sunday in ordinary time. But, the pope said, they seemed tailor-made for opening an assembly dedicated to the family. The first reading was the Genesis account of God seeing Adam alone and creating a helpmate for him; the Gospel included Jesus' teaching that "what God has joined together, no human being must separate."

The Genesis story, the pope said in his homily, makes clear that the "drama of solitude" experienced by too many people - the elderly, the abandoned, widows and widowers, migrants, the persecuted -- is not part of God's plan.

The modern world, he said, seems to offer "many pleasures, but few loves; many liberties, but little freedom" and "the number of people who feel lonely keeps growing." Yet the experience of Adam, and of human beings down through history, shows that "nothing makes man's heart as happy as another heart like his own, a heart which loves him," the pope said. God made man and woman "to complement" each other, "to love and to be loved, and to see their love bear fruit in children."

Many people today doubt whether a life-long marriage is possible or even desirable, thinking that it limits individual freedom and potential, the pope said. But at the same time, people "chase after fleeting loves while dreaming of true love; they chase after carnal pleasures but desire total self-giving."

Reciting the Angelus prayer after Mass, Pope Francis said the 270 synod members would keep their "gaze fixed on Jesus to identify -- on the basis of his teaching of truth and mercy -- the best paths" for helping families "so that the Creator's original plan for man and woman can be realized and can function in all its beauty and strength in the world."

Pope Francis, synod members and tens of thousands of people had gathered in St. Peter's Square Oct. 3 for a nighttime prayer vigil for the synod. Before the pope spoke, Italian families and an engaged couple shared their stories of finding love, overcoming obstacles and experiencing reconciliation and healing.

The formal prayer began with an invocation of the Holy Spirit on the pope and synod members.

In his homily, Pope Francis asked people to pray that the synod would show the world "how the experience of marriage and family is rich and humanly fulfilling."

The pope prayed that the synod would "acknowledge, esteem and proclaim all that is beautiful, good and holy" about family life. But he also prayed that synod members would "embrace situations of vulnerability and hardship," not forgetting those suffering because of "war, illness, grief, wounded relationships and brokenness."

Pope Francis prayed that the synod would find a way to remind broken families "and every family, that the Gospel is always 'good news,' which enables us to start over."

Praying for the local community



Since 2007 Churches in Chellaston have been meeting monthly praying for the local community, this followed an ecumenical mission led by students from Cliff College. On Wednesday 7th October Anglicans, Methodist and Catholics gathered in St. Ralph Sherwin Catholic Church for half an hour of prayer and meditation on Chapter 17 of St. John's Gospel. An original painting "The Teller of all our Stories" by local artist Michael Cooke <http://www.hallowed-art.co.uk/> with words by Rosalind O'Melia enriched the focus of the evening.

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President Jon Mickleborough emphasised the importance of supporting our clergy in every way possible, the evening will include a charity auction with 12 star items.

If you would like to attend the splendid evening or donate an auction item please contact Jon Mickleborough on 07590 040 05.



St Mary's Parish, Derby, welcomes the Reception Children



On Sunday 4th October, children beginning their school life at St Mary's Catholic Primary School & Nursery in Derby, were formally welcomed by their parish community at the 9am Family Mass. The children had their own special liturgy with a meditation time, listened to the Gospel reading of Jesus blessing the children and said prayers before re-joining the rest of the congregation for the Eucharist. At the end of Mass, Fr Peter Ingman invited the Head Teacher, Mrs Amanda Greaves, to present each of the children with their Presentation File. This file will be used for all the children's certificates, awards and best pieces of work during their Primary education. In Year 6 they will bring their files back to St Mary's Church to be blessed by the priest. We wish them all well in their learning and development.

Fran Wickes

SAINT PETERSBURG CHOIR TO VISIT LEICESTER

The prestigious Russian Choir, the Resurrection Choir of Saint Petersburg, is to visit Leicester on Saturday 21st November to give a concert in Blessed Sacrament Church, Braunstone Leicester.

The choir was founded in 1993 and under its founder and conductor, Junji Maruk, has toured extensively in the UK, Germany, Switzerland, Norway, Austria, France and Italy. The choir comprises both male and female singers who perform Russian sacred and folk music. The concert at Blessed Sacrament forms part of the choir's 2015 UK Tour which will include performances at selected venues across England, Scotland and Wales.

Further Details:

The concert will be held at 7.30pm on Saturday 21st November.

For further information and tickets phone:

0116 2858795 or 0116 2393729
Tickets £ 7.50 (concessions £ 5)

St Theodore of Canterbury

A young man, a Byzantine Greek, was living in his war-torn town in Syria. He was, at the time, 11 years old. It must have been traumatic to see his home town overrun by the invaders. He remained in Syria, living through the occupation by foreign troops. Later, when he was 35, however, his country was yet again overrun, and this time he fled from the devastation he saw about him for a safer home.

He became a migrant in Constantinople. He studied medicine, philosophy, astronomy and the law. He moved on to Rome where he was immersed in Latin culture. He was now 50. Some years later, the see of Canterbury became vacant. Wighart, the man appointed to the post, fell ill of the plague, and died.



died in Canterbury in 690 aged 88. He is venerated by the Church as St Theodore of Canterbury.

The war he experienced as a child in Tarsus was fought between Byzantines and Persians, and the army he fled from in 637 when he was 35, was a Muslim army. History repeating itself?

Theodore of Tarsus, now aged 66, was appointed to the post. He thus became the eighth Archbishop of Canterbury in 668. During his time he reformed the church in England, which had been converted some 70 years previously. He managed to prevent Mercia and Northumbria going to war, and introduced a golden age of scholarship in England. He



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RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Prompted by the media coverage of Cilla Black's funeral, Fr Dominic Golding throws down the gauntlet, challenging us to grab people's attention

Wasn't Cilla Black's funeral lovely? Like lots of British people I was very sad to hear of her recent death and knowing Cilla to be a Catholic I was curious to see what her funeral would be like. Would her local bishop allow for one of her songs to be sung? He did.

Would her family choose for her the full Funeral Mass? They did and the media went to town - didn't they? - giving us lots of coverage and knowing lots of us would be interested to see it.

And so we laughed at the tribute given by the comedian Paul O'Grady and were moved to see thousands line the streets as her coffin made its way to St Mary's Church, Woolton, Liverpool. This was where she had married Bobby her husband and where his funeral took place several years ago.

We laughed ... and were moved'

I did notice that on the BBC News website it was possible to download the order of service. So I did and noticed that the gospel chosen was that of the two disciples who meet the risen Jesus on the road to Emmaus. It said that the Bishop gave the homily but nowhere in the media coverage either that evening or the next day could I find any mention of what he'd said. Surely I thought it couldn't have been that bad a homily, but then I remembered something terribly sad. The media wouldn't be inter-

ested in that part of Cilla's funeral because, reflecting a worrying trend in British society, they believe few people today would be interested in hearing about eternal life; all they would want would be memories of Cilla's life here on earth. As I say I think that's a worrying trend and it's partly our fault for not living our Catholic faith in a way that grabs and keeps people's attention.

'A worrying trend ... partly our fault'

In the Gospel at Mass on the Sunday following Cilla's funeral, Jesus is unable to keep the attention of some people. You would think that having fed five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children, and then walked on water in the middle of a storm, Jesus would have grabbed and kept the attention of all who'd heard or seen such things, but no. After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable' and they stopped going with him. What was going on in their minds? Were they closed to the thought that here was someone not only saying and doing something extraordinary, here was someone who was himself truly extraordinary? It seems that few of them wanted to say with Simon Peter, 'You have the message of eternal life and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

Grabbing and keeping people's attention is still what Jesus seeks to do.

Who does he use to work with him if not

us? Like the twelve who stayed with him we do so because we believe - don't we? - that he is the Holy One of God. How though do we grab and keep the attention of others? It is not by acting insincerely, by being hypocrites and sinners. In recent years our Church's reputation has suffered greatly - hasn't it? - because of the sinful actions of some. No, we grab and keep people's attention by living our faith in a way that is appealing.

'... not living our Catholic faith in a way that grabs and keeps people's attention'

A friend told me recently that one of the people she works with had recently asked to accompany her to Church not on a Sunday but on a weekday during their lunch break. They had gone along to Mass and after a few days of doing this my friend asked why did this work colleague want to come. She was astonished to be told, 'When you come

back from your lunch break you bring a joy into our workplace that no one else does. I want that joy.' Isn't that beautiful? My friend is clearly living her faith in a way that is appealing. On the international stage Pope Francis is doing the same. His quiet diplomacy at ending the decades of mistrust between the governments of Cuba

and the USA is one example. Then there is his recent encyclical letter *Laudato Si'* on the environment, in which he blamed human greed and selfishness for damaging the planet and called on the richer parts of the world to make changes in lifestyle and energy consumption in order to avert the unprecedented destruction of the ecosystem.

The Pope and my friend are not the only ones who are succeeding in what Jesus wants us to do. Can we allow their example to influence us? I hope we can because I don't think our British society is as uninterested in sacred things as some would have us believe. My friends, leaving to one side the parts of Paul's letter to the Ephesians that sit awkward with us - reflecting as they do a social order that is not ours - let us not lose

sight of what he's getting at. He hopes the Church will find ways of living its faith in such a way that it will be

obvious that the Church is the body of Christ. As he says, we are its living parts. His hope is surely one we would wish to echo and be involved with making happen. Cilla Black, God rest her soul, was a Catholic all her life. It wasn't something she kept quiet; it was an important part of who she was. I'm sure that's true for lots of us so let's use every opportunity to be seen to be the living parts of Christ's body. Who knows whose attention we may grab and keep?

Bishop Tom William's homily - which is very good and well worth hearing - is available to watch if you go to <http://voutu.be/bVog-qLeIA4>

Courtesy of Portsmouth People

'Cilla Black was a Catholic all her life. It wasn't something she kept quiet'

Cilla Black, née Priscilla Maria Veronica White on 27 May 1943, grew up in what was recognised as a tough part of Liverpool in a very musically oriented household: 'I was surrounded by music in our house. My father played the mouth organ, my mother and aunts used to sing'. Her strong ambition to succeed in life brought her to the trendy haunts and clubs like The Iron Door. It was at The Cavern that she worked as a coat-check girl.

At The Zodiac, where she served coffee, she met Bobby Willis, her husband-to-be. Her rise to international stardom then followed, although Cilla always remained loyal to her roots. In 1997

Cilla, often referred to as the highest paid female entertainer in British television history, received an OBE (Order of the British Empire). With her death on 1 August this year, the nation unexpectedly lost a well-loved entertainer.

Requiescat in pace.



MARKET HARBOROUGH CLERGY NIGHT

The President, Brothers and Ladies of Market Harborough Circle of the Catenian Association were delighted to welcome Fr. Michael Harrison, Parish Priest of Our Lady of Walsingham, Corby, and Fr. Michael Moore, Parish Priest of St. Thomas Moore, Leicester, to their Circle's Annual Clergy Night Dinner.

The highlight of the evening was an interesting power point presentation by 17 year old Natasha Crane, a recipient of a Bursary Award, following her recent four week visit to Argentina as a volunteer worker.

BACK FROM ARGENTINA

The President, Brothers, and Ladies of Market Harborough Circle of the Catenian Association were delighted to welcome Natasha Crane to their September dinner with the Clergy. 17 year old Natasha, a pupil at Leicester Grammar School and a member of Our Lady of Victories Parish, Market Harborough, was the recipient of a Catenian Association Bursary Award. The award of £110 was a contribution towards Natasha's four week visit to Argentina where she worked as a volunteer. Following the dinner Natasha gave an enlightening and polished power point presentation of her visit to Corboda in Central Argentina, where she worked as a volunteer and assisted along with other international volunteers in several hospitals, clinics and nurseries. Staying with a host family and speaking only Spanish, Natasha highlighted the different culture with three

generations living together under one roof and school only either in the mornings or afternoons. Both the facilities and buildings in the hospitals were very basic and Natasha worked painting the outside of a run down hospital and assisting in children's nurseries. The volunteers spent time in an operating theatre, witnessed a post mortem and observed in one maternity hospital a caesarean section with twins being borne. Natasha plans to study medicine at university and the experiences gained on this visit have clearly fulfilled the purpose of the Bursary Fund, which is that the project must have clear benefit to others as well as widening the life experience of the volunteer.

Natasha (left) receiving her Bursary cheque from Northampton Circle President, Keith Webb.



Left to right: Carlo Laurenti, Treasurer, Fr. Michael Moore, Circle President Keith Webb, and Fr. Michael Harrison, Mike Hall, Secretary.



Diocese work together on looking at the New Mass Translation, three years in

A number of clergy and lay people met up at the Trinity Centre in Newark on September 26th for a Study Day looking at the continuing impact of the new Mass Translation. The Day was jointly hosted by the Liturgy Commission and the OGF (Office for Ongoing Formation for Clergy) for the Diocese, and was led by Fr James Sweeney, Associate Vice-Principal of Heythrop College.

The Study day was titled "Praying the Eucharist Together", and took as its theme the question as to what degree the new Translation was helping us both to celebrate, and to pray. The subject matter drew Priests and people from the four corners of the Diocese, and they participated in a Study Day which was both interesting and interactive, with much lively and constructive discussion facilitated by Fr Sweeney.

In welcoming Fr Sweeney to the Diocese, Fr Paul Chipchase of the Liturgy Commission explained that he had first come across him through an article he had published in the Pastoral Review, exploring how his own Passionist Community had engaged with the new Translation since its introduction. This article considered a number of view points of current thinking, and had also resonated with some of the discussions amongst the Diocesan Clergy, prompting Fr Paul to begin to consider such a study day being offered in Newark. Whilst clearly a Study Day, and as a result with some academic foundations naturally, Fr Sweeney was very careful to keep all involved in the discussions explaining technical terms, and ensuring there was sufficient reflection time built into the day. Naturally, there were frequent references

to the appropriate Vatican II Documents and also more-recent encyclicals and other writings as part of the shared input. There was time built in for small group discussions, all of which included Priests and people and which led to a very highly participative day.

At the conclusion of the day, participants spoke happily about their enjoyment of the day, and their ability to contribute to it.

Some too felt privileged to have been able to share in some of the more technical "Clergy-input" which would normally have been reserved to gatherings of Clergy alone. Given that the theme was focused on "Praying the Eucharist Together", it was vital that these two

groups were studying and discussing together, and this did certainly make for a very interesting and insightful day.



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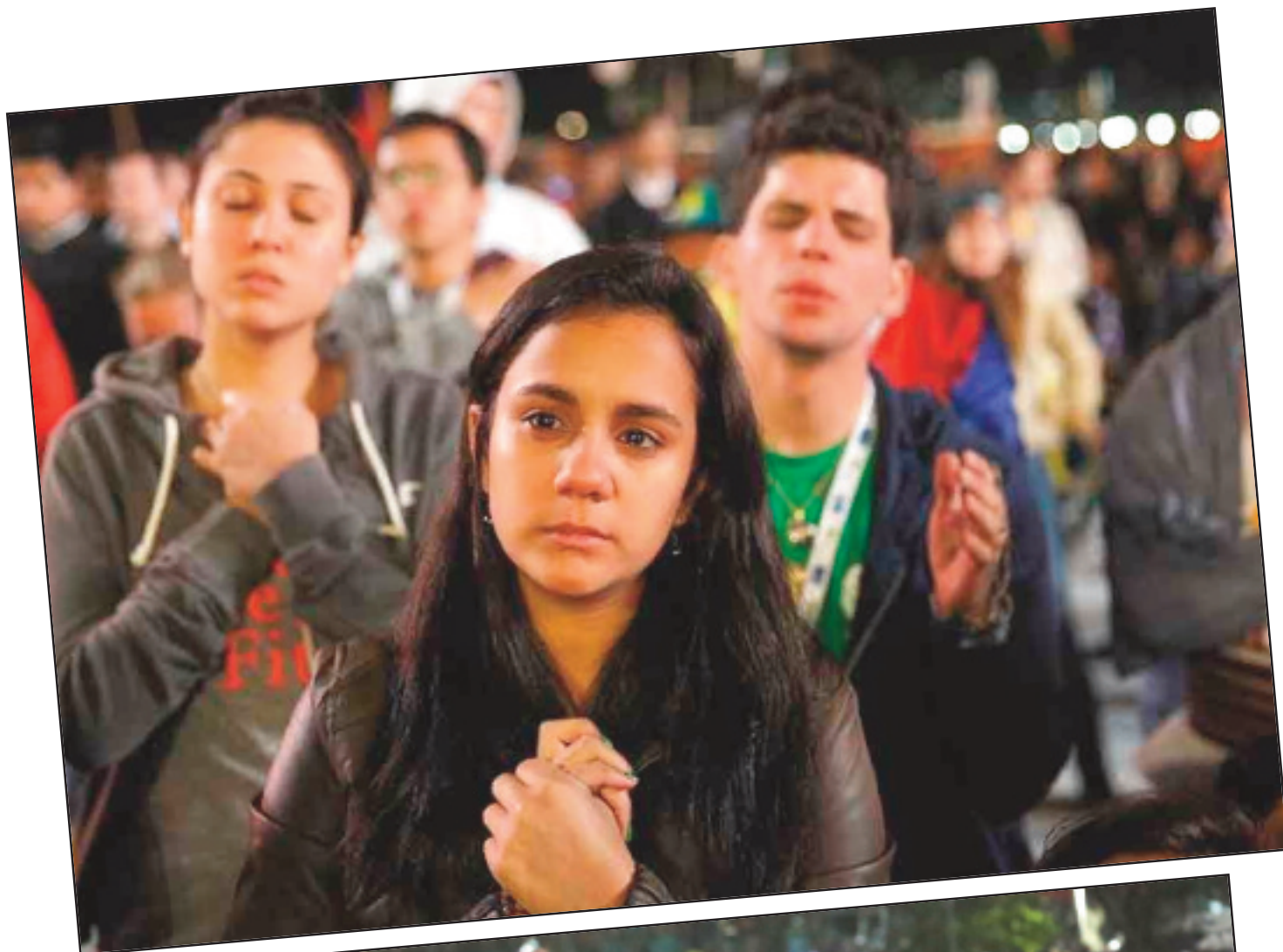
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Wo

Why take a school tr

When I was at school I wasn't particular
I constantly had to think how I would
comes to writing about the benefits of t
each word carefully as there is so much

What is the

World Youth Day is an invitation by P
world to join him for a weeklong celebr
inspiring events I have ever been to. M
come together to celebrate their faith an
an unforgettable experience.

For Y

Those young people lucky enough to at
a life-changing experience. Committed
spirituality strengthened, whilst others
family's home to celebrate a joyous occ
spired and welcomed into a global comm

I was not particularly religious when I
retreat. My response was obviously, "N
allowed to go – so off I went! I know this
however I now run a Catholic Commu
sion I made at 15 did change my life. F
changing opportunity. This is their cha
they have never seen.

Over the past 18 years we've had the c
World Youth Day, from committed Cat
to Agnostics. For each one of those peo
excitement, yes there is the fun, and
changed their Faith or not, they certa
view of religion, of Catholicism and ope



World Youth Day 2016

Trip to the World Youth Day?

...ly academic and if I had to write about something ... pad it out to reach the word count. But when it ... the World Youth Day – I know I will have to treat ... to say.

World Youth day?

Pope Francis to all young people from around the ... of the Catholic Church. It is one of the most ... millions of young people from all over the world will ... and take part in a Mass with the Pope which is just

Our Students

...tend the World Youth Day will undoubtedly have ... Catholics will find their Faith deepened and their ... s will feel like they have been invited into a loving ... asion. Either way, students will leave feeling in- ... munity.

... was young. When I was 15, I was invited to go to a ... "O WAY!" My Dad overheard and told me I wasn't ... s is not the greatest start to a life changing retreat, ... ications Company and can truly say that the deci- ... For many of your students this could be their life- ... nce to experience a side of the global Church that

... opportunity to bring many different people to the ... holics to Atheists, those who follow other religions ... ple we've seen a profound change. Yes there is the ... yes there is the experience, but whether they it ... inly experienced something which changed their ... ned their eyes to something totally new.

Your Teachers

Don't think for one second your teachers are going to take a group of students out to the World Youth Day and just sit back and watch them have a life changing experience. Admittedly, they will be focused on the practicalities of looking after a group of young people, but it will have a profound effect on them as well. I'm now in my thirties and during WYD in Madrid, myself and 3 colleagues published 50,000 newspapers at the main event (something which I would suggest has a similarly distracting effect as keeping a watchful eye over a group of student). Our group consisted of a non-Christian, who was basically an atheist, an ex-policeman who was a recent convert and a lapsed Catholic business man who worked in the city. I remember the main event was very emotional, being surrounded by so many young people all sharing this amazing experience brought tears to my eyes and prompted me to turn away from the others to make sure they did not notice. When I turned round to check to see whether I'd been caught, one of the other guys turned away quickly and said, "OH ... just ... nothing ... just something in my eye". When I turned the other way one of the other guys did the same.

That week we worked non-stop – but all of us were privileged to have had that opportunity and felt that we had benefitted easily as much as those young people who had attended.

Your School

Can you imagine the impact on your school next September when a group of young people and teachers not only share their pictures, videos and stories with other students – but also try to share their newfound inspiration and excitement? The enthusiasm for their Faith and their awareness of being part of a global religion, which spans so many people, nationalities and cultures.

This will have a profound effect on the whole of your school – not just on those that went.

We would strongly recommend that you speak to your Diocese about doing a school trip to the World Youth Day – or if it's not possible contact us or find out more at www.WYD.org.uk where there is a video to promote WYD in schools. Every Diocese is offering a trip to the World Youth Day as well as a number of other groups and tour operators. Prices start from £450 per student and it will change their life!



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CAFOD and the refugees



In the first eight months of 2015, more than 500,000 refugees and migrants entered the European Union, according to Frontex, the agency that coordinates EU border controls. This compares to 280,000 people for the whole of 2014.

The increased number of refugees and migrants seeking a new life in Europe is largely a consequence of humanitarian crises around the world.

One of the refugees, 26 year old Abdalkarim Zahra from Syria said, "I walked so many roads, I crossed so many rivers. I went over so many hills and valleys. I lost my home, my belongings, literally everything."

His journey has taken him to Turkey, Greece, Macedonia and Serbia. People smugglers have taken all his money. He has been pushed into an overcrowded boat

to reach Greece. He has worn the same clothes for weeks. He has suffered hunger and thirst. He has been kicked by border police. "Can I still be called a human?" he asked.

How is CAFOD responding to the crisis in Europe?

We are responding to the crisis both in Europe and in many of the countries where refugees originate from, including Syria, Sudan, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Our sister agencies in the Caritas network are providing aid to refugees in almost every country in Europe. We are directly supporting Caritas Greece and Caritas Serbia, who are providing food, water, shelter and emergency supplies to thousands of refugees every day. The governments of

both countries are struggling to cope with the crisis.

On 4 September, we also launched a campaign calling on the UK government to do more to help vulnerable refugees resettle in the UK as quickly as possible. Within a week more than 2,000 Catholics in England and Wales had emailed the Prime Minister calling for action.

How is CAFOD responding to the crisis in Syria?

We are supporting Church partners in Syria, who are providing food parcels, medical aid and relief supplies and helping people to find safe places to stay, in areas held by both government and opposition forces.

We are also working with Caritas partners in Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan to ensure that newly arrived refugees have food, medical support, clothes and safe places to stay. We are working in Iraq to help our Church partners to respond to the urgent needs of families forced from their homes. Our partners have supported thousands of people with immediate food, essential household goods, alternative housing, sanitation facilities, and psychosocial support to both children and adults.

Should the UK government accept more refugees?

CAFOD, alongside other agencies, has consistently called on the UK government to accept more of the people most at risk. While the UK has led the world in its humanitarian aid contribution to the Syria crisis, CAFOD believes that we have a moral responsibility to share the burden with countries like Lebanon and offer a safe haven for more of those in need of protection.

While we welcome the Prime Minister's recent pledge to take 20,000 Syrian refugees, we need the government to make steps to speed up the process of identifying and offering relocation to Syrians in the region and to ease the burden on neighbouring countries in the Middle East.

What can I do to help?

Pray for refugees facing exploitation around the world.

Donate to the CAFOD Refugee Crisis Appeal

Write to the Prime Minister asking him to increase resettlement places for the most vulnerable Syrian refugees.

Offer shelter, time and skills to support refugees through one of the organisations listed by the Catholic Bishops' Conference

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FRANKLY SPEAKING

A truly remarkable man

This Autumn will be long remembered for the travels of Pope Francis. The visit's to Cuba and America had long been awaited ever since the news of his intervention last December to help bring about diplomatic relations between Havana and Washington. Older readers who have memories of the Cuban missile crisis of 1962 may care to reflect on the remarkable transformation in a most delicate area of Latin American politics. When the Pope arrived in Havana the scenes of sheer joy were astonishing. The visits in the USA to Washington, New York and Philadelphia must have really tested his physical energy. Most state visits by foreign leaders to America will be stage managed to suit the world's richest country, but Pope Francis was to meet the homeless in Washington, prison inmates in Philadelphia and he gave a special blessing to a 10 year old boy who had special needs. The speech made to Congress made issues of tackling poverty, protecting the environment and taking the strongest pro-life stance possible, a clear message of just how much the Pope cares for our world today.

When the Pope moved on to the United Nations his strong words on championing the poor, his comments on nuclear weapons, which he described as an af-

front to the UN, were mixed with the gift he has for diplomacy thus ensuring the success of an exhaustive eight days for a man aged 78. Pope Francis returned to Rome for 3 weeks of the Synod on the Family and his next travels take him to Kenya, Uganda and the Central African Republic, truly a remarkable man. I cannot work up similar hope or enthusiasm for the recent party political conference season. Long before the parties had finished their deliberations I did wonder just how much time the politicians had devoted to their concern for those in greatest need against time spent in attacking the other party policies or worse still near character assassination of their leaders. I do not expect this will ever change but at a time of great crisis for the continent of Europe there was a distinct lack of realism in at least one speech. Our political leaders have to take decisions but, like Pope Francis, they must never forget that some of our fellow human beings will always need compassion and help or both. As the conference season came to a close the Gospel of Saint Luke and the Samaritan traveller told us all we need to know.

Frank Goulding
Holy Trinity Parish, Newark

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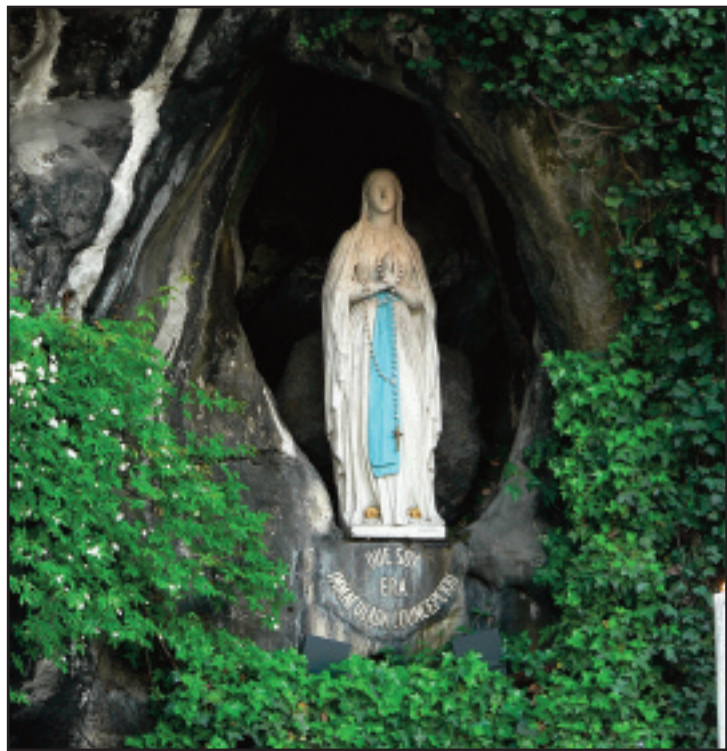
About Lourdes

Lourdes Basilica Aerial View For Catholics, Lourdes is the world's most beloved Shrine. Nestled in a valley in the southwestern part of the Hautes-Pyrenees, it is the scene of pilgrims gathering from all over the world.

On February 11, 1858, the Virgin Mary revealed herself to a poor shepherd girl, Bernadette Soubirous who was born in January 7, 1844. Eighteen such apparitions were reported. Bernadette, died in a convent in 1879. She was beatified in 1925, then canonized in 1933.

Her apparitions literally put Lourdes on the map. The town has subsequently attracted millions of visitors, the illustrious and the poverty-stricken. The Church has recognized many "cures" that have taken place after patients bathed in the springs, labeling them "true miracles."

Lourdes Grotto At the Grotto of Massabielle the Virgin is said to have appeared 18 times to Bernadette between February 11 and July 16, 1858. This venerated site is accessible to pilgrims both day and night, and Mass is celebrated there every day. The Statue of Our Lady depicts the Virgin in the posture she is said to



have taken in the place she reputedly appeared, saying to Bernadette in Pyrenean dialect, "I am the Immaculate Conception."

At the back of the Grotto, on the left of the Altar, is the Miraculous Spring that reportedly spouted on February 25, 1858, during the ninth apparition, when Bernadette scraped the earth as instructed. The Virgin is said to have commanded her, "Go and drink at the spring and wash there." The water from this spring is collected in several reservoirs, from which you can drink. Other Sanctuaries associated with St. Bernadette include the crypt, the first chapel built on top of the Grotto, the Basilica of St. Pius X. In town, there are the house where Bernadette lived, the Cachot, the baptismal font in the parish church, and the hospital chapel where she made her First Communion.

The Upper Basilica, at place du Rosaire, was built in the 13th century ogival style but was not consecrated until 1876. It contains one nave split into five equal bays. Lining its interior are votive tables. On the west side of the square is the Rosary Basilica, with two small towers. It was built in 1889 in the Roman-Byzantine style and holds up to 4,000. Inside, 15 chapels are dedicated to the "Mysteries of the Rosary".

The oval Basilica of Pius X was consecrated in 1958. An enormous underground chamber covered by a concrete roof, it has 660 feet long and 270 feet wide, holding as many as 20,000. It is one of the world's largest churches.

Next month we will feature pilgrimages to Fatima

Thoughts from Elston Hermitage.....

The year has swiftly moved on, mornings are darker and our first prayer of the day at 4.30 am is offered without any sign of daylight. As we move towards Vesper tide in late afternoon the daylight begins to rapidly fade. Towards the end of November we see the close of another liturgical year and Advent, the beginning of another, beckons us on. It has been a very full year with a great deal of activity especially for the Religious men and women of our diocese as we have celebrated the Year of Consecrate Life which ends on February 2nd 2016. Also by which time The Year of Mercy will have begun on the 8th December 2015. It is fitting perhaps that right at the beginning of Advent, a penitential season, Pope Francis' Year of Mercy is inaugurated. A season that requires us to seek repentance and forgiveness for ourselves and be challenged by the Holy Father to spread God's loving compassionate mercy towards others.

Here at the Hermitage Advent is a time when we make a Retreat applying ourselves to further solitude and prayer in preparation for Our Lord's coming at Christmas. This we usually do by spending time away, not exactly in a desert place,

but away from the hermitage where we can apply ourselves more fully to prayer and spiritual exercises. We all need time, not only to pray, but to relax and look at our lives from another perspective. For some it may only be that we are able to spend some time each day alone in prayer.

For this we must find our own 'desert place' our own oratory. It may be the corner of a room, it may be a walk in the country, a quiet church, a place where we can be alone., but we must have a covenanted time and place.

Jesus sought places where he could be alone to pray, away from the disciples. Very often it was a quiet garden and perhaps a cave in the garden, where he could seek further seclusion out of sight to be with his Father.

Despite our busy, often distracted lives, all our retreats, whether they be for a duration away from our normal environment or at home for only a few minutes a day, we can become ever aware of the spiritual movement which is a great movement of prayer, alive and active in our world today. Our Lord was ever aware of and had great confidence in the unseen. If we are true to His most vital teaching we shall believe



that in solitude we may find our closet communion with the presence of God and in this silence we may be able to hear clearly the message of His will for us. As our souls move to greater union with God this will have a transforming effect on our lives. Advent is a short penitential season which can give greater depths to our spirituality if well used. It is my prayer that we shall obtain many blessings through a good observance of this season.

*Fr. David Bowler H.D.N.
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Loughborough Catenians visit Stoneywell Cottage

Leicestershire doesn't boast too many National Trust Properties and the Loughborough Catenians were keen to visit Stoneywell Cottage which is the latest property acquired by the National Trust in our County.

Situated in the Charnwood Forest it is a house of the Arts and Crafts movement and was built as a summer retreat for a Leicester industrialist Sydney Gimson. It was Sydney's brother Ernest Gimson who was commissioned to draw up plans and build the summer cottage which is a model of arts and crafts ideals. The cottage sits in its beautiful grounds and is situated in the ancient landscape of the Charnwood Forest. The cottage is furnished with many original pieces made by Ernest Gimson and his circle of craftsmen. If you are interested in seeing an example of arts and crafts design and learning more about the history of the Arts and Crafts movement then a visit to Stoneywell is highly recommended.

The Loughborough Catenians spent a Saturday morning in September visiting the property and thoroughly enjoyed their tour of the house and gardens. This



was followed up with an enjoyable lunch at a nearby pub. A good time was had by all.

Loughborough Catenians have an interesting calendar of events and outings which caters for a wide range of interests. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Loughborough Circle please contact our Membership Officer, Sean Hale on sean.hale48@gmail.com.

Nigel Lymn Rose Won Lifetime Achievement Award at The Good Funeral Awards 2015

The Good Funeral Awards were held at the University of Winchester on Saturday 5 September 2015 and presented by TV personality Ian Lavender. Nigel Lymn Rose Won the Lifetime Achievement Award. Congratulations and well done Nigel from all staff and colleagues at A.W. Lymn.

Nigel commented "Unfortunately I was unable to attend the awards ceremony this year as I was away on holiday in Spain. I was also unaware of the nomination and so was both delighted and surprised to receive a telephone call from someone at attending to notify me that I was the winner of 'The Lifetime Achievement Award.'"

I have been associated with the funeral profession all my life and on joining the family business having completed my education and spent time as an articled clerk with accountants Deloitte Haskins and Sells I was passionate to see an increase in the choices available to bereaved families. I strove to minimise the occasions on which clients wishes could not be met. My ethos being that funeral directors should not impose their wishes upon their clients or to be the bastions of good taste. They should be flexible and strive to accommodate any request provided it was legal.

Throughout my time as both a practicing funeral director representing my family business and whilst representing the Na-



tional Association of Funeral Directors this vision has remained paramount. It has resulted in me having a reputation for arguing with those in authority and with the representatives of many of the organisations with which we interact. This has often lead to me being accused of simply being awkward when in fact I have continually argued simply for the benefit of our clients. I am therefore very pleased that the panel at the Good Funeral Awards has recognised this and I presume it is for this reason that I have been awarded this great honour."

Diocesan Spirituality Network

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Pope Francis in the Americas

The catechesis of a recent general audience in St. Peter's Square was dedicated to the Holy Father's recent apostolic trip in Cuba and the United States, which originated with his wish to participate in the Eighth World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia on late September. The visit was extended to include a visit to the United States, to the headquarters of the United Nations, and to Cuba, which was the first stage of his itinerary. The Pope took the opportunity to once again express his gratitude to the President of Cuba, Raul Castro, the President of the United States Barack Obama, and the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-Moon, for the welcome they reserved to him, and to the bishops and collaborators in the organisation of the trip for their work.

The Pope recounted that he presented himself in Cuba, 'a land rich in natural beauty, culture and faith', as a 'Missionary of Mercy'. 'God's mercy is greater than any affliction, any conflict, any ideology; and with this gaze of mercy I was able to embrace the entire Cuban population, at home and abroad, looking beyond any division. The symbol of this deep unity is Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre, ... Patroness of Cuba, ... Mother of Hope ... who guides us on the path of justice, peace, freedom and reconciliation. ... I was able to share with the Cuban people the hope of fulfilling the prophecy of St. John Paul II: that Cuba will open up to the world, and the world will open up to Cuba. No more closure, no more exploitation of the poor, but instead freedom and dignity. It is the path that draws strength from the Christian roots of the people, who have suffered greatly'.

After Cuba, the Pope travelled to the United States. 'A symbolic step, a bridge that, thanks be to God, is being rebuilt', he commented, adding that 'God always wants to build bridges; we are the ones who build walls. But walls always fall down'.

He then spoke about the three phases of his trip to the United States: Washington D.C., New York and Philadelphia. In Washington D.C., he met not only with the political authorities, but also the clergy, the poor and the marginalised. He remarked that the greatest wealth of the country and her people is her 'spiritual and ethical heritage'. And so, I wanted to encourage to continuation of social construction faithful to the United States' fundamental principle, that all men are created by God, equal and endowed with inalienable rights, such as life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. These values, that may be shared by all, find their fulfilment in the Gospel, as was clearly shown by the canonisation of the Franciscan, Fr. Junipero Serra, the great evangeliser of California. St. Junipero shows us the way to joy: going forth and sharing Christ's love with others. This is the way of Christians, but also of any person who has known love: not to keep it to oneself but to share it with others. The United States of America have grown on this religious and moral base, and on this base they can continue to be a land of freedom, welcome and cooperation for a more just and fraternal world'.

Turning to the second phase of the trip, in New York, the Pope recalled his address to the representatives of nations at the General Assembly of the United Nations, in which he renewed the Catholic Church's commitment to support the institution and 'its role in the promotion of development and peace, especially with regard to the need for joint and active commitment to care for creation', and highlighted his appeal 'to stop and prevent violence against ethnic and religious minorities and against civil populations'. The Holy Father recounted that he had prayed at Ground Zero for peace and fraternity, accompanied by representatives of various religions and families of victims of the 11 September at-



tacks, and celebrated Mass for peace and justice in Madison Square Garden.

'In both Washington D.C. and New York I was able to meet various charitable and educational bodies, emblematic of the enormous service that the Catholic community – priests, man and women religious, and laypeople – offer in these fields'.

The climax of the trip, however, was the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, 'where the horizon extends to all the world through the 'prism' of the family'. He continued, 'the family is the answer to the great challenge of our world, which is a dual challenge: fragmentation and solidification, two extremes which co-exist, sup-

port each other and together support the consumerist economic model. The family is the answer as it is the cell of a society that balances the personal and community dimensions, and at the same time the model for a sustainable management of the goods and resources of creation. The family is the protagonist of an integral ecology, as it is the primary social subject which contains within itself the two basic principles of human civilisation on earth: the principles of communion and fruitfulness. Biblical humanism presents us with this icon: the human couple, united and fruitful, placed by God in the garden of the world to cultivate it and protect it'.



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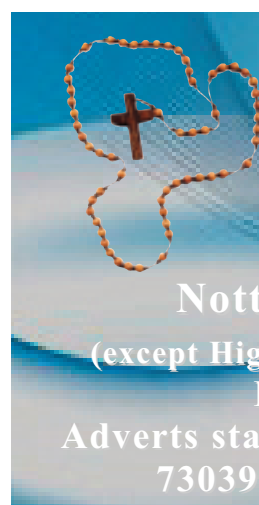
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A new Head Boy and Head Girl have been appointed by Saint John Houghton Catholic Voluntary Academy

Leah Edge, 15, of Ilkeston, and Matthew Shepherd, 15, of Derby, were awarded the roles after putting themselves forward and going through a selection process.

Students who want to become Head Boy or Head Girl are asked to write a letter outlining their qualities, saying why they would be suitable and if they have any ideas for improvements to the academy.

The list of candidates was narrowed down to six students who then ran a campaign which involved making posters and badges and giving a speech to the whole school before students and staff were asked to vote. Head teacher Joan McCarthy told Leah and Matthew that they had been successful before they were announced on stage to their fellow students and teachers.

Leah said she couldn't believe that she had been awarded the role.

She said: "I was shocked but really pleased. It was the best feeling ever when we went out on stage and everyone was clapping. It was amazing to think that people had taken the time to vote for us. It was a real confidence boost."

Matthew said he was enjoying his duties as Head Boy.

He said: "We chair the School Council meetings and we head up the Chaplaincy Team too and we have to lead the Act of Worship once a term. It is hard to fit it all in with studying for our GCSEs too but it's definitely worth it."

Leah said they were already looking at any ways in which they could make improvements to school, in Kirk Hallam.

She said: "The previous Head Girl started to look into the possibility of having lockers in school as we don't have any at the moment. We are carrying that in and have researched the possibility of having outside lockers which would be great because at



the moment we have to carry everything around with us."

Mrs McCarthy said she was extremely proud of Matthew and Leah.

She said: "We want to congratulate and thank everyone who took part in the Head Boy and Head Girl selection process. Leah and Matthew have already started fulfilling their duties and they have some great ideas, I'm sure they will do an amazing job."

Meanwhile.....

More than 50 students have become ambassadors for Saint John Houghton

Catholic Voluntary Academy after being awarded the role of Prefect

Students in Year 11 who want to become Prefects are asked to write a letter saying why they would be suitable for the role and what qualities they have.

They also had to provide a reference and be interviewed before they were selected.

Their duties include helping out at events attended by parents and monitoring behaviour in the dinner hall, on the buses and in the corridors.

Lewis Siara, 15, said he was enjoying his new Prefect role.

He said: "I wanted to become a Prefect because I thought it would allow me to develop new skills. I also think it's good for the future to be able to show people that we took this kind of responsibility."

Grace Lee, 15, said she was pleased to be selected to become a Prefect.

She said: "I think it will help me in the future when I'm applying for jobs or on my CV. It will show people that I was able to take responsibility."

Joan McCarthy, head teacher at Saint John Houghton CVA, in Kirk Hallam, said the new Prefects were already doing a fantastic job.

She said: "Becoming a Prefect allows students to learn about responsibility and representing their school. The students who have been awarded the role have already risen to the challenge and they did a great job on our open day when they were asked to welcome parents and give them a tour of the school."



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