



The Epiphany
January 6th

Catholic News



MORE THAN 18 YEARS OF BRINGING THE
NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER

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Christmas shoe boxes handed over to charity



Students at Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy in Derby have handed over more than 150 Christmas shoeboxes to Derby Rotary Club.

The boxes will be passed on to the charity Samaritan's Purse, which collects shoeboxes as part of Operation Christmas Child to distribute to poor children across the world.

The charity is hoping to hit the 8,000 figure this year and the shoeboxes will be shipped to Serbia from the beginning of December.

Teacher Eamonn Hughes, deputy leader of McAuley House, said there had been a fantastic response from students and staff at Saint Benedict CVA.

He said: "The initiative has been driven by McAuley House and Deputy Captains and we are thrilled with this year's response which saw our students collect more than twice as many boxes as last year.

"We are extremely proud of everyone involved, they have all been so enthusiastic checking, filling and wrapping the boxes which will hopefully bring some happiness to children who might otherwise receive nothing at Christmas."

Tony Southgate, from Derby Rotary Club, collected the boxes from Saint Benedict

CVA, in Duffield Road, Derby.

He said: "We would like to thank everyone at the school for their efforts. The boxes will go on to a warehouse we have in Darley Abbey where they will be sorted and checked before being shipped out to Serbia."

Student Charlotte Warren, 16, said everyone had enjoyed being involved in the project.

She said: "We've all been really busy wrapping and filling the boxes and making sure they are all even and a lot of them were done in students' free periods."



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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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Bury the dead: a work of mercy through the centuries

If a pilgrim walking to Rome for a Holy Year fell mortally ill far from home or a poor tenant farmer died working in a field or an unidentifiable victim of murder was found, a group of courageous Christians buried these anonymous or forgotten dead with dignity.

Founded in 1538, the Archconfraternity of St. Mary of the Oration and Death in Rome spent nearly 500 years offering a Christian funeral and burial to those who would otherwise never have one.

Burying and praying for the dead are among the corporal and spiritual works of mercy Pope Francis has asked people to carry out during the upcoming Year of Mercy.

Many popes, over the past centuries, had supported the difficult and sombre work of the archconfraternity, starting with Pope Paul III, who wanted to see the association formally established, said Alfonso Sapia, head of the archconfraternity.

During Advent in early December in 1538, a Capuchin priest gave such an impassioned homily about the tragedy of those abandoned at death and the immense spirit shown by those who risked danger and disease to bury them, he inspired a huge number of people in the pews to join the new lay association.

Several decades later, Pope Paul V gave the confraternity's chaplains special permission to celebrate Mass outside of a church, before sunrise and after sunset if necessary -- "prerogatives that had been unthinkable" at the time, Sapia told Catholic News Service in mid-November. Members often walked long distances at any time of day or night to get to an abandoned body. The special dispensation was

granted because sometimes they couldn't get the deceased to a cemetery quickly enough and the dangers of natural disasters, disease, wild animals or advanced decay necessitated immediate burial.

Recognising the confraternity's important work, St. Pope Pius V granted clemency every year to one prisoner on death row and entrusted the confraternity members and their families to take in the formerly condemned man and his family -- teaching them skills, a trade and helping them back on their feet, Sapia said.

The pope also conceded to the confraternity the rare privilege of collecting money on the street and in taverns to pay for the burials of the poor. "It wasn't legal to raise money without authorisation from the pontiff," he said.

Because taverns were still a hothouse of murder in the 16th century, "people would get drunk, and it would end up like in the Wild West," with stabbings and things getting smashed, he said. The owner always kept one of the confraternity's black metal canisters on hand to collect spare change and donations to then pay for any eventual burials.

Located on the wide cobblestone road of Via Giulia, the Church of St. Mary of the Oration and Death -- and the confraternity's headquarters -- are still surrounded by foreign embassies and ornate buildings once owned or inhabited by noble families and wealthy merchants.

Rome's wealthiest and powerful families were almost always enthusiastic donors and even members of the confraternity, Sapia said.

"The more of a troublemaker they were, they more generous they were in dona-

tions, because that way the people would pray" for their souls and salvation from purgatory, Sapia said.

Large commemorative marble plaques with lengthy inscriptions and entreaties for people's prayers decorate the walls behind a chapel of the church.

Another, more unexpected form of remembrance is seen in the lower portion of the church, where scores of skulls sit neatly in rows on wooden shelves set into the walls. The deceased's name, and date and cause of death are chiseled onto the forehead.

Sapia said many confraternity members had wanted their skulls preserved in the church "as a testimony of affection" and as a way to say, "I love this confraternity and I will never leave it, not even after I die."

Other skulls in the crypt belonged to the poor whose cause of death shows the difficult conditions just a few generations ago: almost all of the skulls belonging to women document them dying during childbirth, he said.



Skulls of a woman who died in childbirth and a member of a confraternity for burying the dead rest in the crypt of the Church of St. Mary of the Oration and Death, the headquarters of a confraternity with a legacy of burying the dead, in Rome
(Photo: Paul Haring)

Continued on page 8



Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Education Service

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What type of person is suitable to be a governor in a Catholic school?

Anyone can be a governor, they come in all shapes and sizes and a successful governing body will have people with a mix of skills, knowledge and experiences.

This has more information on the role of the governor and a form to complete and send back to us so that we can get in touch.

For further information or a chat about being a governor you can also contact us:

Neil.Weightman@nottingham-des.org.uk (01332 293833 Ext 204)

Julie.Sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk (01332 293833 Ext 202)

Grant Helps Playground Volunteer in Uganda

The Catenians awarded a £200 grant to Alice Smith from Lutterworth for her recent volunteering in Namaganga in the Jinja district of Uganda. Her project included eight students from Manchester University who travelled there to build a playground for local children with the Leicester based charity East African Playgrounds. The objective of the project is to build playgrounds near schools in villages, this attracts young people to the schools and encourages their education and future confidence. The charity recognised that play helps young people develop their personalities, self-confidence, social skills and helps them live through difficulties. All the playgrounds are built by locally trained builders and this cross fertilises their skills and earnings into the local community. Their project was successfully completed and attracted many of the 2,000 students who attended the village school along with many of their parents! Alice hopes to return to undertake another project with East African Playgrounds in 2016.

Jon Mickleborough, President of South Leicester Catenians highlighted that the Catenian Bursary Fund also supports volunteers who help on pilgrimages to Lourdes.



The Parish Retreat, Our Lady of Victories, Market Harborough



Father Ted Mullen of the Rosminian order gave Parishioners who attended the retreat a great deal to think about during the course of the day. After Mass and then refreshment, he gave some insights on prayer into the thoughts of Cardinal John Henry Newman.

In the afternoon Fr Ted talked of the meaning of holiness; what is it and how do you obtain it? He said it was most easily seen in the works of the Saints but all of them manifest their holiness in different ways; a great diversity. There is no cloning, God builds on their individual personalities. Afterwards we were presented with a piece of scripture to discuss.

Everyone who took part agreed that it had been a thought provoking and challenging day thanks to Fr Ted. The day ended with an exposition of the Holy Sacrament. The day was organised on behalf of the Parish by the Knights of St Columba.

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Remembering the Past, Shaping the Future

Earlier in the year I received an invitation to attend a seminar organised by the Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ) taking place at the International School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. I was immediately attracted to go and set about making the necessary arrangements.

Why was I attracted? Just a few years ago I had written a dissertation about Edith Stein who was killed at Auschwitz and in writing that dissertation I had to engage with some of the issues in Christian Jewish relationships that the Holocaust raises. So I felt that this would be a good opportunity to further my knowledge of this difficult topic not only for my own personal knowledge but hopefully to be of service to the Church and wider community.

On the 19 October 20 of us gathered at Heathrow Airport. There were 18 of us from a variety of Christian denominations and traditions participating in the seminar plus two leaders from CCJ. After a full day of travel we rested overnight before beginning our seminar the following day under the leadership of Yiftach Meiri from the International School of Holocaust Studies.

I think the material we studied can be considered in three headings. Firstly we learnt about the history of Christian Jewish relations from biblical times until the beginning of the 20th century.

Secondly we learnt about the specific history of the Holocaust. Finally we considered Christian Jewish relations from the end of the Second World War until the present day.

I am sure that people are aware that the history of Christian Jewish relations is not a happy one. Jesus and his disciples were all Jews but even the pages of the New Testament bear witness to the problems and divisions that began to emerge as Christianity developed its own identity and the two traditions began to go their separate ways. Saint Paul in his letter to the Romans speaks of God's continuing

love for the people of Israel (see Chapters 9 -11) but later Christian commentators failed to take this up and a different way of thinking emerged. A good summary of how Christians viewed Jews through much of history can be seen in the pair of statues known as 'Ecclesia et Synagoga' (the Church and the Synagogue) which could be found in many medieval Cathedrals throughout Europe.

The figure representing the Church is looking down with scorn on the figure representing the Synagogue. The Synagogue figure looks away, her face downcast, her staff broken, and her book no longer of any value. Apparently such a pair of figures was also present in Lincoln Cathedral, but like most other statues they were destroyed during the Reformation. But did this attitude of contempt of itself lead to the Holocaust? Other factors were necessary too.

The 19th century saw the rise of nationalism in Europe with people identifying with their country and this led to a greater sense of separation and isolation for Jews. Also a very specific ideology emerged which emphasised racial purity and this was taken up by the Nazis who came to power in Germany in 1933. Out of this racial ideology emerged a desire to subjugate other races and nations, seeing them as less than fully human. When the Nazis came to power they separated out the Jews of Germany and greatly restricted what they could do and especially how they could mix with Aryans.

When World War II broke the Nazis original plan was to move all the Jews to territories that they intended to conquer to the east of Germany (Poland and the USSR) but as the war unfolded they began to kill all the Jews in the areas which they controlled firstly through mass shootings and then later through the death camps and the gas chambers. Between 1941 and 1945 some six million Jews were killed for no other reason than the fact that they were Jews. The museum at Yad Vashem has gathered much material from survivors and from Nazi records that recounts in graphic detail

how this all unfolded. It is not easy matter to listen to and learn about, but our group stuck to it, recognising the importance of hearing and learning.



The third aspect of our seminar was what has happened after the Holocaust. We heard from both Jewish and Christian speakers how different philosophers, theologians, artists, and others had tried to make some sense of it all, or to at least express their feelings about the inability to do so. Some asked questions about 'Where was God?' others asked 'Where was humanity?'

It was a happy coincidence that whilst we were in Jerusalem we celebrated the 50th anniversary of Nostra Aetate, the Declaration of the Second Vatican Council on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions. Although I was already familiar with this Declaration I was pleasantly surprised to see how highly regarded this document is by Christians from other denominations and also by Jewish commentators. It was said that this is the most positive Christian statement about Jews and Judaism since the earlier mention of St Paul to the Romans.

If the old relationship was well depicted by the statues representing the Church and the Synagogue then the new relationship can also be depicted by a new statue entitled 'Church and Synagogue in our times'. This was commissioned to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Nostra Aetate and was blessed by Pope Francis on his recent visit to the USA.

Here we see the two figures sitting side by side looking respectfully at one another's sacred books. It is an image which hopefully points the way to a better and happier future.

As well as the classroom studies we also were invited to attend a Friday evening synagogue service at a local Synagogue and then afterwards we went to various members of the community for a Sabbath supper. We all found this a very moving experience. We also visited various sites of religious significance in Jerusalem and also further afield in Nazareth and by the Sea of Galilee.



This was I think the fifth year that CCJ had organised this seminar and they plan to continue organising it and offering places to Christian clergy and ministers at a highly subsidised rate. If anyone on reading this article thinks that they might be interested in attending such a seminar then please get in touch with me and I will help you get in touch with the organisers.

*Canon Edward Jarosz
(Holy Souls, Scunthorpe)*

Nottingham Parishes join Citizens UK

Over the last four years several Nottingham Catholic parishes, including the Cathedral and the Holy Spirit parishes, have joined a secular organisation called Nottingham Citizens, an offshoot of Citizens UK. Together with several other Christian denominations in Nottingham, plus Liberal Jews, Muslims, trade unions, schools, university departments and charities helping destitute asylum seekers, they have identified local community needs. Community needs were identified through consultation between the members of Citizens and were limited to issues all partners in Citizens agreed on. Once identified, action plans were set in motion. To date the Cathedral and Holy Spirit parishes, together with their partners in Nottingham Citizens, have achieved the following:

In order to combat the frequent acts of violence against city taxi drivers, CCTV is now installed in taxis. Another aspect of crime prevention has been the improved security on the Forest Recreation ground which was previously the scene of mug-

gings and sexual assaults and more attention is given to the safety of children travelling to school. Stop and search powers used by the police, particularly of ethnic minorities, was another concern and after lobbying by Citizens, the Police Commissioner has agreed to greater accountability of police in this area of their work. The economic wellbeing of the community is also of concern, and echoing the teaching in Pope Leo XIII's encyclical, Rerum Novarum, Nottingham Citizens has successfully lobbied Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council to agree to move towards paying their least paid workers the Living Wage. They have also made an effective contribution to national issues, in particular their successful lobbying of Parliament to end the detention of child asylum seekers. Another area of national concern where Citizens has made an impact is the adoption by Government of the recommendations made by them regarding social care improvements, for example a commitment to better training for care workers. At the present time the focus is on build-



ing on the strengths of the alliances formed by the partners in Citizens and at the same time continuing with the provision of training members of the public in negotiating skills, the better to work for the common good. Our Clergy have expressed their approval of the benefits which membership of Citizens has brought to Nottingham. For example,

Canon Geoffrey Hunton, Cathedral Dean, is very happy with both the benefits listed above and also with the unplanned spin offs such as closer working relationships with other religious groups in the city.

For more information about Citizens, please contact Lydia at: Lydia.Rye@nottinghamcitizens.org

St Patrick's Church Christmas Bazaar

Saint Patrick's Catholic Church have received a flood of donations for their 2015 Christmas Bazaar, the Parish's biggest annual fundraiser. The event itself took place on Saturday the 21st of November from 10:30am to 2:30pm at the Parish Centre on Beaumont Leys Lane.

Parish Priest, Father Martin Hardy, expressed his gratitude for the generosity of the parishioners "I'm eternally grateful to all of those who make this event such a success at every level, and to all those who give so generously." Father Martin continued "the Christmas bazaar is an important event in parish life, not only because of the vital part it plays in achieving our maintenance and development goals, but also because of the ways in which it brings people together and welcomes the wider community."

Father Martin also went on to thank some of the local companies that have provided donations. Samworth Brothers are always willing to contribute and again this year they have donated a wonderful Dickinson and Morris Hamper. Cindy Bansal, the Managing Director of BBs Brow Bar in the Highcross, who has donated a Beauty Voucher for use at her shop, explained her reason for supporting the cause "it's very important for us to help and support the local communities as much as possible. Being a small business we rely on, and reward, our loyal customers, whether local or not, with in-house loyalty schemes because we feel it's important for us to support each other. It is not always with such large sums of money that we can do this, but offering vouchers and raffle prizes to Organisations helps them to raise funds for worthy causes."

Other donations include a meal for two at the Terra Cotta Restaurant, vouchers to spend at Tesco and Farm Foods and a voucher to spend at the Lighthouse Restaurant in Kibworth, courtesy of



Sarah Poli. There is also a tour of the King Power stadium for four, courtesy of Leicester City F.C. and a generous gift voucher as well as a beautiful designer gift set from the Yan Hair Salon on Queens Road. Father Martin reiterated his appreciation "I'd like to thank all of these local businesses, who have all donated before, for their continued kindness and support". As well as the Hamper, which will be part of the main raffle, the

Bazaar will also feature stalls selling Toys, Toiletries, Chocolates and Drinks amongst many others.

This years bazaar, once again, ran along-

side the Church's Christmas Tree Festival. The event, which featured home made trees by parishioners and local groups, ran on Thursday evening (19th November) at 19:00.

Gala evening



The Knights of St Columba used a Gala evening in October at the Market Harbour Theatre to raise £700. The Harbour theatre gives an opportunity to local charities to ask for a dress rehearsal to be used as a Gala event, twice in a season. This year we were lucky to be allocated such an evening to see the play "Funny Money" by Ray Cooney, directed by Sue Waller.

The Knights publicised the evening in

Our Lady of Victories' church and with 117 tickets to sell invited the parish to come along. The take up was immediate as the Knights had done this before with an after show buffet within the ticket price. It was a great success; a tremendous show performed by a brilliant cast. A real time of laughter and enjoyment such that parishioners are still talking about it and asking when is the next opportunity.

Ken Lilley, Council 621, Province 9

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2015 IN P



Students take over for the day



Vocations Conference at Saint Thomas More



The sum of £62,200 seemed like a mountain of money to raise. When the Retired Priests Appeal was launched in April 2013, the parishioners of St Mary's and St John Bosco's in Leicester were quite alarmed at what was being asked of them.



St Alban's Church Celebrates Traditional Polish Custom



Newly Ordained Frs David Bowler and Richard Edey



Newly Ordained Fr Kevin Gradwell



Newly Ordained Fr Jonathan Rose

PICTURES



Bishop Patrick and Fr. Michael with Newark parishioners



One aspect of being a Catenian



Ordination of Bishop Patrick McKinney



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



Referee was and Ashby and Measham parishioner for Women's FA Cup Final



India Day at St Mary's Primary School, Derby

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EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION COMMISSIONING MASS 2015

This year's Commissioning Mass for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion in the Nottingham diocese was held on Saturday 14 November 2015 at St. Barnabas Cathedral Nottingham.

Firstly congratulations and many thanks are extended to Bishop Patrick on this his first commissioning mass. May we all wish him every success on his appointment and may he guide our diocese and all the clergy and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion for many years to come.

Some 90 E.M. candidates from across the diocese attended a residential course of instruction over two weekends during

September and October at the Briars youth centre this year which culminated in them all arriving at St. Barnabas Cathedral for their commissioning.

Our day commenced slightly earlier than in previous years at 11 o'clock, this being necessary due to other cathedral commitments. Everyone arrived on time and were guided throughout the ceremony by a very enthusiastic group of helpers, who have now gelled into a well-oiled machine. Many thanks are extended to each and every one.

During the mass the "Rite of Commissioning" took place, each candidate resolving before Bishop Patrick to undertake their ministry with upmost reverence and care.

Each candidate then came forward to be presented with a

certificate of commissioning and a scapular from Bishop Patrick.

At the conclusion of mass everyone retired to cathedral hall for a well-earned cup of tea and the now famous cathedral biscuits and a chance to chat and mingle with friends.

Once again the Commission would like to thank everyone who helped on the day with a special thanks to Canon Geoffrey Hunton, cathedral dean and parish priest for making us all welcome and providing first class facilities.

Also huge thanks to Alex Patterson Director of Music for his help and the cathedral choir for giving us the perfect musical background to such an occasion.

FRANKLY SPEAKING

It is not easy to reflect on the past year

Writing this article on the first day of December it is not easy to reflect on the year which is now coming to a close. Advent in 2015 commenced with grave international news with the prospect of Britain joining the bombing of Syria and the opening of the United Nations Climate Conference which incorporated the most serious concerns for the future of our planet.

For Christians the season of Advent will conclude with the joy of Christmas, for the world's leaders there is much unfinished business that will last well beyond 2016.

Despite the serious international news agenda one of our "quality" newspapers main headlines stated "Sales to last until Christmas" and there was much evidence that not for the time Advent was to many a word that was either not understood or worse still not important. The dreadful so called "Black Friday" this year has now been extended to 4 days, lets us hope in future years this retail promotion is quickly consigned to history.

In the 1960's one of our then new television channel's would close the Christmas Eve schedule with a midnight Christian service followed by a special greeting to those who were spending Christmas alone.

In 2015 our much extended television channels give far less coverage to Christianity, (We hear much more about Black Friday and much less about Good Friday) but the issue of loneliness is far greater. Perhaps we do not know the true figure of those who will spend Christmas Day alone, and being followed by a very long bank holiday weekend should be a cause for concern for those who will have no companions. One lady I know well is linking this Christmas by assisting her local Salvation Army, this lady who has visited the Holy Land and most of the Marian Shrines of Europe is so grateful for having a home of her own and despite a troubled personal life is in no doubt about her faith, - an example to us all.

The actress and Royal Voluntary Service Ambassador Felicity Kendal recently commented that "many of us take for granted being surrounded by family and friends and assume its what happens every year", this Christmas plea was accompanied by two statistics; 510,302 older Britons feel lonelier on Christmas Day than at any other time of the year and that 315,506 over 75's will be spending the day alone. One provincial newspaper described loneliness as an "hidden epidemic". It is surely a scandal that such a comment is necessary in such a wealthy nation as ours.

Wealth, or lack of wealth sadly is always a factor at Christmas. On the day when we celebrate the Nativity it is perhaps the only occasion when our children for a few hours at least are equal. No matter how many presents are opened the joy experienced on a council estate or in a mansion makes us realise how precious children are. The former Prime Minister Sir John Major recently admitted he had failed to in effect close the gap between rich and poor whilst in Downing Street. This Christmas we can pray for the great global issues of our time, perhaps we can do more for those who suffer loneliness or poverty.

A Happy Christmas to all readers.

*Frank Goulding
Holy Trinity Parish, Newark*

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AND JOYFUL
CHRISTMAS &
HAPPY 2016**

FR. DAVID H.D.N. & FR. RICHARD H.D.N.



Continued from page 2

A holy water font is watched over by the upper torso of a skeleton, and the chandeliers lit overhead are an artistic composite of vertebrae and the triangular sacrum -- "the sacred bone" -- at the end of the spinal column. He said using bones serves as a reminder that from darkness and death there shall be light.

Sapia said such concrete reminders of death "seems awful and terrible" in today's culture, but back then "people didn't live past 50, and death was much more human," with people being much more aware and accepting of dying.

"Besides praying for and burying the dead, the confraternity also taught people not to be hedonists," living only for the present moment "and doing what we want right now," he said.

"Instead what the confraternity told people was, 'Yes, we have to live well, but most of all we have to die without being afraid of dying,'" which meant being ready for God's judgment by trying to live a holy life.

With the group's last burial in the 1950s, as a post-war Italian government began to provide basic human and social services, the archconfraternity's mission had to change, he said.

Their work is now based "on the three C's: Christ, charity and culture," he said, as they promote sacred art and music.

Confraternities, Sapia said, have been essential in providing charitable care and preserving the spiritual life of the church, especially during the Reformation.

"When Martin Luther started the reform, people became much more distanced from the Catholic Church," he said.

But while fewer people were attending Mass in Rome's major basilicas, he said, the confraternity's smaller churches stayed full, where "there wasn't the arrogance of the cardinal" and people were simpler, more humble and more gracious.

This approach and attitude "helped the church in the Counter-Reformation," he said, as the confraternities "were used to guide the church" toward successful reform.

Sapia said he sees a parallel with Pope Francis.

"The confraternity, as Francis says, smelled of sheep" and members didn't wait for people to come to them for help, but bravely ventured off to bring the church to people in need, he said.

Santiago de Compostela, Spain

To me there is nowhere else that can evoke the power of pilgrimage more evident than in the city of Santiago de Compostela in northwestern Spain.

For more than a thousand years, the Camino de Santiago—the Way of St. James—continues to inspire Christians from around the world.

There is a paving stone engraved with the image of a shell and these simple words: Camino de Santiago in the centre of the city and for hundreds of years pilgrims have stood on this spot, looking at the cathedral that rises before them. Many who congregate here are footsore and weary after weeks of journeying across plains and mountains. They come for many reasons, some to deepen their faith or fulfil a vow, others to perform a penance, and some out of a sense of adventure. All end their wanderings here, before the church where the remains of the apostle St. James are said to lie. After more than a thousand years, the Camino de Santiago—the Way of St. James—continues to inspire Christians from around the world.

Retired headteacher Andrew Sowerby, who was inspired by Martin Sheen's evocative film "The Way". Took up the challenge.

Little did I know, that when I was attending the installation of Bishop John Arnold as the 10th Bishop of Salford last December, that the prayer he encouraged us all to say on a regular basis would become an integral part of my personal prayer life when I walked the Camino or the way of St. James in April of this year. He simply asked all present to recite the short and simple prayer "Stay with us Lord on our journey" as often as we could. As I began my preparations for the Camino in early February I adapted it to say, "Stay with me Lord on my journey" and asked all those who were supporting me to say it on a daily basis so that I would complete the walk and return home safely from the experience.

For those who don't know the history of the Camino or The Way of St. James, it is one of the oldest and most revered pilgrimage routes in the Christian world. Legend has recorded that the remains of St. James were transported to and buried at Santiago de Compostela by the early Christians sometime in the third or fourth century. During the Middle Ages it became an important pilgrimage route for Christians who wished to pray there at the shrine of St. James. Consequently there developed a series of walking routes for pilgrims to follow. Along these routes or Caminos there were also established a series of hostels or albergues as they are called at which pilgrims could find food and lodging each night. Today the Camino is one of the busiest and most developed pilgrimage routes in the western world as thousands each year complete the minimum 100 kilometres of walking in order to receive the special 'Compostela' stating that they have completed it.

My interest in the Camino developed and grew as a result of my interest in long distance walking and hearing about it firstly on Simon Reeves excellent television series "Pilgrimage" before watching Martin Sheen's evocative film "The Way". This enthused me with the desire to complete the Camino myself. However as the full route of the "Camino François is almost 800 kilometres and takes approximately six weeks I had to be realistic as I simply could not find the time to complete it all in one go. Consequently I settled for walking the 320 kilometres from Leon to Santiago de Compostela along with a fellow

member of the Catenian Association, John Flannery.

My Camino or journey began in early April as John, my fellow traveller, and I, flew out to Madrid and were delayed by the French Air Traffic Controllers work to rule which meant we missed our connecting train to Leon resulting in us not arriving until 11.30 at night. As we had planned to spend the first night in one of the many albergues in Leon this was not now a feasible proposition as they close their doors promptly at 11.00p.m. However during the train journey from Madrid to Leon we benefited from the provenance of God's goodness as John struck up a conversation with a local doctor from Leon who on hearing about our plight very kindly arranged accommodation for us in Leon and then directed us to the hotel so that within half an hour of our arrival we were checked into our room and able to prepare for the start of the walk the day after. The Lord was already staying with us on our journey.

The following morning we began our Camino in San Marcos Square full of energy and excitement. However the first day's walking was along a mainly flat and uninteresting path as the routes followed the main road to Astorga so that it was noisy and in places quite dangerous especially when one forgets that in Spain cars drive along the right hand side of the road. Route finding along the Camino however is generally quite easy as one only has to follow the yellow arrows or scallop shell signs that are very visible along all parts of the route. That day we completed our first 14 miles before stopping at one of the many albergues that are so easily accessible for all pilgrims.

This first day set the tone and routine of our daily travel. Each day we would book in to an albergue that cost between 5 and 10 Euros a night and provided you with a bed, a shower and washing facilities. Often the beds were in large mixed dormitories housing over 100 pilgrims but on occasions they were small two bed rooms affording a slightly greater degree of privacy. Once we had freshened up we would go out and have a "Pilgrims Meal" at one of the many restaurant and bars that straddle the route. Here you could get for approximately 10 Euros a three course meal including a bottle of wine. Having eaten we would return to the hostel and be in bed and asleep by 9.30p.m. The next morning one was up by about 6.30a.m. and often walking by 7.30 to 8.00a.m. depending upon whether there was a local café open for breakfast.

Our early days of walking were along flat paths situated alongside the main road but as one drew closer to Astorga the route passed through a series of small villages and towns before crossing open undulating countryside. One of the most striking aspects of the whole route is that scattered along it are small shrines dedicated to those who have walked the Camino. These consist of crosses, statues, small chapels, and piles of stones which pilgrims have left in memory of their loved ones.

Each day's walking would follow a predictable pattern as we walked for an hour to an hour and a half in companionable silence whilst we enjoyed the countryside, prayed, meditated and reflected upon life before stopping at a convenient café for refreshments. Much as I enjoyed the vast majority of Spanish food their ability to



Cathedral of St. James in Santiago de Compostela

produce a decent cup of tea, English style was somewhat limited. I experienced tea in a wide variety of forms such as tea made with lukewarm water, tea with hot milk, tea with no milk, tea made in a glass, tea made in a mug as well as in a tea pot. Consequently when I returned to England at the end of the walk I luxuriated in enjoying what I considered a proper brew!! After the early morning stop, we would walk on for another an hour and half then take another short refreshment break before continuing on until we reached a suitable venue for a lunch break at around 1.00p.m. Following a lunch of either salad or soup we would walk on until mid-afternoon when we would stop at a convenient hostel and then repeat the whole process again the following day. Though for part of the day we would walk alone we often spent the time talking to fellow pilgrims who were always friendly, cheerful and often from very different backgrounds but who all shared the same common desire to walk Santiago de Compostela and complete the Camino.

As the title of this article suggests it was a walk of trials and tribulations. During the previous twenty odd years I have completed a number of long distance walks ranging from the Pennine Way to the Coast to Coast Walk and I have been fortunate not to suffer from anything other than a few blisters. However, walking the Camino turned out to be rather different as I had virtually no problems with my feet, but suffered from a number of nigging injuries including a dose of Spanish tummy, a shin splint injury, tendonitis and a groin muscle strain. That I was able to continue and complete the walk was due to my walking companion John who supported me throughout by accepting the need for rest days as well as taking care of me whilst I was ill.

As I indicated early in the account I prayed that the Lord stayed with me on my journey. That He actually was with me was clearly evident to me on the fourth day of the walk when I injured my shin whilst descending from the Cross of Iron and then during the night became ill with a dose of Spanish tummy. The next morning whilst John was eating his breakfast he met up with a group of doctors from Dublin who offered to examine my leg and then convinced me it would be safe for me to continue providing I rested and took pain killing tablets. I am convinced that these doctors were sent by the Lord at this time as I would have been inclined, but for their intervention to accept defeat and return home for fear causing permanent damage to my leg.

To be continued in the February 2016 edition

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At St Mary’s School, Derby, Year 3 and 4 children spent the autumn Term learning all about ancient Egypt. They were inspired by their visit to Derby Museum to create their own interactive Egyptian museum and invited parents and visitors along to learn all about this fascinating period of history. Everyone had the chance to make jewellery, write their

name in hieroglyphics, build a pyramid, design their own canopic jar and even mummify an apple! The children had dressed up for the day in Egyptian costume and thoroughly enjoyed passing on their new knowledge and skills to the adults.”

Fran Wicks

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Pupils record a single for charity

Students at Saint John Houghton Catholic Voluntary Academy have recorded a single in their classroom to raise money for charity.

Music teacher Dan Quenby and his form group came up with the unusual idea when students were asked to think about how they could support the academy's two chosen charities.

Mr Quenby wrote the words and mixed the accompanying music before rehearsing the song 'In This Life' and recording it.

He said: "We all talked about fund-raising ideas and we thought a charity single would be good because no-one else would do it.

"Originally we did have an idea to do Do They Know It's Christmas by Band Aid with it coming up to Christmas but we weren't sure where we stood on copyright so I thought I would write the song instead.

"The children wanted it to be a really uplifting song with a Catholic element, it's quite simple and melodic.

"I used virtual instruments to record the music and then we set up microphones in the classroom and they sang it which took about an hour. Then I mixed it with about six layers of vocals to get it right. The whole process took about six weeks.

"When they heard it for the first time they were so excited, they couldn't believe it was them."

Mr Quenby has song-writing experience as he used to write demo songs for his best friend, Andy Coxon, from Derby, who

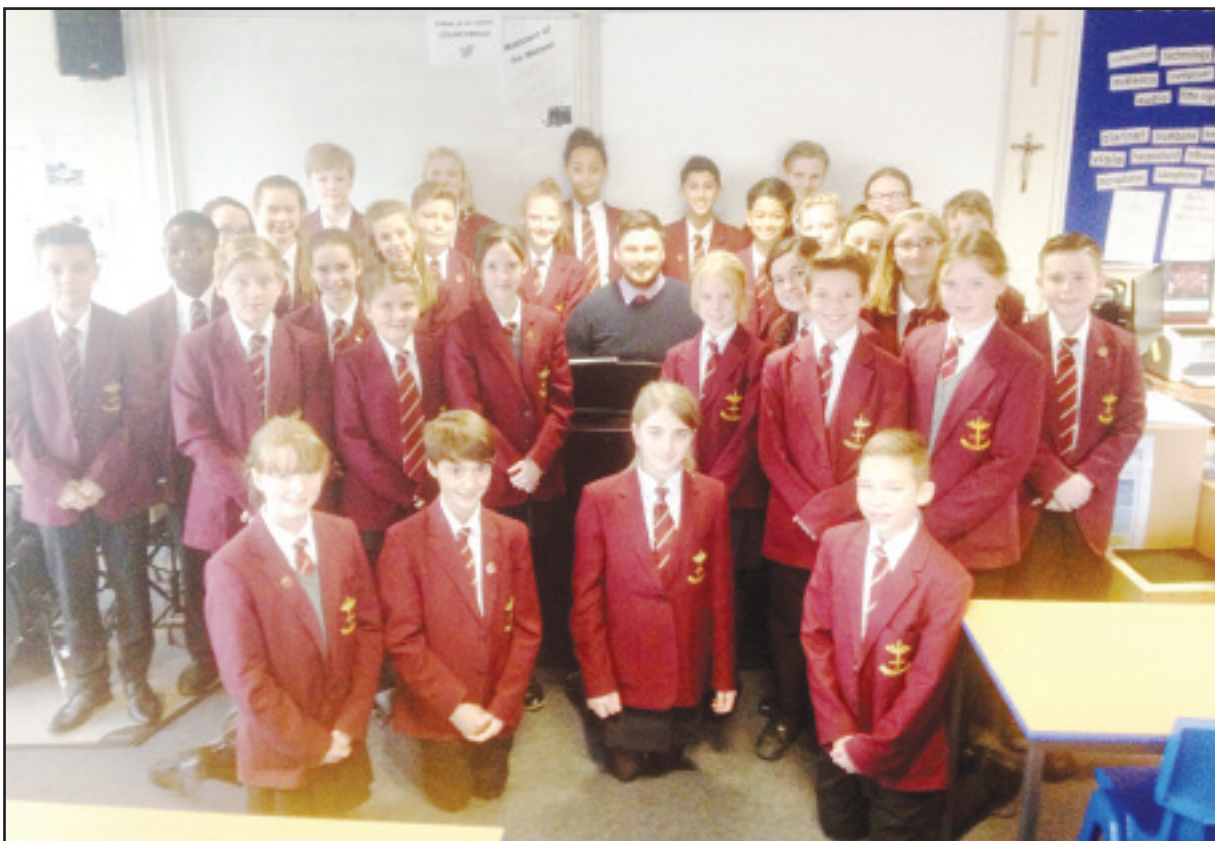
is a West End star and appeared in the film *Les Miserables*.

He said: "I wrote songs for Andy that he would sing at auditions, he was actually best man at my wedding. He's an amazing singer and is doing so well now and is very busy in London."

Thirty-one students from form group 7DQ were involved in recording the song which costs £1.50 and has currently raised more than £130 for Street Child Africa and the Teenage Cancer Trust.

Student Harrison Powell, 11, said he was proud to have been involved in creating the song.

He said: "We all wanted to record the song and when we came into our classroom one day and there were microphones there we were so excited. When we heard it for the first time we thought it was amazing. It sounds really good and it's something we'll be able to keep forever. Our form group is like a second home and we are like a family so it's an honour to have been involved in this project together."



Sophie Gillott, 11, said creating the song had been an amazing experience.

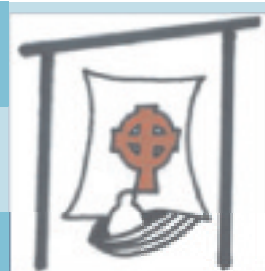
She said: "It's a once-in-a-lifetime chance and I'm just so happy to have been involved. We are selling it up until Christmas, I wish we could get it into the charts. When I heard it I just thought that it was really cool."

Emily Cragg, 11, said the idea had caught

the attention of staff and students across the school.

She said: "A lot of forms came up with good fund-raising ideas like cake sales but no-one has ever made a single here before."

Anyone who would like to buy a copy of the single can pick one up from the reception at Saint John Houghton CVA, in Abbott Road, Kirk Hallam.



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April 23rd - Theme: St George & Saints as Inspiration. Talk: Carmelite Spirituality. Creativity: Art & Prayer.

May 14th - Theme: Mary. Talk: Monastic Spirituality. Creativity: Photography & Prayer

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WINE, CHEESE AND SONG!

Sacred Heart Church & St Bernadette's Musical Social Evening

A musical social evening with cheese and wine was held on Saturday 19 September at the Sacred Heart Parish Centre, Carlton. Over £500 was raised for the Sick and Retired Priests Appeal.

Parish Priest Fr Joe Wheat started off the evening on the piano playing several classical pieces that we all enjoyed. Alexandra Bartley, (Alex) then played the piano piece 'Primavera' by (Ludovico) Einaudi. She is 15 and has just started her GCSEs at Christ the King School, Arnold - including Music and Art. She is a reader at Sacred Heart church. Alex also sings with the world famous Cantamus Girls Choir based in Mansfield (www.cantamus.com) which will be going on tour to Australia in 2016.

Her brother Daniel played flute pieces by Wilhelm Popp (Allegro non Troppo) and Friedrich Schwindl (Flötenkonzert) accompanied by Fr Joe on piano. He too attended Christ the King, where he was Head Boy.

Until leaving for university he was a server at Sacred Heart for many years, carrying the baton from his granddad (who was MC at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle upon Tyne).

Dan will be taking up a place at Imperial College



London this October to read Civil Engineering, and is looking forward to carrying on both his musical (as well as playing the flute he also sings and plays piano) and drama interests (he played both 'Annas' in 'Jesus Christ Superstar' and 'Rev John Hale' in 'The Crucible' this year).

After an interval for cheese and wine etc Fr Joe gave an amusing account of his early piano teacher and her dog and played several jazz

pieces on the piano. Our parish secretary Ann Oliphant a classically trained singer now entertained us, with Fr Joe on piano, singing popular songs we could join in with. Ann had only returned from holiday the previous evening and had no time to rehearse.

What a professional!

To close the evening our versatile parish priest entertained us again this time using his skills on the guitar with more songs we could sing along to. Enjoyed by all and the only question asked at the end of the evening was 'when are we having the next one!' Well, we only have to wait 'til February 6 next year for another fantastic evening!

CAFOD welcomes two new employees

We welcome two new CAFOD employees to Nottingham Diocese - Louise Cooke and Maggie Mairura in the role of Community Participation Coordinators. Both have previously worked in the Diocese as Justice and Peace fieldworker - Maggie in 2000 -2003 and Louise more recently in



2012-2014. "We are both familiar with the work of CAFOD and it is a great privilege to be working back in the Diocese again", said Maggie. "We have a great number of volunteers in the Diocese who support CAFODs work either as parish contacts, office volunteers, schools and media volunteers and campaigners. Our role is to continue supporting them and also to make people aware of the many volunteering opportunities there are to support CAFODs work", commented Louise. Having recently moved out of their former office at The Briars, CAFOD are now temporarily working from the McGuinness Centre in Bulwell on Mondays and Tuesdays and also from CAFOD Hallam office in Sheffield. Discussions are taking place with the Diocese about a new permanent base, so hopefully this will be agreed by the next edition of Catholic News, so watch this space. To contact Maggie and Louise, phone 01773 852950 or email nottingham@cafod.org.uk



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Purchasing a support advert for £35 in the 'Celebrating our Schools' Section is also a great way of supporting the paper. Please do contact Alice if you require more information.

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