



Feast Day of Our Lady of Mercy  
24th September

# Catholic News

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**2017**  
20p WHERE SOLD

*MORE THAN 19 YEARS OF BRINGING THE  
NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER*

Produced by Bellcourt Ltd, N2 Blois Meadow Business Centre,  
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## Hundreds attended SEND Catholic Conference and Healing Service in Nottingham

Around 250 people from across the Diocese of Nottingham and beyond attended SEND Catholic Conference and Healing Service at Trinity School Hall Nottingham on Saturday 29th July 2017.

*(full story on page 6)*



## Retired priests appeal

On June 11 the active phase of the appeal closed with the end of the sponsored walk and the restored special 'second collection'.

The walk raised £11,477; we show two pictures, the other on page 6 – one each including the lead walkers- Canon Eddy Jarosz and Gillian and John Fernandez. We are grateful to them and the host of people, children (and dogs) who walked with them, organised church opening and provided hospitality. There are many more pictures on our website ([www.retiredpriestsappeal.com](http://www.retiredpriestsappeal.com)); there is also a link from the diocesan website.

The second collection has so far resulted in £34,000- with more to trickle in from parishes and with gift aid to claim.

*Continued on page 6*



*The bishop with Gillian and John Fernandez setting off from Belper for St Mary's Derby.*

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You are mine**



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**MORE THAN 19 YEARS OF  
BRINGING THE  
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TOGETHER**

The monthly paper for the  
Diocese of Nottingham

**The  
Catholic News**

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## Wanted - Parish Correspondents

The Catholic News is looking for a  
Parish Correspondent in your  
parish to send in local news for  
publication in this newspaper. All  
items to be emailed to  
johnclwson@icloud.com  
before 10th of the month

## Diary Dates

If there is an event in your parish that you want publicised please  
email john@bellcourtltd.co.uk

15 - 20 Oct

St. Philip Neri parish Mansfield – Pilgrimage to Florence and Rome:  
15th – 22nd October 2017 –

For more details or to book a place please contact Fr. Paul Chipchase:  
SPNMansfield@hotmail.co.uk

23 Oct - 2 Nov

Yad Vashem Seminar 2017 for Clergy and Church Leaders  
Monday 23rd October – Thursday 2nd November 2017.

Please note events may be cancelled for one reason or another.  
It is therefore prudent to ensure there are no changes to the information  
listed above before travelling.

## HERMITAGE OF OUR LADY & SAINT BENEDICT

Statue renovation / painting undertaken .  
Please contact Fr. Richard h.d.n.

01636 526947

hermitage.fathers@gmail.com

# New President of the YCW in England and Wales

The Young Christian Workers (YCW) officially welcomed its new President, Kate Wilkinson, on Monday 24th July. This followed her unanimous election at the 78th National Council of the YCW held back in April 2017. The date also marks the 50th anniversary of the death of Fr. Joseph Cardijn, who founded the YCW in Belgium in 1925 and was later to be made a Cardinal for his work with the movement.

Kate, 25, is a long-time member of the YCW having become involved in the movement when she was at high school. The President is a voluntary position, involving chairing the regular team meetings and annual National Council, representing the YCW at home and abroad, and coordinating the training and development programme. Alongside this new role, Kate works as a Chaplain at Carmel College, St Helens.

She takes over from Phil Callaghan, who has been President for the last 6 years. In recent years, Phil has overseen moving the YCW headquarters from London to Trafford Park in Greater Manchester, the largest industrial estate in Europe.

Currently, the YCW has hundreds of members across the country, working in parishes, schools, and workplaces to enable young people to develop critical awareness, actively engaged faith and social responsibility.

Commenting on the handover, Kate said: "The YCW has a proud history of encouraging young people to step up and take re-

sponsibility for the running and development of the movement. In this 80th year of the YCW in England and Wales, I am honoured to continue this. I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the movement over those years, but in particular Phil who has led the YCW so well over the years. We have a growing number of members and groups, established our new HQ and an ambitious vision for the future. I look forward to the opportunity to continue this great work."

Phil added: "Kate will be an excellent President. She knows and loves the YCW. I'd like to thank all those who have made my years as President so memorable and enjoyable, it has been a privilege."

In England and Wales, the first YCW group was founded in Wigan in 1937, with Father Gerry Rimmer as the Chaplain and Patrick Keegan, a young factory worker, as President. Patrick would go on to become the first lay man to address an Ecumenical Council of the Church when he addressed the Second Vatican Council on the role of the laity.

Later this year, the YCW will be celebrating their 80th year in England and Wales on 18th November 2017 from 3pm, with a Mass at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Evangelist in Salford, followed by a celebration in the Cathedral Assembly Room. All members, past and present, friends and supporters are welcome.

## St George's & Holy Spirit RC Derby Surprise!!

And it certainly was when Fr Peter Peterken arrived to celebrate Morning Mass at St George's, Derby, on July 27th.

Fr Peter said "I thought to myself there are a lot of parishioners for Morning Mass but it was the start of the school holidays so maybe we had a few more families".

"Once myself and Fr Alan began the Mass the church looked full with lots of people that don't usually attend Thursday Mass, as Fr Alan began Mass and mentioned my birthday I still had not realised. At the end of Mass the parishioners all sang "Happy Birthday", and Fr Alan then announced that a Birthday Celebration had been prepared in the Parish Centre for me ! I then realised, I had no idea it was a real Surprise. It was lovely to see lots of parishioners and it was

wonderful to have the children as the holidays had begun. I actually thought they had got the wrong birthday as I was only 89 years old so kept telling people I am not 90 yet!

But my birthday cake said Happy 89th birthday Fr Peter."

So thank you to everybody for all my wonderful cards and gifts and Karan our faithful Parish Assistant for organising the party also Fr Alan for the wonderful Mass.

My parish of St George's & Holy Spirit, Derby is a place where everyone feels welcome and loved, and I am privileged to be part of that parish community." Rev Peter Peterken, Assistant Parish Priest . 89 years young.

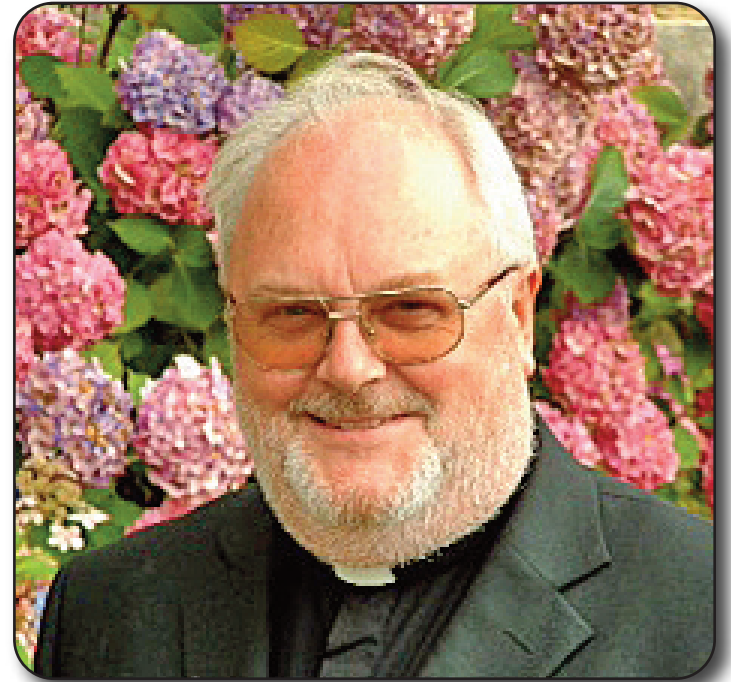
Ann Kelly , Fr Peter and  
Helen Wright at the  
Party (left)



# Broken for you

**Denis Blackledge SJ**

**Being religious advisor to a new TV series gave Denis Blackledge SJ the chance to help actor Sean Bean understand what it means to be a Catholic priest today**



THIS SPRING, a new six-part television drama about a parish priest based in the north of England (was) screened on BBC One. Broken deals with heart-wrenching struggles faced by a handful of parishioners, plus Fr Michael Kerrigan's own human vulnerability. Sean Bean (Sharpe, Game of Thrones, Lord of the Rings) plays the lead; and St Francis Xavier's Church in Liverpool (SFX) provided the setting for the northern parish, St Nick's.

Broken was scripted by Jimmy McGovern, a



well-known Liverpool writer and alumnus of SFX College. The series had been germinating with him for some three decades, and he was making changes even as the filming took place, so that it was as up to date as possible. It has been produced by Liverpool-based LA Productions, led by Colin McKeown; and its two Directors, Ashley Pearce and Noreen Kershaw, were meticulous in their preparation, determined to make the personality and humanity of Fr Michael come over with total authenticity.

They wanted to know what it was like to be a Catholic priest working in an urban environment in the early 21st century. It starts in the guts, I told them; then it goes through the heart of a man who knows his own strengths and weaknesses, vulnerabilities and personal history. Eventually, it comes out in a compassionate understanding approach, with open eyes, listening ear and heart, taking individuals as they come, no matter what the situation.

Over nine full 12-hour days of filming, our own church of St Francis Xavier became a star in its own right. Actors, extras and di-

rectors alike loved the place, saying it had the "Wow!" factor. Sean came with his PA to our Sunday Mass the day before shooting began, to get the feel of the place, and to see how I led our family Mass. He had to know how to be the celebrant at the Eucharist, and I went through the script beforehand to make sure that all the texts used were the current ones word-for-word; I then quietly showed Sean how to lead the Mass at various stages. It was very satisfying to see how Sean grew into the part, and how seriously he took his role to be a man gifted with priesthood.

**Moving individual stories**

We loaned the company a best white chasuble when we were inundated one day with over 200 extras - including 40 children - for a First Communion Mass. Sean was a quick learner, and easy to work alongside. At one point, he even came to me and said: "Some children are not doing it right, Denis, receiving Communion!"

Among the moving individual stories that unfold in the series, Sean had to hear confession, take communion to the sick and dying, and deal with the dead. We filmed in a local cemetery, a hospital mortuary, and a funeral home where a mother was grieving over her dead young son's body. All the details were beautifully staged, complete with crucifix, rosary and candles. I was constantly being asked: "How do we do this, Denis?" or "Have we got this right?" And there were often quiet asides with Sean, just to boost his confidence in his amazing privileged role. The odd pastoral tip - maybe adding a word or two to the script - helped to make it even more human and down to earth. Sometimes a touch of the person or body enhanced the depth of humanity in a particular scene. And on those pastoral situations when words don't matter, sometimes only a hug will do.

*Continued on page 6*

## FRANKLY SPEAKING

After a summer dominated by the result of a General Election that some felt was not necessary our country seems destined for a period of uncertainty as the Brexit talks resume in September. There appears to be so many laws that will need changing that will have the potential for confusion, and yet our politicians will carry on as if they are all united when decisions within political parties seem highly likely.

This autumn will see the usual political conferences and no doubt the leaders of the parties will get the usual standing ovation after their keynote speech. This is nothing new but whatever your views on the great European Question this country is facing a huge change and it is surely time for more honesty especially when serious matters go wrong. Our leaders rightly or wrongly have a reputation for burying "bad news". As Parliament was finishing for the summer break really worrying crime figures became known, provincial railway plans for electrification were changed (not in London) and the pension age was increased. Then the figures for BBC pay became known which provoked more anger than all the other "bad news" that some how had to wait till our MP's were leaving for their holidays.

Back in 1975 we not only introduced equal pay for women and men but we also had a referendum on our membership of the European Economic Community. These historic events did not stop our politicians from burying the "bad news" mentioned in this article. On August 5th 1977 after Parliament had risen a Government White Paper was published. A politician of that time wrote that "over-zealous civil servants had made government spending 1,000 million less than its budget. A total of 134 sections did not spend all their funds and that industry, special employment and regional aid all suffered". Perhaps some things will never change.

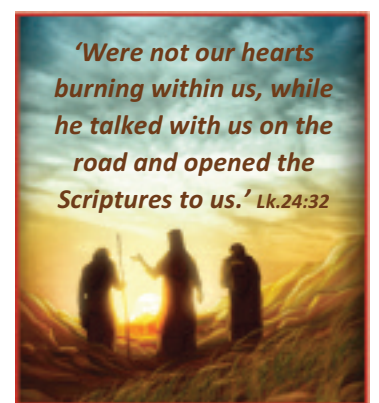
Some historians have compared the Brexit debate with the issues that Henry VIII faced around 1530 on the matter of his divorce and the break with Rome. We should be forever grateful to those saintly men and women who not only kept the faith in those dangerous times but gave their lives for the future of many generations of Catholics in our country. They did not need to worry about "bad news", they concentrated on the good news which we hear at Mass each day.

**Frank Goulding**  
Holy Trinity Parish, Newark

## BISHOP'S CERTIFICATE IN CATECHESIS

FOUNDATION COURSE IN CATECHESIS  
September 2017—June 2018 Thursdays 7-9 pm  
ENGLISH MARTYRS, HOLLIS STREET, ALVASTON, DERBY DE24 8QU

- \* **What is it for:** To build firm foundations in faith and knowledge for catechists; to nurture confidence and develop practical skills.
- \* **What is involved:** 12 sessions of 2 hours plus a commissioning Mass celebrated by Bishop Patrick. Participants are expected to write a short log.
- \* **Cost:** £100 per person, no hidden extras! Parishes are encouraged to pay.



## CATHOLIC CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES (CCRS)

COMMENCING JANUARY 2018  
Our Lady & St Patrick Church Hall, Launder Street, The Meadows, Nottingham, NG2 1JQ. Near to Nottingham Train Station and Local Tram Stop. PARKING FACILITIES

For further details or to book email Diane Williams: formation@nrcdt.org.uk



# THE MURPHY SISTERS

(of Newmarket on Fergus) and Presentation Convent, Matlock

Out of a family of thirteen (13), nine(9) of the eleven (11) girls became nuns – seven (7) of them Presentation Sisters. The other two became Mercy Sisters – one in Limerick, the other in Melbourne, Australia. The seven Sisters entered the Presentation Convent in Madras. It was from India – that the Presentation Convent in Matlock was founded and which this year, 2017 – celebrates 90 years of that foundation.



**Presentation Sisters with Bishop Patrick McKinney of Nottingham**

On the 22nd July, 2017, Presentation Sisters gathered along with relatives of Sisters who had ministered in Matlock; Religious and clergy from the Nottingham Diocese and two direct descendants of the Murphys – Michael McInerney snr. – grandnephew and Michael McInerney jnr. Great grandnephew. Michael snr and his wife, Noreen – live in the family home in which the Murphy sisters lived and from where they left as they answered the call of God in the footsteps of Nano Nagle – to be of service in India. There was a Mass of Thanksgiving in the Chapel – the Mass of Mary Magdalen – she to whom the news of Jesus resurrection had been entrusted. A fitting feastday to celebrate pioneer women. Mass was followed by afternoon tea – in what had started out



**Sr Maureen Moorhouse and Sr Susan Richert – Both past pupils of Presentation Convent, Matlock**

life as a ballroom!

Mother Xavier Murphy, elected superior of the amalgamated Houses of South India, sent her Sister, known as Sr. Berchmans to England to establish a novitiate in order to

train sisters for the Indian Mission. Due to the war, the number of young women going to serve in India had almost dried up. Yet the ministry in Madras was continually expanding and the need ever increasing for Sisters. A Convent was established in Etonfield in Liverpool in 1919. However, the Archbishop of Liverpool would not allow the Sisters to open a school because of the numbers of Religious already in his Diocese in education. In 1926, Mother Xavier came on visitation to Liverpool with her blood sis-



ter, Sr Cecelia Murphy. When Mother Xavier saw the conditions that the Sisters were living under, she immediately set to finding another more suitable place. At the request of Fr Cossins, Mother Xavier came to Matlock; purchased Chesterfield House (which by then had been standing empty for two years) and in May, 1927, the Sisters moved to Mount St. Joseph's. They immediately set about making the house habitable. The official opening was on the 21st July 1927 in the presence of the Bishop of Nottingham. Then then set to – setting up classrooms and dormitories. On the 18th September 1927, Mount St. Joseph's – better known as Presentation Convent High School, opened its doors to pupils. Mother Cecelia Murphy was appointed as Superior and Headmistress; Mother Berchmans Murphy continued as Novice Mistress and Sr Dominic Murphy was part of the community. Sr Augustine Murphy was to come later. Due to her untiring energy, the school went from strength to strength, constantly moving and adapting and building – to accommodate the pupils who came to Presentation Convent, Matlock. The first pupil enrolled was eventually to become Mother General of the "Matlock" group of Presentation Sisters; several other pupils through the time the school was open, joined the Sisters and served in India and Africa. Two Sisters who were pupils at the school and who also taught for several years in the school were present for the celebration – Sister Maureen Moorhouse (she was known as Sr Marie Therese) and Sr Susan Richert.

The Convent still stands as testament to the dedication and commitment of Nano's daughters. The profile of Nano is also the profile of those early pioneering women whose faith was tested and found not to be wanting. Every Sister that ever lived in Matlock, whether she ministered in India, Zambia, Zimbabwe, U.S.A., Ireland, England or is now in heaven, made her mark on its history and has made Matlock what it is today.



In the face of fear, she chose to be daring,  
In the face of anxiety, she chose to trust,  
In the face of impossibility, she chose to begin.  
To universal misery she proposed ministry to persons,  
To ignorance, knowledge,  
To disillusionment, tenacity of purpose,  
And to multiple vexations, singleness of heart.  
Faced with failure, she held fast to hope,  
faced with death, she believed in a living future,  
And the programme for that future she gave in one word, Love.

**Sr Raphael Consedine. pbvm 1977**

There is an afternoon gathering for past pupils on Saturday, 9th September 2019; 2p.m. – 5p.m. We would love to see you.

pupils and parents and friends of past pupils and the Convent. You can contact Sr.Susan on 01623 845091 or centre.heritage@yahoo.co.uk

We would be delighted to hear from past

## St Augustine Webster Barton Upon Humber

On a wet, drab day members of St Augustine Webster, Barton and St Mary's Brigg along with their Parish priest Fr Benedict Abuo walked over the Humber Bridge and back again. It was the first walk of the newly established walking group and was led by Alex Killen. Apart from the weather, we all enjoyed ourselves on this local landmark which has only recently been given Grade 1 listed status on its 36th anniversary of its opening. The group will meet every month for a walk around the area. All the walks are quite easy and are no longer than 4 miles so it's open to all.



For further info please email stmarys-brigg@gmail.com.

**Ann Taylor**  
(Admin, St Augustine Webster, Barton)

# Plea to Catholic Groups from Behind the Convent Walls – Discover Our Secrets

The Bar Convent in York, the oldest living convent in England, is launching a new drive to attract Catholic groups to pay it a visit. The house was founded in 1686 as a Catholic school for girls and has withstood angry mobs, persecution and even Luftwaffe bombs. It is still home to members of the Congregation of Jesus, founded by radical Yorkshire-woman Mary Ward in the seven-

teenth century. The Grade 1 Listed Georgian house hides in plain sight close to York's historic Bar Walls, where the heads of martyred priests were once displayed on spikes.

The convent has housed a guest house, museum, café and conference rooms since the school closed in 1985, but two years ago it relaunched as a Living Heritage Centre in



2015. The museum was replaced with a brand new interactive exhibition and the whole site was given a much needed boost.

“We’ve had a real upsurge in visitors since we re-opened,” said Audience Development and Education Manager Jerry Ibbotson, “But what we really want is to welcome more Catholic Groups. They appreciate the history of the Bar Convent and have a real connection to the place.”

One of the convent’s constant struggles is that it was built to remain a secret, at a time when the faith was illegal. It even has a secret chapel, with a domed ceiling hidden beneath a grey tiled roof. That said, around ten thousand members of the public have been through the doors of the Exhibition since the relaunch and many more regularly use the café and secret garden behind the

convent’s walls. But Jerry Ibbotson has issued a plea for members of church groups.

“We need their support, basically. We do have groups who come on pilgrimages to York and stay in our Guest House. Others come for a day trip and visit the Exhibition. But as a charity we need as many people as possible to come and learn about the convent’s incredible history. That’s where church groups of all kinds come in. By visiting us, they’ll help ensure the Bar Convent continues to thrive for years to come.”

The Bar Convent  
17 Blossom Street  
York  
YO24 1AQ  
01904 643 238  
jibbotson@bar-convent.org.uk www.bar-convent.org.uk

## Building Peaceful Communities



# Reasoned Debate in an Age of Hate

The press makes depressing reading recently, with a rise in what are being termed ‘random acts of hatred’ and online threats to anyone who dares to air an opinion. Bosses at the BBC had to hire bodyguards during the general election campaign to protect political editor Laura Kuenssberg, such was the level of abuse and threats she received. Rhodri Philipps, 4th Viscount St Davids, is currently serving a 12-week prison sentence for using Facebook to offer a reward to anyone who would kill Gina Miller, Remain campaigner. (Source: The New European 20 July 2017).

If you are re-reading the above paragraph incredulously you are no doubt shocked at the state of society in 21st century Britain. Like the Justice and Peace Commission, you will be asking ‘Whatever happened to Freedom of Speech? When did airing opinions become an offence that warrants death threats or any kind of threat?’ And of course, the 64 million dollar question, ‘What on earth can be done about it?’

Modelling common decency and values of respect in our own lives is a start. When I first confronted myself with this fact I couldn’t see where there was a problem, until I thought back to the many political debates I had with friends and colleagues over Brexit and the General Election. When we feel strongly about something and be-

lieve our view is the only one that is in the interest of everyone, it’s easy to forget to wonder why our ‘opponent’ has that view, and easier still to dismiss it without even listening. It’s not that we should climb down from our opinion and walk away, -- after all our view is as valid as theirs. But there is a method we could use that places equal value on both sides of the debate:

- Focus on learning: be genuinely curious about another person’s position.
- Ask for permission: ask the other person if you can explain your point of view.
- Show respect at all times.
- Focus on common ground; look for areas of agreement rather than disagreement. (source: The New European 20 July 2017)

Needless to say that this approach seems to be lacking in society at large, where it takes two seconds to write an abusive tweet as a knee-jerk reaction to something heard on tv or read online. All we can do to counter this is to not be a part of it, and make sure everyone we know isn’t either and gets everyone they know to follow suit. And if, in the process, we come up against people who do engage in this activity, confront it! Showing respect at all times, of course.

*Louise Cooke .  
Fieldworker of the Diocesan Justice  
and Peace Commission.*

## The Catenian Association



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Fr Eddy and locals on the last leg

We don't publish the total as we raise it in Catholic News because the amount can suddenly increase, (even on the day we wrote this article by £57,000) but you can find it on our website. Suffice it to say that our next landmark will be £4,000,000 (80% of our target), thirty-six parishes have completed the task, nineteen are three-quarters of the way and another ten are over half-way. On September 30 the bishop will host a thank you celebration for our lay workers.

We are working with remaining parishes to help them on an individual basis as they soldier on and we will update them as we go through Autumn.



Continued from page 1

The conference jointly organized by the Diocesan Service Team for Renewal and Divine Mercy Ministries had morning and afternoon sessions. The Morning session started with an opening prayer by Fr. Jonathan Cotton followed by a lively Praise & worship and an inspiring talk by Garry Stephens ( Word and spirit Ministries , Manchester). The theme was " Here I am Lord ,Send Me" ( Isaiah 6:8) . The Healing mass, scheduled at the centre of the programme was presided by Fr. Victor Dakwan , concelebrated by Fr. Jonathan Cotton , Fr. John Martin and served by Deacon Richard Jones. There were special prayers for healing and deliverance after the homily.

The afternoon Healing session led by Reji Kottaram of Kairos Ministries (USA & India) had praise & worship , an uplifting talk on the theme " Jesus The Cornerstone" (Acts 4:11)and a healing Ministry based on the theme " I am the Lord who heals you"(Exodus 15:26) . People have witnessed the healing power of Jesus during the healing Ministry, where many sick have been healed. The Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and benediction led by Deacon Richard Jones flamed the hearts of all participants in love for Christ. A good number of people turned up for the sacrament of reconciliation arranged at the venue. The event was a true blessing for all who attend and indeed a remarkable day for the diocese.

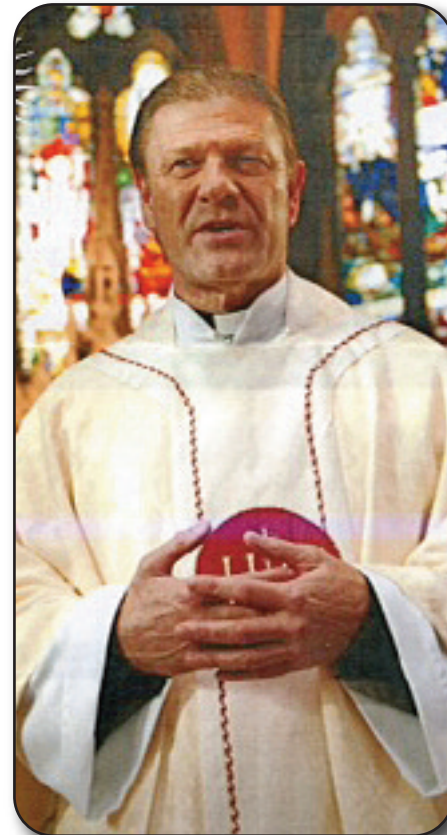
**Johnson Joseph  
Chair, Diocesan Service Team**



**A fully-earthed human being**

What was striking for me was the immense trust put in me by key members of the team, beginning with Jimmy McGovern, who wrote the whole touching series centred on a Catholic Parish Priest. Jimmy wanted everything in every way to be as correct as possible, not least in celebrating the Eucharist, which is key to the whole series. Any priest is meant to live with a Eucharistic mind and heart, centred on the four aspects that Jesus spoke of when initiating the greatest gift he could give. Jesus took the bread, Jesus blessed the bread, Jesus broke the bread, Jesus gave the bread. Only by accepting his own brokenness can any priest truly live a Eucharistic life, and echo Jesus in his compassionate approach to those whose lives he is privileged to reach out to. This comes across strongly in this TV series.

For me as a priest who has worked in parishes up and down Britain, from Edinburgh to Bournemouth, working on Bro-



ken has given me fresh hope and encouragement, for it portrays the priest as a fully-earthed human being. His awareness of his own vulnerability and heartfelt struggles enables him to bring deep compassion to those whose lives he is privileged to reach out to and touch each day. When the six episodes are screened - not only on BBC One but reaching audiences around the globe - it will be fascinating to see the impact on the way the priesthood is viewed in the Catholic Church in 2017.

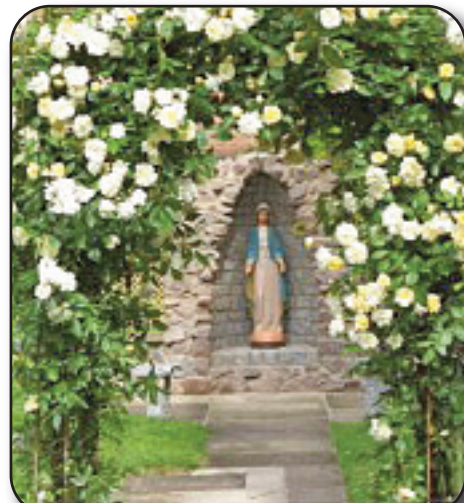
# A NEW GROTTTO

Blessed Sacrament Parish in Leicester has built a new grotto in their garden next to the church. Surrounded by flowers, trees and shrubs – Roses, Passion Flower, Olive, Irish Yew (a symbol of the Resurrection), Holly and Euonymus – it is a peaceful place where parishioners can come for prayer and a variety of birdsong may be heard as one prays.



With a statue of Our Lady of Peace, the theme has been extended to the prayers said there. Each Sunday

morning the church is open for anyone to visit, and the Rosary for Peace is said at 10:30am – always at the Grotto if the weather is fine.



Each week of Lent this year a group of parishioners started at the Grotto and then walked for an hour through the Park saying the Rosary for Peace as they went, meeting many people and talking to them as well as praying. The final prayers were said back at the Grotto.

Blessed Sacrament Church is built on a roundabout on Gooding Avenue with a housing estate on one side and the Park on the other. The Grotto is like an oasis of peace within its island position. It has been a lovely addition to the Parish which this year has celebrated 80 years since its inception as a Parish and 60 years since the Church on the Island was built.

# St Mary's Church Presents Parishioners with Diocesan Outstanding Service Medal

At St Mary's Church, Derby, Fr Tim O'Sullivan presented Mr Andy Fahy and Mrs Joyce Barke with the 'St Hugh of Lincoln Diocesan Award For Long and Outstanding Service.' Both recipients have made an enormous contribution to the life of the parish over a substantial number of years. Andy recently stepped down as the choir master at the 11am Mass and Joyce will be handing over

the managing of the Parish Centre after the Summer. Though these have been their most high profile roles, each of them has acted behind the scenes in myriad ways. Fr Tim commented that it is only right that people such as Andy and Joyce should be recognised by the Church, as it is often only when people step-down that they are fully appreciated.



It was a great opportunity for the parish community to express their gratitude to Joyce and Andy because as Fr Tim stated, "There is always the danger that given the nature of these dedicated people, who go above and beyond, they could be taken for granted." Andy and Joyce both expressed their thanks and pleasure at receiving the medal and certificate, and are deservedly taking a step-back but we are sure they will continue to be very much involved in the life of the parish.

*Fran Wickes*



## Silence with God – the Gift and the Challenge

Led by Angela Ashwin

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2017  
10.30 for 11.00 to 16.00

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Fr Jim O'Hanlon, Maureen Fuller, Sr Anthony, Paul Fuller

Christ the King Church at Alfreton, Derbyshire, has recently been enhanced by the addition of three stained glass windows in the front of the Alfreton Church.

The design of the three stained glass windows was done by Sr Anthony FSM, one of our three parish Sisters here in Alfreton. All three windows were made by our Organist, Mr Paul Fuller and his wife Maureen.

These were installed by Paul Fuller. As you can see from the photos, Sr Anthony has chosen three themes, the 'Crown of Thorns' along with the nails of Christ's Crucifixion, on the left. The Centre one represents 'Christ the King', the Cross and Kingly Crown, and on the right 'He is the Light of the World' along with Olive (Peace) branches.

These are very colourful and look beautiful when the sun shines through them from inside or outside. Donations for windows by Cathy and Jim O'Brian really helped offset the costs of the work involved.

I have the privilege of looking at them during every Mass from the Altar.

Our parishioners give thanks Sr Anthony, Paul and Maureen, and the O'Brian Family for all the work and dedication in providing our Churches with these gifts.

Deacon Mike Browne





# A Wonderful Celebration

## St George's RC Derby, The Travelling Community of Derby celebrate First Holy Communion

The rain held off and the sun shone as the children arrived in style to the celebrate their First Holy Communion. They all looked splendid in their traditional dresses and the boys in their smart suits, Fr Alan and Fr Peter invited the children onto the Altar through out the Mass to witness first hand the wonder and reverence of the celebration of the Eucharist.

Fr Peters homily focused on the very First Eucharist of the Last Supper with the children answering question and being very much part of the homily.

Supporting the children were many families from the travelling community across the midlands.

Fr Peter said " Its has been a wonderful Mass and the children looked splendid in all their finery."

Fr Alan Burbidge said "We offer two programmes and many settled Traveller children have their communion alongside all our other parishioners in May, but as some children are on the road and go where their families get work to accommodate this we offer a Holy Communion programme for them later in July,- many travelling families return to our Parish as they were baptised in the parish, Karan O'Connor our parish assistant remains in contact with them even when they move away. She also travels to their sites to give lessons to the children to ensure they are prepared as well as any other child making First Holy Communion and we welcome them today to celebrate



this very special time in their spiritual life. The Travelling Community at St George's & Holy Spirit are very much part of our Parish life. We embrace them along with their traditions and culture.

**Pictured above Canon Alan Burbidge, Catechist Karan O'Connor & Fr Peter with the Travelling children.**

### Pope Francis Message July 2017

*In a message sent to catechists from all over the world, Pope Francis stressed the need to not only make Christ the centre of their lives, but to be creative and adaptable in finding ways to reach the people in their area*

## Whatever happened to Laudato Si'?

Our Christian voice is barely discernible in the fracking controversy, and yet it is here in the North of England where the threat is most visible. Pope Francis quotes Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew: "for human beings to degrade the integrity of the earth by causing changes in its climate, by stripping the earth of its natural forests or destroying its wetlands; for human beings to contaminate the earth's waters, its land, its air, and its life – these are sins." For "to commit a crime against the natural world is a sin against ourselves and a sin against God."

Last November the Climate Change Commission pointed out that large scale fracking (and large scale it must be to be viable) could only be compatible with the UK's climate change targets if three conditions were met. They have not been met.

In May, the National Justice and Peace Network joined with the Climate Coalition in "not supporting shale gas extraction in the UK."

On July 17th. Food and Water Watch commented: "An unconventional oil and gas industry in the UK will have significantly detrimental impacts on the social, community and health wellbeing of the nation." This is against the background of an unholy race between fossil fuel exploiters in Lancashire and in North Yorkshire to be the first to frack in the UK since the Preece Hall debacle near Blackpool in 2011. This is the final lap.

Why are we Catholics not speaking out against fracking in greater numbers? It is not as if we do not know that in the short term it will be the poor and deprived who will suffer because of the impetus that industrial scale fracking will give to global

warming via methane emissions, warming that will result in a rise in sea levels and the inundation of low lying areas. It is not as if we have not been told that fracking involves high potential health risks to its work force and to those residing nearby.

It is not as if we believe the arguments that fracking will provide us with jobs rather than lose us jobs, or that energy security, whatever this may mean in a global economy, will result from the inauguration of a UK fossil fuel industry.

It is not as if we do not know that there are alternatives available in the shape of renewables and that it requires only a decision on the part of government to favour these rather than fossil fuels to turn us away from our sleep walk towards disaster.

Why then do we disregard the Holy Father's exhortations in Laudato Si' concerning climate change, its impact on the poor, and the need for social justice in the global environmental debate?

Naomi Klein in her book 'This Changes Everything' describes our behaviour as a form of climate change denial. We look for a second, turn aside, perhaps turn it into a joke.

We register the problem and then reassure ourselves that the clever scientists will find a way out of the mess; they always do, after all. We sympathise with the protestors, but believe we are powerless to change things, and that shale is inevitable so we leave it to others to take the hit. Or we place blind faith in the discernment of government concerning climate change, fracking or renewables, and in consequence in the need to accept enforcement of its decisions. We are

simply too busy - the kids, the job, the mortgage. We see that tackling global warming v. fossil fuels is part of so much else: global inequality, the hunger of our children, government's failure to clean up the air we breathe, corporations v. democratic government, the spiritual v. the material, the rich v. the poor, and give up in despair.

And yet, we are not doomed - yet - a message of Klein's latest book, 'No is not enough'. We are informing ourselves, slowly, and we are beginning to achieve things. The American States are not standing idly by as powerful forces threaten all that we stand for. The Churches are now implementing policies designed to protect the vulnerable from abuses of all sorts. The atomisation of society and of community is being combated by a new sense of shared humanity. The government here is listening, albeit selectively, tentatively and with an eye to improved ratings, to the people - employment tribunal fees abolished, diesel and petrol cars put on notice, building standards under scrutiny, improving battery life incentivising renewables, the government is borrowing more rather than reinforcing austerity, etc. This is not a change of heart and direction: this is a result of pressure from voters. We are powerful when we choose to raise our voices and speak out for justice and for peace. Klein's new book reminds us - and we know - that governments can perform U-turns, can rally behind voters when the chips are down, and the chips are indeed down.

As the drilling rigs are set up at Preston New Road, near Blackpool, it is time for all Christians to raise their voices against fracking. The reasons to do so are not hard to find. The reasons not to do so are precious few. We might not achieve utopia, but we must fight against dystopia.

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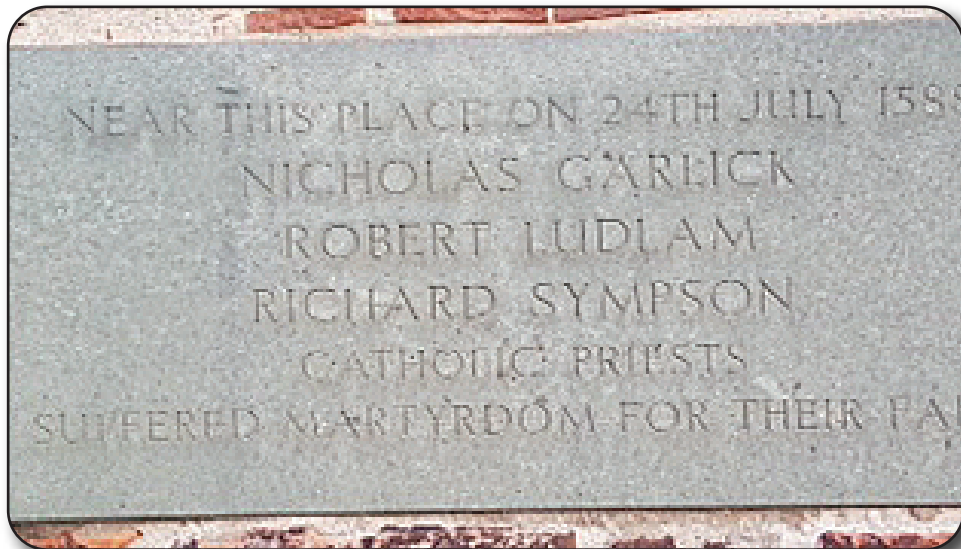
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# Annual ecumenical service at St Mary's Chapel



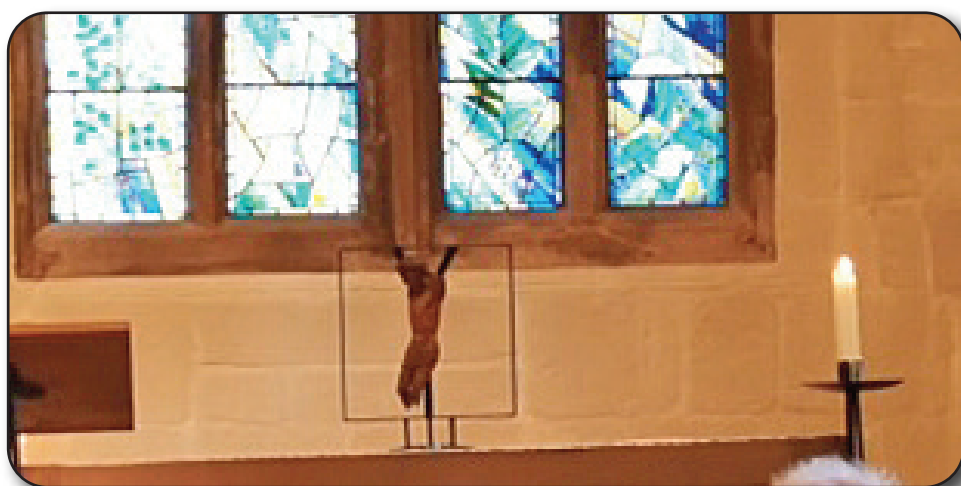
On 24th of July the annual ecumenical service took place at St Mary's Chapel on the Bridge, Derby to commemorate the Padley Martyrs, Nicholas Garlick, Robert Ludlum and Richard Sympson who were executed on that date in 1588. Garlick and Ludlum having been captured at Padley Manor were taken to Derby Gaol where Sympson was already incarcerated. They were tried and sentenced to be hanged, drawn and quartered at a place just opposite the chapel. There is a stone set into chapel wall to commemorate the event

The service was supported by the Cathedral Choir. The homily was given by Rev Dr Simon Taylor, Canon Chancellor of Derby Cathedral; the Rosary was lead by Sr Veronica of the Bridgegate Convent and Fr Neil People's, assistant priest at St Mary's, Derby lead the congregation in the Litany of the Saints. The Cathedral generously provided refreshments in the garden afterwards

The Service also remembered Joan Waste, a blind woman who was burned at the stake for her Protestant beliefs in 1556 at a site just adjacent to the current St Joseph's church on Burton Rd, Derby

The Chapel is administered by Derby Anglican Cathedral and there has been a place of worship there since the 13th Century, the present chapel having been in existence since the 14th Century.

Tom Kemple



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# Making our mark with God

... by Julia Beacroft

WE NATURALLY CONSIDER the first day of January to be a new beginning and the commencement of a time when anything could happen. It's the start of a new year when we make all kinds of promises to ourselves (and often fail to keep!).

Yet personally I've always experienced very similar feelings and emotions when September rolls around each year. After the long lazy days of summer, autumn arrives with a hint of crispness in the air. Education restarts then, in schools, colleges and universities and in fact all kinds of courses and programmes burst forth at this time.

## BACK TO SCHOOL

For Mums this re-commencement is usually marked by digging out the children's school uniform to see what fits and what doesn't – (for me it always came as a shock to see how short trousers and sleeves had become during the six weeks holiday) – the dreaded school uniform shopping trip as a result of

this, often followed by that most laborious of tasks: marking all new said uniform with name tapes or various other methods. And in fact the shops have traded upon this phenomenon with their signs of 'Back to School' to act as a yearly reminder.

And the Church is no different in its September revival. After the summer, when so many activities are put on hold and the priest usually takes a well-deserved break, the Church launches into the new season's activities with gusto. And this is hardly surprising. With Harvest Festival around the corner, followed by the Feast of Christ the King, Advent and then the great celebration of Christmas, the Church is always geared up for the busy time ahead. Our lives are marked by notable events – births, deaths and marriages, birthdays, new home, new job and a variety of others. In the same way the Church celebrates so many occasions which have been brought to us by scripture and tradition – and rightly so.



Yet as we prepare to launch ourselves into this wonderful new season, with all its accompanying activities, this could be a time for us to consider some different and possibly new pursuits of our own.

## MELLOW

Spending time with the Lord in prayer and reflection can be a challenge for many of us in our busy lives, but nevertheless a wholly worthwhile one. And as the days become

shorter and the nights darker and colder, this may possibly be the perfect time to make that window of opportunity to be with the Lord.

New beginnings can be strange, exciting and delightful. But as we prepare to enjoy the new and mellow season of autumn, may our hearts also be mellow with love of God as we find a place and time to be with him. After all, marking time with the Lord is far preferable than marking school uniform!



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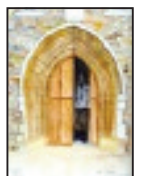
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# Farewell to Year 6 and Fr Neil



Fr Neil Peoples celebrated the end of year Leavers' Mass at St Mary's Primary School, Derby. This was an opportunity to pray for the Year 6 children as they move on to the secondary stage of their education. Mrs Greaves, the headteacher, gave them each a hand held Cross from the Holy Land as a memento of their time at the school.

It was also a chance for the staff and children to say goodbye to Fr Neil, as he prepares to leave the parish and take up his new role as parish priest at Holy Souls, Scunthorpe. Though he has only been in Derby for a year, Fr Neil has made a big impression and will be greatly missed. Every class made him a card thanking him for his ministry and wishing him well.'

Fran Wickes

# Attendance Matters at St Mary's



Congratulations to the 27 children who managed to achieve 100% attendance all year at St Mary's Primary School, Derby. They definitely deserve a good holiday!

Fran Wickes



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