



St Luke the Apostle
Feast day 18th October

Catholic News

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

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Editor John Clawson. Tel: E-mail john@bellcourtltd.co.uk or david@bellcourtltd.co.uk



SILVER JUBILATION CELEBRATION



On a cool May evening Fr. Christopher Thomas, Parish Priest of the Church of the Assumption, Beeston, celebrated 25 years of his ordination to the priesthood. The evening started with a beautiful mass concelebrated by Bishop Patrick McKinney Fr. Malachy Brett, Fr. Jonathan Rose, Fr John Gilbert and Fr Greg Tobin and attended by parishioners, family and friends of Fr. Christopher.

Continued on page 7

***Pastoral Letter appointed to be read out at all Masses
celebrated on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th September 2017***

Education Sunday

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

For many years the Catholic Church in England and Wales has celebrated Education Sunday, but today, for just the second time, we do so at the start of the academic year. It's a good opportunity to celebrate the high standards of education achieved in our Catholic schools, including the excellent work that goes on to ensure that all pupils know that they are loved by God, and to assist all Christian pupils to develop a personal relationship with Jesus and his Church. The theme for this year's Education Sunday is 'Gathered in my name'.

teaches us that, wherever two or more are gathered in his name, he is there among them to bless and equip them, so that he can then send them out to share in his mission of bringing God's love to all people.

Our Catholic schools certainly play an increasingly vital role in the mission of the Church, and all who are called to the vocation of educating the young share in this mission. Indeed, many of you will know that, following the restoration of the hierarchy in 1850, the bishops made the important decision to build schools before churches.¹

It is taken from today's gospel reading where Jesus

Continued on page 11

**I have called you by your name;
You are mine**



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First Thursday of the month
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The monthly paper for the
Diocese of Nottingham

The
Catholic News

Editor: John Clawson

Editorial Office: Bellcourt Ltd,
N2 Blois Meadow Business
Centre, Steeple Bumpstead,
Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 7BN

Telephone: 0207 112 6710

email: johnclwson@icloud.com or

david@bellcourtltd.co.uk

Website: www.bellcourtltd.co.uk

Distribution enquiries:

Nick Layton

e-mail nick@cathcom.org, Bellcourt Limited,

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Derby to host second LGBT Mass

Following a well-attended Mass for LGBT Catholics, their families and friends, celebrated by Bishop Patrick McKinney in the Cathedral Church of St Barnabas in October 2016, the Diocese is to host another Mass this October. The venue this time will be St Alban's church, Roe Farm Lane, Chaddesden, Derby, DE21 6ET. The Mass will be celebrated by the parish priest, Fr David Cane, at 2pm on Saturday 28th October. Refreshments will be available in the parish hall following the Mass. Fr David will be available for the sacrament of reconciliation and/or consultation from 12.30 to 1.30pm.

These masses deliver a strong and clear message to LGBT Catholics that they are welcome and that they have a place in the Church. Last year's Mass attended by some seventy lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Catholics, their friends and families, from the diocese and beyond, would have been unthinkable some years ago. Bishop McKinney is among a small but growing number of bishops seeking to be more inclusive. In his homily at last year's Mass, reflecting on Jesus' meeting with the tax collector Matthew, the bishop said, "The view we have of ourselves can often be limited and indeed negatively affected by the way others look upon us and the labels they give us. . . let us take comfort and hope from today's Gospel story of Matthew who allowed Jesus to draw close to him, to look upon him with love and mercy, so freeing him from a narrow understanding of himself and enabling him to look upon himself as Jesus looked upon him."

This diocesan initiative is evidence of the principle of accompaniment, meaning that bishops and priests can meet people where they are spiritually and build relationships that help them deepen their faith.

Simon Baldwin



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

Thoughts from Elston Hermitage.....

I write this in the early days of September when life seems to be returning to normal after the holiday season, Schools return, activities in our parishes resume and it would seem that summer is well behind us. There is a autumnal chill in the air and we are already missing the extra hours of light we have become accustomed to during the summer. Here at the hermitage our first prayer of the day is still shrouded in darkness at 4.30am, and by the time we pray Lauds (morning prayer) around 6 a.m. the words of the office hymn begin to penetrate the dark- "earth's dusky veil is torn away, pierced by the sparkling beams of day". - and a new day of light gradually comes to be.

Our Lord spoke about there being many hours in the day in which man might walk and work and then of the night coming when this opportunity was bought to an end. He was emphasising that we mortals in ourselves have no sufficiency of light to walk and work by. We depend on the light which is given to us and of course without this light given from the sun or a lamp - artificial light - then we grapple in the dark and that which is true naturally is also true in a spiritual sense too. We do not have light within ourselves, we need supernatural light and of course this can only come from God. St. John reminds us that "the man that lives by the truth comes out into the light" (John 3:v 21) Saint Paul in his letter to the Thessalonians reminds us "it is not that we live in the dark, but we are all sons of light and sons of the day" (Thess.5:v4)

Our bodies then need eyes to respond to



natural light -the same is also true of the spirit, we need God's penetrating rays to give us spiritual light which comes to us through the working of the Holy Spirit. In the days that lie ahead of us with less natural light as the winter season comes ever close, it is then the light of God dwelling in us that we need. The whole purpose of our religion is that we may become the home and light of God. The Catholic religion is that each of us have to become a light, not only that we can see by, but by which we can see others and they in turn can see us – transporting the beams of God's light and love into all life.

And so each morning as we all pray in those dark hours. and hopefully each of us will create time however short it may be, let us pray and await God's Spirit to shine in His creating light, to guide us through each day -so that the Son of God will arise within our hearts, giving us another day to serve Him and our fellow men. As we do so let us remember St Paul's words to the Thessalonians again " so give encouragement to each other and keep strengthening one another" that we may not grapple in the dark but live in the Light of the Lord. (Thess. 5:v 11)

*Fr David + h.d.n.
Priest and Hermit
Diocese of Nottingham*

Everything is in bloom at Sacred Heart, Loughborough

The garden and grounds of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Loughborough have, over the last few years, received a transformation admired by parishioners and those simply passing by. Now this hard work has been recognised as the Church has been entered into the regional competition, East Midlands in Bloom.

The Parish Priest, Fr. Peter Vellacott, said that 'it is wonderful to have such beautiful grounds that are well kept by a dedicated team of parishioners. Not only do I myself get to enjoy the benefits, but it is meant that we are able as a parish also to enjoy them – for Benediction on the Feast of Corpus Christi, our Marian procession and for social occasions such as our recent BBQ for the Feast of the Sacred Heart and our picnic for Mature Adults. I also receive so many comments from people passing by remarking on how stunning the grounds at the front are kept. All of this is thanks to the hard work and generosity of a few parishioners: Stephanie Gandy, Paul and Ursula Mullin, Lorraine Stewart and ably assisted by Terry Harrison'

The team at Sacred Heart are not resting on their laurels though despite the recognition of East Midlands in Bloom as there are plans to extend the front grounds with the permission of Tesco providing an even greater floral display for the community and those passing by.



FRANKLY SPEAKING

As the summer of 2017 came to a close it was almost impossible to ignore the international weather scene. Monsoons had lashed Nepal, Bangladesh and India for weeks. As I write this article the Indian subcontinent was recording rainfall records with millions forced from their homes and sadly 1,200 people who had lost their lives with hospitals in Mumbai flooded. In the USA in the state of Texas a torrent of water as a result of Hurricane Harvey left thousands of people fleeing for their lives. Much of Houston was under water as an unwelcome 50 inches of rain fell in less than a week.

There are many in the world who would describe these dreadful floods as a wake up call on the effects of climate change. Some not least in America would argue against this but surely they are in a minority. One American climate scientist at Pennsylvania State University has suggested that climate change affects wind patterns which leads to the devastation which his country experienced at the end of August. Sadly we must not be surprised if such disasters become more frequent. A consequence of this will lead to more people losing their homes and needing practical assistance. We should never cease to speak of the CAFOD when we discuss the all too frequent emergencies which the world has to face. In the summer edition of their magazine "Side by Side" CAFOD explain their work and how the money was spent. I would advise all readers to obtain a copy as

they speak of their work supporting people through drought, flood, conflict and the global refugee crisis. The commitment to practical aid incorporates providing clean water, protecting the environment and much more. There must be so many good people working for and with CAFOD in countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America, countless acts of kindness must occur which will never be reported.

Acts of kindness can start in our own lives and in our local community. I was recently waiting for a bus on a hot summer afternoon. A young mother was also waiting for the bus. She appeared to be pregnant and was accompanied by her son who was aged about four and was full of energy being dressed as a police officer with full face painting. Clearly tired and carrying no fewer than 4 bags, she boarded the bus. She was then joined by a rather confused young man of eastern European origin who was desperate to get to his destination. The young lady then gave him maximum assistance as he had limited knowledge of where the bus was going. After 20 minutes the mother to be, her son and the young man all got off the bus together, an act of kindness would see a man far from home get to his destination, surely that is what our world needs today.

Frank Goudling
Holt Trinity Parish,
Newark

BUSY TIMES, BUSY FAMILIES

EXPLORING SCRIPTURE IN OUR DAILY LIVES



Keynote Speaker:
Matthew van Duyvenbode
from the Bible Society & Chair of the Catholic Bible Association

A resource day with Bishop Patrick
Saturday 4th November 2017 10 am—4 pm



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2. FAMILIES, SCRIPTURE & SERVICE: The Big Question
3. SCRIPTURE AND MARRIED COUPLES
4. ENGAGING CHILDREN
5. SCRIPTURE AND OLDER PEOPLE
6. SCRIPTURE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
7. SCRIPTURE IN MASS

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

- For year 6 and above activities organised by a team from The Briars Catholic Youth Retreat Centre
- For children in Year 5 and below – activities organised by a Children's Liturgy Team.
- Children under school age - are welcome to accompany parents, or there will be crèche provision.

COST: £25/£20 PER FAMILY

£15 COUPLE

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TRANSPORT FROM LOUGHBOROUGH TRAIN STATION

Meditation: We are custodians of an extraordinary tradition Moving at last towards a community of supreme delight as we teach meditation to children

by David Mahon



CHILDREN enjoy a natural capacity for direct experience of the truth, for contemplation. Laurence Freeman, Director of the World Community for Christian Meditation, suggests meditation naturally belongs to the spiritual wisdom of humanity, and therefore in its fullest meaning it can be discovered there. The benefits, he suggests, are proven, but to these we need to add the spiritual fruits. It's these fruits that will help us to persevere in the discipline of our meditation practice.

Writing recently in the inaugural editi on of The Meditation Journal, Freeman suggests that in the future we will be able to build communities of faith with people of different beliefs. He quotes the contention of St Thomas Aquinas that the goal of life is union with God, and describes how "a community of supreme delight" shares all that is good, all loving each other as themselves, and all rejoicing in each other's wellbeing. This too must be the ultimate goal of education, with its prime concern about the truth of thenhuman journey. Freeman suggests this is why we need to emphasise the importance of teaching meditation to children.

Meditation brings us into this experience of unity with ourselves, with others and with God — a single un-analyzable experience. It also explains why God has no favourites because when we become fully alive we must help each other to flourish. Freeman urges

that children are innately capable of real contemplation, of going deeper than words, deeper than imagination, deeper than ideas.

He writes: "They are in touch more directly with the experience of God within them. If we are to link our transmission of faith to this experience of God, then children need to be introduced to a way of prayer that will enable them to stay in touch with that experience as they develop year by year and for the rest of their lives." Freeman contends that research has been done in many areas, particularly in educational theory and psychology, which shows overwhelming evidence that eighty to ninety per cent of children report what we would call 'a spiritual experience' or an 'experience of the presence of God.' This means that children have a capacity for the experience that we call, in Christian theology, contemplation. Freeman goes on to quote St Augustine: "That the heart is full of prayer, the human heart is already gifted with this experience of prayer and we simply have to discover it."

Augustine went on to suggest that the most important task of the Christian life is 'to restore to health the eye of the heart by which God can be seen.' Freeman says this innate natural capacity for contemplation is an essential element of the Christian understanding of the human being. We are capable of knowing God directly because we are created in the image and likeness of God. It is just like the way in which a child will recognise his or her parents; there is a natural

DNA connection.

Freeman adds: "So a child has this natural capacity. Thomas Aquinas, who is not the most simple of theologians, defines contemplation as 'the simple enjoyment of the truth.' You can't get much more basic than that. Fundamentally, it is having a good time — the simple enjoyment of the truth. And that suggests a very important connection at the conceptual level between contemplation and simplicity. That is the basis, I think, for our teaching meditation to children, this relationship between simplicity and contemplation. "This is why, when we meditate, we let go of thoughts, words and images, all of the normal activity of the mind: thinking, remembering, planning, worrying, daydreaming — all the things that we do in our heads. We move to a deeper, quieter, calmer level. We move to the level of the heart which is why meditation or contemplation is called the prayer of the heart. The difference between these two centres of prayerconsciousness lies in the transcendence of words, thoughts and images. In meditation we let go of the thoughts, words and images, and we move into silence. Silence is a capacity for the experience of God beyond words, beyond thoughts. Meister Eckhart says: "There is nothing so much like God as silence." Freeman suggests that discovering and following the contemplative journey is essential to our experience of life as a meaningful use of time. Full human growth is discovering that life has a purpose and that purpose, according to the Christian



tradition, is the vision of God, union with God, sharing in the life of God.

Freeman insists that today there is a growing recognition of the spiritual awareness of childhood. This should be our starting-point for teaching children to meditate. He suggests Christians need to ask, what is our attitude towards the spiritual nature of the child and how do we need to develop this? He concludes: "A child has an innate awareness of the mind of Christ. St Paul says: "We possess the mind of Christ." That means Christ dwelling in us. The 'name' of Jesus has to be complemented and balanced by helping the child to recognise his or her own experience of the mind of Christ."

David Mahon is the founder and director of Tumble Trust Relaxation which organises retreats at Christian centres throughout the UK.

Building Peaceful Communities

Putting it all Together



In recent months the Justice and Peace Commission have been presenting articles about hate crime, political debate, xenophobia in the media and knowing our communities. Now we are just weeks away from our Annual Assembly in Derby on Saturday 25th November, so this month we hope to give you a flavour of what you can expect from the day.

The day at St Mary's, Bridge Gate, will begin with Mass with Bishop Patrick at 10am. We hope to have children from local schools providing the music and some of the liturgy for the Mass. The rest of the day will be given over to 3 speakers who will provide us with concrete examples and help on how to go about putting our faith into practice in three inter-connected areas: Refugees and asylum seekers, building peace in our communities and defending the Welfare State.

Fr Michael White, of Shrewsbury Diocese will talk about the project Heart of Tamworth, which was set up by his former parish to serve the needs of the wider community in its location. Fr Michael will explain the process to us of setting up similar projects in our parishes, sharing good advice and good practice, plus practical tips.

Sean Ryan, co-ordinator of the Community Sponsorship Scheme for Syrian families for Caritas, will take us through what is involved in this government and church-backed scheme for parishes to become responsible for many different aspects of the well-being of a Syrian refugee family living in their area. This can also be undertaken by a cluster of parishes, each taking responsibility for different aspects of the support to be given.

Our third speaker will address the question "Why, as Catholics, should we defend the Welfare State and how can we do this?" The practical nature of the day will be reinforced by distribution of three free resources upon prior request from attending parishes: a parish resource for group prayer, study, reflection and practical action on transforming our parishes into vibrant peace-building communities; a copy of DOCAT, giving your justice and peace group or young people practical tips on how to live out the catechism; and a notice-board for your church or parish centre for dedicated use by Justice and Peace.

Book your place with and request resources from Louise Cooke on jpnottingham@nrcdt.org.uk or 07410 411048

**Justice and Peace
Commission
Annual Assembly
and
AGM 2017**

ENTER UNDER MY ROOF

BUILDING PEACE — CHALLENGING POVERTY- — SHELTERING THE STRANGER

**Saturday 25th
November 2017**
10am — 3.45pm

**St Mary's Parish,
17 Bridge Gate,
Derby DE1 3AU**

Speakers to include:
Fr Michael White — Heart of Tamworth
Sean Ryan — Caritas Social Action Network

**Join us for
Mass at 10am
with Bishop
Patrick
McKinney**

Fill your car with people

- Get your FREE Notice Board for your parish or school
- Get your FREE parish resource pack on building peaceful communities
- Pick up a FREE copy of DOCAT, to inspire young people to act out their faith using CST

Learn how to:

- Make your parish a vibrant peace-building community
- Sponsor a Syrian refugee family as a community
- Challenge the causes of poverty in the UK

**Bring lunch for a shared table
Book your place with Louise Cooke
jpnottingham@nrcdt.org.uk or Tel 07710 411048**

Bring your friends

Eastwood garden party raises Connect2 funds

Generous fundraisers in Eastwood held a fun-filled garden party to raise money in support of disadvantaged communities in Ethiopia.



Parishioners enjoying the garden party

Local resident Marie Lowe opened up her home to Our Lady of Good Counsel church parishioners with plenty of food and drink on offer.

A tombola with a prize every time helped the gathering raise

an impressive £253 for CAFOD's Connect2 scheme.

Connect2 is built on CAFOD's values of solidarity and partnership, where parishes in the UK are able to stand alongside communities overseas to fight against poverty and injustice.

Through Connect2, the CAFOD group at Our Lady of Good Counsel is linked with groups in Sebeya, in the dry, arid north of Ethiopia.

Chair of the parish CAFOD group, Elaine Oliver, said: "This was a lovely occasion for meeting friends old and new. Plates were filled with sandwiches, cake and scones!

"The money raised has been sent to Sebeya and we will have many happy memories of the day together."

CAFOD representative in Nottingham, Maggie Mairura, said: "Thank you to everyone who helped organise this wonderful event. Everybody who attended had a great time and it is of course going to a very worthy cause.

"Connect2 is a brilliant scheme and the Our Lady of Good Counsel parishioners have really embraced it and made a big difference to



The garden party was a great success communities in Ethiopia."

For more information on CAFOD's Connect2 campaign, visit our website.

We Press on – together - In Hope: Support Pact this Prisoners' Sunday



"My upbringing was very dysfunctional; at the age of ten I found drink and drugs. I'm a person who has spent nineteen years of my life in prison and Pact support gave me hope, not only to stay out of prison but to help me find meaning in my life. It helped me when I had no food, no travel, and no job. The mentoring service has built my self-confidence, has given me a life worth leading and given me a future."

David, User of Pact services

At the age of 45, David had spent almost half of his life in prison. With no support network David was anxious of falling back into old habits. He met with a Pact Worker whilst in prison who set him up with a group of volunteer mentors, motivated by their faith, who could offer him practical and emotional support for the first crucial months after release. This gave David immense hope, helped him find his feet, settle back into the community and build a life. Thousands of men like David leave prison every day, many of whom are homeless with no support network. They are often some of the most marginalised people in society; and yet most in need of hope for a fresh start. Without support, men like David may

not have the chance to get back on the right road.

On October 8th this year we mark Prisoners' Sunday, the national day of prayer and action for prisoners and their dependants. Our theme, 'We Press on –together- in Hope', recognises the vital role we all play in coming together, as a Catholic community working to bring light and a fresh start to people affected by imprisonment. We ask you to put your faith into action and help us to support more people like David.

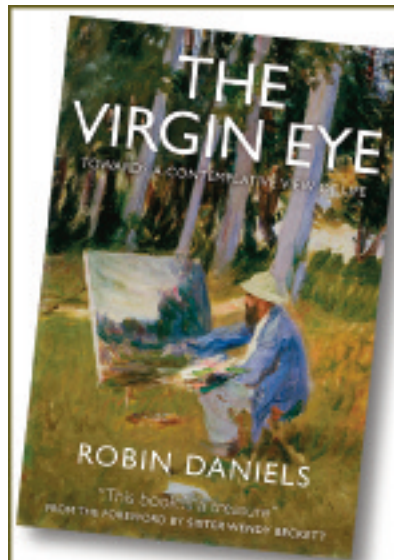
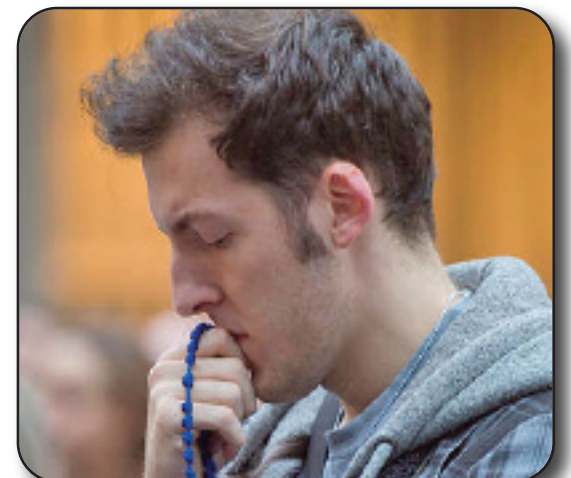
A resource pack will be sent to every Parish Priest across England and Wales with more information. Please encourage your relevant celebrant to make use of the resources to mark the day. Additional resources such as children's activities & liturgy and discussion group topics are available on Pact's website from early September. If you would like to get involved or host a talk on Pact's work in your community please get in touch with Naomi on the details below.
www.prisonadvice.org.uk
Parish.Action@prisonadvice.org.uk
020 7735 9535

Holydays of Obligation - England and Wales

With effect from the First Sunday of Advent 2017, two holydays of obligation are being reinstated. This decision was made by the Bishops of England and Wales, and has been confirmed by the Holy See.

The days are:

- The Epiphany of the Lord** – 6 January (transferred to the adjacent Sunday when it falls on Saturday or Monday)
- The Ascension of the Lord** – Thursday after Sixth Sunday of Easter



THE VIRGIN EYE by Robin Daniels

The Virgin Eye by Robin Daniels inspires us to see the world anew through the innocent eyes of a child, so as to become more aware of God's presence in everyday life and encounters.

This book offers insights into contemplative prayer and mindfulness; making wise decisions; enjoying a creative relationship; slowing down; and managing change and stress. Daniels demonstrates how we can put St Paul's challenge request to 'pray without ceasing' into practice. He explores how we can turn suffering and trial into opportunity and growth, as we learn to see God, ourselves and other people with a pure heart and a pure eye

Author: Robin Daniels

Publisher: Instant Apostle
ISBN-10: 1909728527
ISBN-13: 978-1909728523

For trade orders call Marston: 01235 465500

For review copies and media enquiries contact Manoj: info@instantapostle.com 07932 463951

This book is a treasure. Sister Wendy Beckett, Art Critic, BBC's Sister Wendy's Odyssey

I wish it had been available years ago. It should be required reading. Roy Godwin, Executive Director, The Flood-y-Brenin Trust and author of The Grace Outpouring

Highly recommended! Brian M. Noble, Emeritus Bishop of Shrewsbury

It is less a book and more a journey which will not fail to transform your relationship with God, self and others. Teresa Onions, Director of Pastoral Care UK for the Association of Christian Counsellors

It will be a blessing for all into whose hands it happens to fall. Canon John Udris, Spiritual Director, St Mary's College, Oscott

This wonderful book is a fount of wisdom. Fr Vincent O'Hara, OCD, Director of the Avila Centre

Obituary: Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor

Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, who became the tenth Archbishop of Westminster (2000-09), was born in Reading on 24 August 1932, the fifth son of Dr George Murphy-O'Connor and his wife Ellen. His parents originally came from County Cork.

He was educated at the Presentation College, Reading, and Prior Park College in Bath. During the Holy Year of 1950 he began to train as a priest for the diocese of Portsmouth at the Venerable English College, Rome, where he joined his two brothers, Brian and Patrick. He later joked that the Rector, Mgr John Macmillan, needed some persuading since it was thought that two Murphy-O'Connors in a seminary was quite enough. While in Rome he gained licentiates in philosophy and theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University and was ordained by Archbishop Luigi Traglia on 28 October 1956.

On returning to his home diocese, he served as curate at Corpus Christi, Portsmouth (1956-63) and Sacred Heart, Fareham (1963-66).

Then in 1966 he became Private Secretary to the Bishop of Portsmouth, Derek Worlock. Murphy-O'Connor also served as Director of Vocations and helped establish the country's first Diocesan Pastoral Centre at Park Place, Wickham.

In September 1970 he went to Immaculate Conception, Portswood as Parish Priest, but at the end of 1971 returned to Rome as Rector of the Venerable English College, his alma mater. The years following the Second Vatican Council were challenging ones to be a seminary rector, with much uncertainty about the future and the constant need, as he later put it, to 'broker a peace between the people who want to change everything and the people who want to change nothing'. Murphy-O'Connor proved to be a steady pair of hands and did much to boost student numbers and the College's finances.

As Rector he also hosted Archbishop Cogan of Canterbury during his historic visit to Paul VI (1977).

In 1977 Murphy-O'Connor was appointed third Bishop of Arundel and Brighton, a diocese covering Sussex and Surrey. He was consecrated on 21 December by his predecessor, Michael Bowen, who had become Archbishop of Southwark. The new bishop quickly became engaged in a round of parish and school visitations, opening up his large house at Storrington for special events and adopting the American 'RENEW' programme. This was inspired by his belief that the Church should be 'experienced not as a faceless institution but as a community, a family, to whose life all its members contribute' and involved the creation of 'small communities' in parishes. He later admitted: "Renew had mixed results, but I think we went some way to recapturing the basic concept of Christian community."

From 1982 until 2000 Murphy-O'Connor was Co-Chairman of the Anglican and Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC), and ecumenism remained a cause close to his heart. Indeed, in 2000 he was awarded a Doctorate in Divinity by the Archbishop of Canterbury in recognition of his work for Christian unity.

On 15 February 2000 Murphy-O'Connor was appointed tenth Archbishop of Westminster, in succession to Cardinal Basil Hume. The following year, on 21 February 2001, he was created a Cardinal Priest. Among the other new cardinals created that day was Jorge Mario Bergoglio, the future Pope Francis, with whom he would enjoy a friendly relationship. The new English cardinal was given the prestigious titular church of Santa Maria sopra Minerva, which not only contains the remains of St Catherine of Siena but also the tomb of Cardinal Philip Howard, great-grandson of the martyr St Philip Howard, whose shrine is at Arundel Cathedral.



As a cardinal, Murphy-O'Connor was appointed to the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, the Administration of the Patrimony of the Holy See, the Pontifical Council for the Study of Organisational and Economic Problems of the Holy See and the Pontifical Council for the Family. He also served on the Pontifical Councils for Culture and for Laity, and acted as secretary of Vox Clara. In April 2005 he participated in the Conclave that elected Benedict XVI.

As archbishop of a densely-populated and diverse diocese, Murphy-O'Connor took on various initiatives. In 2001 he began replacing Hume's system of episcopal areas with four key areas of responsibility (Education, Clergy and Consecrated Life, Pastoral Affairs and Ecumenism and Interfaith relations), each one under the supervision of a different auxiliary bishop. He hoped this would serve to further unify the diocese.

In September 2003 he launched At Your Word, Lord with a special Mass held at Wembley Arena. The previous November he had invited the diocesan clergy to discuss the programme at Butlins holiday camp in Bognor Regis, a location chosen because of its accommodation space. Based on the 'RENEW' programme he had followed in Arundel and Brighton, the three year process brought together thousands in small prayer groups and promoted a vision of the Church as 'a communion of communities.' It was followed by the publication in February 2006 of a 'White Paper,' Communion and Mission, which identified the priorities for the local Church in the twenty-first century: the call to holiness, the formation of adults and young people, small communities, priesthood and vocations and increased participation, collaboration and accountability.

Aware of the scourge of child abuse and having had personal experience of cases as bishop of Arundel and Brighton, he commissioned Lord Nolan to chair an independent review on child protection in the Catholic Church in England and Wales. This was a landmark document and led to the establishment of an independent office (COPCA) to oversee the protection of children and vulnerable adults.

In order to consolidate this work, he also commissioned a review, conducted by Baroness Cumberledge, which led to the establishment of the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service and the National Catholic

Safeguarding Commission.

As a cardinal and President of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, Murphy-O'Connor had to tackle many sensitive issues in the 'public square', providing a Catholic voice on issues as diverse as the war in Iraq, medical ethics and the 2006 Equality Act. He enjoyed good relations with the royal family and in 2002 not only read a prayer at the funeral of the Queen Mother but also preached before Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip at the Sunday service in Sandringham. He was privileged, too, to host the Queen and Prince Philip for lunch at Archbishop's House, an historical highlight with regard to the place of the Catholic Church in British society.

On reaching the age of seventy-five, Murphy-O'Connor submitted his resignation to the Holy See. He continued until his successor, Archbishop Vincent Nichols, was appointed on 3 April 2009. Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor became the first Archbishop of Westminster to retire, all his predecessors having died in office.

He moved to a house on Duke's Avenue, Chiswick and continued his work in Rome, taking up new posts on the Congregation for Bishops and the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. On a number of occasions he acted as papal representative to such places as Stockholm, India, Bangladesh and Trondheim in Norway.

In June 2010 he was named as the Visitor to the Province of Armagh in the aftermath of the Ryan and Murphy Reports on child abuse.

After reaching his eightieth birthday in February 2012, many of his Roman commitments ceased and he participated in the conclave of 2013 as a non-voter.

Throughout his life, 'Cardinal Cormac' kept up a keen interest in sport (especially rugby and golf) and music; he was a talented pianist and occasionally performed at charity events and celebrations.

His publications include *The Family of the Church* (1984), *At the Heart of the World* (2004) and a volume of memoirs, *An English Spring* (2015). He will long be remembered for his personal warmth, humour and persuasive leadership. source: www.cbcew.org.uk

Pope gives thanks for Cardinal Cormac's "distinguished service to the Church"



Pope Francis has written to Cardinal Nichols to offer his "heartfelt condolences" after the death of Archbishop emeritus of Westminster, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor who passed away on 1st September 2017.

In praising Cardinal Cormac's service to the Church in England and Wales, the Pope lauds the late cardinal's "unwavering devotion to the preaching of the Gospel and the care of the poor, and his far-sighted commitment to the advancement of ecumenical and interreligious understanding."

Pope Francis concludes by commending his soul to the mercy of God and imparting his Apostolic Blessing.

The two men were elevated to the rank of Cardinal at the same Consistory in February 2001.

Derby Catenians Bowl 'em Over



Derby Catenians held their annual skittles and fish and chip supper evening in early September. This popular well attended event takes place at a hostelry on the outskirts of Derby in the village of Ockbrook.

The winner of the men's prize was Philip Kelly. The winners of the Ladies' prize could not be separated even after a lengthy play off so prizes were awarded to Anne Perry and Pascale Holden.

Kevin Hurst
Derby Catenians Publicity Officer

Top: The Catenians and wives representing most parishes in the Derby Deanery

Right: The 'winners' Anne Perry (left), Philip Kelly (centre) and Pascale Holden (right) with Derby President Andy Holden at the back



Continued from page 1

Fr. Malachy gave a thought provoking and humorous homily regarding the priesthood and not to mention "shiny shoes Christopher". At the end of Mass Fr. Christopher was presented with a bouquet of Roses (which he presented to his mother), a card and gift from the parish.

After Mass the celebrations continued in the parish hall and grounds with a hog roast, celebration cake, plenty of wine and also an excellent "This is your Life Fr. Christopher" slide show provided by Fr. Christopher's family, which provided much hilarity for all guests

All in all the evening was a real celebration enjoyed by all who attended.



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REALITY CHECK ...

by Julia Beacroft

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"JERRY! JERRY! JERRY!" my then seven-year old son chanted, along with the TV studio audience. "JERRY!" He was, of course, watching the Jerry Springer show. Television presenter, former lawyer, Democratic mayor of Cincinnati, news presenter, actor, and musician Jerry Springer remains well known for hosting his own chat show, which continues to be ever popular.

In fact, the current trend of reality TV, docu-soaps and chat shows, command a huge proportion of air time on our televisions with soaring viewing figures. And there are so many of them.

You name it – and there's been a programme about it, whether it's the Armed Forces, cookery, hairdressing, MI5, sugar or survival, or the really well-known 'big guns' such as 'Big Brother' or 'Keeping up with the Kardashians'. These days our screens seem to feature them all.

HUMAN EMOTIONS

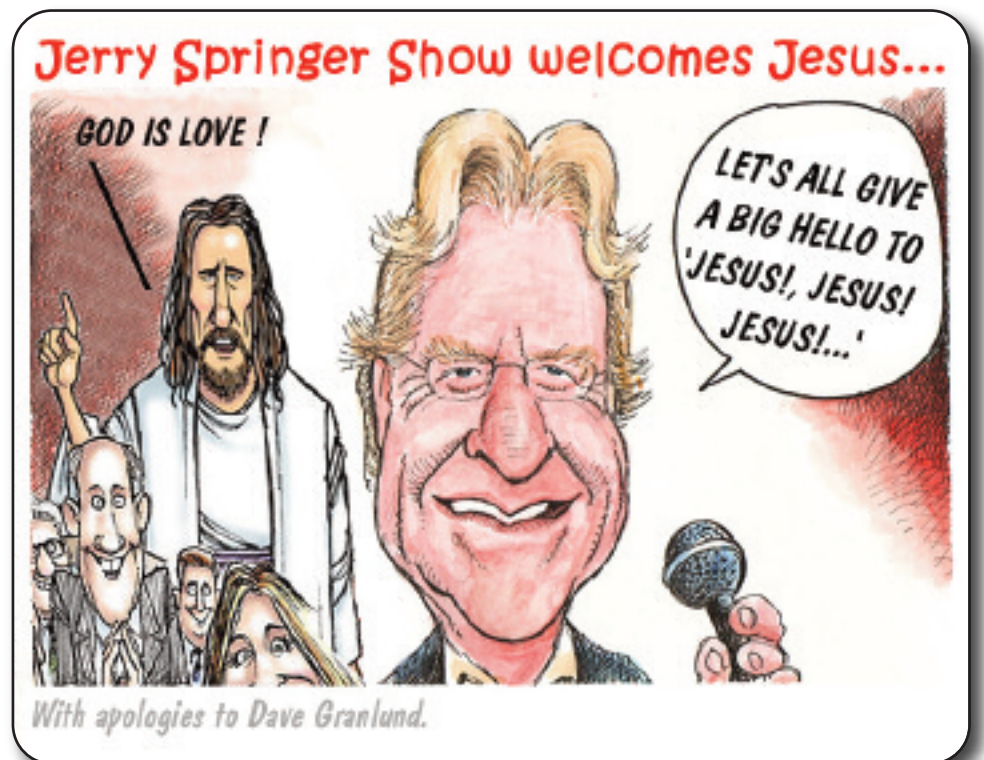
Yet what does 'Reality TV' really mean? The Internet, as ever, provides us with the answer. It says: 'Reality television is a genre of television programming that documents supposedly unscripted real-life situations, and often features an otherwise unknown cast of individuals who are typically not professional actors.'

These types of television programmes usually feature a whole range of human emotions. And in our own daily living, these so-called 'real-life situations' are also funny, emotional, humdrum, upsetting or angry, but more importantly they can also involve love.

And without doubt, love makes the world go round. In fact a child first learns about love in the home.

And where there is love, there is God – I'm sure most of us are familiar with the expression 'God is love'.

Our own personal realities involve our relationships with each other and with the Lord. And in these relationships our emotions are al-



ways engaged. But of course, the primary focus of Jesus' reality was his Law of Love.

There are many distractions in our world today but there are two things which will endure forever – love and the Lord Jesus Christ.

SUPREME REALITY

Reality TV is cult entertainment for our time which we can tune into if we are so inclined. But we can be certain that Jesus Christ is the supreme reality for all time and he is readily available for us to 'tune into' whenever we want to.

If Jesus were to appear on our screens today as a chat show guest, would you follow my son's example, but instead enthusiastically shout: "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus!"?

Meet Ciara, CAFOD's new gap year volunteer

Meet Ciara, one of the new step into the gap volunteers! Read what she has said about her upcoming gap year below...

Hi, my name is Ciara, I'm 21 and I'm from Stockport! I've just graduated from the London School of Economics where I was studying politics and philosophy. This year, I'll be based at The Briars Catholic retreat centre in Nottingham Diocese. There I'll be working with young people from all over the diocese, speaking to them about CAFOD's work in the UK and overseas. I'm really excited about this part of my placement. At school I was inspired to fundraise for CAFOD and I'm hoping leading sessions at The Briars will encourage others to do so.

CAFOD has been so important in putting my faith into action, and



Ciara with her fellow gappers



Ciara is one of six new CAFOD gappers

that's why I decided to dedicate an entire year to spread the word about CAFOD and inspire young people to take an interest in global justice. I'm looking forward to all the new experiences Step Into the Gap will bring, including the overseas visit.

Being able to hear from CAFOD partners directly, who are on the front line of the fight against global injustice, is such a privilege. I'm hoping that this visit will not only inspire me and the other Gappers, but the thousands of young people we will reach in our placements.

St Mary's are Seizing the Day!



At St Mary's Primary School, Derby, the start of the new year liturgy was all about the importance of seizing the day and making the most of every moment. They watched the 'Parable of the Talents,' as retold by Lego people, and recognised that by doing nothing with his one talent, the third man squandered his chances of success.

Fear of failure sometimes holds us back, we spend so much time thinking about what could go wrong, we never stop to think about what might go right.

The children had fun helping Rabbit and Teddy play a game of snakes and ladders. Despite their worries about being eaten and

falling off ladders - they both broke through the fear barrier and managed to win carrot sticks and a jar of honey!

The mission for staff and pupils this school year is to seize the day by saying YES to the opportunities that they are given".



TEA-Some of the helpers at the recent afternoon tea held at Our Our Lady and the English Martyrs church in Spilsby at which parishioners from the Sacred Heart church in Skegness also attended.

Photo Eileen Chantry

Calcutta declares St Teresa of Kolkata Co-patroness

The Archdiocese of Kolkata held a Mass Recently to declare Saint (Mother) Teresa of Kolkata a co-patroness of the local Church.

She will be patron of the archdiocese alongside St. Francis Xavier

St. Teresa of Kolkata a native of what is now Macedonia, spent most of her life in India and in Kolkata in particular. She joined the Sisters of Loreto at the age of 18, and soon moved to India to begin her novitiate. Eventually she became headmistress of a school located in eastern Kolkata, but she longed to help those people severely affected by poverty.

While on her way to her order's annual retreat in 1946, Mother Teresa experienced a

call from God to leave the order and create a community amid the poor. Leaving soon after, she spent several months receiving medical training in Patna, and opened a school in the Kolkata slum Motijhil.

She founded the Missionaries of Charity in 1950. St. Teresa of Kolkata died in 1997, and the order she founded now has more than 5,000 members.

The Superior General of the Missionaries of Charity, Sister Prema, said "On 6 September at Holy Mass in the Cathedral [of the Most Holy Rosary] the Archbishop declared Mother Teresa as co-patroness of the Archdiocese,".

Archbishop Thomas D'Souza of Kolkata said



"We wanted to make Mother our co-patroness. We seek her intercession and give her the prominence that is due especially in a city like Calcutta and the Archdiocese of Calcutta,"

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Funeral directors, who cares?

Requiem Mass booklet

Funeral directors and all those involved in the funeral industry have it tough. Day in day out, the role involves dealing with a lot of sadness, grief and loss. They also have to deal with very traumatic events - deaths through major incidents; the death of a child, violent deaths, murder, suicide, death due to the fault of others - from carelessness or negligence, terrorism, deaths in all kinds of horrific circumstances.

Often, they don't have anyone to talk to when it all gets too much or if they have had a very bad day. It can be pure chance whether a funeral director has access to professional counselling; some do, some don't.

In a Onepoll of 2,000 UK adults, commissioned by the Art of Dying Well, almost half of UK adults (44.9%) think that funeral directors should have access to professional counselling. More than a third (36.85%) thinks that funeral directors must struggle with the constant theme of death and grief and 39.35% of those surveyed believe that they face more sadness than many other professions. Just over 1 in 5 UK adults (20.95%) assume that funeral directors often don't have access to professional support if they have had a bad day at work.

Paul Allcock, Director of Allcock Family Funeral Services in Norwich said:

"Often funeral directors are the forgotten ones. We deal with the most difficult situations and scenarios on a daily basis. We are dealing with everyone else's grief. We are not immune to grief ourselves and distress at some of the situations that we come across. I'm lucky that I've got a lot of family around me and we know when one of us is having a bad day. Not every funeral director in the country is in the same situation."

Adrian Forsey of Forsey and Son Funeral Directors, Glastonbury says:

"I feel that we often devalue our own concerns when comparing them to the sometimes tragic losses of the bereaved family and feel guilty or selfish about seeking help. Vulnerability can especially arise within many small funeral directing companies of only one or two staff members who may not belong to professional organisations where support is available."

The survey is released on the Feast Day of St

Joseph of Arimathea, 31 August, the wealthy nobleman who buried Christ's body in his own tomb after the Crucifixion. He is the Patron Saint of Funeral Directors, Undertakers and Morticians.

About St Joseph of Arimathea, Paul Allcock says:

"I have every intention of making sure that all my fellow funeral directors across the country are made aware of the help that is at hand for them through the intercession of this saint. We need all the support that we can get."

On this day too, the Art of Dying Well publishes a new online Guide to Catholic Funerals and Cremations - a helpful step-by-step planner that sets out the options to anyone who is organising a Catholic funeral. Just as the Catholic Church has a wealth of experience in helping people to die well, so too does it have comforting rituals for those who are left behind.

The guide gives answers to questions such as:

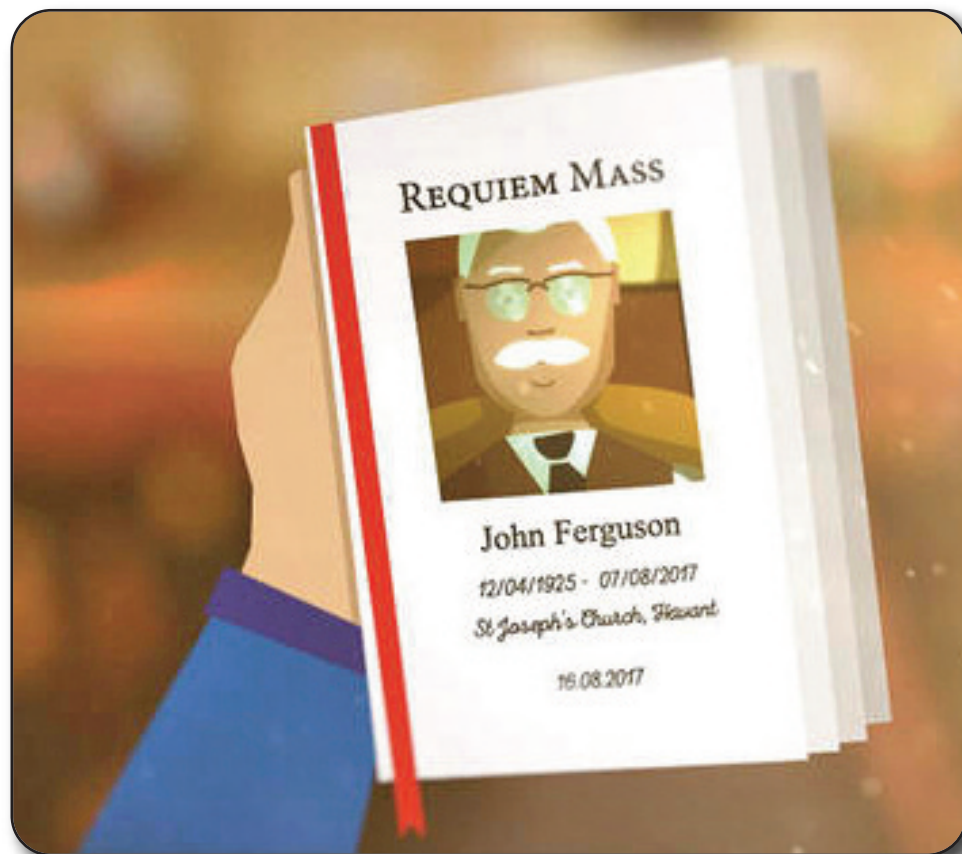
**Burial or cremation
Reception of the body
Requiem Mass or Service of the Word
How can the family be involved?
What readings and music should there be?
What about a eulogy?**

Fr Tim Menezes of the Archdiocese of Birmingham says:

"A good funeral is one where everyone feels welcome. It requires time spent with the family and listening to them. It needs careful preparation and planning. The local parish priest should be able to help you at this difficult time. The Catholic funeral well prepared and rooted in the Scriptures can be a real source of strength to the family in their grieving and in the natural questions that arise."

Kathryn Turner, head of the Department of Spirituality in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle says:

"The personal touch is so important. You can help so much by being there and listening. At a very bleak time for a family, we can be there for them and accompany them on that journey, from when someone has a diagnosis of terminal illness to their death and for as long as it takes afterwards."



Pope Francis said in one of his Wednesday Audiences:

"Our loved ones have not disappeared into

dark nothingness: Hope assures us that they are in God's good and strong hands. Love is stronger than death."

Catholic Women of the Year 2017

The Catholic Women of the Year for 2017 have been announced. They are: Sister Mary Kenefick, Jackie Ottaway, Antonia Moffat and Kathy Kelly.

Sister Mary Kenefick, parish sister at St Patrick's, Soho, and chaplain to students at University College, London and Brunel University. She is a former headmistress and has worked in chaplaincy with the British Army in Germany and at Heathrow Airport. Fr Stephen Wang, senior University Chaplain for the diocese of Westminster nominated her saying "she brings

warmth, joy, professionalism and a deep faith to her relationships, reaching out to those unconnected with the Church and tirelessly supporting the Catholic students so they can be a confident and loving presence among their peers."

Jackie Ottaway co-editor of The Portal, the on-line magazine of the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham. She helped to launch the project and to fund it from her own limited resources in its first few months, and contributes to each issue with interviews. Her work for the Ordinariate also includes helping to run pil-

grimages and the annual Festival as well as assisting with administration of its finances. She maintains ecumenical links and since becoming a Catholic with Ordinariate in 2011, continues assisting her former Anglican parish as its treasurer.

Antonia Moffat, whose campaigning to promote devotion to Our Lady of Walsingham resulted in the establishment of a shrine in Westminster Cathedral. Antonia now works for the National Shrine at Walsingham and travels to different parishes and groups to teach the message of reviving the Faith through devotion to Our Lady under this ancient title. Her dedication and commitment have helped to ensure that a new wave of enthusiasm is gathering pace among Catholics, with a message of hope for the New Evangelisation.

Kathy Kelly who for over 25 years ran the Padre Pio Bookshop near London's Victoria Station. She launched a prayer group meeting daily at 3pm for Divine Mercy devotions and the Rosary, and through friendship and kindness helped many who were lonely or experiencing difficulties. Her welcome and openness meant that people who had strayed from the Church or were confused in their faith found a new direction. Prayer groups will now continue at two nearby parishes, a legacy of Kathy's devotion.

The Catholic Women of the Year are chosen annually by secret ballot by a committee drawn from the main Catholic women's organisations in England and Wales, from nominations sent in from across the country.

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Continued from page 1

There are now over 2,100 Catholic schools in England, and this makes up 10% of the national total of maintained schools. Our Catholic schools educate just over 850,000 pupils and remain the most ethnically and socio-economically diverse schools in the country.

Year on year, they outperform the national average both at primary and secondary levels.²

We can rightly be very proud of them.

Indeed, one of my greatest pleasures as your bishop over the past two years has been to visit many of our diocesan schools, to see at first-hand the great work that they do and to acknowledge the immense dedication of our school leaders, teaching staff, support staff, governors and directors.

Over the next year the way in which our diocesan schools are structured and governed will change, but their fundamental mission of providing a high quality, comprehensive, Catholic education to our children will not. The majority of our maintained schools in the Diocese of Nottingham are academies within small Multi-Academy Trusts. In most cases, this is a group of primary schools along with the local secondary school. By September 2018, I have directed that all schools will be academies working within one of four large Catholic Multi-Academy Trusts. Each of these will be under the patronage of a Saint of the Church.

A Catholic Multi-Academy Trust model throughout the diocese will mean that no individual school will be left isolated or vulnerable in this rapidly changing educational

environment. The new Trusts will enable our schools to work even more closely together in a spirit of mutual support, cooperation and respect. There will be greater opportunities for career progression and the development of future leaders for our Catholic schools. As financial austerity becomes more of a reality for many schools, these Trusts will be able to purchase the services they require in a more financially efficient way.

I am aware of the very generous commitment of many members of our Catholic community who serve our schools as both foundation governors and directors of our existing Trusts. I would like to express to them my deepest gratitude. All governors and directors have a duty to uphold the Catholic ethos of our schools, but foundation governors and directors have a further particular responsibility to represent me as bishop, in ensuring that the quality of Catholic education is high, and that religious education and collective worship are carried out in keeping with the tenets and teachings of the Catholic Church. I am concerned, however, that the overall demands placed on both governors and directors are becoming ever more challenging. Our new structures will provide a more clearly defined role for governors and directors, and will also ensure that the same people are not having to fulfil both roles, which are quite distinct.

Directors will be asked to take on a more 'strategic' view of the trust as a whole, whereas governors will be enabled to focus on each school at a local level. However, in order to do this, it is essential that we begin to recruit more practising Catholics with the right skills and aptitudes who can take on these important roles.

It may be that some governors, who have recently come to the end of their term of office in their own parish school, might consider serving a school in a neighbouring parish. It would certainly be a shame if valuable skills and experience were to be lost to the diocese. More immediately, I wish to appoint foundation directors who will support us by working in collaboration with the Diocesan Education Service on the establishment of the new Multi-Academy Trusts and the appointment of Chief Executive Officers. The skills required to serve as a director or governor are many and varied; they are certainly not restricted to the field of education or to a particular professional background. Training and support would be offered for both roles. If you feel that you would like to be considered for any of these roles, please do let your parish priest know or contact the Diocesan Education Service.

This Education Sunday I ask you to pray for the continued success of our Catholic schools. May all who work in them and support them be strengthened in their calling,

and may more of our young people, setting out for their studies at university, consider the vocation of a Catholic teacher. Please pray also for our Diocesan Education Service, which is tasked with the enormous challenge of implementing the changes I have described so as to protect and strengthen Catholic Education in our diocese.

Finally, there may be parishioners who, for a number of reasons, are teaching in a school outside of the Catholic sector but who may wish to find out more about teaching in or leading a Catholic school. If this is the case, I would urge you to let your parish priest know or to contact Peter Giorgio, our diocesan Director of Education, who would be very pleased to speak to you.

With my prayers and blessing to you and to all of your loved ones.

**Right Reverend Patrick McKinney
Bishop of Nottingham**

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CRYPTIC Across

- 1 Hard following maths class for Adam's boy (4)
- 3 I love Roman customs, one's we can find in the Bible (8)
- 9 Find here Edam 'markt', translated no time after the Spanish retreat (7)
- 10 Fantasy he created in Inverness (5)
- 11 Prepare favourite, but take only second place with Ruby riding, close to Derby (5)
- 12 Untold murky connection between Di and Mary (6)
- 14 Masses other churches would like? (13)
- 17 Italian island's church is ahead, taking a back road (6)
- 19 Dress for a Muslim bachelor to go about the old city, the Kalif's capital (5)
- 22 Running last in league, Villa, after awful May, anticipate new season (5)
- 23 He painted sports ground with Lego-shaped terracing (2,5)
- 24 'I am', as blue-collar type announced, 'the Messiah!' (8)
- 25 State the tipping of headgear is obligatory after you texted (4)

CRYPTIC Down

- 1 One of Dan's mate made dash with compass, but lost direction (8)
- 2 Note US pilot's affirmative, returning to where Amos lived (5)
- 4 Jesus healed her two girls and little boy with drugs (4,9)
- 5 Drifter cowboy tipped off (5)
- 6 Navy commercial's also about violent air-to-land action (7)
- 7 In US large number, some British (almost all), get rejected (4)
- 8 Point to year in fear, primarily, resulting in one cutting up (6)

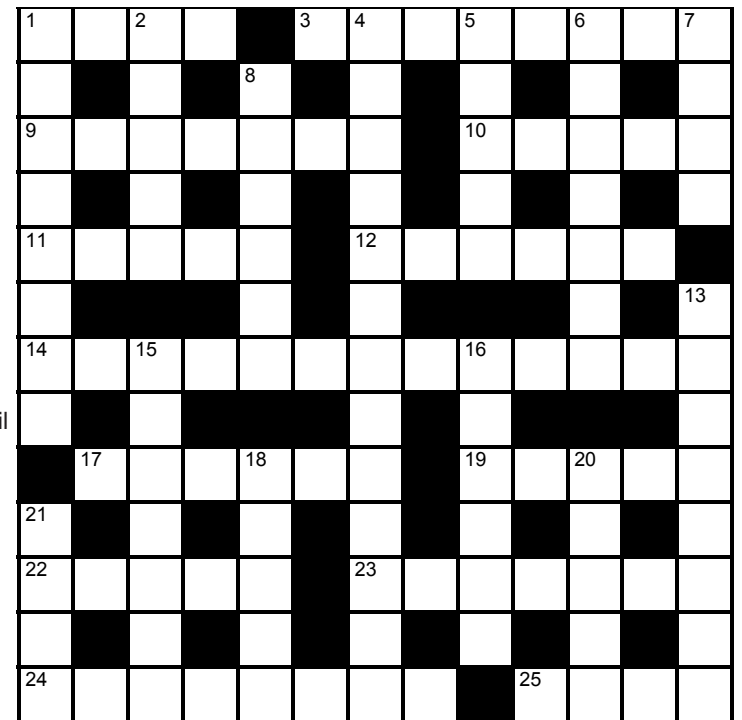
- 13 Arcane stuff boxed in wood featuring one of the evil trinity (8)
- 15 Remedy negative way to play the guitar (7)
- 16 Caribbean island's the place to shoot duck (6)
- 18 Masses he wrote, marginally down after book fair (5)
- 20 Butler's right man to be retained over time (5)
- 21 Noisome in the end in move to become the top patriarch (4)

QUICK Across

- 1 Brother of Cain and Abel (4)
- 3 Early biblical people living west of the Euphrates River (8)
- 9 Dutch city famous for its Edam market (7)
- 10 Jules ----- author of 20000 Leagues Under the Sea (1870) (5)
- 11 Poised for action (5)
- 12 Immeasurable (6)
- 14 Groups of people who adhere to a common faith and habitually attend a given church (13)
- 17 Italian volcanic island in the Tyrrhenian Sea (6)
- 19 Loose garment as worn by Muslim women, with veiled holes for the eyes (5)
- 22 Premature (5)
- 23 Spanish painter, nicknamed for his place of birth (2,5)
- 24 Christ or the Messiah, as named in Matthew from a reference in Isaiah (8)
- 25 In the US, the Beehive State, the 45th of the Union (4)

QUICK Down

- 1 Companion of Daniel, Hananiah before his named was changed (8)
- 2 Town south of Bethlehem, home of Amos (5)
- 4 First person to see Jesus after his resurrection (KJV



- spelling) (4,9)
- 5 Vagabond (5)
- 6 Twister (7)
- 7 Killed, as per the KJV (4)
- 8 The Adventures of Tom -----, novel by Mark Twain (1876) (6)
- 13 Along with Beelzebub and Lucifer, one of the Evil Trinity (8)
- 15 Quack medicine (7)
- 16 Trinidad and -----, Caribbean nation (6)
- 18 Classical German composer whose Masses include the 'St Cecilia' and 'Nelson' (5)
- 20 ----- Butler, most prominent male character in Gone With the Wind (5)
- 21 Son of Jacob and Leah (4)

SOLUTION

Across: 1 Seth, 3 Amorites, 9 Alkmaar, 10 Verme, 11 bago, 18 Haydn, 20 Rhett, 21 Levi, 22 Early, 23 El Greco, 24 Immanuel, 25 Utah. **Down:** 1 Shadrach, 2 Tekoa, 4 Mary Magdalene, 5 Rover, 6 Tor-nado, 7 Slew, 8 Sawyer, 13 Astaroth, 15 Nostrum, 16 To-

Welcome Mass and Blessing the Prayer Labyrinth

One of the greatest attractions of a Church school is the strong ethos which shapes it. Our motto, to 'Live, Learn, Love' in the footsteps of Jesus, is firmly embedded in the fabric of Sacred Heart life.

Thank you to Father Peter who celebrated our Welcome Mass and blessed the Prayer Labyrinth. The children now have a place for quiet contemplation in the playground. Our Chaplain and the Chaplaincy team have plans to further develop the area inline with key liturgical celebrations throughout the year.

Lisa Atkins,
Head Teacher



Celebrating a set of top GCSE results

A student at Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy who completes the majority of her lessons in Braille is celebrating a set of top GCSE results recently.

Sophie Paul, who is blind and is part of the Enhanced Resource Base at Saint Benedict CVA, achieved one A*, two As, three Bs, two Cs, an 8 and two 7s.

The 16-year-old is staying on at Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy Sixth Form, in Duffield Road, Derby, to study A levels in English Literature, Maths and Sociology.

She said: "I didn't know what to expect to be honest so I was quite relieved when I read my results, which I received in Braille. I have been worried for the past few days and I've been feeling nervous since the start of this week.

"It's hard to say how my exams went. I just really wanted to do my best. I attend all mainstream lessons and apart from Maths all of my lessons are in Braille. There are features on my laptop which means it can talk and there's a special bar on it that converts the study resources into Braille. I'm staying on in Sixth Form but I'm not sure what I want to do after that yet."

Sophie is one of a number of high achievers at Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy, where a total of 61.4% of students achieved 4+ in English and Maths (the equivalent of a C and above), com-



pared to 54% last year. Several students achieved the new top grade 9s in English and maths. The academy's Attainment 8 score was 42.84 compared with 41.19 last year.

Kevin Gritton, head teacher of the academy, in Duffield Road, Derby, said he was pleased with this year's results and congratulated Sophie.

He said: "We are pleased to see excellent progress being made here at Saint Benedict and we are delighted for Sophie who has worked extremely hard and never lets anything stop her. We are looking forward to welcoming her back to our Sixth Form where we are sure she will go on to be just as successful."



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