

St John of the Cross
Feast day 14th December

Catholic News

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MORE THAN 19 YEARS OF BRINGING THE
NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER

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Counting our Blessings ...not our presents

Counting our Blessings is a new, simple scripture-based resource produced by the Department for Christian Responsibility and Citizenship at the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, designed for accompanying families. It aims to help families connect their ordinary, everyday living, giving and caring for life with the sense of being 'blessed' – i.e. that God who is love is present with them, sharing life with them, in and through their love. Counting our Blessings aims to help reveal what Pope Francis calls 'the shepherding of mercy' that is going on in family life all the time. (The Joy of Love #187)

Counting our Blessings aims to create welcoming spaces and help start

conversations in a way that enables families to talk first about their own experiences and things that matter to them in their own language, and then to hear God speak into these experiences, through a simple way of engaging with the Word of God in Scripture, and to share these 'blessings' together. It consists of an introduction, and seven stand-alone sessions, each beginning with a 'Real Question' about life experience: What's it like to fall in love? To care for someone who is suffering? To grieve? To feel like an outsider? To be listened to? To feel deeply joyful?

Counting our Blessings is designed to be used in a variety of pastoral-catechetical settings in parishes, schools or chaplaincies, at any number of points where family life



intersects with the Church:

- * Celebrations of birth/baptism preparation for parents
 - * Marriage preparation
 - * Times of illness/bereavement
 - * Accompanying parents/families in preparation for sacraments
 - * School-Home-parish relationship and points in the RE curriculum
 - * Chaplaincy settings in prisons, hospitals, care homes, special needs RCIA
 - * Intergenerational Family Group meetings
 - * Lent or Advent reflection
 - * On-going formation for clergy/lay
- Reflections from participants in a 'Counting our Blessings' Taster Session

Counting our Blessings will be launched in England and Wales during the first week of Advent with a four week social media campaign featuring the tagline:

'Count your blessings not your presents'

Counting our Blessings is available to purchase now for £9.00 from Matthew James Publishing at 0161 427 8329 or matthewjamespublishing.com

Diamond Jubilee

Fr Joe McGovern

A special Mass of thanksgiving was celebrated at St Teresa's Church, Warsop on 28th July 2017 to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Fr Joe McGovern. The principal concelebrant was Fr Brian Dazeley with other priests of the Nottingham Diocese.

A homily on the priesthood was given by Fr Michael Eastwood.

After the Mass there was an opportunity for Fr Joe to meet friends from the various parishes where he has spent some of his 60 years. Also present were members of his family and other friends as well.



Continued on page 6

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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

Fun run raises more than £1,400 for charity

Donated to Motor Neurone Disease Association

A fun run organised by Saint John Houghton Catholic Voluntary Academy in memory of a staff member who died raised more than £1,400 for charity.

The school organised 3k and 5k runs for all ages and raised a total of £1,470.89 for the Motor Neurone Disease Association after Mick Hackett, who worked in the academy's IT department, died as a result of the condition last year.

Entrants were asked to raise sponsorship for the charity after paying an entry fee to help cover the costs of organising the fun run.

A silent auction also took place which included a Brian Clough Way road sign, which was donated by Ashley Carter, director of the 'Shaun Barker: One More Time' documentary.

Karen Morley, finance assistant at Saint John Houghton CVA who organised the fun run, said she was thrilled with the amount raised.

She said: "We are very grateful to the sponsors, helpers and participants who made this event possible. A huge amount of work went into the fun run project for the second year running and it has been a great success. It's very humbling to see so many people work together to achieve the amount raised. We know that Mick Hackett would be extremely proud that he has been remembered in this way. My special thanks go to his wife Julie who joined us at the presentation to the MNDA."

Mrs Morley also thanked local organisations and businesses who supported the event including: Aquinas Foundation, Saint Gobain, Rolls Royce, Roberts Bakery, Fifteen, West Bromwich Albion FC, Derby County FC and their Ambassadors Roy McFarland and Michael Johnson, Nottingham Forest FC, Derbyshire County Cricket Club, KRM Ilkeston, Costco Derby, Intabag Limited, The OfficeWay Long Eaton, BJ Supplies, Zest Produce, Manor Squash and Racquets, Langley Mill Contract Flooring, Boots, Morley Hayes, Trailer Service and Repair, Max Plant Limited, Rayden Engineering Limited, 3aaa, Creed Food Service, Ashley Carter, Spondon Trophies, UK Tool Hire Ilkeston, ESPO, Stuart Lee Sport & Leisure, Derbyshire County Council Transport & Communities and Derbyshire Constabulary Traffic Management.

Sharon King, East Midlands fundraiser for MNDA, thanked everyone at Saint John Houghton CVA, in Kirk Hallam, for their efforts.



people need and it will help them to live normal a life as they possibly can. It's been wonderful working with the school and Karen."

Joan McCarthy, head teacher at Saint John Houghton CVA, said she was delighted with the donation.

She said: "It was fantastic to see our wonderful school community come together for the fun run which was held in memory of a much-loved member of staff, Mick Hackett. We are really pleased with the amount raised and hopefully this will help support the great work done by the Motor Neurone Disease Association."

She said: "This donation is so important to us and it will go towards helping local people affected by Motor Neurone Disease. It will help to fund equipment and grants to buy the equipment that

British public want churches protected for future generations, new poll shows

Castles, cathedrals and churches and royal palaces are the historic buildings that the British public think it is most important to protect for future generations, according to the results of an opinion poll carried out for the National Churches Trust, the UK's church buildings support charity, by ComRes

Claire Walker, Chief Executive of the National Churches Trust, said: "At the heart of communities in cities, towns and villages, cathedrals and churches are a treasure trove of architecture, history and faith. As we approach the 2017 Budget, I hope that the fact that the public think that it is important to protect church buildings for the future will provide the Chancellor with the evidence he needs to provide further funding, such as the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund, to protect churches for future generations."

"In 2015 and 2016 funding from the Government funded Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund helped over 400 historic places of worship carry out urgent repairs to safeguard their future, allowing them to continue to play a vital role in the life and

well-being of communities throughout the UK. They may be historic buildings. But cathedrals and churches should be part of our future, too."

Eddie Tulasiewicz, Head of Communications and Public Affairs for the National Churches Trust, said: "The UK benefits from having a huge number of historic buildings. We commissioned this poll from ComRes to find out which particular types of historic buildings the public think need to be protected for the future.

"With 42,000 church buildings, the United Kingdom's religious heritage is a unique part of our national story, with 45% of all England's Grade I listed buildings cathedrals and churches. It's therefore good news that the British public think that it is important to protect them for future generations, rating cathedrals and churches as more important than even royal palaces or country houses."

For more information about the National Churches Trust, visit www.nationalchurchestrust.org



The Church Of The Good Shepherd
Nottingham

Our Christmas Mass Schedule is as follows:

Friday 22nd December - Adoration as usual on Friday from 12.30 pm to Divine Mercy Devotion at 3.00 pm
Extended Time for Sacrament of Penance with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 5.00 pm - 7.15 pm
Vespers / Evening Prayer of the Church at 7.00 pm.
Holy Mass at usual times of 12 noon and 7.30 pm.

Fourth Sunday of Advent:
Vigil (Saturday) Sacrament of Penance / Confession at 10.45 - 11.30 am and 5.30 - 6.15 pm.
Adoration as usual at 5.30 pm - Benediction 6.15 pm followed by Holy Mass at 6.30 pm
Sunday 8.00 am, 10.00 am & 11.30 am.

Christmas Eve. Holy Mass at 5.30 pm.
And Midnight 00.00 am

Christmas Day Holy Mass at 10.00 am and 11.30 am.



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10.00am-12.00pm:

Eucharistic Adoration & Confessions

Sun 17 December

4.30pm: Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Eve

9.00am & 11am: Parish Masses

6.00pm: Family Christmas Vigil Mass

Midnight Mass preceded by carols at 11.30pm

Christmas Day

10.30am: Solemn Mass

St Stephen's Day

10.30am: Parish Mass

New Year's Eve

9.00am & 11.00am: Parish Masses

6.00pm: Solemn Benediction & Te Deum

New Year's Day - Mary, Mother of God

10.30am: Solemn Mass

The Divine Infant of Prague and
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour
Bulwell

Our Christmas Mass times will be as follows:

Saturday 23rd December: 4.30 pm in

The Divine Infant of Prague church

(Vigil Mass 4th Sunday of Advent)

Sunday 24th December: 10.15 am in

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour church

(Mass 4th Sunday of Advent)

Sunday 24th December: 4.30 pm in

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour church

(Vigil Children's and family Christmas Mass)

Sunday 24th December: 6.30 pm in

The Divine Infant of Prague church

(Vigil Children's and family Christmas Mass)

Monday 25th December: 10.15 am in

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour church

(Christmas Morning Mass)

Monday 25th December: 10.15 am in

The Divine Infant of Prague church

(Christmas Morning Mass)

Tuesday 26th - Saturday 30th December: 10.00 am in

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour church

(Weekday Morning Mass)

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Visit to Oscott College

Parishioners from St Mary's Church in Derby enjoyed an interesting and inspiring tour of St Mary's College, Oscott. It was a chance to meet and chat with some of the Seminarians, ask them about their vocations and find out what training for the modern Catholic priesthood is like. The day began with refreshments and cake.

A film then took us through more than two centuries of the history of Oscott, which was opened in 1794, and trained the first Catholic priests in England since the Reformation. Ultimately outgrowing the original site, land was bought in Sutton Coldfield in 1835, where the College remains today.

The architect of the new college was Joseph Potter and it opened in 1837. AWN Pugin, the architect of St Mary's Church, was also instrumental in designing the Chapel and Lodges at Oscott. Indeed he lived there until 1842 and wrote his seminal work, 'True Principles', during his time at the College.

The Museum gives a fascinating glimpse

into Catholic life in England through the centuries, with beautiful vestments, vessels and carvings, alongside paintings, photos and archival materials.

The Library demonstrated the depth of study and knowledge that trainee priests and deacons are expected to attain. Though the seminarians were keen to point out that the College is very supportive of those for whom academic knowledge is not their greatest strength. The preparation for priestly life is equally concerned with the pastoral side of ministry, and they spend time in prisons, old people's homes, schools and refugee centres. Prayer, of course, remains the focus of the training and their lives.

The visit ended with Evening Prayer in Pugin's stunning Chapel, a truly uplifting and spiritual experience.

If other parishes or organisations would like to arrange a visit to the College, please contact Mrs Margaret Wilson on 0121 3215026.

Refurbished Church Hall at East Leake



The church hall at Our Lady of the Angels Church in East Leake has been refurbished over the last few months. The initial work involved modifying the toilet and entrance hall area to provide a storage room, so now we have no excuse for cluttering up the hall! The drawings for the scheme were prepared by CP Associates, quantity surveyors, and the work was carried out by Frank Goulding Ltd. Once the building work was complete the hall was plastered and decorated, new curtains fitted and a new wood effect floor laid in the hall and kitchen.

A Cheese and Wine evening was held to celebrate the completion of the work and this provided a good opportunity for parishioners to view the refurbished hall. Fr Michael Williams, the Parish Priest of Our

Lady of the Angels and St Margaret Clitherow, Keyworth, dedicated the hall with a short service before the celebrations began.

The hall is used for Parish meetings, children's liturgy, meetings of the Catholic Womens League, etc. It is also used by the wider village community, providing a venue for East Leake Churches Together Banner Group, East Leake Amateur Players, and other organisations.

Everyone is very pleased with our newly refurbished church hall, which will be a valuable Parish facility for many years to come.

Mike Sharpe

Aid for Aleppo



It was with great delight that Fr Robbie O'Callaghan announced the final total to his parishioners of their fundraising efforts for the "Aid for Aleppo" fundraising campaign for Aid to the Church in Need. Fr Robbie said "It has been a humbling experience to witness peoples generosity and effort in the face of witnessing such a plight for the Syrian people, especially last March in the city Aleppo. We knew that Aid to the Church in Need and especially Sr Annie Demerjian RJM and her team needed our support and prayers, for we remembered how blessed in many ways we are in the West, but we chose to reach out to the men, women and children in desperate need of food, shelter and medicine and go that extra mile for our Christian and Muslim brothers and sisters." "Bishop Patrick McKinney asked us as one of his rural parishes to look outwards into the world as a community when I first became parish priest here last year. What I have witnessed is truly God's love shining

from our community of Our Lady & St Joseph, Matlock into the world."

The parishioners were very active and took part in many activities to raise money, which included: a Fashion Show; Yoga & Pilates; a Children's Cycle Ride Event; a traditional Pea & Pie Supper; The Great North Run and finally Fr Robbie even abseiled down the National Lift Tower in Northampton, dressed as Spiderman! The amazing total raised by the community for the people of Aleppo is £22,251.40.

Dr Heather Ward, Nottingham Area Secretary for Aid to the Church in need was there to receive the cheque from Fr Robbie, the parish representative Mrs Josephine Gilbert and parish children. "As you can imagine I feel very pleased and humbled to shepherd such a loving and generous flock." said Fr Robbie.

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The simplicity of a child

Any darn fool can make something complex; it takes a genius to make something simple.

by Pete Seeger

Christian meditation with children offers a return to original innocence. It nurtures young people's ability to retain a sense of wonder in their lives, and encourages others to do the same.

Before we, as adults, are able to join in this work, though, we have to acknowledge our own forgetfulness and distraction. It's not a question of us teaching them anything, but rather of us learning from their simplicity.

Growing up, we increasingly insulate ourselves from wonder and awe as we buy into a materialist culture offering us the power, control and predictability that we seem to crave in our lives. As adults we are often more concerned about how we are doing rather than what we are doing. It's all too easy to get caught up in analysing or trying to 'improve' our meditation, rather than just doing it. For children it is more straightforward. They are happy to sit down together in silence, let go of their thoughts and simply enjoy the experience of meditating.

This is what we can learn from children. Not that Christian meditation is easy – anyone who has ever tried it will vouch for that. But it is simple and we don't need to read lots of books or take a degree course to do it.

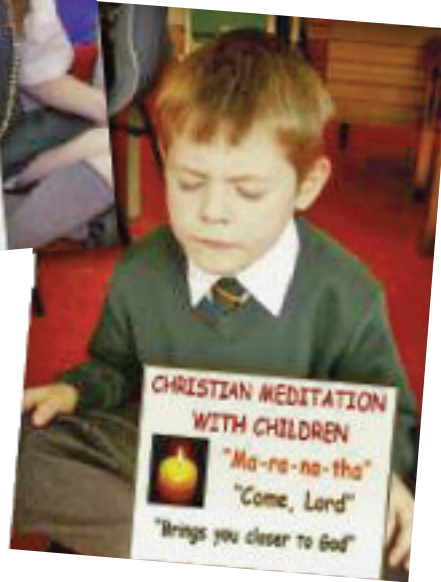
Through their practice, children are leading the way in our schools, showing how Christian meditation can change not only their own lives but also the lives of those around them. Children meditate together as



naturally as they play together. They enjoy the simple discipline with its few clear rules. They like to take part in the familiar activities associated with each meditation session: singing an introductory song, striking the gong to indicate the start and end of the silence and singing a blessing in conclusion. The simple routine brings with it a peace and calmness in an otherwise busy and noisy day and the children are the first to appreciate the advantage of taking time out. It has become clear that many children instinctively value this pure 'prayer of the heart'. Some have gone on to suggest that their teachers might themselves benefit from more time devoted to Christian meditation while others have been eager to take

it home to teach to their parents and siblings.

"God is a friend of silence. His language is silence." - Mother Teresa of Calcutta



Children form friendships easily and will often play with almost total strangers. In contrast, as adults, we often feel the need to go through a qualifying process in which we try to discover other people's backgrounds, their likes and dislikes, social standing, achievements, even their political and reli-

gious allegiances, before committing to calling them friends. Jesus was notably different in his attitude to friendship: I call you friends because I have told you everything I have heard from my father. You did not choose me I chose you This is my command, love each other. (John 15: 15 - 17)

The friendship brought about by Christian meditation is a particularly powerful form of friendship. It makes a radical, counter-intuitive proposal: that we can become friends by sitting in total silence with each other. This seems to present no problems to children. In the classroom they quickly form a loving community through meditating together on a regular basis. In this community of love the children become more caring towards each other, quickly noticing if one of the class is out-of-sorts, ill-at-ease or just unhappy.

Best of all, the children learn to be friends with Jesus. Countless numbers of children will vouch for the fact that they have met Jesus as a result of their meditation. They have done this by simply being silent and attentive to his call. Once that friendship is formed it will endure for the rest of their lives.

Charles Posnett

Pictures from St Leonard's Catholic Primary School in East Kilbride

Nottingham pupils raise thousands for overseas communities

More than 400 Nottingham school children walked in unison to raise a staggering amount for communities overseas.

Every pupil at Good Shepherd Primary Catholic Academy took part in a sponsored walk to raise funds for aid agency CAFOD's Harvest campaign.

After all 405 pupils walked for over an hour around the school's grounds, the students each received their own sponsorship money which totalled a very impressive £2753.31 for the CAFOD Harvest appeal.

The appeal focuses on helping communities like those in El Salvador, where farming is the dominant profession but the land is often difficult to grow food on.

Many farmers in the South American country use substandard seeds that only last one harvest and cannot cope with pests. CAFOD's partners will help farmers' crops to flourish by using native seeds and seed banks as well as offering training on how to care for the environment.

Good Shepherd Head Teacher Margaret Williams said: "The children walked in their separate houses and the older children helped the younger ones on their way, which was lovely to see.

"Some of the children brought in excess of £200 from their sponsor form - the parents are all fantastic and really supportive.

"Each year the total raised seems to get a little bit more and the children make us feel very proud.

"It is about developing the children's social consciousness and we now estimate to have raised £10,000 in total for CAFOD over a number of years."

Children were also encouraged to bring in tins of food, which were later donated to local food banks.

Margaret continued: "It is also important to remember the number of people living nearby who are in need."

CAFOD is the official aid agency for the Catholic church in England and Wales. The money raised will be used to help farmers' crops like those in El Salvador to flourish by using native seeds and seed banks as well as offering training on how to care for the environment.

CAFOD representative in Nottingham, Maggie Mairura, said: "This was an astonishing amount for Good Shepherd Primary Catholic Academy to raise and I would like to thank them on behalf of CAFOD.

"The school have raised money for a number of years and I am looking forward to see what they do next!"

To find out more about CAFOD's Harvest appeal, visit www.cafod.org.uk/harvest.

Mass offered at St Joseph's Oakham for the repose of the soul of the late Grand Master of the Military and Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem



Last month, a Mass was offered at St Joseph's Oakham for the repose of the soul of the late Grand Master of the Military and Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem, Don Carlos Gerada y de Borbon, Marquis of Almazan, by the Parish Priest Fr Stephen Dye. Members of this ecumenical and ancient Order from the East Midlands were in the congregation (pictured) at the Mass, organised by the regional Hospitaller Dr Andrew Nicoll, a parishioner at St Joseph's. The Order of St Lazarus is over 900 years old and is an international confraternity which raises money for leprosy and related diseases, headed in this country by the Marquis of Lothian.

St Georges Catholic Voluntary Academy, Derby

All Saints Day Mass

The Saints did come marching in at St Georges Catholic Voluntary Academy when they celebrated their All Saints Day Mass with parents and family who came along to join the pupils and staff at the school. Canon Burbidge gave a wonderful and interactive homily to the children, pointing out how Saints were people just like us. How they felt hungry, tired, angry, and disappointed sometimes, just as we do. But the saints did difficult things even when they didn't want to because they loved God. Canon Burbidge asked the children to think of good things they can do because they are too called to be Saints and love God. The Mass was accompanied by the wonderful voices of the children who had been practising a new song "When the Saints go Marching in". Although to many of us it is an old traditional hymn we have sung and heard for many years, there is something different when you hear the voices of 300 children singing it for the first time with such great enthusiasm and hearing them sing "I want to be in that number when the saints go marching in". It instilled a sense of affirmation that our church remains safe in those tiny hands and hearts.



What about that hymn?

"When the Saints Go Marching In", often referred to as "The Saints", is an American gospel hymn. Though it originated as a Christian hymn, it is often played by jazz bands. This song was famously recorded on May 13, 1938 by Louis Armstrong and his Orchestra. If you google or look for the lyrics there are so many versions and it now is also sung in many a football stadium to support Southampton FC

Parish Correspondent Mrs Karan O'Connor



Resurrection Vocal Ensemble from St Petersburg



Some time ago Fr Tom McGovern, former Parish Priest of St Peter & St Paul's church in Lincoln, booked the famous St Petersburg Choir to pay the Parish a visit and perform an evening of music.

The Choir was touring Britain in 2017 so we were fortunate to be included in their scheduled programme of events.

The Parishioners opened their homes and their hearts to welcome members of the Choir and offer them overnight accommodation when they arrived and after the concert.

On the evening of the big event people of the Parish were joined by parishioners from Scunthorpe and other local churches. Fr Tom returned for the concert and was greeted warmly by all. The Choir was singing to a packed audience.

Fr Edward Jaresz welcomed everyone to our church, Daniel Ballard, Director of Music to SSPP, introduced the Choir and their conductor and the audience settled themselves into their pews with barely concealed excitement, ready to enjoy the music.

I don't think anyone had any idea of the sheer volume that would be produced by just eight wonderful singers; the church was filled with such amazing sound it was as if

we were engulfed by it, immersed in it, bathing in it. The a capella performance was a joy to listen to.

The vocal ensemble Resurrection -Voskreseniye in Russian - was founded by Jurij Maruk, their conductor, in 1993. It consists of seven to ten professional female and male vocalists. The repertoire of the ensemble includes Russian Sacred Music as well as folk music. Guest performances in Germany, Switzerland, Norway, Austria, the UK, France and Italy have met with great success, and the choir has recorded several CDs of their repertoire, which includes some specially composed arrangements of Burns songs by John McIntosh.

One of these, 'My love is like a red, red rose', was very moving and had everyone enthralled.

At the end of the performance there was a well-deserved standing ovation and an encore was called for. Once again we were treated to wonderful singing before the evening finally ended with refreshments in the Parish Centre.

The concert was over but the Ensemble has already been booked for next year!

Brian Davis,
St Peter & St Paul's, Lincoln

Articles and Submissions

Please note the next edition of Catholic News will be our Christmas Edition and will be distributed on 18th December so as to be in our churches before Christmas Day. Closing date for Articles and Submissions is 7th December. Please send to johnclwson@icloud.com

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SAD OCCASION BRINGS HAPPY REUNION

Five Priests celebrated a memorial Mass in a Nottingham Care Home in October, organised by Sister Aine. The Mass was for Jackie O'Hara whose Requiem Mass was being said in Tubbercurry, County Sligo, at the same time. Jackie was the brother of Father Eamonn O'Hara who currently resides at the Home. He was joined by (left to right) Fathers Tim O'Sullivan, Brendan O'Callaghan, John Joe Maloney, (Fr Eamonn) and Jim O'Hanlon, as well as family members, friends and some of his former parishioners in Carlton. The people in Tubbercurry knew that the Mass was being said at the same time in Nottingham.

The five Priests at the Mass formed half of the team that won the National Clergy Golf Competition at Leicestershire Golf Course

in 1982. The photograph shows the whole team: Back row: Frs Paddy Kearney (RIP), Tim O'Sullivan, Joe Henry (RIP), Connie Moynihan (RIP), John Mack (RIP), John Joe Maloney; Front row: Frs Eamonn O'Hara, Michael O'Donoghue, Brendan O'Callaghan (holding the Golfer of the Year Cup) and Jim O'Hanlon.

Between the ten of them they have about 500 years of Priestly Ministry, with four still in 'active service' in the Diocese. Father John Joe Maloney said: 'We enjoyed the fairways, struggled with the rough, fought our way out of the bunkers and celebrated the final putts. We relished the challenge and shared victories and losses alike. Some of us already have the 'cup', but for the rest of us the game is still on.'



Victorious in battle



Waiting for the starter

Continued from page 1

For the first six months as a priest he helped out as supply priest for sick priests or those on holiday at the Cathedral, and parishes at New Ollerton, Newark and Ashby, Scunthorpe. In February 1958 he was asked to go to St Mary's, Grimsby for 2 weeks and stayed 5 years. He received his first appointment as curator to Fr Kavanagh in Hinchcliff. He was appointed as Parish Priest at Dronfield (still then in the Nottingham Diocese) in 1964. In 1968 Bishop Ellis asked him to go and work for six years in the Diocese of Mehungi, Nigeria.

Returning to his Diocese in 1974 he was appointed to open a new parish of Warsop/Mansfield Woodhouse. After four years he went to Clifton (Nottingham) for 15 years and just under 5 in Narborough. In 1998 he was advised to retire on health grounds, he retired to Warsop and after a year he was told he could help out doing charity work which he did until a couple of years ago.

As his jubilee approached he had no plans to have any celebrations except for a private Mass of Thanksgiving. He had moved to Coventry in 2006 and helped out by doing charity work in a few parishes there.

One evening a few months ago he received an unexpected phone call. A group of paris-

honors from Teresa's wanted Fr Joe to return to Warsop for a Mass of Thanksgiving followed by a social gathering.

The Parish Priest Fr Joe Cotton had agreed to the idea and when he was moved to another Parish Fr Kyre also was very happy to extend a welcome to Fr Joe.

The parishioners did a lot of hard work preparing for the event - preparing the church with the flowers, the readers at Mass, the musicians, all who helped inside and outside the church. The Mass was a very reverent and happy occasion.

After mass we were all invited to the hall. Here a buffet had been prepared fit for a king! Many people enjoyed the hospitality and remarked on the warmth of the welcome shown them.

Fr Joe has asked me to thank everyone who helped to make this such a memorable and joyful celebration of his 60 years in the Priesthood.

Once again a big thank you to all the parishioners of St Teresa's for inviting him back and giving him a day to remember. Without you there would not have been such a day to remember

V Murphy



A few more holes to play

FRANKLY SPEAKING

At this time of the year between summer and Christmas many of us see changing scenes in our family lives particularly as children commence a new academic year.

These weeks of first autumn and then winter also bring shorter days of daylight, sadly for some that means more hours of loneliness. In an age of people living longer we should be able to celebrate our older family members and neighbours and also benefit from their wisdom. Why is it then that the loneliness "crisis" shows no sign of slowing down. When serious illness comes it is human nature to want to talk about our visit to the doctor. It really does seem much harder in some cases to say those simple words "I am lonely". Once we have acknowledged this, and it is not easy, we have perhaps overcome the first hurdle.

We certainly need more commitment for some of our MP's. I do say some of our parliamentary members because Westminster seemed awash with scandal as we changed our clocks and then at the end of a truly dreadful week the House of Commons "talked out" a Bill which might have given votes to 16 year olds. We shall surely know that the

Government also is not going to be the answer to the loneliness crisis but there is the Joe Cox Loneliness Commission. Joe Cox, had she lived, would have been so committed. Perhaps those MP's who would praise her memory can now get more involved that they have done so far. Two members one Labour, one Conservative to their credit co-chair the Joe Cox Loneliness Commission.

Some research has claimed that nine million people in our country are lonely all or some of the time and that a quarter of our brothers and sisters with special needs feel lonely every day.

Many of us will surely know young people who will need help in this area and the lonely people who have mental health issues must not be forgotten.

So away from Parliament what can we do? For a start if we might consider starting to talk to people. We all know someone who has been recently bereaved, lost their job, retired or had a health set back, yes this may be time consuming or even risky but as we approach Christmas it is surely necessary.

*Frank Goulding
Holy Trinity Parish, Newark*

Only 30 days to Christmas.....



Some well organised people will have already bought their Christmas gifts, wrapping paper and cards. Other folk will have started squirrelling away Christmas treats like sauces, pickles, biscuits, cakes, nuts and chocolates. Family and friends can be very generous when it comes to gift giving and we often want to reciprocate. I have been thinking of ways we can prepare for Christmas in a way that could help those in great need. These are just a few ideas to consider if you have still to do your shopping.

Instead of everyone in the wider family or work colleagues exchanging gifts, why not agree you buy a small gift for only one person or a couple and choose a favourite charity to make a donation. In our extended family we pull the names out of a hat and make a list of who you are buying for and choose a charity. We try to buy a gift from a charity shop or a Traidcraft gift. Preloved items are welcome especially books. Have a look online at traidcraft-shop.co.uk and you will see a big range of items including groceries, toys, gifts, cleaning products and decorations and clothing. They sell lovely socks! When I was working, instead of exchanging

ing cards we sometimes wrote greetings on one big homemade card put on a notice-board and made a donation to a charity.

Buying Traidcraft products changes people's lives. It helps, bee keepers, cocoa farmers, metal workers, growers and talented artisans who work in the global South. Helping people who may be facing a very uncertain future due to ill health, conflict, climate change or unemployment.

CAFOD World Gifts is another way to support communities around the world to have healthcare, education or develop livelihoods. You can give the gift of immunisation, reading, trees for life or safe drinking water. There are lots more gifts to choose from if you look at cafod.org.uk/worldgifts.

In Oxfam shops you can buy Fairtrade Advent calendars, chocolates, coffee, tea, dried fruit and much more, helping farmers and artisans to have a fairer wage. Families and parishioners can club together to give a gift. Let's try to find ways to enjoy giving that can help those in great need.

Anna Bourke

St Mary's School Celebrates Harvest Festival

The Chaplaincy Team at St Mary's School, Derby, led a thought provoking liturgy to celebrate the harvest. They handed out pictures of food to some children but not to others and then asked the children in both groups how that made them feel. They then invited

those with food to come forward and symbolically share it with others. Sadly, in our world today there are still children without the basic food to survive and grow.

The children chose as the Scripture Reading the story of the 10 Lepers from Luke's Gospel (17:11-19) and acted out a modern day version involving just one child from a class coming back to say thank you to a teacher. The Chaplaincy Team made clear we can all say thank you for our blessings and the gifts that have been shared with us.

The generosity of parents and children was once again demonstrated by the many boxes of food the School was able to donate to the Derby Refugee Centre and The Lions."



Temporary home in the Calais 'Jungle'

One year since the 'jungle' camp in Calais was demolished, the lead Catholic Bishop for migration and asylum has called on the UK government to continue resettling unaccompanied child refugees.



Bishop Paul McAleenan stated:

"Pope Francis has called on us all to support young people who have been driven from their homes and separated from their families. It is a testament to our society that some unaccompanied child refugees have found sanctuary here, but there is still much more work to be done.

"Throughout Europe tens of thousands remain alone and vulnerable; we share a duty to ensure their safety and dignity. I encourage the government to continue accommodating more unaccompanied child refugees and work with our European partners to protect these young people from exploitation."

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Britain's Broken Promise: Time for a New Approach

Bishop Declan Lang, Chair of the Holy Land Coordination recently addressed Britain's Broken Promise: Time for a New Approach, an event organised by the Balfour Project at Westminster Central Hall to mark the Centenary of the Balfour Declaration.

Full Speech

Thank you for inviting me to address this important event tonight. I would like to start by sharing two brief memories of my most recent visit to the Holy Land;

The first was standing on a hillside in East Jerusalem looking out over Palestinian villages and Israeli settlements.

What struck me was how two communities divided by fear, distrust and misunderstanding, are in fact so physically close to one another. People living just a few miles apart are seen as strangers, foreigners or even enemies - separated by barbed wire and concrete walls.

It reminded me that even the distance from Tel Aviv to Gaza City is just fifty miles, about half the distance I travelled to be here tonight, and yet people in those two cities have little understanding or empathy for each other's lives.

The other moment that stuck with me was meeting a Palestinian psychology student at Bethlehem University who described experiences that no young person should have to face: how she misses classes when she is held up at military checkpoints and she struggles to study against the sound of gunfire.

She told me "No matter how many times I get caught up in clashes, no matter how many times I see the wall, no matter how many times I get through the checkpoint, this is not ok, this is not normal, this is not how we are supposed to live."

Her words echoed what I saw a few years earlier in the Israeli town of Sderot, on the border with Gaza. It has been targeted by thousands of rocket attacks, which have killed or injured dozens of civilians. Schools in Sderot are equipped with sirens in the classrooms and concrete shelters in the playgrounds - it is not how any child is supposed to live.

The Balfour Declaration envisaged two communities coexisting peacefully, and respect for the inalienable human rights of all. One hundred years later it is clear that this vision has not yet been realised - and people whose grandparents were not even born in 1917 are living with the consequences. That is why, on this anniversary, we should not simply look back at Britain's own historical responsibility to the Holy Land. But more importantly we should look forward to how, in light of that responsibility, we may help to ensure that the next generation of Israelis and Palestinians grow up in peace and dignity.

For people of faith our starting point is prayer. I hope that here in the UK faith communities will mark this historic moment not only by reflecting on the Holy Land's central place in our beliefs, but by praying for the future of everyone who calls it their home.

Secondly, we all have a responsibility for raising awareness. It is easy to sit in this crowded hall, alongside others who are engaged with the realities of life in the Holy



Land, and presume that this understanding is widely shared. But many people in our society see only a complex conflict, in a far off land, that is of little concern or relevance.

To become agents of change it is imperative that we inform others, while continually deepening our own knowledge, and challenging our own assumptions.

In particular we should be listening to the voices of those living in Israel and Palestine. When we asked Leila, the student in Bethlehem, for her message to people in the UK she simply replied: "come here, see and hear the reality, coming here changes your perspective."

Thirdly our commitment and our awareness must translate into action.

One of the most significant things we can all do is to let our elected representatives know that the future of Israel and Palestine is something that matters to voters here. I'm encouraged that since our Bishops visited the Holy Land in January, over one hundred MPs have received correspondence from Catholics in their constituencies about

the challenges we saw there.

Our decisions as consumers and travellers are equally important. Using ethical tour operators, buying products that support local families and making informed choices about where goods come from are all practical steps that have a real impact.

We also need to get behind projects that are building bridges between ordinary people in the Holy Land. Earlier this year I had a chance to visit the Tent of Nations, a family-owned farm not far from Bethlehem, which hosts camps and volunteering opportunities for people of different backgrounds to learn, share and better understand one another.

Their motto is simple: we refuse to be enemies.

On this anniversary we are called to share in that rejection of division, conflict and hate.

And after one hundred years of failure, we must recommit to prayer, awareness and action until the shared vision of communities coexisting, in peace and with justice, is finally a reality.



Monks at Ampleforth, home to the largest Benedictine Community in the UK, move precious artefacts including a picture of Our Lady with the child Jesus, a statue of St Cuthbert and a Douai Bible as the monastery undergoes its first makeover in 120 years. The organisation is seeking to preserve the Benedictine way of life in this idyllic part of North Yorkshire with a £6.8m fundraising effort to restore the 19th Century monastery.

Jam-Packed Quiz In Aid of Emergency Rohingya Appeal

There was an evening of fun entertainment in West Bridgford for a jam-packed quiz night in aid of suffering communities from across the world.



The quiz was in aid of the Rohingya emergency appeal

Teams of six people had to solve maths conundrums, pictogram questions and more. There was even a round where every answer included the name Boris.

The annual quiz night raised over £400 for CAFOD's emergency Rohingya appeal.

More than half a million people, mostly Rohingya women and children, are now estimated to have fled to Bangladesh to escape

violence in the Rakhine State area of Myanmar.

Around 60 people attended the charity evening at Holy Spirit Church parish hall on Saturday October 7. More than half a million people are estimated to have fled to Bangladesh

Mary Crosby helped organise the event. She said: "There was a challenging variety of



More than half a million people are estimated to have fled to Bangladesh

questions and to answer them everyone had to dig deep!

"In the light of the Rohingya crisis we decided the £420 raised would go to the emergency appeal."

CAFOD is responding to the crisis of people fleeing Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, by providing emergency aid to those in need.

In coordination with other agencies and the Bangladeshi government, the agency hopes to reach more than 60,000 vulnerable people with food, clean water and shelter.

Forty local aid workers from CAFOD's partner Caritas Bangladesh – supported by many volunteers – have begun emergency aid distributions for vulnerable families, and are distributing 4 kilograms of dal (pulses), 500 grams of salt, 2 litres of edible oil and 1 kilogram of sugar to each family, as well as giving them plates, spoons, cups and kitchen utensils.

Chris Bain, CAFOD's Director, said: "The suffering we have witnessed in the faces of men, women and children who have fled to Bangladesh must end. We now need your help, so that we can dramatically scale up our response and urgently reach more people.

"Every donation will have an impact on the frontline of this crisis, literally making the difference between life and death over the coming weeks."

For more information on the Bangladesh humanitarian crisis, visit our website.

Remembering Loved Ones at Memorial Mass

CAFOD offered an opportunity to remember loved ones who have died with a memorial mass this November.

The memorial mass for the Nottingham diocese took place at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Ashby-de-la-Zouch on Monday November 13th

At the mass, a book of remembrance was presented by CAFOD. This included names of supporters who have sadly passed away during the year.

CAFOD representative in Nottingham, Maggie Mairura, said: "This is a lovely way to remember loved ones and anyone was welcome to join us for the mass.

"This was CAFOD's opportunity to stop and say thank you for the incredible impact our supporters have made. Without them we would not be able to reach those most in need."



Memorial Mass
The memorial mass will be held in Ashby-de-la-Zouch

Glossop Parishioners Raise Hundreds For Harvest Appeal

Glossop parishioners young and old enjoyed an exotic breakfast in aid of the CAFOD Harvest appeal.



Parishioners young and old raised money for CAFOD's Harvest appeal

Adults and children at St Mary Crowned Church also held a raffle which helped raise an impressive £250.50.

Moira Hind helped organise the event. She said: "Many came and enjoyed bacon rolls or a croissant with a cup of tea.

"A great team effort raised the amazing amount!"



The parishioners raised over £250 for the Harvest appeal

The group also held a short reflection to remember the communities in El Salvador which the Harvest appeal focuses on.

Farming is the dominant profession in El Salvador but the land is often difficult to grow food on.

Many farmers in the South American country use substandard seeds that only last one harvest and cannot cope with pests.

CAFOD will help farmers' crops to flourish by using native seeds and seed banks as well as offering training on how to care for the environment.

To find out more on the CAFOD Harvest appeal, visit our website.

The Catenian Association



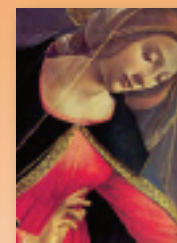
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SHARE THE FARE.....

by Julia Beacroft

THE TRADITIONAL TURKEY roast dinner seems to be synonymous with Christmas and I've certainly had my fair share of cooking them. Yet strangely many of us seem to be over-awed, worried or downright stressed at the prospect of tackling the festive big bird each year.

Questions over whether we have the right sized roasting tin, the correct width baking foil and even more importantly, how long the bird will take to cook in the oven, causes many cooks to scratch their heads and ponder each year. And problems so easily arise as well... A friend of mine invited some elderly guests who had no families of their own for the Christmas meal, but nearly had a heart attack himself when he dropped the roasting tin, complete with half-cooked turkey on to his kitchen floor.

FOOL PROOF PLAN

On another occasion, my kitchen came close to resembling an abattoir, when I tried to implement what I believed to be a fool proof plan to make sure that the turkey was cooked to perfection. Or so I thought... As a family of six we were in possession of a large slow cooker. Therefore the perfect solution to the timing debacle was to put the turkey in to slow cook overnight on a low setting. Ideal! Unfortunately however, the slow cooker was large – but clearly not large enough.

Denuded of first it's wings and then its legs in a desperate bid to fit it in, my late father was heard to murmur sympathetically: "Poor little so-and-so! What have they done to you?!"

SHARING OUR LIVES

Of course, turkey dinners for Christmas are rooted in history, originally being introduced into this country circa 1500s and with King Henry VIII being the first British monarch to enjoy the bird at Christmas. Yet this year I am planning a change of menu. On Christmas Day when my large and extended family gather together, we are having 'shared plate' buffet-

style Christmas fare. Why? Well, obviously if you're a roast turkey and vegetable fan this wouldn't necessarily



Snoopy was keen to share his Christmas fare..!

appeal to you, but there are definitely some advantageous reasons. The idea of coming together, bringing and sharing, is fundamentally founded in Christianity.

Hospitality and sharing our food, which has been produced by man in co-operation with God, means that we are also sharing our lives. And it seems to me that sharing our lives with each other and with the Lord is the very essence of the season of Christmas.

THE ESSENTIAL HEART

The 'Bring and share' initiative is not necessarily synonymous with Christmas dinner, but it is synonymous with Christianity as we share the food and the workload!

And this unique and novel way of having the Christmas meal means that all those involved can go to Mass on Christmas morning without having to worry or get in a flap about over or under-cooking the seasonal turkey. Christmas Day is the celebration of the Lord's birth. This is the essential heart of the celebration of Christmas. Without the Lord, there would be no Christmas. Without turkey, we can manage perfectly.

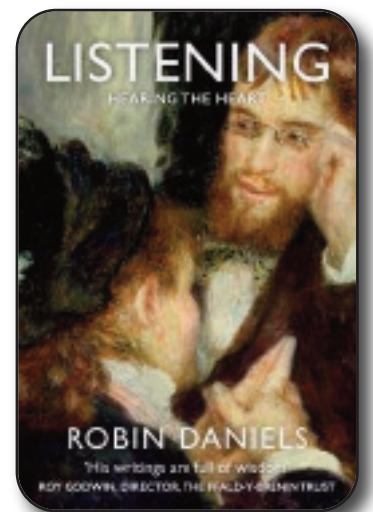
BOOK REVIEW

Listening – Hearing the Heart

by Robin Daniels

We all think that we do it – listen – that is. But do we?

To listen well we need to fully focus on what is being conveyed to us. But how often do we mentally contrive, simultaneously, to develop our response or counter argument. Nowhere is this more prevalent than in Radio and TV debates and even in Parliament when talking over another (sometimes even shouting, as if this becomes more convincing) seems to be the norm. Does this sound familiar in our own daily lives?



Listening by Robin Daniels takes us out of the daily hubbub and draws on a wealth of his own personal experience as well as writers, poets and scriptural texts to help us find another dimension to listening that is through the heart. And he explores how music can help and the importance of silence in the process.

It is not a long book but it is full from start to finish of helpful material that takes the reader through a variety of situations and techniques that would be helpful to anyone wishing to improve their own ability to listen but especially those involved in pastoral or counselling work.

So often we are caught up with what we want to get across and we can become oblivious to what is being said to us. Is that true of our prayer life too? If so, Robin's book is for you too.

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A new Head Boy and Head Girl have been appointed at Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy

Ben Wright, 17, and Taylor Fowlke, 18, were selected for the positions and they have already started fulfilling their new duties.

Sixth formers were encouraged to apply for the Head Boy and Head Girl roles and they had to submit an application in writing stating what they thought they could add to the school.

Those who were selected for the next stage were interviewed by members of staff and asked to deliver a presentation.

Taylor is studying A-levels in Maths, Chemistry and Biology and wants to study Medicine at university.

She said: "We had to talk about how we would make the school better and I talked about my experience as a healthcare assistant."

"I was so pleased when I was told that I was going to be Head Girl, I started crying. I would really like to help the disadvantaged students and make sure that they have someone to talk to."

Ben is studying A-levels in Maths, Further Maths and Biology and has applied to Oxford University to study Maths.

He said: "I wanted to go for the role because I wanted to be an example for the younger students in school, to show them where you can get if you work hard."



"I felt very proud when I was told I was going to be given the role, it's good to be able to represent the school. We've already done some public speaking and talked at an event to parents of prospective pupils in Year 6."

Kevin Gritton, head teacher at Saint Benedict CVA, in Duffield Road, Derby, he was sure that Ben and Taylor would be fantastic ambassadors for the school.

He said: "Ben and Taylor thoroughly deserve to be selected for their new positions. They are both extremely hard working and dedicated students and we are sure that they will be a shining example to the younger students in our school. I look forward to working with them and hearing all of their great ideas about how we can improve the school further."

Bringing in the Harvest

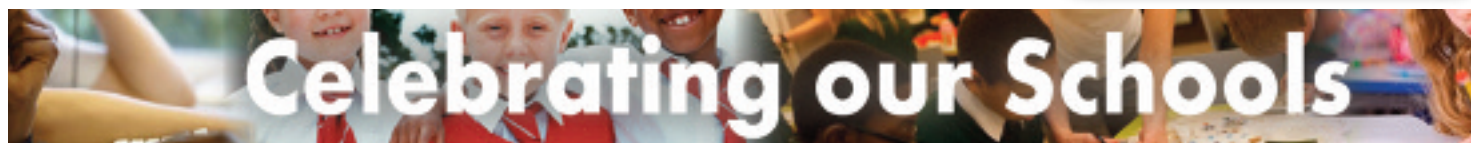
St George's Voluntary Academy Derby saw the culmination of their School Harvest Festival and collection of donations. The celebrations beautifully led by Miss Lewis, Mr Holmes and Class 12. They cannot thank parents enough for their support and donations to the schools campaign. They were overwhelmed by the response and they are pretty sure they beat last year's collection by a mile!

HeadTeacher Mrs Snowdon-Poole said "On Friday 6th October, as part of their chaplaincy work, our charity team packaged all the items of food into carrier bags and loaded them into a taxi. They then transported the items to two local charities - 'The Padley Centre' and 'The Hope Centre'. The children really enjoyed this experience and it was very worthwhile for them to see the wonderful work of food banks in Derby City Centre at first hand. We discovered, to our surprise, just how many local people require the support of the food bank and how desperate their



needs are for more food donations. We are extremely proud that we were able to support this venture.

In fact, it got us thinking about many more charity events that we could hold to further support our local community... so watch this space!"



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