

St Nicholas

Catholic News

**MORE THAN 20 YEARS OF BRINGING THE
NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER**

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Bishop Patrick's Christmas message

I just love and am always struck by the fact that God, the all powerful creator, humbly asks a young woman, from a back-water little village called Nazareth, to be the mother of his son Jesus who is to be the Saviour of the world, and then patiently waits for her response. God loves and respects Mary, his young, humble handmaid, so much that he waits for her free response. So it is with us, God who loves and respects each of us, waits too for our response to his invitation to enter freely into a deep personal relationship with him. At first Mary's heart is 'deeply troubled' and full of questions about what God is asking of her.

It is also good and natural for us to ask questions of God but, as we see with Mary, there does come a time when our questioning, our being 'deeply troubled', needs to give way to a deeper trust in God. So Mary says to the angel Gabriel: 'I am the handmaid of the Lord, let what you have said be done to me'. As with Mary, so with each of us, God is always inviting us into a deeper personal relationship with him. The truth is, however, that fear or anxiety can so often hold us back from entrusting our lives into the hands of God. We see what God has done in Mary's life, we see what God has done in the lives of the great saints of our time, and of all times, in the life of the Church. Through them, and maybe also through personal glimpses of God working in our own lives, we all know something of just what God is capable of when people entrust their lives into his hands, but still we hold back!

The invitation from God to Mary was to trust him, and to entrust her life into his hands, because, as the angel



re-minded Mary, 'nothing is impossible to God', for even her cousin Elizabeth has, in her older age, given birth to a child. So Mary teaches us that God challenges each of us to be more open to him, more trusting, more willing to entrust our lives into his hands. And God does not challenge us, as he did Mary, as he does at times in our own lives, without offering us the support, the help of his grace, his love, in our lives – the same grace that enabled Mary to say to God, 'let what you have said be done to me', and to keep faithful to that commitment throughout her life.

Mary was at first 'deeply troubled' by what God was asking of her, but soon we find Mary freely entrusting her life into the hands of God, and experiencing the deep sense of peace that goes with that. Mary has, therefore, much to teach us about entrusting our lives afresh this Christmas into the hands of God. Just as Jesus was born to Mary that first Christmas, so may Jesus be born anew this Christmas in all our hearts and lives.

A blessed and happy Christmas to you and to all your loved ones!

**+Patrick
Rt Rev Patrick McKinney
Bishop of Nottingham**

The editor and staff at the Catholic News wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Faith in Action at Christmas



The parishioners of St Georges & Holy Spirit Derby ensure that faith brings action. The parish has a large travelling community amongst its worshippers and these parishioners play an active role in all aspects of parish life and as a community they see helping those less fortunate than themselves an important part of their Catholic faith. Tackling the problem of rough sleepers and homeless people in our towns and cities should be on everybody's agenda, life on the streets is hard.

Derby Night- Shelter is an interfaith charity that offers a hot meal and a dry place to sleep in our local churches. Every Sunday from now until mid February St Mary's Catholic Church at Bridgegate in Derby will be providing the venue and facilitating a Night- shelter. Many of the volunteers in the project come from our Catholic Churches.

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House of Prayer

JANUARY 2018

Friday 12 January – Healing Service: Mass at 7.00 pm celebrated by Fr Ted Mullen followed by Adoration and Prayers for Healing. Refreshments available afterwards. All are welcome.

Saturday 20 January – Deepening our Faith with Robert Barron, providing the opportunity for reflection and discussion. Mass at 10.00 am. DVD presentation at 11.00 am. Shared table lunch with soup and a roll at 1.00 pm. Donations welcome. Please book in advance. All are welcome.

Saturday 27 January – Lectio Divina at 3.00 pm starting with the Divine Mercy Chaplet and continuing with reflection on the Sunday Gospel. All are welcome.

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MORE THAN 19 YEARS OF BRINGING THE NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER

The monthly paper for the Diocese of Nottingham

The Catholic News

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Wanted - Parish Correspondents

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

St Hugh of Lincoln

The secondary patron of our Diocese

St Hugh of Lincoln [+1200] is the secondary patron of our Diocese, after Our Lady Immaculate. He rebuilt Lincoln Cathedral after an earthquake, and it became his shrine. The story of his life, the Vita Magna, written by Brother Adam, his secretary, is reckoned to be the best life of a medieval saint.

A very special guest this Christmas



The fathers at Elston Hermitage have a very special guest this Christmas, the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham is being renovated and re-painted by Fr Richard during the winter months. The statue will be returned to the Slipper Chapel at the Basilica in Walsingham early in the new year in readiness for her tour of the cathedrals in 2018



It shows us a man who knew his bible: he could complete any sentence in the scriptures whose first words were thrown to him. A man of prayer, the only Carthusian monk ever to be a bishop in England, who retreated to his beloved Charterhouse for a month every year. A humble bishop, the only one at the time who would come down off his high horse to confirm you. Even if expected by the king, he would make a detour to bury anyone needing a pauper's funeral. The kings of England and Scotland carried his coffin through the muddy streets of Lincoln to his requiem, and he was canonized within twelve years of his death.

priests, very well, giving us 50.

In seven years' time, St Hugh's College will have been closed for as long as it was open, and some of the Old Boys have already gone to their reward. But there will be one more big anniversary next year, the 70th from the opening, when it is hoped to have a major open celebration in Lincoln Cathedral for all the ex-students who can be found, and open to the whole diocese.

In anticipation, on St Hugh's Day this year, 17th November, there was a concelebrated Mass in the Lady Chapel of Nottingham cathedral presided over by Father Michael Eastwood, the first old boy to be ordained, and concelebrated by twelve other priests of the diocese, old boys or former staff of St Hugh's. At the lunch which followed the final word was fittingly delivered by Fr Paul Newman, one of very last to become a priest and now himself involved in vocations work.

Anthony Pateman

Since 1850, at least three institutions in our diocesan history have taken him as patron, the most recent being the junior seminary, more commonly known as the Diocesan College, at Tollerton Hall which existed for thirty eight years, from 1948 - 1986. More than eight hundred young men passed through its walls, and it served our country, never sufficiently supplied with native

Thoughts from Elston Hermitage....

During these last few weeks during times of prayerful reflection (Lectio) I have read the readings we hear over the Christmas celebrations and in particular those for the Christmas Masses and have meditated and prayed on these. Our Lord took our human nature upon himself, he came to us in human form and has made perfect melody with our human nature just in tune with us like a great musician. He has made the Divine word audible through it, he has shown us that it is capable of expressing the divine music. When He comes to us, He comes then to His own.



arrived we will have been coerced by the consumerism and secular society to celebrate Christmas long before the feast, only when Christmas day actually arrives may we have opportunity to stand back take a breath and start a new life with the new baby and hopefully be able to reflect on what it all means.

At midnight Mass we hear Luke's narrative of Jesus' birth- Luke is a careful storyteller he tells us enough but not too much, his story is earthly, particular and political. Luke describes vividly the Christmas story (Luke 2 1-14) how Mary and Joseph arrived at the inn and how the baby Jesus was born, a very hectic scene we might say, no sooner have Mary and Joseph taken a breath but a band of ruffians appear -what could Joseph have done?, as it was it turned out they were shepherds from the field still a little punch drunk from the sighting of the angel. I expect that by Christmas Eve we too feel rather staggered and exhausted, we will have spent many weeks hectically in an atmosphere of Christmas, even before Advent

With the burst of daylight on Christmas Day we find ourselves in the Gospel from John (John 1 1-18) we find ourselves outside of time looking at galaxies, stars and swirling creations. The Gospel writer John uses the beginning words of the beginning of the Bible "In the beginning God said let there be light.....In the beginning God's word brought light.....and not a single thing was created without the Word.

Continued on page 5

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Evening of Eastwood entertainment

There was a fun evening in Eastwood featuring musical entertainment and a jam-packed quiz to raise funds for communities overseas.

Our Lady of Good Counsel parishioners gathered together on Saturday October 28 for a relaxed gathering which included sing-along hits from the 1960s, 70s and 80s.

Elaine Oliver helped organise the evening, which raised an impressive £174.98.

She said: "The music came from parishioner Simon Brentnall and he had some vocal help from a knowledgeable audience. Some brave participants danced as they sang along to the lyrics!

"The quiz questions ranged from general knowledge to the art of worldwide cookery



Parishioners enjoyed music and a tricky quiz

and there was a special section for children, which was also compulsory for the adults.

"Many scored better on this round than in the others!"

Proceeds from the event went to CAFOD's Harvest appeal, which this year is focusing 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 representative in Nottingham, Maggie Mairura, said: "Our Lady of Good Counsel have always been great supporters of CAFOD and they continue to come up with fun ways to raise lots of money.

"I am looking forward to their next event, which will be a floral art demonstration."



Parishioners enjoyed music and a tricky quiz

Coffee and Croissants with a bit of Campaigning too!

Maggie Mairura, CAFOD Nottingham Community Participation Coordinator, on her visit to her local Catholic Primary school.



Lots happening at Breakfast!

Many thanks to staff, parents and of course students at English Martyr's School in Long Eaton for hosting a wonderful 'Brighten up for Harvest' breakfast which raised £118.

Main organiser Helen McElhone was really impressed with the turnout; "this is the most people we have had so far for our breakfast mornings. As a school, we love to support CAFOD and it's great to be able to give the adults information about the new campaign"

Sign our online petition

I enjoyed the opportunity to sit and talk to many of the parents who were interested in hearing how the campaign can really make a difference to young people in rural areas who don't have access to electricity. All the Power to Be action cards were signed and will be sent off to Melanie Robinson, the UK representative at the World Bank.

It was also an opportunity to talk about how people can volunteer with CAFOD and especially in our schools.

If you are interested in being a member of our team of school volunteers, please do get



Parents taking part in the Power to Be Campaign



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Nottingham Diocese Mass for LGBT Catholics

On Saturday 28th October – the feast of the apostles, SS Simon & Jude – the parish of St. Alban in Chaddesden, Derby, hosted the second annual Mass for LGBT people, their families and friends in the diocese of Nottingham, following a Mass celebrated by Bishop Patrick in the Cathedral last year. About eighty people gathered for Mass, among them many parishioners of St. Alban's. The Mass was celebrated by the parish priest, Fr David Cain. Concelebrating with Fr David were Fr Phillip Holland a retired priest and Fr John Martin from the parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour at Bulwell, Nottingham.

The event received strong support from the parishioners of the hosting parish, who not only attended the Mass, but also helped to prepare for it, provided all the liturgical ministries (including the involvement of the parish music group) and organised cakes and drinks for the refreshments following Mass. They provided a warm welcome to the LGBT

people, their families and friends who arrived from across the diocese and beyond, and they set the tone for a joyful celebration.

In his homily, Fr David reflected on the diversity in the community of apostles and on the difficulties of living with diversity. He pointed to the differences in character and outlook between Simon "the Zealot", Jude, Peter, and later Paul, and to the conflicts that often arose between them as they followed the joint mission that they had been given. Nevertheless, this diversity was not an accident or an oversight on Jesus' part. As the gospels tell us, Jesus chose the apostles after a night of prayer in which he discerned the Father's will. Similarly, we, too, do the Father's will if we come together in the diverse community of the Church, and in spite of differences of opinion, misunderstandings and conflicts we can be sure that our attempts to live the faith together will be blessed. By way of illustrating this diversity within the Church, Fr David brought with him to

Mass a Rainbow Star which he had created earlier in the week at a children's holiday club – it was the half-term break. As well as being a sign of God's loving promise to always be there for us, the rainbow is also a creation of diverse colours emanating from one light. This rainbow of difference in unity is also used as a symbol for the diversity of the LGBT community and continues to serve as God's sign for the Church comprising peoples of all languages, races, cultures, nationalities, sexual orientations and gender identities.

Bishop Patrick recently told the Catholic weekly, *The Tablet*: "My hope, as I travel about the diocese, is that more LGBT Catholics do feel welcome and part of the parish where they attend Mass, and that they are involved in its life and work. These occasional Masses for LGBT Catholics, their families and friends, in various parts of the diocese of Nottingham are more to reassure those LGBT Catholics who may feel hurt and uncared for by the Church, that they are very much part of



the pastoral care I wish to ensure is offered to all Catholics in the diocese." With their enthusiastic support for, and participation in, the Mass and afterwards in the Parish Hall, the parishioners of St Alban's helped to make the Bishop's vision a reality. Looking back to the celebration, we can only thank Fr David and his parish for their hospitality and Bishop Patrick for opening the door for an extension of LGBT pastoral initiatives in the diocese.

Thomas Bartsch



St Mary's Celebrate Feast of Christ the King with Mass and Eucharistic Adoration

Pupils and staff at St Mary's School, Derby, were spiritually uplifted by taking part in the Diocesan 'Day of the Eucharist' celebrations. They began the day by taking the whole School to Christ the King Church in Mackworth, one of their link parishes. Fr John St John led the Mass and consecrated an additional large host for them to take back to school.

On arrival at School, Mrs Wickes, the lay chaplain, exposed the Blessed Sacrament

and everyone processed through the grounds and into the Music Room. Each child then spent time praying before our Lord.

Adoration continued for children and staff who wished to spend more time praying with Jesus over lunchtime.

It was a very special day for St Mary's and Adoration will continue to form part of the prayer life of the school.



Book Review

Judith Russi

in conversation with Raymond Friel

Judith Russi, a sister of Saint Mary of Namur, is the director of the Catholic educational charity EducareM. She is an inspirational speaker on Catholic education and has published a number of books, including *How to Survive as a Governor in a Catholic School*.

In conversation with Raymond Friel, Sr Judith Russi offers a passionate witness to Catholic education and the critical importance of the formation of Catholic leaders. She speaks with great insight on the role of pupil chaplains in schools and the importance of prayer. As a wheelchair user, she describes the great difficulties faced by the disabled in today's society despite the progress which has been made.

Booklet of transcript included.
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This certainly is far removed from Luke's baby wrapped tightly and placed in a crib. The first chapter of John's gospel is elegant poetic.... no infant, no whiff of a cow shed, nor any sign of social unrest or political intrigue what we see is order and beauty, this is testimony to the light, and living Word of God, that is timeless and universal that existed before all things. God came to His own.....

The Word became flesh, we are back to the amazing reality that God became vulnerable as a human like us.... And what's more the most vulnerable of humans a baby! Very often this is hard to get our heads around - that the glorious presence of God is clearly seen in the flesh of Jesus Christ. It is in Jesus' birth, baptism, temptation, teachings, miracles, parables, death and resurrection, where the light of God clearly shines. John's text begins very far away from us, but ends very close to home. That light of Jesus Christ shines in all our darkness and the marvel is that darkness has not overcome it. (John 1 4-5)

What an important truth this is for us in our times - when international terrorism, threat of nuclear war, human trafficking, hatred,

violence, injustice and personal darkness in our own lives are present - the empty chair at the table this Christmas - the one dying with cancer - those we find hard to be reconciled with, The word became flesh and lived ... dwelt among usso that we would not be alone in these things - we are not alone - God lived among us in the flesh and knows what it is to be part of frail humanity. - during the Christmas season let us amid the partying allow ourselves time to reflect on the Christmas story, let it soak into our lives and into our personal darkness.

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

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Opening Our Lives to Others

The 2017 Annual Assembly of the Justice and Peace Commission



"We learn who we are when we open our lives to others." This was the theme of the sermon preached by Bishop Patrick McKinney at the Mass for the Annual Assembly of the Justice and Peace Commission held on 25th November 2017 at St. Mary's, Derby. Preaching on the relationship at the heart of the Holy Trinity, he said that we can only begin to discover who we are as people in the context of our relationship with others.

The Mass began the day and Bishop Patrick concelebrated with Rev Canon Tim O'Sullivan, Fr Alan Burbidge and Fr Michael White of Shrewsbury diocese, with Deacon Chris Blunt. Young people and teachers from St. Benedict's School, Derby provided the music and pupils from St. John Houghton school, Kirk Hallam served as readers. 70 people attended the Mass and 55 stayed on for the Annual Assembly itself.

It was a packed day with speakers on a range of inter-connected themes under the heading "Enter Under My Roof" – Sheltering the Stranger, Building Peace and Challenging Poverty. Attendees enjoyed a bring and share lunch together and Bishop Patrick attended for the first half of the day.

Fr Michael White spoke about the charity Heart of Tamworth, established by his parish Sacred Heart in Tamworth. He gave practical examples of how church premises could be used, at no cost, in service of the entire wider community. The aim of the project is to ensure that there is full occupancy of all their premises to serve the poor and vulnerable in their community. There is a mixture of groups using the premises, some being external such as Alcoholics Anonymous and others being parish-led ini-



tiatives. Once a need for the service had been established Heart of Tamworth were able to apply for funding to sustain and improve their work. They even have a parish caravan which can be used as temporary shelter and shower facilities for homeless people. Heart of Tamworth works in conjunction with existing services and does not attempt to duplicate. There are now 200 parish volunteers across the range of projects offered and Mass attendance has increased.

Sean Ryan, CSAN's National Co-ordinator for the Syrian Family Refugee Sponsorship Scheme, gave an overview of the current situation with refugees crossing the Mediterranean Sea before going on to outline the scheme itself. By November 2017 175,000 refugees had crossed the Med so far that year, and the death rate had increased on recent years, meaning that it was expected to reach 5000 in 2017. Since the well-documented death by drowning of toddler Alan Kurdi in September 2015 a further 300 children have drowned making the crossing; -

deaths that have not made it into the news. Women and children comprise 25% of all those fleeing Syria alone and 80% of those in refugee camps in neighbouring countries are there for at least 5 years. In September 2015 Pope Francis exhorted "May every parish, every religious community, every monastery and every sanctuary of Europe take in one family." Sean estimated that 4.5 million refugees would be being supported by the Catholic church across Europe if this exhortation was put into action.

He then went on to give an outline of the sponsorship scheme which involves a parish or a cluster of parishes providing wrap around support and some support funding for a minimum 1 yr commitment. The funding commitment is minimal as this is an official Government sponsored scheme. The family are given leave to remain in the country for 5 years and the right to work or claim benefits. Sean described the scheme as being transformative for both the parish and the family, bringing a renewed vibrancy and vigour to the parish community. More details are available from Sean Ryan on s.ryan@caritassalford.org.uk



The final speaker was Sally Ruane, of the Nottingham Diocese Justice and Peace Commission, who works in the Health Policy Research Unit at De Montfort University and is a member of St Thomas More parish, Leicester. Sally described the Welfare State as the mechanism by which all of us can live out our responsibility for one another (through payment of taxes). It provides a basic level below which people will not fall and lose their dignity as human beings. One of the concerns regarding the use of Universal Credit is that the way in which it will be introduced does not afford enough discretion to people and therefore results in a lack of dignity. Sally said that the tabloid press has convinced us that individuals are responsible for their poverty when this is not the case. She described the Welfare State as actually being a part of the national economy, not separate to it, as the NHS alone employs 1.3 million people. Sally suggested that, by defending the Welfare State, the Church would be playing its role in bringing about the Kingdom of God. She said that the Church "should be seen as an institution which is on the side of the poor and marginalised and should develop a stronger identity as an institution that has a social purpose." Rather than the term 'political' being perceived as an insult, because of its misuse in the media, she suggested that Catholics should embrace being described as 'political' since, after all, this simply means that we are of and for the people.

The full recording of all the presentations is available at <http://www.paulrclark.co.uk/>. Then follow link from "Audio Recordings". User Name AGM

Passwords Derby (case sensitive.)

Holy Spirit Church Sinfin celebrate Christ the King

Christ the King was celebrated at Holy Spirit Church in Sinfin with the young parishioners helping throughout the Mass. At the homily the children were brought forward to look at a wonderful statue of the Lord - the statue of Christ the redeemer, Fr Peter Peterken reflected on the Gospel and the importance of making the right choices and caring for others. Children's Church Leader Tom Govan along with the children had enjoyed craft activities centred around the Feast day during Children's Liturgy. Fr Peter and Tom both reflected on how wonderful it was to have the Mass centred around the young parishioners.



Parish fundraiser raises over £7,000 in four hours

On 25 November 2017, the community of the Good Shepherd Parish, Arnold, held its annual Christmas Fair. This parish-wide occasion was well attended, with over 1200 visitors passing through the doors between 10.30am-2.30pm. It raised a tremendous £7,277.39 profit, which was an increase of £2,597 or 55% more than the 2016 profit.



manning stalls, Asian food baked by our Philippine and Indian community. The Children's Liturgy ran the chocolate tombola, the church's local primary head teacher invited guests to the dip into Santa's Sack while the school PTA raised a phenomenal amount on their infamous bottle tombola. Even the mayor had her sleeves up in the kitchen.

The fair was graciously opened by the Mayor of Gedling, Cllr Vivienne McCrossen, who replaced her robes with an apron and proceeded to cook lunch and serve refreshments for the hungry visitors. Local MP Vernon Coaker also popped in to show his support and the Notts Fire & Rescue Service stayed for several hours to show the children around their truck and pose for photos.

Each of these groups had family and friends to support them and resulted in the wider community engaging with this event. As with previous years, the organiser was inundated with generous donations from throughout the parish, which ensured the production costs were kept to an absolute minimum.

This parish fundraiser was designed to raise much needed funds to support the church's urgent repair programme and ITV Central News also came on the day to promote the appeal.

Submitted by Sarah Benedek, first time organiser of the event.

Although publicity and strong marketing have played an essential part in this year's success, involving more groups from around the parish has proven to be the clincher. There were scouts and guides



The Twelve Days of Christmas – It's Catholic History

A favourite Carol sung in churches, homes and schools throughout Christmas time but have you ever wondered why a True Love would give such strange gifts? let's have a look at the history of the Carol.



"The Twelve Days of Christmas" is an English Christmas carol. From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice our faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of the Church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember. To fit the number scheme, when you reach number 9, representing the Fruits of the Holy Ghost, the originator combined 6 to make 3, taking the 6 fruits that were similar: the fruit in each parenthesis is the that was not named separately. There are actually Twelve Fruits of the Holy Spirit.

of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The five golden rings represented the first five books of the Old Testament, which describe man's fall into sin and the great love of God in sending a Saviour. The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation. Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit---- Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy. The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes. Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit----Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Goodness, Mildness, Fidelity, Modesty, Chastity. The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments. The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful Apostles. The twelve drummers drumming symbolised the twelve points of belief in The Apostles' Creed.

The "True Love" one hears in the song is not a sweetheart but Jesus Christ, because truly Love was born on Christmas Day. The partridge in the pear tree also represents Him because that bird is willing to sacrifice its life if necessary to protect its young by feigning injury to draw away predators. The two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments. The three French hens stood for faith, hope, and love. The four calling birds were the four gospels

Mrs Karan O'Connor

The Arusha Project

At a recent Ecumenical Service in Chellaston Methodist Church, Veronica Neild, a retired teacher from St Benedict CVA (Catholic Voluntary Academy) came to speak about her ongoing involvement in the Arusha Project. Pupils on leaving the school and adults from school and parish, have been visiting schools in Arusha, Tanzania, since 2004. The project, sponsored by St Mary's R.C. Church, Derby, and Holy Family R.C. Church, Allestree, was initiated by Sister Ruth Percival (a Medical Missionary Sister from Derby) who had been working with the Maasai tribe in Loolera, Arusha, and Denis Homer of St Mary's RC Parish, Derby.



The young people who volunteer are based in Ngaranaro in Arusha. Basic accommodation is provided, and the volunteers well situated within reach of Holy Spirit Church, a Hospital, and a University Hostel. The pupils are occupied visiting schools, helping the students with their English studies, and other subjects. They mix with the students, and play sports with them, and there are also opportunities to spend time with the local people. The volunteers mainly spend time at St. Augustine's Primary school, St Joseph's Girl's School, Usa River Preparatory School and Oldonyosambu Seminary School. As their education is not free, around 70 of the children at St Augustine's are sponsored, but the demand is great – children knock on the school door, hoping to gain entry. Many school buildings at Oldonyosambu and St Joseph's need to be replaced, and some new laboratories have already been built, but a lack of funding hinders progress.

they visit is Loolera, where the Maasai people often struggle in times of drought, as they live off the land. The Maasai people are very welcoming to our young people. In the past they have been reluctant to receive education. However local priests have worked hard to encourage them of it's value and there is now a Maasai secondary school for girls near Arusha. The priests in the Loolera area have an exhausting schedule, as they have one large parish, and 30 outstations to care for. During the 13 years since the project began, 11 priests and a Bishop from Arusha have made visits to Derby and St. Benedict CVA, 50 young people and 11 adults from the project and the parishes have visited Arusha, helping to build up the relationship between them. It is very encouraging that the young people at St. Benedict are prepared to use their time, resources, and talents to serve their neighbours 4,000 miles away in Tanzania, and we might join with them in affirming:

The young people have the opportunity to visit the Ngorongoro Crater which now serves as an animal sanctuary, which can be dry, but where even a little rain provides vegetation for their survival. Another place

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Dorothy Robinson

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The Awakening Tour comes to Nottingham



I responded to a plea that went out from a fellow SPUC pro lifer back in August for a large room to host a pro life presentation by an organisation called Abort 67 who are also part of CBRUK. I hadn't heard of them but on the basis that anyone who is a friend of unborn babies is a friend of mine I was happy to listen to what they had to say and provide a venue.

The meeting was eventually arranged to fit in with their other tour dates for 17th November 2017.

Flyers were sent out and adverts placed in various parish newsletters but sadly the meeting was not well attended. I really do mean sadly as I, and all those I have spoken to so far were very impressed by the speakers and what they had to say. I am summarising it below from memory so I may get some details wrong but hope it is correct in the parts that really matter. It is important to realise that whilst what they are doing may sound very confrontational they all came across as very gentle, caring and deeply spiritual people. (Jesus' instruction to his disciples to be as wily as foxes and gentle as doves comes to mind when I think of them).

The team consisted of Ivana who had been my contact in organising the event, a young lady called Aisling and a gentleman called Andy who was the founder of Abort 67. Aisling started off the presentation by talking about how generations past have had blind spots in relation to things such as the holocaust and slavery and suggested that abortion is this generation's blind spot. One of the reasons that these atrocities were tolerated by society at the time was that the true nature of what was happening was hidden from view of most people. In the case of slavery it was only when Wilberforce and his comrades went round the country showing models of the slave ships and pictures of slaves in chains that attitudes started to change.

We were then shown the BPAS (or Marie Stopes I can't remember which) video that is shown to women contemplating abortion and they warned us that they had edited it to insert a video of an actual abortion procedure. Needless to say the clinic's version was glossy and showed friendly smiling staff and the procedure was, of course horrific but, in the ordinary course of things, hidden from view.

Andy went on to explain that he first became involved with pro life work when he saw an ultrasound of his own child at 12 weeks. The realisation hit him that abortions were being carried out at that age and he felt compelled to do something about it. He teamed up with someone else from the Campaign for Bio ethic Reform and they decided to have graphic images made of the results of abortion and show them in a city centre. (I don't remember which city) The police tried to stop him and eventually he was arrested and taken to court. There was a five day trial in which he was accused of showing offensive and graphic material.

Andy, in his defence agreed entirely that the images were offensive and graphic because the procedure and what it showed was offensive which is why it had to be shown! The judge found in his favour and the police had to pay costs of over £300,000.

This did have a positive outcome for the organisation in that it enabled them to approach other cities and show the material after first contacting the local council and police and sending them a copy of the judge's decision. (I guess no council or police force have £300,000 to risk on a court case!) Pro choice activists always come out when they set up the banners and images but they have found the police to be helpful when they are informed in advance.

Andy also showed a video of one of these set ups in the city centre. There are signs up saying "warning graphic images" Group members were standing quietly by the pictures and another member was talking to people who stopped to look at them. The approach was gentle and along the lines of " what do you think of what you see? Have you ever seen anything like this before? Did you know that this was what an aborted foetus was like" The response tended to be shock, not at being shown something graphic (most people see graphic images every day on the television) but at the reality, that it was allowed to happen, that it really was a baby etc. People were saying that they had been pro choice before but not now. ...

You may be aware that some councils are close to introducing "buffer zones" around some abortion clinics to prevent pro lifers from praying and handing out leaflets. Thanks to Andy's judge's decision he is able to help to fight this by threatening to set up

their signs outside clinics if councils try to stop people praying there. (Wiley as foxes, gentle as doves.....)

At question time I asked how they would respond to the concerns people raise that these images could be upsetting to children and to women who have had abortions. Andy responded that, firstly he had never seen a child look upset about the images. Children are resilient and tend to take a lead from the adult they are with. It is not their aim to upset but to educate people and it is about "loving them both" . In fact a number of women who have had abortions have told them that if they had seen these pictures before they would never have had an abortion. We also need to think about that photograph of a dead toddler washed up during the refugee crisis. Everyone new that people were dying crossing the sea to Greek islands but it was that photograph that caused a sea shift in public opinion.

In this respect I also think about Lucia Francesca and Jacinta at Fatima and how Our Lady allowed them to see a vision of Hell when they were very young children, a vision that really did impact them deeply. No doubt the children were very upset by this but Our Lady showed it to them as the potential good from doing so outweighed the upset.

There is no doubt in my mind that abortion is one of today's greatest evils and now even Ireland appears to be sleepwalking into allowing it to be made legal. Shocking images are just that: shocking, but they do have impact and perhaps that is what is needed to overcome what may well be this generation's blind spot.

Marie Langford

FRANKLY SPEAKING

As we approach the end of 2017 it is not difficult to be negative if we take even an occasional glance at those who are elected or promoted to high office. Now that Christmas is about to really start we should not allow this joyful season to lose its spiritual message despite certain leaders not living up to the standards which we have a right to expect.

Let us not forget the Holy Family who experienced being temporarily homeless. To be homeless must be at best unfortunate, at worst, life threatening. Those who give up Christmas Day to assist our rough sleepers are surely to be commended. Let us not forget those who have lost a loved one since last Christmas, also those who have lost their employment, and yes most of us will know of Christians and others whose health is giving cause for concern. I mention Christians because December 25th is our festival when we should be generous not only to our family and friends but to those from whom we can expect no return.

media who will want the true Christmas Story, one spoke of children in the "Xmas Panto" and we all need to be aware of this especially in a year which has seen a dramatic growth in "fake news". Our children must be told what we believe in, their ability to join in social media and all that this incorporates seems to be an ever increasing threat. We all have a responsibility to ensure this is not just used for misleading or dangerous information. We have had enough "fake news" for one year.

Christmas occurs just after the shortest day of the year and the "good news" is that it promises a return to lighter days. It is so appropriate that we should honour the birthday of the light of all the world especially this year.

A happy and Peaceful Christmas to all readers.

Frank Goulding
Holy Trinity Parish
Newark

There are some (perhaps many) in the

St Georges & Holy Spirit Derby's Travelling Community put Faith in to Action at Christmas

Continued from page 1



Our travelling community have recognised a further need as it is particularly hard for those that have drug and alcohol problems that have the most difficulties accessing night-shelters due to the rules of no bed if under the influence of any substance, these are the most vulnerable and marginalised people and we have lost 3 of our local homeless population since last Christmas alone. We are increasingly seeing more and more young people forced to sleep on the streets, with no food and little clothing and bedding. In the UK a group of Catholic Traveller men have got together and are already making a huge difference as they distribute

hot food, footwear, toiletries and sleeping bags every month in our cities.

John Casey and Patrick Doherty from our parish are active members of the group and John was very keen to bring this generous act of giving to Derby. On Saturday 3rd December the group did that. Canon Burbidge welcomed them to celebrate Mass with the parish, Canon Alan spoke during his homily about the act of giving and reflected on the giving project and homelessness in Derby, at the end of Mass Canon Burbidge prayed for those giving and those that would receive.

The temperature that evening was only 2* although dry it was very cold. That evening through the generosity and action of the Men's Travelling Community over 80 of those not in shelters received new sleeping bags, shoes, toiletries and food and we witnessed the importance of putting our faith into action. What makes this group special, is not just the act of giving it is the fact that everything is done with an unconditional wish to help a fellow human being who is hungry, cold, struggling and vulnerable

*Mrs Karan O'Connor,
Parish Assistant*

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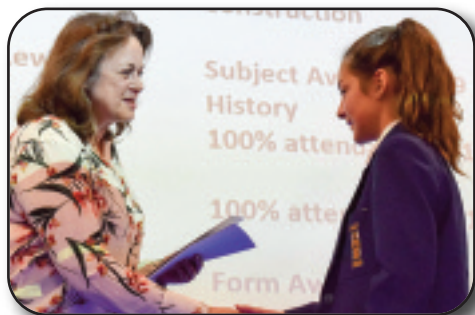
Vocations Weekend

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Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy's Presentation Evening



Awards for academic and extra-curricular achievements were handed out to hundreds of students at Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy's Presentation Evening.

Students from Year 8 to 11 were praised in front of a packed audience of parents, family members, carers and staff at the academy, in Duffield Road, Derby.

House awards were also made, with the Athletics Day Trophy going to John Paul House and the Attendance Shield being won by Kolbe House.

In between the speeches and awards, the audience was entertained by the academy's band while younger students performed several songs on stage

The academy's new chair of governors, Sherri Medcalf, welcomed everyone to the event. She said: "It's lovely to participate in something like this and share the excitement and the sense of achievement that we as parents feel and our young people feel."



Kevin Gritton, head teacher at Saint Benedict CVA, thanked parents for their support.

He said: "At the start of Year 7 a few weeks ago I did assemblies during which I talked about our expectations of students and I used a quote by Nelson Mandela who said that education is the most powerful tool you can use to change the world. It's all about education and that's what makes the difference.

"I go into classrooms and see young people who love their learning and are passionate about what they do and see what we talked about being acted out by young people who want to use education to make a better world.

"I would like to thank all of you as your children wouldn't be here without you, we can't do what we do without all the fantastic work that you do."

The academy was also presented with its Champion School award from the National Citizen Service by Kara Foley, an ex-student who works for NCS. The award rewards



schools for their commitment to the youth programme.

NCS gives children aged 15 to 17 the opportunity to take on volunteering challenges and build skills for work and life.

Kara said: "When I was a student here the staff were really supportive and encouraged me to be the best that I can be. Volunteering really helped me a lot and these experiences helped shape me into the person that I have become today. Volunteering is really important and gives you skills for life such as communication, time management, teamwork and leadership. I wouldn't be where I am today without NCS."



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Speaker; Sister Patricia Mulhall CSB
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OBITUARY

**REV. MGR.
GEORGE TÜTTŐ**



We would like to publicly express our gratitude in the 'Catholic News' to Rev. Mgr. George Tüttő who died aged 92 last Tuesday. There was a notice in this week's newsletter of the Good Shepherd church regarding this.

I quote: "REV. MGR. GEORGE TÜTTŐ: A priest of our Diocese (for many years Parish Priest at St. Joseph's, Sutton in Ashfield) and for the last number of years, National Chaplain to the Hungarian Community in England; Mgr. George died very peacefully at 9.45 p.m. on Tuesday last, 14th November. Mgr. George was comforted at the Lord's call by the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary and the Sisters of the Cross at Maryville Care Home, Brentwood."

Mgr. Tüttő was born in Hungary and trained in Hungary and Austria before coming to Britain in 1953. He was a curate at our church, Church of the Good Shepherd, Woodthorpe, from 1953 -1959 administering to all, and during that time became a close friend and support to the Hungarians in and around Nottingham.

We were personally fortunate to be able to attend his Diamond Jubilee celebrations in Chiswick, London in 2011. Betty, the widow of Mr. John Hatvani also came with us.

On behalf of the Hungarian Community and others, we would like to thank Mgr. Tüttő for his long and loyal service to all. May he rest in peace. ISTEN VELED! (God be with you)

CHRISTMAS COFFEE BREAK

If you get five minutes over the festive period why not sit down with your much deserved cup of tea or coffee and solve the two puzzles below



Joy to the World



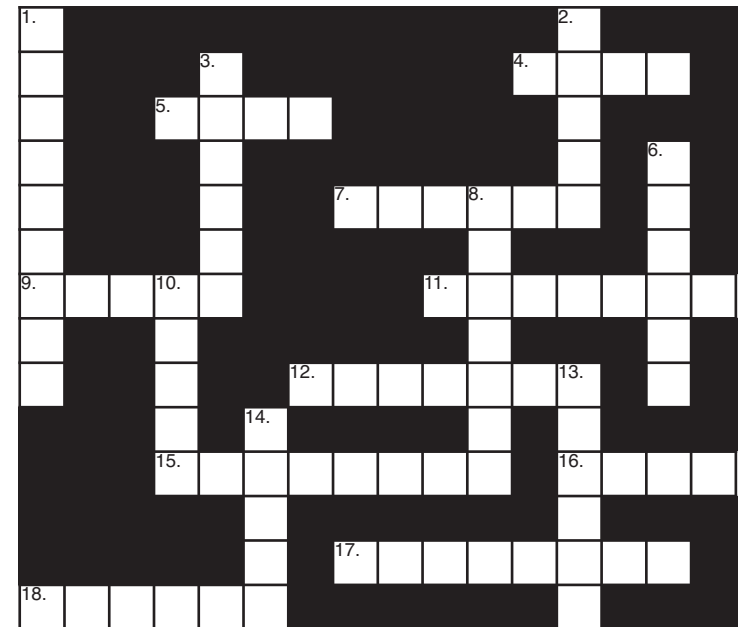
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MIRACLE

MYRRH
NATIVITY
REJOICE
STABLE
STAR
THREE KINGS
WISE MEN

Twelve Days of Christmas Crossword

Each of the clues in this crossword relate to the text *The Twelve Days of Christmas* which can be found on page 7 of this edition



Across

- 4 Poultry (4)
- 5 There are seven in a week (4)
- 7 Number of days (6)
- 9 Ladies, eight in total (5)
- 11 What the ladies were doing (7)
- 12 There are five of them (7)
- 15 What the seven swans were doing (8)
- 16 A single true on (4)
- 17 Twelve in total (8)

Down

- 1 The festive season (9)
- 2 Laying (5)
- 3 Nine _____ Dancing (6)
- 6 Hens from a European country (6)
- 8 What the lords were doing (7)
- 10 Just two of these (5)
- 13 Precious Rings (5)
- 14 Find them in a tree (5)

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**"Open my eyes, that I may see wonderful things."
- Psalm 119:18**



Davis is living his childhood in darkness. Will you help a child see the wonder of God's creation?

Dear Catholic News of Nottingham reader,

As a fellow Christian, I wanted to share with you how incredibly powerful it is to witness a child seeing for the first time, after eye surgery.

As we carry out our work with Christian Blind Mission, we are constantly moved by the astonishment and wonder on the faces of children when the bandages are removed and they get their first clear look at their smiling loved ones.

8-year-old Davis has cataracts. He has been barely able to see. But we know that a simple 45-minute procedure could restore his sight.

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have light, colour and a future filled with opportunity. He could do well at school and find a way out of poverty.

The cataract removal surgery costs £95, but his family can barely afford even basic necessities, so I am turning to you in the hope that you can help.

If you could send a gift of £95 today, you could pay for a child like Davis' surgery. You could open his eyes to the beauty of God's creation. And we'll send you an update on how Davis' surgery goes.

God bless you,

Andrea

Andrea Brandt von Lindau
Programme Manager for Inclusive Eye Health



Davis' cataracts means he's been living in darkness



He can hardly see objects in front of him



Your gift could help a child see and transform a life

Christian Blind Mission is a huge inspiration to me. It works in more than 60 countries, including some of the world's poorest communities, to restore sight, mobility and independence to people living with disability. It's putting Christ's love into action for the most marginalised people. Will you join Christian Blind Mission by supporting this amazing work?

Diane Louise Jordan, Friend of CBM



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Nottingham school pupils become YouTube stars

Nottingham school children have become YouTube stars after using eight different languages to make their own prayer video.

There are eight different nationalities at Holy Trinity Catholic Academy and all feature in the video, where the 'Our Father' prayer is spoken in English, Spanish, Irish, Dutch, Romanian, Slovak, Polish and Italian.

The YouTube clip has now been viewed more than 400 times since it was put online under two weeks ago.

The footage is based on aid agency CAFOD's 'Our Father' video and was put together in a matter of hours. The children were left feeling honoured to have taken part.

Year 5 pupil George said: "When I was told I would be speaking a line in Italian I felt a sudden rush of excitement!"

"It was a coincidence because the day before my Dad taught me how to say the Our Father in Italian!"

Deputy Head Teacher Jody Murfin came up with the idea for the video and shot it alongside fellow teacher Sean Westerman.

He said: "I thought it would be a good idea to help the pupils understand the power of prayer and remember people less fortunate than ourselves as Pope Francis calls the Our Father the 'prayer of the poor.'"

"The children were all really enthusiastic and there were a huge number wanting to take part. The children who did were brilliant and got their parts done in minutes!"

"The feedback we have got has been overwhelmingly positive and we can use the video to promote anti-bullying too."

"Because of the impact and the positive response I would do another one in a heartbeat, the next one will possibly be for advent."

CAFOD, who first produced the 'Our Father' video in October, is the official aid agency for the Catholic Church in England and Wales. The charity works with communities across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, helping people to tackle the poverty and injustice, wherever the need is greatest.

CAFOD representative in Nottingham, Maggie Mairura, said: "This is a really powerful video and the staff and pupils at Holy Trinity should be proud of their efforts."

"I am looking forward to seeing the next video they come up with!"



To view the video, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQQcEe3ECNM&feature=youtu.be>

St Georges VA Catholic Primary, Littleover Derby "We are Called to Follow Christ"



A wonderful prayerful adoration took place on the last Monday morning in November 2017.

Canon Burbidge led the whole school in the Adoration of the Eucharist, the Adoration was focused on "Jesus, we lay our lives before you." Canon Burbidge led the Liturgy explaining the meaning of adoration, the reading centred on Mary and her calling to give birth to the Lord.

The reflection from Ms Beth Webster, school RE Head, centred on being called

to follow Jesus.

During the previous week every class reflected on the Annunciation and each class produced a large footprint with every name of every child in the school was written in a footprint and these were placed in front of the altar during adoration. Following adoration Canon Alan spoke to the pupils about the famous footprint poem and how when we need Jesus the most, we will only see one set of footprints as the Lord will be carrying us in our times of trouble and need.

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