

Blessed William Richardson
Feast day February 7th

Catholic News

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

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20p WHERE SOLD

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Pilgrims prepare for Holy Week trek



This Easter pilgrims will once again be embarking on a Holy Week pilgrimage, eleven groups from different starting points will each carry a cross, arriving in Walsingham on Good Friday.

The Student Cross pilgrimage has taken place every year since 1948. The name reflects the origins of the pilgrimage, which now involves not only students, but many more experienced participants, from new-borns right through to pensioners.

Each group collectively carries a large wooden cross as a witness to the people that they pass, crossing fens and gently rolling hills on the way to Walsingham. The pilgrims are welcomed, accommodated and fed by kind-hearted churches along the route, as they live out their Christian witness in this special way.

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon, Archbishop of Liverpool, walked Student Cross

in the 1980s. Recently he spoke about his experiences of the pilgrimage: "you meet yourself, that's the person you don't expect to meet, and you meet Jesus in your fellow pilgrims and those you meet on the way. It was a wonderful thing to do and I recommend it to everybody."

Student Cross is different each time you walk, but always meaningful and enjoyable.

José Pedro, who walked in 2017, said: "Student cross is a unlike anything you've seen before. Filled with moments of pure fun and of deep spiritual experiences, it is a most wonderful way to live the Holy Week!"

The pilgrimage is a chance to celebrate Easter in a unique way, by living Holy Week in community, celebrating liturgy and tangibly walking with Christ towards the joy of the Resurrection.

Megan, who walked for the first time in 2017, said: "We talked, we laughed, we ate cake, we sang, we shared amazing moments together and became a family through the simple act of walking along winding lanes together."

Those interested in joining the 2018 pilgrimage can find out more and register: www.studentcross.org.uk

Those walking invite you to pray for them as they make their journey.

Derby Student qualifies for World Championships

A Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy student has qualified for the World Irish Dancing Championships.

Rory Hay won the Under-12 category at the Midlands Qualifiers in Coventry and will go on to compete at the World Championships in April 2018 in Glasgow.

This will be the second time that Rory will compete at the World Championships, which is set to attract more than 14,500 dancers and supporters, after finishing 20th in last year's event.

Rory is currently dancing around six times a week at the Irish Centre in Derby and at Djanogly Academy in Nottingham.

He said: "I think it's quite good that I won my category at the Midlands

competition as the Under-12s has the most dancers. "I am dancing six times a week and that can be for about two to three and a half hours at a time.

"I was at the World Championships last year and finished 20th out of about 90 dancers. I would really like to win the World Championships one day."

Kevin Gritton, head teacher at Saint Benedict CVA, in Duffield Road, Derby, congratulated Rory on making it to the World Championships.

He said: "A massive well done to Rory for making it to the World Championships, which is an incredible achievement. We are sure that



one day he will go on to achieve his dream and win the competition. We will certainly be cheering him on and wish him the best of luck at the competition."

Blessed William Richardson was a Martyr of England. He was born in Sheffield and he studied for the priesthood at Valladolid and Seville, Spain, receiving his ordination in 1594. William was sent back to England, where he used the name Anderson. He was soon arrested and executed at Tyburn by being hanged, drawn, and quartered. He was the last martyr in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I (r. 1558-1603).

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The monthly paper for the
Diocese of Nottingham

**The
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Wanted - Parish Correspondents

The Catholic News is looking for a
Parish Correspondent in your
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publication in this newspaper. All
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Derby Catenians support the Arusha Project



Strengthening family life through friendship and faith

Once again the Catenian Association has given bursary grants to Derby students spending part of their gap year helping other students in Africa. Four students received grants from Derby Catenian President, Andy Holden, after mass at St. Mary's Parish, Derby. From left to right in the photograph they are: Sophie Woodcock, St. Mary's Parish who has recently completed a one year foundation course at Loughborough University. Sophie is hoping that her time in Arusha will help her to make a decision on her future career. Abbey O'Connor-Ramsey, formerly of St. Benedict's school and St Joseph's Parish, Derby. Abbey's plan is to study Sociology at University. Georgina Clements, also formerly St. Benedict's school and St Joseph's Parish. Georgina

plans to go to University to study biological sciences. Seanna McGirr, formerly St. Benedict's school and St. Mary's Parish, Derby. Seanna wants to study Speech and Language at University; her time in Africa using the Kiswahili language will only help with her studies. All of them will be involved in teaching in schools in the Archdiocese of Arusha, Tanzania, for three months.

The essence of the project is to provide a unique personal development opportunity for young people to go to Tanzania and to learn about another culture and to give their help and skills to others who may be less fortunate (financially) than themselves. Over the years the Catenians, through the bursary fund, have helped many youngsters

from St. Benedict's to have this 'once in a lifetime' experience. Before setting out, the youngsters are required to learn a little of the local Kiswahili language and prepare themselves to teach English, work on the farm and join in various sporting activities. As a bonus they get to go on safari (Kiswahili for 'journey') and visit some of the Maasai people, experiences which are not normally mentioned in the travel brochures. On finishing the three month experience many of the students have said these words (or similar) "As the visit continued we were presented with more and more evidence that the people of Tanzania were richer than us in the more important things in life"

Thoughts from Elston Hermitage....

I expect that for most of us we are now back into our usual routines of life. Christmas and the beginning of 2018 seem remotely in the distant past and we are well into our work and agendas for this year and no doubt looking forward to the lengthening of the days and Spring. I expect back at the beginning of January many of us would have made new year resolutions of some kind or other, perhaps as a way of disciplining things in our lives which are out of control or order, so new year resolutions were made to keep us on course as it were. However, despite our firm resolutions not to be late for work, not to eat junk food, to try and save more money, to get fit, to be better people, or whatever they may have been, usually according to surveys done and published in newspapers like the Daily Mail and The Independent these resolutions are broken within the first 10 days of the new year, therefore I wonder where those resolutions stand now as we approach the month of February? maybe we have completely abandoned any resolve we had made?

As we approach the month of February it could be that we get yet another opportunity to make firm resolve, to do better, for on the 18th February we begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday and several weeks of the Lenten season. Perhaps this will lend itself this year to put aside any of the resolutions we made in January and to take upon



ourselves new resolutions, only of a different kind, 'spiritual resolutions'. It would be wonderful to choose 'holiness' as our number one resolution, so that by the end of Lent we were able to see that by God's grace we had become more like Jesus, that we were closer to Him, more loving and forgiving. But how do we achieve our goal? St. Francis of Assisi linked holiness with poverty and simplicity, will that be our way forward? St. Theresa of Calcutta linked holiness to caring for the poor and the sick, would that be our way? These people of course were saints we might say, however St Francis de Sale reminds us that holiness is not just reserved for saints, priests and religious, but that we are all called to holiness whoever or whatever we are and we need to be clear about this! This I believe is our starting point for our Lenten resolutions - to have communion with God so that our lives reflect His and our love reflects His.

**Continued on
page 5**



Rosmini Centre House of Prayer February

Friday 9 - Healing Service led by Fr Ted Mullen. Mass at 7.00 pm followed by Adoration and prayers for healing.

Saturday 17 - Deepening our Faith with Robert Barron DVD. Mass at 10.00 am followed at 11.00 am by DVD on The Teachings of Jesus. Shared table at 1.00pm with soup and a roll. Please book in advance. Donations welcome.

Saturday 24 - Lectio Divina starting at 3.00 pm with the Divine Mercy Chaplet, followed by meditation on the Sunday Gospel.

March

Friday 9 - Healing Service led Fr Denis Labartette. Rosary at 7.00 pm followed by Mass, Adoration and prayers for healing.

Saturday 10 - Deepening our Faith with Robert Barron DVD. Mass at 10.00 am followed at 11.00 am by DVD on The Mystery of God. Shared table at 1.00 pm with soup and a roll. Please book in advance. Donations welcome.

Saturday 17 - Lenten Retreat starts with Mass at 10.00 am with Meditation, Prayer, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Adoration. Lunch provided.

Please book in advance. All welcome. Suggested donation £15.

Saturday 24 - "Why do innocent people suffer?". A study of the Book of Job by Fr Antonio Belsito. Mass at 10.00 am with talk at 11.00 am and shared table lunch at 1.00 pm. Please book in advance. All are welcome.

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The Rosmini Centre is off the A46, half a mile north of Ratcliffe College entrance on the left, 50 metres before the black and white Speed Camera sign.



Canon Geoffrey Hunton is Inducted as Parish Priest of St Mary's and Holy Family

On Friday 24th November Bishop Patrick McKinney presided at the official Induction Mass for the new parish priest at St Mary's and Holy Family, Derby, Canon Geoffrey Hunton. It was a special evening, and an opportunity for the parishioners to hear Canon Geoffrey make his Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity to Church Teaching. He was formally presented with the keys to the

church, a Bible and the Roman Missal by members of the congregation, before promising to exercise the ministry of pastoral charity for the welfare of his flock.

The Dean, Fr Mark Brentnall, and representatives from the PPCs of both churches, Joan Linder and Angela Straw, welcomed Canon Geoffrey and promised to work with



him for the good of the Church, the Deanery and the mission of the Parish Communities. The Mass was attended by the clergy of the parish, Fr Tim O'Sullivan, Deacon Chris Blunt and Deacon Martin Farrell, as well as by priests and deacons from around the Deanery. The congregation were especially pleased that Fr Neil Peoples, former assistant priest at St Mary's and Holy Family,

was able to return and be presented with the proceeds of his leaving collection (as well as a large soda bread!)

The evening also witnessed the presentation of the Diocesan Medal to Andy Clare, the former Chaplain to St Benedict School.

The celebrations concluded with refreshments in the Parish Centre.



FRANKLY SPEAKING

May we never again start a year with more apologies

For entirely different reasons I have often visited the English towns of Grantham and Huddersfield. These two well known locations are justly proud of their history. They are both the birth place of well known Prime Ministers who between 1964 and 1987 won no fewer than 6 General Elections. Harold Wilson's statue in Huddersfield is an impressive structure just down the hill from the Catholic Church of Saint Patrick and its near neighbour the 1960's Polish church. Margaret Thatcher's birth place in Grantham is located opposite the church of Saint Mary the Immaculate. All three churches are well worth a visit if you happen to visit these towns.

The towns mentioned in the last paragraph have another similarity, over the recent Christmas period. The future of their Accident and Emergency departments became a cause for concern. The Lincolnshire town's A & E was closed as a "temporary" measure at night in August 2016, this is still in force but the new development is a possibility that A & E becomes an urgent care centre. In West Yorkshire the possible closure of emergency services at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary has attracted a storm of opposition as is the case at Grantham.

The local circumstances in these towns would appear to be different but the out-

come for their communities would appear to be the same if they lose the A & E service at their local hospital. The ambulances would then simply have to go elsewhere with all the inconvenience and delay that this will entail. 2018 started off badly for the NHS, thousands of appointments were cancelled, hospital waiting rooms were full, the policy of single sex wards had to be abandoned and some patients had to be treated on a trolley in a corridor. My local MP wrote a "thank you" to doctors, nurses and ambulance drivers but for the Prime Minister and the Health Minister we heard the apology to the tens of thousands who had their operations cancelled.

We will soon celebrate the 70th birthday of the NHS and we can only hope that matters will improve this year.

The work of our hospital chaplains and voluntary visitors will continue. They too will need our support and prayers in what may be a testing year.

As for successors to Harold Wilson and Margaret Thatcher they need to work together so we never again start a year with more apologies.

Frank Goulding
Holy Trinity Parish
Newark

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Nativity – Tea Towels ready in Derby St Georges but where did it all begin? The Story of St Francis of Assisi and the First Nativity Scene

Nativity scenes have been a popular Advent and Christmas tradition for centuries, and—like most things glorious, time-honored, and holy—it originated with our very own Catholic saint St Francis of Assisi. He is credited with the Nativity we find in our homes, schools, churches and the public places we see today.



ST. FRANCIS' DEVOTION TO THE BABY JESUS

St. Francis of Assisi had a very special devotion to the Child Jesus, and is credited with creating the first nativity scene on Christmas Eve of the year 1223. St. Francis was first inspired by this idea after visiting the historical place of Christ's birth on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land—the humble stable in a Bethlehem cave. It is likely this event which deepened his devotion to the Child Jesus, who was born into the world in such poverty, humility, and simplicity. In fact, Francis founded his new religious Order to imitate these very virtues.

THE FIRST NATIVITY SCENE

St. Francis recreated the scene of Christ's birth with wooden statues in a cave and he held Mass in Greccio, Italy, inviting both his fellow friars and the townspeople to join in the celebration.

Later he told a friend why he desired to create the first nativity scene in his town: "I want to do something that will recall the memory of that Child who was born in Bethlehem, to see with bodily eyes the inconveniences of his infancy, how he lay in the manger, and how the ox and ass stood by."

He set up an empty manger (the feeding trough of farm animals which served as Jesus' crib) inside a cave, and even included a live ox and donkey beside the manger just as it



was believed to have happened on that first Christmas night. Through these visual aids he wanted everyone to focus deeply their understanding how Christ came into the world in such poverty and simplicity. This was a typical perspective of St. Francis' unique charism of simple, poverty-centered spirituality. It is also said that St. Francis—who was radically devoted to the virtue of evangelical poverty—was inspired to recreate the original nativity scene to overcome the rampant greed and materialism prevalent during Christmas celebration at that time in Italy.

Today the Nativity is not only created in our homes, churches, schools and public places it is acted out by our young, many of us would have watched with pride at our children and family members retelling the story of the Nativity and if they were a shepherd or a sheep, a King or an inn keeper each had a part to play in the story of our Lord's birth. We never tire of the Nativity Story maybe the 12 months in between help us to reignite their passion each year

Our Parish of St Georges and Holy Spirit, Derby watched with wonder and delight as the Nativity play was performed by our Parish school of St Georges Academy in Church before Christmas, you can buy the most amazing costumes to dress our little actors in but they still need the tea towels for head wear and you can't plan for a difficult thespian, somethings never change!

Advent at St Gregory's Sileby

During the holy season of Advent the Youth Group of St. Gregory's Sileby decided that as part of their preparation for Christmas and the birth of the baby Jesus they would focus on helping others less fortunate than themselves.

They set up an appeal in the parish for "Mary's Meals", the charity which believes that every child deserves an education and enough to eat. The charity was to be 'match-funded' which gave an added incentive to raise as much money as possible. It costs Mary's Meals £13.90 to feed a child at school for a year and they currently feed more than 1.2 million children every school day in 15 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

In addition to the appeal the young people sought the help of parishioners in donating items for "The Backpack Project". This project aims to provide basic learning equipment to children with none, so backpacks are filled with items such as recycled school bags, uniforms, PE kits and new note-books, pens and pencil.

Inspired by the Youth Group, the Justice and Peace group themed their annual Advent Reflections on the poor and needy, highlighting that the Youth Group's work was putting into practice Pope Francis' call in launching the inaugural World Day of the Poor, for Catholics to focus on the poor in our society.

The appeal was a tremendous success raising £230 and sufficient items to fill approximately 5 backpacks. For such a small parish this was a tremendous result. With 'match funding' it means 34 children will be fed at school every day for a year

Pictured are members of the Youth, Children's Liturgy, and Justice and Peace Groups together with parish priest Father Clement Orango on the feast of the Epiphany with their 'gifts' for those who have least.

Amy Jarkulisz, a member of the Youth Group said, "Especially at Christmas, we believe it is important to think of others who are less fortunate than ourselves. This feeling is magnified at Christmas, as whilst we are all receiving wonderful gifts, there are some that have less and are not receiving as many gifts. However they still cherish each little present they get, whether it is just objects for school or simple necessities such as food. At a time when Jesus was born into so little, we feel it to be immensely important to help as much as we can."

In thanking parishioners for their support Father Clement said "it is so encouraging to see that our young people are able to lead the way by sharing the true spirit of Christmas with those less fortunate in our world. What a beautiful

world it would be if we all receive and spread Christmas Joy, Hope, Love and Peace."

Kathryn Timmons on behalf of the Justice and Peace group said, "Well done to the young people for suggesting this project for Advent. It is easy to feel overwhelmed by many worthy causes but important to realise that if we all do a bit we can make a difference."



Centenary of the First World War

The First World War was a catastrophic conflict that cost the lives of hundreds of thousands of British and Commonwealth men serving in the Army, Navy and Air Force. Nine of those men were parishioners at Our Lady of Victories. They were Bernard Carroll, Frank Wilson, William Smith, Arthur Fox, George Waters, James Moran, George Buswell, who all served with the Leicestershire Regiment. Harry Kirkham served with the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry and George Wilson served with the Durham Light Infantry. A plaque commemorating the lives of these men already hangs in our Church. However to mark the centenary of the First

World War, as a mark of remembrance, and for future generations to remember, a new memorial plaque recording the names of these men who gave their lives has been designed. Also included on the plaque are details of the dates these men died, their final resting places, or where they have no known grave, details of the memorial on which their name appears. The regimental badges are also illustrated. The plaque is to be mounted on the wall adjacent to the Sacred Heart altar. This is a very fitting way of remembering these men who sacrificed so much.



The Travelling Crib

Journeys into the homes of the families of St Georges Academy Derby



Jimmy



Kyran, Avion & Kavarni



Grace

Last year the Parish of St Georges & Holy Spirit knitted many sets of the Nativity figures and gifted them to their Parish school St Georges Academy Derby to ensure every child had the opportunity to welcome the Holy Family into their homes during Advent. Following on from last years success the Travelling Crib was welcomed again with great enthusiasm from children and

parents alike, this year a diary was added to encourage the children to record their thoughts, Here are just some of the photos recording the Nativity journey.

Traditionally the Travelling Crib (or 'Posada') is a creative way of marking the 24 days of Advent. Figures from the nativity story travel from home to home (staying one night in each) arriving back in school for Christmas Mass in preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day. The Travelling Crib is a special way of remembering the journey that Mary and Joseph made on their way to Bethlehem. Some contain the shepherds and wise men who also made long journey's to see the Christ child.

Mrs Racheal Christian mum to Kyran and Kavarni, said "It can be difficult with all the excitement of Christmas for the children to remember that Advent is preparing for Jesus birth, the Travelling Crib gave us the opportunity as a family to pray and reflect on that very first Christmas and remind ourselves what Christmas really means for each of us as, the birth of the promised Saviour.

Continued from page 2

This however can only be brought about by our communion with God each day of our lives and that communion can only be achieved through our time spent with Jesus, reading the scriptures and opening our hearts to Him in prayer every single day, however we decide to achieve this let us remember that a great deal depends on us of course but not everything, recall that Jesus wants to be with us, He loves us and wants to fill us with His love.

So as we move on toward the Lenten season from Ash Wednesday and throughout Lent

let it be our firm resolve to get 'spiritually fit' to make time for Jesus, let us spend time in prayer in communion with God, taking all the opportunity which Lent avails us especially in time before the Blessed Sacrament. Let us practice the art of coming into Jesus' presence in this way - let us use the opportunities for Reconciliation, receiving God's grace throughout Lent as we are able to - then hopefully by the time that Easter arrives we shall be on our way to spiritual fitness and holiness.

**Fr. Richard + h.d.n.
Priest and Hermit
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Poor Clares Sisters Back CAFOD Power to Be Campaign!

A group of Nottingham religious sisters living an enclosed life are still making their voices heard after backing a campaign to promote renewable energy.

The Poor Clares Sisters devote their life to prayer and have pledged their support to CAFOD's Power to Be campaign.

The sisters live at the Poor Clare Monastery in Bulwell and have decided to promote Power to Be, which focuses on how support-

ing cleaner, renewable forms of energy can help people living in poverty around the world. Sister Francis Linuscotieno is one of the Poor Clares nuns, who usually live in the same Monastery their whole life.

She said: "We are delighted to get involved with CAFOD's Power to Be campaign, as we are well aware of the devastating effects climate change is having.

"We know that CAFOD can make a real dif-



Power to Be promotes the use of renewable energy



ference and we hope that our small contribution can help them on their way. As we are neighbours of CAFOD Volunteer Centre, we are kept up to date of all fundraising and campaigning activities".

CAFOD representative in Nottingham, Maggie Mairura, said: "We are delighted that the Poor Clares Sisters have joined forces with CAFOD and together we can make a big impact.

"The sisters are incredibly devoted to their life of faith and contemplation – everybody can learn an awful lot from them. We enjoy being neighbours!"

Ad-Venture

Taking time to reflect on the plight of Christians unable to practice their faith freely was the modest plan during Advent for a Parish Justice and Peace Group in Leicester.

At the ordinary Saturday morning 'Open Church', carried on after the successful Door of Mercy project throughout the Year of Mercy, Blessed Sacrament Church parishioners gathered to pray for persecuted Christians throughout the world. On each of the four Saturdays of Advent, they heard a different short testament of challenges facing Christians today. Prayerful reflection followed by a little discussion, and praying of the rosary brought some helpful perspective to Christmas.

Organiser, Theresa Alessandro said, "We wanted to take time out from the frantic pace of 'commercial' Christmas preparations and think about those who are unable to safely live and practice their faith."

"To think that it is so dangerous for some of our sisters and brothers around the world to live as a Christian is something that makes me feel very thankful for my freedom," said one participant.

A visitor, who was not a Catholic, also called by to join in, compelled to offer thanksgiving.

The Parish Priest, Father John Joe Maloney was also on hand, as usual on a Saturday morning, for spiritual advice and the Sacrament of Confession. He, and those coming together for the Ad-Venture, enjoyed home made mince pies and a hot drink after each session. Altogether four hours during Advent but a welcome haven of prayerful quiet away from the otherwise noisy lead up to Christmas 2017.

'Fascinating' Floral Art Afternoon in Eastwood

There was a 'fascinating' afternoon of floral art in Eastwood to raise money for communities in Ethiopia.



There was some impressive floral art

The event was held in Eastwood Town Council offices by the Our Lady of Good Counsel CAFOD Group in aid of Connect2.

Connect2 is built on CAFOD's values of solidarity and partnership, where parishes in the UK are able to stand alongside communities overseas to fight against poverty and injustice. Through Connect2, the CAFOD group at Our Lady of Good Counsel is linked with groups in Sebeja, in the dry, arid north of Ethiopia.

Elaine Oliver said: "The title was Christmas memories and the demonstration given by Maria Kirk, a member of the parish CAFOD group.

"As she told fascinating stories of her Christmases past, she worked on the arrangements, much to the delight of the audience, many of whom were not parishioners. For some it was a time of meeting old friends whom they had not seen for some time.

"There was also a table of hand made gifts, made by Maria and a selection of books by our local author, Angela Rigley. After the demonstration the arrangements became raffle prizes."

The evening raised an impressive £244 for communities in Ethiopia, where around a quarter of the population live in extreme poverty.

CAFOD representative in Nottingham, Maggie Mairura, said: "The Our Lady of Good Counsel CAFOD group have done some amazing fundraising for Connect2 and this



Money raised went to CAFOD's Connect2 scheme

is another example of an original and innovative idea.

"As always, I can't wait to see what they come up with next!"

Sporting odd socks as part of a nationwide campaign to raise awareness around bullying



Students and staff at Saint John Houghton Catholic Voluntary Academy sported odd socks as part of a nationwide campaign to raise awareness around bullying.

The 'Odd Socks Day' marked the beginning of Anti-Bullying Week and a key aim of the campaign was to help empower children and young people to celebrate what makes them, and others, unique.

With the message 'All Different, All Equal', the week also aimed to help youngsters understand how important it is that they feel valued and able to be themselves without fear of bullying.

Joan McCarthy, head teacher at Saint John Houghton CVA, said that Odd Socks Day was a simple initiative that celebrated the message 'All Different, All Equal.'

She said: "We fully supported Anti-Bullying Week and Odd Socks Day was a great way to start it off. We want our students to know that they are valued for being who they are

and that it's ok to be different, we are not all the same. We would like to thank all of our students and staff who took part in the day."

The school has its own 'Oasis Team' which is made up of about 40 students who act as mentors to the younger students.

Olivia Henry, 14, is a member of the Oasis Team.

She said: "If the younger children in school are struggling or they need to talk to someone then they can come to us. Some children might really want to talk but feel like they can't approach a teacher so in that case they can see a member of the Oasis Team.

"We have all been trained to deal with this and if it's something we can handle then we will but if we think it's more serious then we would always involve a teacher. I think it's good for the younger pupils to have this opportunity, especially the Year 7 students who might feel a bit daunted by moving up to secondary school."

Preparing for the Eucharistic Congress

Mrs. Patricia Pelos, Chaplain and a T.A. at St. Joseph's Academy writes:

Bishop Patrick asked all schools in the diocese to participate in Eucharistic adoration on Friday 24th November 2017 in preparation for the Eucharistic Congress in September 2018.

Our day at St. Joseph's started at 9:00am when each class watched Bishop Patrick speak live about Eucharistic adoration. Fr Owen, our parish priest brought in the Monstrance and placed it on a prepared altar in our school library. He then brought in the Blessed Sacrament, placing the large Consecrated Host in the Monstrance.

Each class was timetabled 15 minutes of Eucharistic adoration. There was a time of silence and then a passage from Scripture was read.

This was followed by a short reflection and examining of conscience, finishing with the words; 'We can choose to do things that are wrong as they appear to give us happiness,

but what is that happiness worth? Is saying hurtful things worth losing a friend? Is name calling worth making someone upset? Is stealing worth losing someone's trust? Is sin worth rejecting Jesus' love?'

Each time the pupil thought of a time they wanted to say sorry in the presence of Jesus, they tied a knot in a piece of string they had each been given. These pieces of string were placed around the cross on our prayer focus on the library floor.

This was followed by another time of silent reflection, finishing with prayers and quiet music.

It was truly a spiritual experience for the whole school. The Children were most respectful, the Staff most grateful. As a School Community we thank God for the gift of our faith, and pray that we will continue to live, love and celebrate the joy of our faith all the days of our life.

Showcasing their photography skills



Sixth formers at Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy showcased their photography skills at a media exhibition.

Students studying A-level Media were split into groups and tasked with organising an exhibition of their work.

Each group chose a theme for their photos and assigned different roles to each student involved. Photos were then displayed for parents, staff and fellow students to see.

Larissa Farr and Gemma Woolley, both 17, said the roles ranged from legal and ethical to venue design.

Larissa said: "We had to think of everything that would be involved with organising and holding an event.

"Our theme was dark fairy tales and it was based on the Brothers Grimm novel. Some of our inspiration came from Alice in

Wonderland and Little Red Riding Hood. We were really pleased with the way it all turned out."

Vongai Monangaire, 17, and Benedicte Kiza, 18, and the rest of their group experimented with photo effects.

Benedicte said: "We were really pleased with the way the photos turned out. We looked at the contrast between night and day time and used effects to create orbs on the pictures."

Jonathan Jarvis, Head of Sixth Form at Saint Benedict CVA, said: "I am always impressed by the level of creativity and professionalism that our Sixth Form students show and this exhibition was a wonderful example of this. The students have to work independently as this examination unit is also about using real-world skills in preparation for the next stage of their education."

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RETURN FROM CAMBODIA

Jenny Taylor talks to The Catholic News about her recent experience volunteering in Cambodia

So, Jenny, let's start by asking what motivated you in the first place to become a volunteer in the third world?

Well, I have led a privileged life in the western world, growing up in a nurturing family, and following my chosen career path. Being at the end of my working life with no ties, I want to use my skills and experience as a nurse to help others wherever they are.

What do you feel you contributed to the project you joined in Cambodia?

It is difficult to assess. I will probably never fully know what impact I had on the communities I visited. I know I personally gained a lot from the experience: notably appreciation of my own way of life back home being able to make my own decisions freely. As a long-term volunteer, I visited places and people on a regular basis to conduct health clinics. A strong, firm relationship built up with the local people.

During my last week, my co-ordinator arranged the programme to include all my favourite areas. Local people came to say their goodbyes and thanks. That all proved to be very emotional.

Did you have time to explore Phnom Penh?

Yes. Weekends were free and lots of extra days were available to travel around. It was good to mix with other volunteers of all ages and to plan trips. Phnom Penh is interesting, particularly because of its recent history. I went to the genocide museum and the Killing Fields - all extremely thought-provoking.

Travel outside the capital is slow, but I went to Siem Reap and Angkor Wat, a world heritage site. A group of us went to the north-east province to trek with rescued elephants. That was a mind-blowing experience.

What about the church in Phnom Penh?

There is a thriving Catholic community in the capital, and my local church is run by two enthusiastic American priests. The community was very welcoming as they are largely expats and short-term visitors to the area.


The weekly masses and special celebrations are as at home, and I was there throughout advent. I was made to feel very welcome and asked to take part in the life of the parish. Fr Charlie is tireless in his efforts to build community and reach out to others in the city. It is a lively congregation.

What advice would you give to other mature adults thinking of volunteering overseas?

It is important to research well and choose an organisation/charity that 'fits' your own needs and skills. Think about what you want to achieve for others and for yourself. Take your time. Volunteering is expensive; everything has to be paid for up front. Some charities are good at presenting their costs. Many people will want to support you financially, so don't be afraid to fundraise. Be wise about the length of time you offer.

At the end give yourself plenty of downtime. The reverse culture shock is huge. Time is needed to recover after your trip. The personal rewards are invaluable, and other volunteers may become lifelong friends.

Don't be put off by negative thoughts and comments as the experience will benefit you as much as the people you'll be living among.

 Cambodia, in the southern portion of the Indochina Peninsula in Southeast Asia with a population of 15 million and occupying 69,898 square miles, is bordered by Thailand to the northwest, Laos to the northeast, Vietnam to the east, and the Gulf of Thailand to the southwest. The capital and largest city is Phnom Penh, the political, economic, and cultural centre of Cambodia. The official religion of the kingdom is Theravada Buddhism, practiced by approximately 95 percent of the population. The kingdom is a constitutional monarchy.

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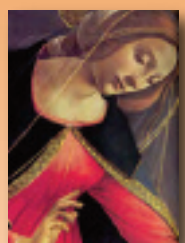
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I HAVE A DREAM

And God said:

"I have a dream."

Dreams come in the darkness, but they bring light, fresh vision and fresh understanding.

My dream, said God, is to create a world and a universe centred on my Son Jesus.

But how am I going to make my dream a reality?

How am I literally going to earth my dream?

I know, I'll make a world full of wonder and beauty, a world where human beings are at the heart and centre of everything, a world where they can appreciate the awesome gifts that surround them, a world where children matter, a world where everyone matters, a world where there's a possibility for justice, love and peace.

I know what I'll do, said God, to make my dream come true.

I'll send a baby, For what's more wondrous and vulnerable than a human infant? What's more precious and important, what's more valuable than money can buy, than a new-born child?

And from the dreamy darkness of a human mother's womb will spring to life my Son Jesus, who will be a homely sign and witness of my ever-caring presence to and in a world so often starved of human love and affection.

And the dream became flesh. The living word of God became human, one like ourselves, with the possibility of wonder and wounds.

One who could feel like we do

One who could show us compassion. One who could help and heal us. One who could stand by us. One who could free us from our forgetfulness, and all our aimless behaviour. One who could be our Saviour and our Redeemer. One who could lighten our darkness, and be the Light of the world. And so it came to be. And here we are, parts of a living dream, called in our turn to be lights to our world. Amen.

© Denis Blackledge SJ



Fr Denis Blackledge is parish priest of St Francis Xavier's Liverpool.



Justice, Peace, Faith and Action: Riding the Tide

Valedictory

by Louise Cooke

Defining what the term 'Justice and Peace' means in our diocese can be challenging. It's a woolly sort of name in some ways and can be confusing. During both of my terms as fieldworker for the Justice and Peace Commission, (2012--2014 and 2016--2017), I would often receive phone calls asking for a Justice of The Peace, thanks to Google finding hits for the key words 'Justice' and 'Peace'. If we do the same thing as Google and just focus on those single words, we will come to the right definition of the term. As the National Justice and Peace Network say, "If you want peace, work for justice." The two go hand in hand and encompass every aspect of human and environmental life on our planet.

When in post as fieldworker I would often use the alternative term 'Faith in Action' to describe my work, as this spells out the nature of the role. The role involves encouraging, empowering and facilitating Catholics to put their faith into action, to profess the Gospel values by their actions in daily life. It includes educating people about Catholic Social Teaching. People often ask "What is that?" It's a body of encyclicals, exhortations and other church papers which popes over the centuries have drawn up to speak out about the way Catholics and all people should live according to

their faith across all realms of modern life: work, economics, environment, international development and consumerism. Its main principles are Human Dignity, Community and Participation, Care for Creation, Dignity in Work, Peace and Reconciliation and Solidarity. You can find out more here: <http://www.catholic-social-teaching.org.uk/principles/>.

Although only two years had passed between my two terms in post, on returning in 2016 I found that the nature of the work had changed enormously during that time. The first time around I would often travel miles across the diocese to talk to just a very small number of people about CST and about the work they were engaged in in their parishes to bring about justice and peace. The emphasis for the role at that time was on increasing the number of parishes that had their own Justice and Peace group, and facilitating those groups to work on their chosen themes. This was a very broad way of working and often felt literally like 'preaching to the converted'. However, by 2016, thanks to the hard work of the Justice and Peace Commission, a two-year action plan had been drawn up highlighting specific foci that I would work on, and encourage Catholics to work on: Building Peaceful Communities, Modern Slavery, Poverty in

the UK, Refugees and Asylum Seekers and improving the effectiveness of the Justice and Peace Commission itself. This action plan is still in place and will provide a framework for the new fieldworker. Alongside it run the traditional areas of working for the Justice and Peace Commission: supporting the work of CAFOD and Pax Christi, the Live Simply and Living Wage initiatives and actively encouraging the use of Fair Trade produce in all diocesan parishes and schools.

It is now not always necessary to travel to talk to small groups of people, as the majority of the information and resources we share can be sent by email or shared on our Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/nottinghamjusticeandpeace/> The emphasis has changed from increasing the number of parishes which have traditional Justice and Peace groups to encouraging existing groups to work ecumenically and with our brothers and sisters from other faiths, combining forces to work for the Common Good. The twin actions of both campaigning and alleviation run through all our work, and are equally necessary. For example, campaigning against the causes of poverty in the UK is needed, but without ignoring the need to help those already suffering from it in our communities too. And, whilst supporting poverty alleviation work, it's important to simultaneously remember to campaign against its causes so that at some point in the future people won't be in poverty and there won't then be a need to alleviate it. The two aspects go hand in glove.

Now the emphasis, when travelling, is to bring as many people together as possible to listen to speakers, get resources and practical examples, share good practice with others and receive encouragement and affirmation for all the hard work they have been doing. Our recent Annual Assembly in Derby was an example of this, as will be our coming event in Leicester in February. The Modern Slavery awareness-raising sessions, in particular, brought Catholics into closer working contact with other Christians and people who profess other faiths or don't profess one, united in a common cause. In addition to this, through the better use of written materials in various media, the pro-active endorsement of Bishop Patrick, and a more digital way of working, the size of our contacts database has tripled. Many of these contacts aren't members of justice and peace groups in their parishes. Many of them don't attend Mass regularly. Many of them aren't Catholics. Many of them aren't Christians. Many of them say

they don't profess a faith – though they are very clearly people of good will. What brings this group of contacts together is their desire to put their faith into action. (Even if their faith is simply in mankind.) And this desire is what is at the heart of the justice and peace fieldworker's role.

My belief is that, as Catholics, it's almost a contradiction in terms to talk about a specific group of parishioners as the 'justice and peace group'. "They are the ones who do that for our parish" I used to hear so much. This was the topic of an article I wrote for The Tablet in 2014: that, in fact, the entire parish is the justice and peace group. Every member of a parish, if they believe the words of the Gospels and want to act on them, has an interest in and a responsibility for justice and peace for all humans and for our planet. It's ironic in many ways that the changing face of our society in 21st century Britain is what is starting to make the above vision more of a reality. But it is also completely appropriate, because this shift towards entire parishes getting involved in social justice means that Catholics are responding to the changing times, in the same way that popes have been doing throughout the centuries with their body of documents comprising Catholic Social Teaching. Catholics are responding to the breakdown in civilised society we are experiencing: the rise of hatred and xenophobia; the increase in poverty of all forms affecting multiple sectors of society; the lack of dignity for work perpetuated by insufficient pay and zero hours contracts; the treatment of immigrants as other than human and the increasing disrespect and lack of concern that the state is showing for the wellbeing of its people.

And so, to close, it is sad to be leaving my post as the tide feels like it is on the turn and Catholics across the diocese rise to live out the Gospel values. But at the same time it is a very exciting moment in the life of the Justice and Peace Commission as it recruits a new worker to ride this tide and help to keep Catholics engaged and active. New members have joined the Commission and a new era is about to begin. To return to the term 'Faith in Action', it has an additional meaning to me other than people putting their faith into action. For me personally it refers to the fact that I have a lot of faith in ACTION. I have faith that if we act to bring God's love and mercy to those we meet as well as those we will never meet, then we will surely transform not only their lives but our own lives too, so that all humans will "have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10)

"Love" at a Christmas Wedding

at St Georges RC Derby

Whilst most of us were thinking of Christmas, Parish Catechist Ms Sinead Tague was busy organising her wedding, and a week before Christmas Sinead married fiancé Daniel witnessed by family and friends at her parish church of St Georges Derby.

Daniel from Scotland along with Eight Groomsman looked splendid in full Scottish dress wearing the Blackwatch tartan.



Sinead arrived a little late and look absolutely radiant, the Mass was officiated by Canon Burbidge and the Carols sung added to the festive occasion.

Sinead is currently studying for the "Bishops Certificate in Catechism" her studies helped her choose some wonderful readings for the ceremony the Carols sung added to the festive occasion, So at the end of the Mass Canon Burbidge announced them Man & Wife and Sinead Tague became Mrs Sinead Love, So Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Love what a fabulous surname for a newly married couple.

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from the People of St. Mary's Derby



Over the Christmas Period St. Mary's parishioners were extremely generous in their donations to the local food banks. St Mary's supports food banks run by Derby City mission and the food bank at the Derby Refugee Advice Centre. Our picture shows part of the collection waiting to go last Tuesday and over the holiday period there had already been three deliveries to the Refugee Advice Centre. Parishioners support the

food banks each week by donations of tinned and dried goods and the food is delivered by members of the parish on a rota basis.

Donations of tinned Fish, tinned vegetables, dried lentils, and pulses along with tea bags and coffee are always very welcome. Parishioners place the donations in the boxes at the back



HEAVEN SCENT ...

by Julia Beacroft

MY FATHER WAS a wonderful man but as he grew older he started to develop a few foibles and fancies that hadn't previously existed.

Always a neat and tidy man, (ex-Army), he became quite obsessed with wiping down the front of the kitchen cupboards every day without fail and he also claimed that he was unable to eat without something to drink to accompany the food. Yet another flight of fancy was his detestation for candles – especially the scented variety. Despite my habit of always having two or three candles in my fireplace which I like to light each evening, this routine would be totally stymied if Dad was visiting. 'They'll choke me to death!' he used to dramatically exclaim, and no amount of reasoning with him would make the slightest iota of difference.

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

As Christians the candle remains for us highly symbolic of the light of Christ in our lives. The candle flame, which can be so easily extinguished, further reminds us of the fragility of our faith which requires careful and constant nurturing. And candles are frequently used as an aid to prayer and meditation and a traditional part of many of our sacramental practices.

On the second of February we celebrate the wonderful feast of Candlemas, also known as the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord Jesus which is a Christian Holy Day commemorating the presentation of Jesus at the



Temple.

CANDLE FEVER

It has also become a tradition for many Christians to bring their candles to their local church where they are blessed and then used for the rest of the year, especially during prayer.

BEAUTY AND AROMA

As diverse and flawed humans we all exhibit our own personal likes and dislikes of objects, people and places and of course this is both natural and normal. It would seem that candles are synonymous with our Christian faith but clearly not every single person will appreciate this fact or indeed their beauty and aroma. The Feast of Candlemas reminds us of our Lord Jesus Christ and the blessed candles continue to do so. These traditional candles are meant to be fragrance-free but no matter – all of God's children cannot help but appreciate the beautiful essence and fragrance of Christ himself.

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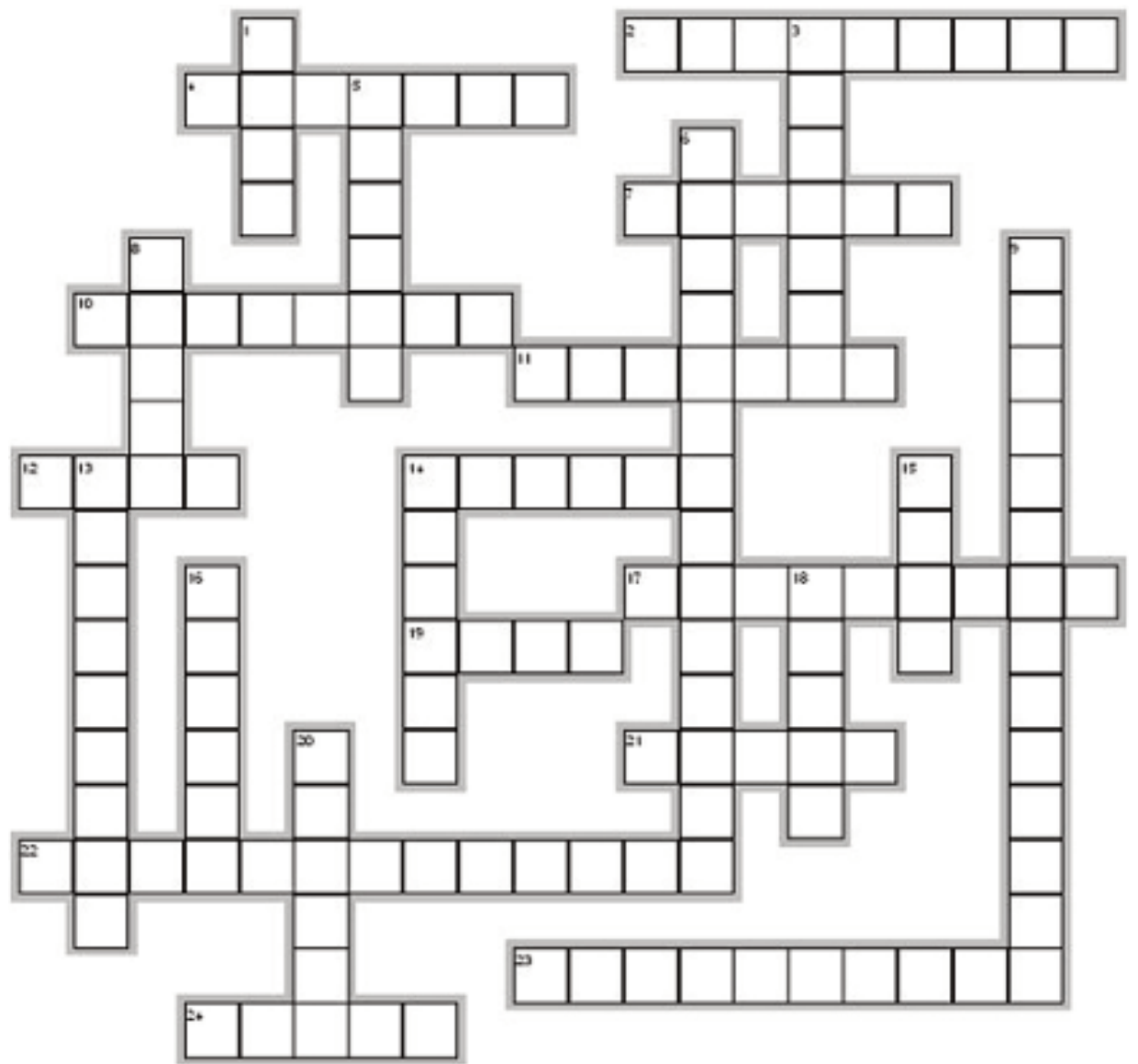
Coffee Break Quiz

Across:

2. Mother of John the Baptist
4. Man whom Jesus raised from the dead
7. The earthly father of Jesus
10. Short tax collector
11. Tax collector who wrote became a disciple
12. Temple prophetess
14. He found no guilt in Jesus, yet sentenced him to death
17. Father of John the Baptist
19. Doctor and New Testament writer
21. The disciple who was also called Peter
22. Betrayer of Jesus (2 wds)
23. Blind beggar healed by Jesus
24. The Way, the Truth, and the Life

Down:

1. The mother of Jesus
3. Father of disciples James and John
5. Peter's brother
6. The forerunner of Jesus (3 wds)
8. The tempter
9. Man who issued decree for census (2 wds)
13. He asked, "How can a man be born again?"
14. The disciple who called Nathanael to follow Jesus
15. Writer of the second gospel
16. Mary's very busy sister
18. He had John the Baptist beheaded
20. Official whose daughter was healed by Jesus



Solution

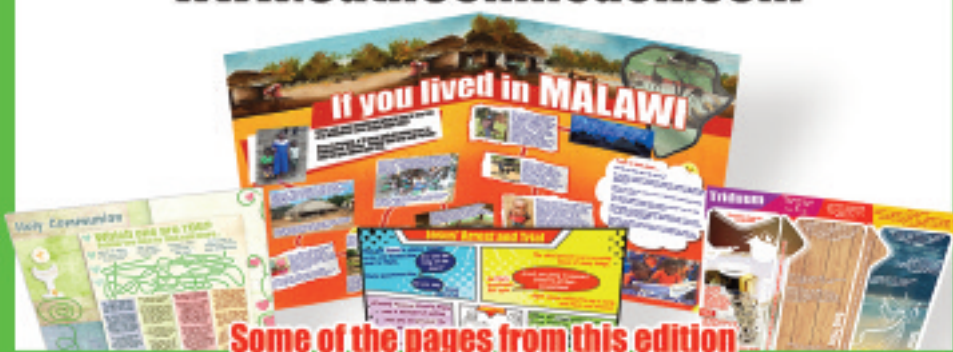
Across: 2. ELIZABETH 4. LAZARUS 7. JOSEPH 10. ZACCHAEUS 11. MATTHEW 12. ANNA 14. PILATE 17. ZACHARIAS 19. LUKE 21. SIMON 22. JUDAS ISCARIOT 23. BARTIMAEUS 24. JESUS
Down: 1. MARY 3. ZEBEDEE 5. ANDREW 6. JOHN THE BAPTIST 8. SATAN 9. CAESAR AUGUSTUS 13. NICODEMUS 14. PHILIP 15. MARK 16. MARTHA 18. HEROD 20. JAIROS

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Dominica Roberts

LIVE ISSUES: Pregnancy

There is a false kindness that can be more cruel in its effects than deliberate unkindness. The Church's teaching helps us to avoid this. It may seem kind to allow abortion for the 'hard cases' such as babies conceived in rape or incest, but it opens the door to abortion on demand. In this country there are about 200,000 abortions a year, and in the USA about a million a year. Each kills at least one, maybe two, human babies.

No prolife worker blames or judges the mothers. Each of these 'hard cases' is a real suffering woman. Does it even benefit her? Increasingly there are well-researched, physical harms from abortion, such as premature birth and miscarriage in later pregnancies. Abortion has often been used to cover up continuing criminal abuse, such as incest or underage sex.

Raped women have spoken of the pressure to abort, wellmeaning or otherwise, and of their regret later. About half of them love and keep their babies, regardless of how they were conceived, and this also seems to apply to women in refugee camps where abortion was

not an option. A woman who continues the pregnancy can validly see herself no longer as a victim, as she would doubly be after an abortion, but as a heroine who has saved her child's life, which is much healthier psychologically.

'Unplanned pregnancies lead to battered babies' was taken for granted before the 1967 Act, until it was researched and entirely discredited. In fact, children who are abused are much more likely to have been very much wanted, but for unrealistic reasons. 'A woman pregnant from rape wants and will be helped by an abortion' seems just as obvious, but is not proven.

The Church teaches us that it is always wrong deliberately to take an innocent human life, whether as a tiny clump of cells in a mother or on a laboratory slide, or at any later time and in any condition. This is not only kind in itself, but obliges us to try to change the law, and always to offer every possible help, especially in those 'hard cases' where there may be pressure to abort or euthanise. Taking a human life has to be the worst answer to any problem.

Nottingham Diocese Spirituality Network

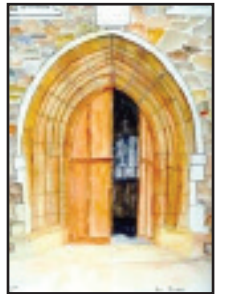
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Or

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42nd RODSLEY PILGRIMAGE

SUNDAY 24TH JUNE 2018

Chief Concelebrant - Right Rev Patrick McKinney

Bishop of Nottingham

Homily - Rev Canon Geoffrery Hunton STB BA

St Marys Derby

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NEW FILM ON MARY FOR CATHOLIC NEWS PARISHES

Catholic Faith Exploration (CaFE) have been producing TV-quality film courses on all aspects of the Faith since being launched by Cardinal Hume in 1996. Many parishes have run CaFE courses in the Diocese to great effect over the years. A new course and book on Mary for parishes and individuals called LET IT BE has recently been launched. Cardinal Nichols is one of the well known experts who powerfully share about Mary's vital role in our discipleship today. The inspiring travel journey through Mary's life past and present begins at our National Marian Shrine in Walsingham, where Monsignor John Armitage sets the scene, before the five session series takes viewers to the wonders of the Holy Land filmed at all the key Marian sites. After that, the traditional place of Mary's older life in Ephesus is explored before visiting Rome, Montserrat near Barcelona, and Knock. One of the highlights is the beauty of Lourdes with filming of the Cardinal and several diocesan pilgrimage. Let It Be also features moving testimonies from Mary's Meals, ex-gangster John Pridmore and many others from around the UK plus an interview with the Papal Preacher, Fr Raniero Cantalamessa. Full details of the very affordable five session film & book plus a short trailer

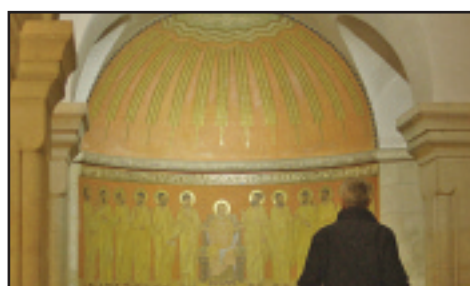


are available at www.faithcafe.org or by calling CaFE on 0845 050 9428.

David Payne, the film's director, says; "The time is ripe for a fresh and inspiring film about Mary's life, her inspiring witness of faith and her powerful intercessory prayers. We need all the help we can get."

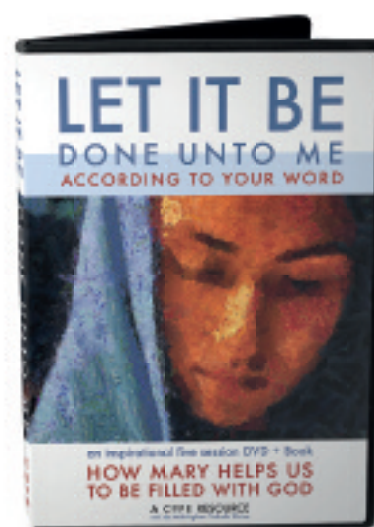
Cardinal Nichols says; "Mary's 'Let it be' was a clear, deliberate and definitive act - powerful, strong, free and life-giving. It was Mary's commitment to the Word of God as the supreme value of her life which needs to be at the very core of our discipleship today."

Msgr Armitage says "It's very important to have a resource like LET IT BE to help us to do more than just 'go through the motions'. It will help us grow in our prayer and give us a deeper relationship with our Blessed Mother Mary."



NEW CaFE FILM ON MARY

5 sessions for individuals & parishes



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HOW MARY HELPS US
TO GROW IN FAITH