

St Patrick  
Feast day 17th March

# Catholic News

MORE THAN 20 YEARS OF BRINGING THE  
NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER

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Editor John Clawson. Tel: E-mail [john@bellcourtltd.co.uk](mailto:john@bellcourtltd.co.uk) or [david@bellcourtltd.co.uk](mailto:david@bellcourtltd.co.uk)



## CAFOD APPEALS FOR LOVE AND COMPASSION THIS LENT

This Lent CAFOD is inviting supporters to express their love and compassion for our global family through prayer, fasting and giving.

The charity has been awarded matched funding for the Lent Family Fast Day appeal, which means donations made between February 13 and May 12 will be doubled by the UK government up to a total value of £5m. Funds raised during this period must be sent to CAFOD by July 1.

The charity is sharing the experiences of Marian in Zimbabwe and her two children Tawanda and Svondo. Thanks to many kind donations, CAFOD provided seeds, fencing and farming training for the family.

Over the years, Marian nurtured the seeds into a thriving vegetable garden – full of tomatoes, kale and butternut squash.

Marian's son Tawanda was once so weak that he couldn't go to school, but now thanks to generous donations is a healthy 21-year-old who can sell produce from his own vegetable plot.



CAFOD gave Marian vegetable seeds, nutrition and farming training. She can now grow food to keep her children strong and healthy.

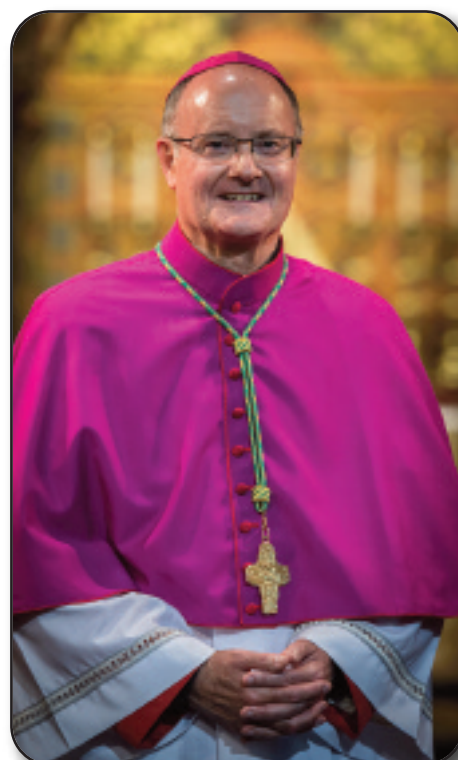
For more information, visit [cafod.org.uk/fastday](http://cafod.org.uk/fastday).

## Bishop offers Mass for married couples

On the 4th of February, 2018, Bishop Patrick offered Mass for married couples of the diocese at the Cathedral, and invited them to renew their marriage vows at the same time. He was assisted at this Mass by Fr. D. Palmer, Mr. S. Doona, and by the Cathedral Clergy, servers and the Cathedral Choir. The following is the homily given by the Bishop for the event

This afternoon, we gather to thank God for the sacrament of marriage. We usually describe a sacrament as an outward sign of an inner reality. The inner reality in every sacrament is that God comes to us in the sacrament to bless, strengthen and guide us. To help us to appreciate what God desires to do for us in each of the sacraments, there is an outward sign or symbol. So, in the sacrament of baptism, the outward signs or symbols are water, the anointing with oil, the white garment; in the Mass it's bread and wine. God reveals and makes present his love, strength, and guidance through these symbols – they express his presence in people's lives. But, as you all know, in the sacrament of marriage the outward sign or symbol is the giving of the couple to each other in the exchange of wedding vows: 'to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish till death do us part.'

Continued on page 8



**JOE WALSH TOURS**  
PILGRIMAGES

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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**

**Editor:** John Clawson  
**Editorial Office:** Bellcourt Ltd, N2 Blois Meadow Business Centre, Steeple Bumpstead, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 7BN  
**Telephone:** 0207 112 6710  
 email: johnclawson@icloud.com or david@bellcourtltd.co.uk  
**Website:** www.bellcourtltd.co.uk  
**Distribution enquiries:** Nick Layton  
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# Ministry with Prisoners and their Families

An Ecumenical Service held at St. Ralph Sherwin Catholic Church in, Chellaston on Sunday 28th January 2018, was addressed by Naomi Farrell, representing PACT (Prison Advice and Care Trust). PACT is an independent Catholic charity, serving prisoners, their families and ex-offenders in England and Wales. Although the charity has operated for 120 years, the need for its work is now greater than ever, since prison occupancy has doubled in the last 15 years to 87,000 people in total. The pressure on prisons due to under-staffing and funding cuts is a concern nationwide, but is particularly severe in London prisons. Here, prisoners are often confined to their cells for 23 hours a day, with only one free hour to access health care or exercise. This results in high levels of tension, violence, self-harm, and suicide.

PACT tries to mitigate the harm by supporting prisoners' relationships with their families, which can reduce re-offending. Families are also supported at court hearings, and have access to a daily Help Line. Volunteers are in regular contact with families, liaising with prison authorities to provide information for relatives. Inside prisons, PACT pioneered the provision of Visitor Centres for families waiting to visit offenders. Peer Support Groups are also held, and also Development Courses providing training in parenting, money management and communication skills. Women prisoners, worried about their children are helped by family workers in contact with social services.

In the community, the effect on the 200,000 children of offenders is of particular concern. Police raids on homes when carrying out an arrest can have a traumatic effect, as well as the absence of a parent, and the stigma attached to being the child of

an offender. At present, there is no official provision for supporting children in this situation, but PACT has Youth Workers supporting children referred from schools. PACT is also campaigning for magistrates and people in the judicial system to consider the effects of sentencing on children of offenders, and to give shorter sentences where possible.

The recent re-organisation and partial privatisation of both the prison and probation services seems to have reduced some services to prisoners and their families. However, the work of charities like PACT does give extra support to prisoners' families,

and hope that ex-prisoners will be less likely to re-offend, and be re-settled into civilian life with greater success.

A collection amounting to £110 was taken during the service and donated to PACT.

**Dorothy Robinson Churches Together In Chellaston**

**The Lead Bishop for Prisons, Bishop Richard Moth offers his reflections on the recent outcome of inspections in HMP Liverpool and HMP Nottingham, see page 4**

## 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

## News from our Step into the Gap volunteers, Ciara & Kayleigh

Maggie Mairura Community Participation Coordinator for CAFOD in Nottingham Diocese signposting to updates from our 'Gappers'!.....



Kayleigh, Ciara and Maggie at the Briars September 2017

Step into the Gap, CAFOD's gap year programme, is an opportunity for young people to volunteer in the UK, gain experience, develop leadership skills and visit CAFOD partners and the communities we work with.

So for us here in Nottingham Diocese that means we benefit as for the last few years we have had 2 'Gappers' based at the Briars Retreat Centre in Crich.

Find out more and apply for this September on the CAFOD website.

So Ciara, following in Bishop Patrick's recent footsteps is visiting our partners in El Salvador and Nicaragua, whilst Kayleigh, is in Sierra Leone.

More details on page 7

## Rosmini Centre

### House of Prayer

#### March

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

**10 Saturday** - Deepening our Faith with Bishop 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.

**17 Saturday** - 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.

**24 Saturday** - "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.

#### April

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

**21 Saturday** - Deepening our Faith with Bishop Robert Barron DVD. Mass at 10.00 am followed at 11.00 am by DVD on **Mary, the Mother of God**. Shared table at 1.00 pm with soup and a roll. Please book in advance. Donations welcome.

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

**ROSMINI CENTRE,**  
 433 FOSSE WAY, LE7 4SJ  
 Tel: 07973 370620 or 01509 813078 or  
 email: 243mulls@gmail.com

*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.*

## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

February 14 - March 25

### HELP SAVE LIVES IN Nottingham!

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- Local contacts:** John Edwards (07757815625) and Louise Aldred ([40daysforlifennotts@gmail.com](mailto:40daysforlifennotts@gmail.com))
- Learn more** and get involved by visiting our campaign at the address below!

[40daysforlife.com/nottingham](http://40daysforlife.com/nottingham)



# St Mary's children look for signs of spring!

Many parts of the country are still being affected by weather warnings for snow but at St Mary's Primary School in Derby the Foundation Stage children went on a hunt for signs of Spring. The good news is they found some - the daffodils are beginning to grow and there are buds on the trees. In a short while the school grounds will be in glorious flower and the snow a distant memory.

## A Blessing at St Mary's Boston



*The School Reporter write:*

On Friday 17th November, St Hugh's Day, Bishop Patrick came to Boston St Mary's RC Primary School to bless our new and finished hall. This isn't the first time he has visited our school – back in 2016 he came to begin with us the Year of Mercy celebrations. Since then, we have had an incredible £250,000 worth of renovations to extend our hall and give our school a little makeover. These renovations cost as much as it did to build the original school in the 1980s.

We enjoyed listening to the beautiful singing and amazing readers who read so well. Even the younger children were stars during the service! All the children were very respectful towards Bishop Patrick, as well as Father Alex and Father Stan (who

also joined us at the service).

Before Bishop Patrick came, we had prepared many things. For this day, we all learnt new hymns and many of the staff and Year 6 pupils helped a lot with everything, not to mention Mr Davey – our brilliant Head Teacher – who played a big role in this momentous occasion.

We interviewed a member of our Liturgical team, who had read during the service. "I felt glad and privileged that I was able to read and hand the Bishop a gift," said Justin. "It was a wonderful opportunity!"

As the school reporters, we felt it was very successful and the school looked wonderful. It was a special ceremony and everyone enjoyed it immensely.

*By Esme Brown and Blaize Thattil*



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# Papal Knighthood for former Grand Knight

On Sunday, 14th January, a large congregation gathered in St Andrew's Metropolitan Cathedral, Glasgow, to celebrate the solemnity of St Kentigern, also known as St Mungo.

Archbishop Philip Tartaglia spoke of how the Saint was the founder of the Diocese and the City of Glasgow and is the patron Saint of the City and the Church.

He said: "Many of you here today are not native to the city and will not know the history of St Mungo. He performed four miracles in his lifetime and was responsible for the motto of the City: 'Let Glasgow Flourish through the preaching of Thy word and the praising of Thy name.'

The Archbishop welcomed members of the Knights of St Columba Order to the Cathedral. He said the Order was an association of Catholic men which was founded in Glasgow almost a century ago. It supports Catholic young people, Pro Life causes, marriage and the family.

He added: "The last Supreme Knight, Charlie McCluskey, has just completed his three year term as leader of the Order. It has become the custom that a Supreme Knight,

when demitting office receives a Papal Knighthood. Charlie has been sponsored by his former Supreme Knight, Pat Leyden, who is a Knight Commander of the Order of St Gregory the Great."

Pat Leyden then made the formal request to Archbishop Tartaglia who installed Charlie McCluskey as a Knight of St Gregory the Great, calling on the intercession and blessing of St Kentigern and saying that he would surely approve of why we are here today.

After the Mass the present Supreme Knight of the Knights of St Columba, Bertie Grogan, said: "It was lovely to be here in Glasgow when Archbishop Tartaglia presented Charlie with his Papal Knighthood. I was privileged to be here, along with four past Supreme Knights and members of the Order, not just from Glasgow but from all across Scotland and the United Kingdom. Charlie McCluskey said: "This is a wonderful, humbling occasion and a great honour. I appreciate the attendance of Brothers from throughout the Order. Without the Knights of St Columba and the help and support of my wife Sandra I would not have received this great honour."

Tom Knight



John Doran KSG, Pat Leyden KCSG, KHS, Bertie Grogan Supreme Knight of the Knights of St Columba, Charlie McCluskey KSG, Archbishop Tartaglia, Ken Hargreaves KSG, John McVey KHS and John Deighan, KSG.

Picture by Tom Knight

## Thoughts from Elston Hermitage.....

As March comes we find ourselves in the midst of another humbling, yet beautiful season of the church year - that of Lent. For St. Benedict and the monks who follow his rule we are told it is in this season that we have to make extra effort in discipleship, it is a time where we are reminded exactly who we are in the eyes of God, fallen from God's original creation into sin, perhaps broken beyond hope of fixing ourselves. There is a stark reminder of this when on Ash Wednesday the ashes were put onto our foreheads and we were told to 'Repent and believe the Gospel'. For us Christians we are never left without hope, even in this season of humbleness Lent we recognise that God alone has freed us. On the cross He bled and died for our sins, so that in Him we may have newness of life, without death, destruction and all the other by products of our slavery to sin. So then it is that Lent is a season for the humble. It is a time for self denial and interior struggle, a time to ponder, reflect and examine, a time to take stock and with sober judgement to turn back to God in humility. Lent certainly reminds us of our mortality, that we are but dust and to dust we shall return. During this season of Lent we are reminded that life is fleeting, St. Benedict in his rule told his followers to keep death daily before their eyes, because life is fleeting, transient and fragile. Lent is a sign of contradiction whose message is at odds with the wisdom of this world, the Church however assists us with every grace and blessing, but we are called to co-operate and walk through these weeks of Lent with humble and contrite hearts. In Lent the church faces us with our shortcomings and names them as sin, but we need to be honest about ourselves, we also need to be honest about God, and learn not to get things out of perspective so that we miss the great goodness of God in the midst



of the discipline and discipleship during Lent.

St. Benedict in his rule has a great deal to say about humility - (and is well worth reading sometime) he describes the twelve steps of humility, he was of course referring to Jacob's dream in the book of Genesis of a ladder upon which angels are ascending and descending and says 'without doubt, this descent and ascent can only signify that we descend by exultation and ascend by humility'.... We may call our body and soul the sides of this ladder, onto which our divine vocation has fitted the various steps of humility and discipline as we ascend. Lent is about climbing Benedict's ladder of humility and discipleship step by step as we try and persevere wisdom not just knowledge, following Jesus who "did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited but emptied himself taking the form of a servant.... Therefore God highly exalted Him".

This Lent, as St. Benedict reminds us, we ascend this ladder by humility. As we keep the Cross in mind, may we persevere wisdom and have a holy and humble Lent.

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

## Bishop for Prisons: "Build a criminal justice system that meets the human dignity of all people"



The Lead Bishop for Prisons, Bishop Richard Moth offers his reflections on the recent outcome of inspections in HMP Liverpool and HMP Nottingham:

Developments over the last week concerning HMP Liverpool and HMP Nottingham highlight the ever-deepening crisis facing our prison system. With the Chief Inspector filing an Urgent Notification over Nottingham after it was discovered there were eight self-inflicted deaths in the last two years and with reports that Liverpool is facing the worst conditions in living memory, it is clear our criminal justice system is in need of widespread reform.

While the Government have committed to increasing staffing levels by 2,500 by December 2018, a lack of experience among staff remains a concern. In Nottingham, according to the recent findings of the Chief Inspector, diminished confidence in staff among prisoners has undermined the well-being and stability of the prison. A lack of consistent leadership has also contributed to the crisis situation in some of our prisons. Now more than ever, the prison reform agenda must take into account varied and complex factors such as these.

Giving evidence at a recent Justice Committee Inquiry into the situation at Liverpool, the new Minister for Prisons, Rory Stewart, drew attention to the importance of Governor empowerment, arguing that there needs to be a renewed focus on basic operational management. While this is an important message, it is essential to recognise that Government empowerment alone will not solve the varied problems facing prisons. In fact, it is important to ensure that the deregulation of prisons does not contribute to further variation in quality across the prison estate.

If we are to deliver a real change in our prisons, we have to examine the question of who we send to prison and why. The prison population continues to grow, yet custody is used more and more.

The Director of the Prison Service has recognised that in Liverpool, the pressure of rising numbers contributed to a decline in decency. In his recent visit to Chile, Pope Francis visited a women's prison, telling the inmates that 'losing our freedom is not the same as losing our dignity'. The challenge for us all is to build a criminal justice system that meets the human dignity of all people."

# Christmas Tea in January!



St Peter & St Paul Catholic Women's League in Lincoln hosts three fund raising teas each year: Strawberry Tea in June, Harvest Tea in October and Christmas Tea in December.

Because the funeral of our spiritual mentor, Fr Michael Lynch, took place on the 13th December, our Christmas Tea 2017 actually happened on 15th January 2018. Many parishioners, as well as supporters from other churches and none, came together to attend, enjoying



the delicious spread set before them, excellent value at only £4.50 per head.

Everyone who attended expressed how much they had enjoyed themselves; there was a lovely atmosphere of pleasant chatter and even though Fr Eddy our parish priest was unwell he popped in to make sure we were having a good time.

Through partaking of the huge quantity of sandwiches and savouries, sausage rolls, quiches, cakes and desserts, each tea raises between £300 to £500 for the many local, national and international charities which CWL supports. We have to thank the unstinting generosity, hard work, efficiency and team spirit of the ladies of the St Peter & St Paul's CWL in organising the teas, without whom these magnificent afternoons would cease to exist.

We are blessed with a loyal, supportive and generous clientele, both within and outside the parish. Their support helps to raise the money, which goes toward alleviating the suffering of the dispossessed, the sick and the persecuted.

Liz Aldridge, CWL, St Peter & St Paul's Church, Lincoln

## Pope calls for Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace

Pope Francis recently launched a special Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace for war-torn nations, in particular for the Democratic Republic of Congo and for South Sudan that are suffering protracted conflict.

Addressing the crowds gathered in St. Peter's Square for the Sunday Angelus, the Pope said that "Faced with the tragic protracted situations of conflict in different parts of the world, I invite all the faithful to take part in a special Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace on February 23rd, the Friday of the First Week of Lent".

He said our prayers will be offered especially to those suffering violence in the DRC and in South Sudan, and he continued, as on other similar occasions "I also invite non-Catholic and non-Christian brothers and sisters to join us this initiative in whatever ways they deem most appropriate".

### Prayers for cyclone-struck Madagascar

Pope Francis also assured his closeness to the populations of Madagascar, "recently hit



by a strong cyclone, which has caused victims, displaced people and wreaked extensive damage" and prayed that they may be comforted and the supported by the Lord.

### New Blessed seed of hope and fraternity for the young

During his address following the Angelus prayer, Pope Francis also mentioned the Beatification on Saturday of a young man called Teresio Olivelli who was killed for his Christian faith in 1945 in Hersbruck concentration camp.

"He gave witness to Christ in his love for the weakest and he joins the long line of martyrs of the last century. His heroic sacrifice is a seed of hope and fraternity especially for the young" he said.

# CATENIAN AWARD AT BRIGG



The Catenian Association has a Bursary Fund to help young Catholics (16 – 24) to assist on Diocesan/HCPT Lourdes pilgrimages or to do voluntary charitable work abroad. On Sunday 21st January the President of Scunthorpe Circle, Tony Brookes, presented a cheque for £1000 to Paul Clark at Sunday Mass at St. Mary's, Brigg. Paul will shortly leave for Cambodia to spend 5 months working with Bosco Volunteer Action.

Parish Priest, Fr. Benedict Abuo, spoke strongly about the work of the Catenians. Several members of Paul's family were present at the presentation including older sister Ellie and older brother Nathan who have both benefited from Catenian Bursary Scheme awards to work abroad in the past.

If you would like further information about the Catenian Association please contact Tony Brookes (07721 834084) who will put you in touch with your nearest Circle. Further details of the Bursary Scheme can be found at [www.thecatenians.com/bursary](http://www.thecatenians.com/bursary)

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# Nottingham Gap Year Volunteer ready for Central America Adventure

A Nottingham gap year volunteer is relishing her upcoming trip to El Salvador and Nicaragua this January.

Ciara Hogan is heading to Central America as part of aid agency CAFOD's Step into the Gap programme, where she is campaigning, fundraising and raising awareness of

CAFOD's work at a placement in the Nottingham diocese.

As part of the gap year, 22-year-old Ciara will travel to El Salvador and Nicaragua on Wednesday January 24.

CAFOD's work in El Salvador includes tackling inequality, poverty and extreme levels of violence after a civil war in the 1980s. In Nicaragua, around half of the population live in poverty or severe poverty and many struggle to cover their basic needs of food, housing, health and education.

Ciara will spend two weeks visiting CAFOD projects and meeting communities who benefit from vital work carried out by CAFOD.

She said: "It is the part of my gap year that I have most been looking forward to but also the part that has been challenging to prepare for.

"The issue of gender equality is something really important to me, so I'm looking forward to seeing how CAFOD's partners work with women overseas.

"Learning about the work of these partners has brought a new, humbling way of looking at the trip. Although the usual excitements about visiting somewhere new are still there, there's a sense that we are embarking on a trip that is going to have its challenges, but that overall will fill us with a renewed hope and dedication to the work we are carrying out this year."

CAFOD is the official aid agency for the Catholic Church in England and Wales. The charity, which was formed in 1962, works with communities across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, helping people to tackle poverty and injustice, wherever the need is greatest.

CAFOD's work in El Salvador includes tackling inequality, poverty extreme levels of vi-



olence after a civil war in the 1980s. In Nicaragua, around half of the population live in poverty or severe poverty and many struggle to cover their basic needs of food, housing, health and education.

Upon her return, Ciara plans to visit various locations across Nottingham to speak about her experience and share the stories of the communities she will meet on her trip.

She said: "Through prayers we are trying to bring the young people of Nottingham Diocese on the visit with us.

"We hope that getting them involved in the preparations for our trip gives them an investment into the visit and an attitude of empowerment."

Applications are now open for Step into the Gap 2017 with the deadline for applications on March 13.

Volunteers who take part will be able to live and work in a UK placement for an academic year and will also have the opportunity to spend time with one of CAFOD's sister agencies overseas, to see some of the work that CAFOD helps to fund.

## PRIESTS IN UNIFORM

*Catholic Chaplains to the British Forces in the First World War*  
James Hagerty

This moving and vivid account recalls the dedicated ministry of priests who ministered to men engaged in a war without precedent.

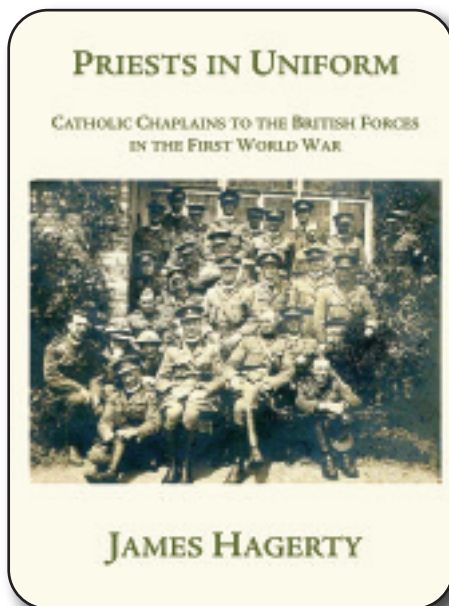
The First World War brought dramatic changes to military chaplaincy. As the size of the armed services increased so too did the demand for chaplains. Over 5,000 Christian and Jewish clergymen served as chaplains and of these 800 were Catholic priests.

Despite the huge size of the Royal Navy and the large number of Catholic sailors, far fewer priests served as naval chaplains.

Priests exchanged their normal routine for theatres of war. All chaplains lived in the same conditions, experienced the same dangers, and witnessed the same carnage as the men they served. Chaplains celebrated Mass, administered the sacraments, tended the wounded, buried the dead and brought spiritual comfort to men in need.

Their commitment earned them respect and admiration. Some chaplains were killed, others were wounded, gassed or died of natural causes. Many were decorated for bravery. It was not a ministry for the faint hearted and their wartime accounts and post-war reflections bring home the true nature of their apostolate. As they worked with those of other denominations, the seeds of ecumenism were sown for a few.

Dr James Hagerty has written and lectured extensively on Catholic military chaplaincy



and *Priests in Uniform* is a work of meticulous research. It is a moving testimony to the unique and brave ministry of many priests and a fitting centenary tribute to the Catholic Bishopric of the Forces.

**His previous books include: *Cardinal Hinsley, Priest and Patriot, Cardinal John Carmel Heenan, Priest of the People, Prince of the Church, and William Gordon Wheeler, all published by Gracewing, 2 Southern Avenue, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 0QF. Telephone: 01568.616835 Fax: 01568.613289 E-mail: gracewingx@aol.com www.gracewing.co.uk ISBN 978 085244 906 6hb 500pp illus £25.00***



## Get involved with the SVP

The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) is committed to combating poverty, tackling isolation and providing support and friendship in communities. Could you help their important work?

Through friendship and practical help, assistance is given to the most vulnerable in society, giving them the chance of a happier life. There are many ways you can get involved with SVP work.

If you have spare time, have a skill you can share, you could support the SVP through a financial donation or by fundraising. If you would like to bring the SVP mission to your parish or school, they would love to hear from you.

Ways to get involved...

- Give your time or skills – help the SVP combat poverty and support those in isolation.
- Involve your parish – work together to support people in need in your area.
- Donate – can you help reach out to more people in need by making a gift today?
- Corporate partnerships – the SVP want

to build partnerships with businesses to help us bring about lasting change in people's lives.

- Fundraise – there are many fun and easy ways you can raise funds for SVP work.

The SVP directly helps people in need through hospital and prison visits, providing furniture, food or clothes parcels, community shops offering affordable goods, holidays for children and families, soup runs and food banks and advice and support centres.

Many SVP groups offer a variety of social opportunities throughout the year and lifts to Mass, help with shopping and many other small acts of kindness that make a difference.

The SVP helps those in need regardless of their faith, ethnicity, status or sexual orientation. It has a strict safeguarding policy and all visiting members must hold a DBS certificate. For more information call 020 7703 3030, email info@svp.org.uk or visit svp.org.uk.

## FRANKLY SPEAKING

### The year has started badly

Perhaps like me some readers are seriously concerned about leadership in our public life. To be a leader requires competence and more importantly wisdom. Sometimes we only seem to notice leadership when matters go wrong.

This year has started badly with two companies who were not exactly household names but had major public services under their charge with having major problems. The financial issues of any organisation really do get noticed when deficits reach the soaring heights of more than £1bn in their pension funds. One Chief executive spoke of his organisation as "far too complex" and needing "significant change". It would appear that as a result of poor leadership the livelihoods of thousands of staff, sub contractors and the provision of key services have been put at risk, despite warnings being issued last year.

We should all be concerned by leadership in our local town halls, as we await our Council Tax Bills in a few weeks time. At

the start of February one county council revealed it had ran out of money and was stopping expenditure on all vulnerable people despite having made nearly £10m of cuts. The leader of another council resigned over plans for the redevelopment of social housing which our politicians frequently refer to as "essential". As party politics are involved in both these instances I leave readers to draw their own conclusions but I fear we may witness more councils needing a wise and strong leadership.

Despite having no academic personal qualifications I have I hope always encouraged those who passed exams and went to university or eventually became leaders. In some instances I have been disappointed by their lack of wisdom. Wisdom is frequently mentioned in our scripture readings, it is so important to our Faith. Those in public life might care to reflect on Saint Matthew, "not to be served, but to serve"

**Frank Goulding**  
*Holy Trinity Parish, Newark*

# Sisters to open new Dereham convent

The newest religious community in the UK has just received the keys to its very first convent – a converted barn complex near Dereham in Mid Norfolk. Sr Camilla Oberding, leader of the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham (COLW), reports.

On the Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception (December 8), as the youngest religious community in England (founded in 2004) we received the keys to our first convent.

Thanks to the generosity of many founding benefactors, as well as an incredible interest-free loan from the Discalced Carmelite Fathers, we managed to raise the monies necessary to purchase a converted barn on the outskirts of Dereham.

Dereham is centrally located in the Diocese of East Anglia and about 30 minutes' drive from Walsingham. The converted barn is amazingly monastic in style with cloisters, a double staircase and an upstairs loft space that makes the most beautiful oratory. The house is eco friendly, running on a biomass boiler, and has the running costs of a small terrace house!

It comes with four acres of grounds and a large outdoor barn, but is also surrounded by some moors so there is a peaceful solitude and silence that will really enable the community to live out its contemplative vocation. It is miraculously suited to our needs – so much better than all the other properties visited – that it seemed to be made for us!

Last July, on the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, COLW received its new decree as a public association of the faithful destined to become an Ecclesial Family of Consecrated Life. This means that, faithful to the original inspiration, we will have three branches: one of consecrated women, one of consecrated men (brothers and priests), and another of lay people.

We plan to call the new house in Dereham the House of the Divine Will and we aim not only to provide formation for novices there but also accompany young people discerning their vocation and support married couples and young families in the vocation they are already living, sharing with them the rich spirituality of Walsingham.

We are still fundraising to pay off the loan from the Carmelites and also to finish renovating the house (total cost £400,000), so that a suitable library and chapel can be



Sr Camilla Oberding, left, with the sisters of the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham, outside the new convent in a converted barn near Dereham.

built. Together with the loan, the community was also entrusted with a Carmelite library and this will be available for members of the public to access. We are also looking for a volunteer COLW office administrator at the Dereham base so that we are freer to welcome visitors to the shrine and retreatants at Dowry House.

We trust that the Lord will provide and we continue to rejoice in thanksgiving for all He has blessed us with so far!

Devoted to Our Lady of Walsingham and to the spreading of the spirituality of England's Nazareth, COLW helps others experience the joy with which Mary gave her Fiat to God, by offering spiritual direction, vocational accompaniment, retreats and hospitality.

Please pray that this new base will further enhance the life and mission of COLW in the service of the Church and the world. We will continue our work in Walsingham

running the Dowry House Retreat Centre which opened last year and working at the shrine.

Visit [www.walsinghamcommunity.org](http://www.walsinghamcommunity.org) or ring 01328 801019 for more details.

## Nominations invited for Catholic Women of the Year 2018

The Catholic Women of the Year Luncheon has its Golden Jubilee this year - fifty years of celebrating Catholic women's service to the Church in Britain.

To mark this, we will be holding a special celebration Luncheon in the Autumn - and we invite nominations for the 2018 Catholic Women of the Year. We are looking for the "unsung heroines" - women who joyfully and prayerfully serve the Church and the community, as mothers, teachers, Sisters, holders of public office, or workers in all sorts of jobs, upholding Christian moral values and caring for those in need, in their local parish and/or beyond.

To nominate some one, all that is needed is a letter giving a short account of why the person should receive the honour. The four Catholic Women of the Year are chosen by secret ballot by a committee drawn from representatives of the main Catholic women's organisations.

Nominations can be sent via our web page at [www.cwoy.org](http://www.cwoy.org), by email: [cwoynominations@gmail.com](mailto:cwoynominations@gmail.com) or by post to: CWOY, 33 Asburnham Tower, London SW10 0EE, and should arrive before April 13th 2018.

*Catholic Women of the Year Jubilee Committee 2018*



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# Our Lady's Caroller's celebrate their 45th Anniversary



Groups of carollers dressed in Victorian dress have become a well-known feature in Lincoln. Our Lady's carollers founded in 1972 are a regular sight around the town as they proclaim the Christian message in song and raise money for local good causes. They can be found in the streets, hotels and restaurants and have raised almost £150 000 in this time. They also sing in local residential homes, hospices and hospitals. Their reputation is well established in the city with stage appearances, radio and TV broadcasts.

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*Continued from page 1*

The exchange of vows on your wedding day was, and is, the outward sign of your commitment to each other, to love and cherish each other in both good and challenging times, and a symbol of God's life-long commitment to you – to be present to you always through your love for each other and the family and people that God sends into your lives, and to bless and make that love ever stronger. Today you will renew those crucial vows.

The sacrament of marriage is, therefore, about so much more than receiving a blessing from God on your wedding day; it involves your entire life as you journey together through the blessings and challenges of married life. Your entire life becomes sacramental, to the extent that you are open to Christ and allow him to live in and through you, in your actions, your attitudes and your love. You are called as a couple to be God's instruments of love, compassion, forgiveness and understanding – so no pressure then! It is in loving and caring for each other, and for your family, friends, and the people God sends into your lives, that you express your love for God. But, as you know, sacraments bring grace to those who are open to God, and grace is a way of describing how God shares his divine life with us and gives us the help and guidance we need to live as Christ's followers. There are times in all our lives when we need God's help to get us through, and so

this should never be taken foregranted; this presence of God in the lives of a married couple needs nurturing. It is important to remember, when Catholic and Christian couples experience difficulties, that it is God who has united them in the sacred bond of marriage, that he therefore is the foundation of that bond; and that's why prayer is so important in marriage. The husband praying for his wife, and the wife praying for her husband. This mutual prayer helps to preserve the bond of marriage, and helps the love of the couple to grow. So, when there are disagreements or arguments – which is very much part of our human condition – the bond between you is strong enough not to be broken when you remain open to the power of God's grace received in the sacrament of marriage. Prayer is so important for all of us in our vocations, mine included, to make us strong in our vocational commitment, to help us, to give us strength and courage to live out what we have promised, and to stay faithful to it. This then is my main point of encouragement to all of you today. Try, hand in hand for at least a few moments, where possible at the start of each day, to place yourselves in the presence of God and, silently or in words, open your hearts afresh to his presence in your marriage, become aware of that presence, ask his blessing on your new day, and then make the sign of the Cross on each other's forehead, as a sign of your desire that the day would begin in His love, and that it would sustain you both no matter what the day brings.

My dear couples, you bear eloquent witness today that the definitive commitment of marriage is possible, and that the permanence of marriage is not only possible, it is truly beautiful! For you are people who have learned, or are learning, to face life's challenges together, hand in hand, helping each other to trust and to grow in God's faithful presence in your marriage. You have put your trust in the truth of God's word to you on your wedding day that, what he has joined together, humanity must not divide, and that he will always be with you. Please speak positively of the beauty of marriage to young people at every opportunity that is presented to you, because, as you know they are frightened of this commitment. Speak to them of the grace, of the help that God has given you in your marriage, and continues to give you, and speak too of the faithfulness, however tested it might be at times, which God makes possible in your lives. Speak to them of what God calls you to in the sacrament of marriage, to a love and a self giving at times beyond the limits of just your own strength, but which God supports you with. Speak to them honestly, and speak to them positively of the joy, happiness and fulfilment that can be found in married life, that you have found in your marriage. Congratulations as you celebrate another year of your marriages, and may the Lord continue to bless you all with his love and his grace as you prepare now to renew your wedding vows. Amen.



# Traffickers convicted by evidence from Caritas Bakhita House residents

Three residents of Caritas Bakhita House, the refuge for women rescued from modern slavery, have given evidence which has led to the successful prosecution of their captors. All three women were trafficked from Romania and trapped in modern slavery in the UK.

In the first case two women were forced into prostitution once they were trafficked into the UK. In time, one managed to escape and helped police rescue the other woman from their captors and, through the police, both found refuge at Bakhita House where the staff supported their recovery. The women overcame many difficulties and were eventually able to give evidence, leading to two of the men who brought them over from Romania being sentenced to 14 years each and another man being given two years and eight months.

The second case involved a young woman who was trafficked from her home and forced into prostitution. She alerted her mother in Romania who contacted the police who found her at an address in Kensington. The Metropolitan Police, working with authorities in Romania, apprehended the traffickers and, with support from Bakhita House staff, the young woman gave evidence which led to her two captors being sentenced to 12 years and four years respectively.

Bakhita House Manager Karen Anstiss commended the courage of



all the women in testifying against their captors. She also paid tribute to the work of the staff and volunteers who supported the women through their recovery and helped them look forward to the future with hope.

Caritas Bakhita House provides women escaping modern slavery and human trafficking with safety and support to allow them to begin the recovery process.

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**Sunday 8th April 2018**

2.30 Welcome	3.20 The Stations of the Cross
2.40 Prayer to Mary the Mother of Divine Mercy	3.40 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
2.45 Talk given by Fr Daniel Palmer	3.50 We will conclude with Benediction
3pm The 3'O Clock Prayer	4pm Close
3.10 The Chaplet	

There will be an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the end of the service.  
However, St. Faustina always prepared herself to receive Holy Communion on the Feast day by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation on the Saturday before the Feast.  
*Tea and cakes will be served in the church hall after the service. Jesus promises special graces to those who celebrate Mercy Sunday. He told St. Faustina 'I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in My Mercy. Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My Mercy. My desire is that the Feast will be celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter'*  
Please come and join us and the Poor Clare Sisters for this great feast.  
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# BLOWING IN THE WIND

... by Julia Beacroft

IN COMMON WITH many young children, I had a vivid and expressive imagination which especially came to the fore during play times. A princess who needed to be rescued, a wicked witch and an intrepid explorer are to name but a few of the fantasy roles I enjoyed enacting. And ordinary everyday household items became my props. The staircase easily fitted the bill as a mountain to climb and neither was it difficult to imagine a large upturned laundry basket as an igloo. Naturally, these are merely a couple of examples.

## FIRMLY ON THE GROUND

Yet my favourite, but probably most bizarre role-play centred around the notion that I, like Peter Pan, could fly! Time and again I would climb up onto a chair, steps, table or any other suitably high object and jump! Needless to say I merely landed with my feet firmly on the ground each time! Yet the novelty didn't wear off and March was a particularly favourite time of the year for me. This was because I would go into the garden, climb as usual, and then jump – convinced that the windy March weather would blow me away and I would become airborne, like Mary Poppins!

Yet fantasy aside, the fact remains that March is traditionally a month which experiences high winds and gusty conditions due to meteorological reasons.

During this season of Lent and as we steadily approach Easter, we can be sure, as always, of the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Jesus tells us in St. John's Gospel that 'the Spirit http://jmp.sh/LhvQ89b blows where it will' meaning that just as the wind blows wherever God wills, so God's Spirit also blows wherever He wills.

In the same way that people cannot see the wind but can hear the sound of it blowing, so the Spirit of God cannot physically be seen with human eyes but we can perceive its effect on all it touches.

## BOUNTEOUS GRACE

It often seems difficult to envision the Holy Spirit, which like the wind is always felt but unseen. Yet we can be assured that it is alive and active in our world. The Spirit is no fan-



tasy or make-believe, but by the grace of the Trinity our own spirits fly with joy in praise of the Lord.

So the next time you battle against the wind or struggle to keep your umbrella intact, let

it remind you of the Holy Spirit who blows where it will. As humans we may be physically unable to fly, but with the Lord's bounteous grace no mountain is ever too difficult to climb and no height too high to scale.

## YCW Launches Consultation on Young People and Mental Health

Young people across England and Wales are being asked their thoughts about the current state of mental health in our country.

The Young Christian Workers – a Catholic charity based in England and Wales – have said that an overwhelming amount of their membership have expressed their deep concerns about the current help available to young people with mental health problems, as well as the stigma attached to it.

Because of this concern the YCW has launched a National Action Campaign on mental health among young people, called MIND! The Gap.

The first stage being run is focused around exploring the issue more deeply and find-

ing out the opinions and experiences of young people. There is a short survey covering a variety of aspects around mental health, which can be found on the YCW website – [www.ycwimpact.com/national-campaign-resources](http://www.ycwimpact.com/national-campaign-resources) or directly at <https://tinyurl.com/ycw-mental-health-survey>.

Marc Besford, the National Training and Development Worker of the YCW, said: "This campaign is carried out on a national basis so that we can, as a Movement of young people, join together to make a real difference to the lives of our peers.

We want them to know that their voice matters and hope they take part in this important survey. Once we have the information together we can then move forward with the campaign."

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# In Memoriam – Mary Crosby RIP

**Maggie Mairura, remembers Mary and her amazing contribution to the work of CAFOD and the continuing legacy of the founding mothers of Holy Spirit, West Bridgford CAFOD group.**

It is with sadness that I write that Mary Crosby, long time CAFOD supporter from Holy Spirit parish in West Bridgford died on Sunday 14 January 2018. Over the last few years Mary had undergone treatment for cancer, however when you met her, you never knew how tough it was as she was always so positive and determined. Mary will be very sadly missed by all at CAFOD, the parish and of course her family. Fr Michael Brown, Parish Priest at Holy Spirit said “Mary has been a big part of the Holy Spirit Parish and she tirelessly raised money for CAFOD for 42 years. We are very grateful for the contribution that she made to this parish, she will be greatly missed.”



**A photo from the 80s! With Tony Gariff (CAFOD), founding and current members Mary is first right on back row.**

I first met Mary through a diary entry when I started working for CAFOD in the Diocese in September 2015; an appointment to visit the parish UCM group the following Lent – I think to say she was organised is an understatement! As well as the amazing work she and the CAFOD group did in the parish, she faithfully supported CAFOD events in the Diocese. Marie Molloy, former CAFOD worker in the Diocese told me about when she first met Mary in 2008, “I visited the parish group, at her invitation, to talk about CAFOD’s (then) new parish scheme Connect2. We seemed to hit it off really well, perhaps both coming from teaching backgrounds helped, and over the years she not only continued to be a fantastic CAFOD Parish Contact but also offered me support and advice in my new role. She was a great sounding board, always honest but constructive in her comments, generous in her praise and certainly never frightened of letting me know when she thought CAFOD was getting in wrong! This attitude was really beneficial to CAFOD when Mary and the group agreed to take part in national CAFOD research into the effectiveness of Connect2.” Marie continued,

“What Mary really seemed to enjoy was gatherings of assorted volunteers where she could share experiences with others and gather new ideas, often to be tweaked and tried out in West Bridgford – a Bean Tombola springs to mind! After I left CAFOD in 2015, we kept in touch and met up for coffee on several occasions. Mary truly was a lovely lady, who lived such a busy life supporting others in so many ways and lived with her illness with such dignity and positiveness.”



**Celebrating 30 years in 2006**

In 2016 the group celebrated 40 years and an article in the nottinghamlocalnews.com states.....”the group, most commonly known as ‘The Friday People’, first came about when six ladies from the parish decided to give something up every Friday and send the money they saved in an envelope to CAFOD.” Mary’s daughter Kate sent me a photo of the original collection tin which was used for group subs! The article continues “parishioner and grandmother Mary Crosby, who joined the group in 1983, worked under the six founders before becoming group secretary and CAFOD parish contact in 1995.” As well as fundraising activities and cake stalls the group also ran a very suc-



**The subs tin**

cessful Traidcraft stall.

Even during her last few months Mary was actively recruiting new members for the CAFOD group and when they met just a few days before she died, Dympna, who now takes on the role as CAFOD contact for parish, was able to visit Mary the next day and report that 14 members attended the meeting. Dympna tells me “she was delighted with the news and as organised as ever, had the float money ready for our next two CAFOD events during Lent!” Dympna and Mary go back a long way “Mary was a wonderful friend over 35 years. She was a lovely, dignified, calm and especially kind person. Her motivation was inspiring. We share a deep family connection with our two sets of children growing up together and developing their own very special friendships. The Holy Spirit CAFOD group were constantly encouraged to keep working hard at our fundraising.”



**Traidcraft Stall in 2010  
Una, Ann, Mary C, Dympna, Bernadette and Mary D**

Dympna continued, “her passion and dedication for CAFOD and Traidcraft were reflected in the response and support from the parish for which she was always very grateful and she will always be remembered fondly. We all know we have lost someone very special. Her thumb print remains in the parish, from the backing paper on the displays boards to the homemade donation box made by her husband Tony”.

A Memorial Mass was held at Holy Spirit, West Bridgford on Saturday 10 March 2018 at 11am.

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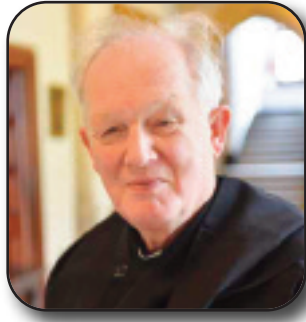
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# Death Of Ampleforth Monk Father Francis

Father Francis Dobson OSB,

Benedictine monk of Ampleforth Abbey, died peacefully in the monastery infirmary at Ampleforth on January 9 at the age of 78. Born in Newark, Nottinghamshire, in May 1939, Father Francis was educated at Gilling and Ampleforth. He worked in the family textile business before qualifying as an accountant and working for Price Waterhouse in London and Johannesburg.



wrote that he was himself greatly influenced by pilgrimage – he made more than 80 pilgrimages to Lourdes and 20 to Medjugorje. In 1989 he was made a titular member of the Hospitalité de Notre Dame de Lourdes and in July 2009 the Bishop of Lourdes and Tarbes appointed him an honorary chaplain of the Lourdes Grotto.

Father Francis also encouraged students to become actively involved in helping the needy abroad and from 1992 he became co-ordinator of Ampleforth FACE-FAW (Friendship and Aid to Central and Eastern Europe and Friendship and Aid World). Father Francis' inspiration has led to many students spending gap years working in developing countries.

In June 2016, Father Francis was diagnosed with cancer of the prostate. Writing about this in the Ampleforth Diary, he stated: "On June 14 2016, I learnt of illness; a stunning uncertainty, fear and beautiful grace, that I had nothing and could be at peace. Actually, it is to...no longer seek to be important, to have nothing but the gifts of the Lord. St Philip Neri said. 'A joyful heart is more easily made perfect than a downcast one'."

Father Francis's funeral Mass was celebrated in the Abbey Church, followed by burial in Monks' Wood.

### As Father Francis himself wrote in the Ampleforth Diary:

"I was 28 when, on September 7 1967, I caught a train from Newark to York and was then driven by Brother Bonaventure to Ampleforth to start the monastic life." A week later he was clothed in the monastic habit by Abbot Basil Hume and ordained priest in July 1976.

Father Francis studied at St Benet's Hall, Oxford, between 1970 and 1972 and on his return to Ampleforth began a teaching career that lasted more than 30 years. He also worked on the Ampleforth Journal, as honorary secretary of the Ampleforth Society and editor of the Ampleforth Diary.

From 1979, Father Francis began co-ordinating the work of Ampleforth College students on the annual Ampleforth Lourdes Pilgrimage. He

# Year 9 student invited to join National Youth Girls' Choir

A Year 9 student at Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary is celebrating after being invited to join the National Youth Girls' Choir.

Emilie Judd attended an open audition for the choir and sang two songs, one in German and one in Scottish Gaelic.

She was informed by email that she had been successful and was offered a place with the National Youth Girls' Choir.

The choir is divided into junior and senior sections which rehearse and perform both independently and together on shared residential courses.

Emilie said: "I performed two songs at the audition. I chose them because I have sung them before for my singing exams. I was also asked to do a bit of sight reading which was to see how accurately I could sing the notes.

"When I found out I had been offered a place with the choir I was quite excited. I'll attend two residential courses in a year where we will work on singing exercises and practise songs.

"The idea is to help with sight reading and help develop our singing style and see what kind of range we have.

"I did a bit of singing at primary school and I have singing lessons. I do a lot of performances in the summer and most recently I performed in a show at the Guildhall with Big Adventures.

"I also performed in London with a group where we spent time taking part in activities and singing songs from different musicals before we performed at Her Majesty's



Theatre for family and friends."

Emilie will be singing with the National Youth Girls' Choir at the Royal Concert Hall in Nottingham in April and at the Royal Albert Hall as part of 'Women at the Hall' on a date to be announced.

The teenager also sings with the Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy Choir and is a regular performer on stage in school shows. She is also part of the Voices City of Derby Girls' choir and is going on tour to Belgium with them in the summer.

She said: "I really want to be in the West End as I love musical theatre."

Kevin Gritton, head teacher at Saint Benedict CVA, in Duffield Road, Derby, congratulated Emilie on her achievement.



You can use both sets of clues to solve the puzzle: the solutions are the same. So, if you want to try the CRYPTIC puzzle, for instance, but are unsure, use the QUICK clues to help you work out the solution. Similarly, if you try the QUICK clues, use the CRYPTIC clues to help you prove the solution

### CRYPTIC Across

- 6 Jesus cured her two girls and little boy with drugs (4,9)
- 8 Contextual material from the Bible, chapter and verse (4)
- 9 Criminal group spotted in pubs (8)
- 10 Whisky bottle? (6)
- 12 Philistines' camp is 'ere – ignore the 'Ittites! (6)
- 13 Pulled up in transport to see Christian in Troas (6)
- 15 When during Pentecost there are vacuous litanies (6)
- 16 Paul's vision's deserted him, going down this road? (8)
- 17 Breather at Christmastide if not commercial... (4)
- 19 ...various seasonal hints found in letters from Paul (13)

### CRYPTIC Down

- 1 Beware in Rome vineyard outlet place (4)
- 2 Various psalters, including month and years, used in medieval dramas (7,5)
- 3 One who teaches Jews to make the ultimate in meat pies, perhaps (6)
- 4 Decorates mariners top in sea-craft after a reception (6)
- 5 They cross the frontier when van dries out (8)

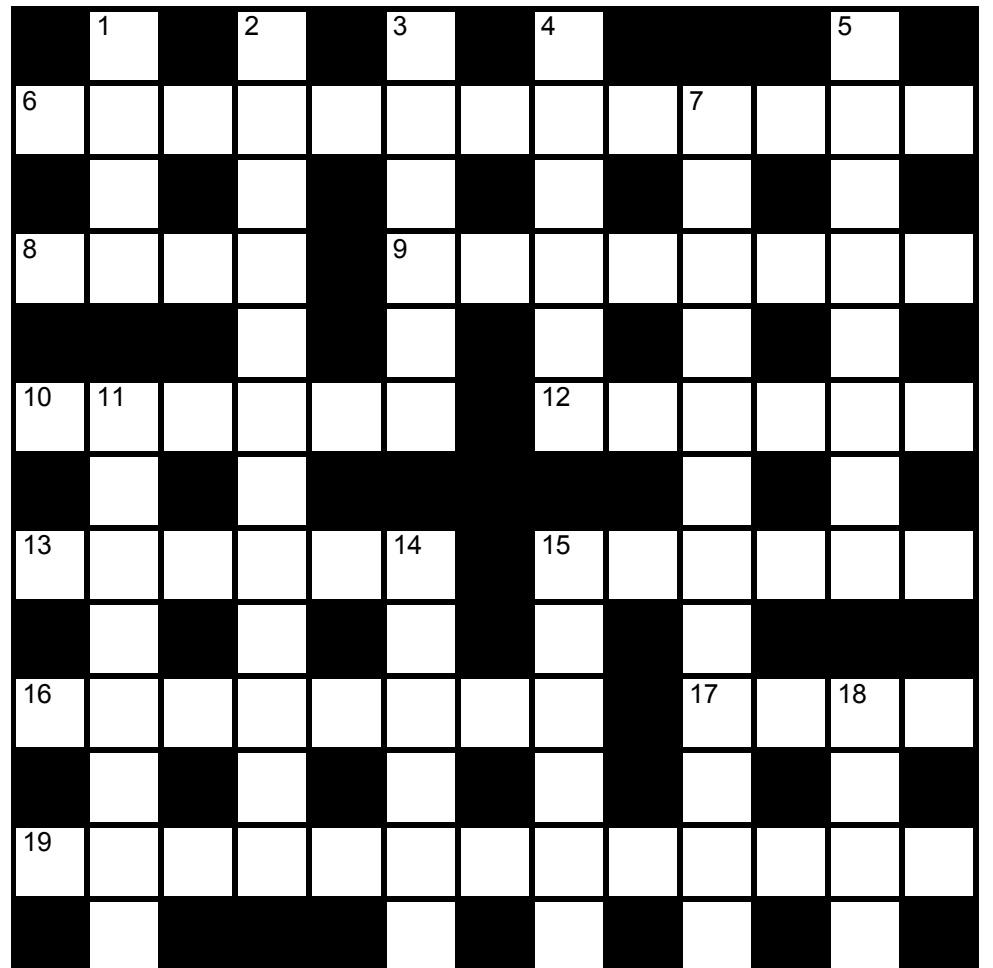
- 7 Going to party at homes round about, Virginia's made to work hard without reward (6,2,4)
- 11 Cost went up, it's reported, for types of ruler in Egypt (8)
- 14 Samaritan's place is among prissy charlatans (6)
- 15 Norman enlightenment? (6)
- 18 All over English meet with French negativity, which produces zilch (4)

### QUICK Across

- 6 KJV name of one of the first people to see Jesus after his resurrection (4,9)
- 8 Sermon basis (4)
- 9 Robber released by Pilate (8)
- 10 Third person of the Trinity (6)
- 12 Philistines' camp when Saul set up camp at Gilboa (6)
- 13 Paul's affiliate in Troas (4)
- 15 Whereas; when (6)
- 16 Syrian capital, home to Aramaeans who fought and lost to David (8)
- 17 Outlet: express (4)
- 19 Macedonians, the object of two letters from Paul (13)

### QUICK Down

- 1 Landform, the effect of weathering and subject of speleology (4)
- 2 Medieval dramas representing episodes



- 3 Coney (6)
- 4 Decks, dresses (6)
- 5 Vikings, for instance (8)
- 7 (Make) fruitless efforts (6,2,4)
- 11 Kings of Egypt at the time of the from the life of Christ (7,5)
- 14 Samaritan town where Jesus spoke to a woman who came to draw water (6)
- 15 From Job to Ecclesiasticus/Ben Sira: the '----- Books' (6)
- 18 Zero (4)

### SOLUTION

Across: 6 Mary+Magdalene, 8 Text, 9 Barabbas, 10 Spirit, 12 Shunem, 13 Carpus, 15 Whist, 16 Dams, 17 Vent, 19 Thessalonians. Down: 1 Cave, 2 Mystery plays, 3 Rabbit, 4 Adorns, 5 Invaders, 7 Labour in vain, 11 Pharaohs, 14 Sychar, 15 Wisdom, 18 None. EPIPLANNATION: 6 Mary+Magdalene+Len+E, 8 hidden word in 'CONTEXTUAL', 9 Bar(Abbas), 10 double def & pun, 12 Shun+em, 13 Car(p)(u)s, 15 Whi(l)-[i]-tanie[s], 16 pun, 17 (Ad)vent, 19 anag. Down: 1 double def, 2 anag of psalters+MY+YY, 3 rabb+it, 4 a+do+RN+s, 5 anag, 7 Labour+in('VA)'in, 11 homophone of 'fare+rose', 14 hidden word in 'PRISY CHARlatans', 15 double def & pun, 18 non+E.

# Candlemas



On Friday 2 February, pupils and staff were joined by Father Simon Gillespie as he celebrated Mass at Our Lady's Convent School, Loughborough to mark the Feast Day of the Presentation of the Lord, otherwise known as Candlemas.

Celebrated 40 days after Christmas, Candlemas is so called because it was traditionally when all the Church's candles for the year were blessed.

Pupils took great pleasure in having their candles blessed and then processing from the Main Hall to the Chapel to celebrate

Mass. Readings were given by Sixth Form students and the choir led the singing beautifully, making this a spiritual and memorable occasion for everyone involved.

Speaking after the event, Headmaster, Dr Julian Murphy said, "I believe that whatever your personal faith, finding time to share these moments of calm and reflection is crucial in today's hectic life. It is such a pleasure to see the children from Year 3 upward participating and our Sixth Form students taking such an active role."

# Awards presented to students



Saint John Houghton Catholic Voluntary Academy has celebrated its students' achievements as part of an annual ceremony.

The academy, in Kirk Hallam, held its Celebration of Achievement Awards to recognise the success of the GCSE Class of 2017 as well as pupils in the current Year 11.

Parents and former pupils came together with staff led by head teacher Joan McCarthy, chair of governors Cathy Gabriel and former teacher John Quinn, who handed out the awards.

Awards were given out to mark outstanding contributions to school life and excellence in areas such as sport, music, academic achievement, public speaking and school life.

In her speech to guests Mrs McCarthy said she was humbled by the work and commitment of staff and that the success of the Class of 2017 was testament to that.

She said: "The Class of 2017 was the class I first started with when I joined as head teacher and I have watched them grow, develop and blossom since those early days."

I'm so proud at how they have turned out. They will always be special to me as the first cohort who I have seen all the way through.

"We are one big community and we foster a culture of family at the school that I often refer to as the Saint John Houghton way. I want students to feel part of a community, be valued, supported and challenged."

Mrs McCarthy also recounted a trip she made to South Africa during the summer and how it had made her re-evaluate her view of education and how we shouldn't take it for granted.

**The list of prize winners were:**

- Music Prize – donated by Mrs J Swaby – Anna Pancisi
- Martin Stiegler Trophy - Peter Murphy
- The Oscar Romero Justice and Peace Trophy - Elizabeth Ward
- The Brooke Shield - William Collings
- The Alex Read Trophy - Peter Murphy
- The Robinson Trophy for Public Speaking - Jake Gaskin
- The Thom Halls Trophy - Jane Biles
- The John Morgan Trophy - Elizabeth Ward
- The Hugh Gannon Trophy - Elizabeth Ward



## Celebrating our Schools

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