



St. Bonaventure Feast day
July 15

Catholic News

MORE THAN 20 YEARS OF BRINGING THE
NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER

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Sister Celebrates her Diamond Jubilee

Sister Mary Bueno OP Celebrates 60 years of Religious Profession

It was great privilege, as members of St Margaret Clitherow parish, to celebrate with Sister Bueno her diamond jubilee on Thursday 10th May 2018. We marked her years of religious commitment in Dominican convents where she had displayed keen medical and administrative skills. Then thirty-five years ago she came to Keyworth as Parish Sister in the then recently formed parish of the two churches of St Margaret Clitherow and Our Lady of Grace in Cotgrave. She was the driving force in this burgeoning parish and is still a visible presence today. In 1975 she was one of the first Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, in this role reaching out to the sick and housebound members of the parish. When ill-health affected a succession of parish priests it was she who ensured that there was cover for our Sunday masses, supplied by priests from around the diocese. Our eucharistic community grew because Sister Bueno took an avid interest in the Young Mums' group, First Holy Communion and Confirmation groups and Youth retreats. There are now many adults who look with fondness on Sister's interest and enthusiasm in those early days and are extremely grateful for her influence in their lives.

Thursday 10th May was passed with a steady flow of parishioners through Sister Bueno's home in Keyworth, all keen to congratulate and celebrate with her this special milestone in her religious life. 'Celebrate' meant cups of tea and homemade cakes which were consumed whilst Sister relaxed in her beloved garden. The Saturday was reserved for a special Afternoon Tea with members of her religious community from Stone; a tea served in glorious sunshine. On Sunday 13th May the whole community came together to give thanks and praise to the Lord at our nine o'clock Mass for this remarkable woman who is held in great esteem and affection. In time honoured fashion St Margaret Clitherow parish marks such auspicious occasions with a 'Marie Norman' cake and post-Mass Sr Bueno cut the cake, then to be shared amongst a group of 70-strong parishioners, plus the support of Sr Pauline, Dominican Prioress General and other Dominican Sisters from Stone. Sister Bueno received many cards, presents, and a substantial cheque. She had the last word, expressing her gratitude in serving our parish over thirty-five years and the joy that this ministry had brought her.



Programme of Pope's visit to Ireland announced

The Vatican has announced Pope Francis' schedule for his upcoming Apostolic Visit to Ireland for the World Meeting of Families next month from August 25-26. Pope Francis' Apostolic Visit to Ireland for the World Meeting of Families begins on Saturday morning, 25 August, when he departs from Rome and arrives in Dublin at 10.30am.

The official welcome ceremony will take place at the Presidential Residence in Áras an Uachtaráin at 11.15am, followed by a courtesy visit to the President. At Dublin Castle, Pope Francis will meet with Civil Authorities and members of the Diplomatic Corp at 12.10pm.

In the early afternoon, Pope Francis will visit Saint Mary's Pro-Cathedral and greet those gathered. He will then go to the Capuchin Fathers' Reception Centre and will visit a number of homeless families in private. The Holy Father will conclude his day with the Festival of Families at Croke Park Stadium set to begin at 7.30pm.

On Sunday, Pope Francis will travel to Knock to visit to

the Shrine and the recitation of the Angelus.

After returning to Dublin, Pope Francis will preside over an afternoon Liturgy at Phoenix Park, after which a meeting with the Bishops of Ireland will take place in a convent of Dominican Sisters.

After a farewell ceremony at 6.30pm in the evening, Pope Francis will depart for Rome. He is expected to touch down at Rome's Ciampino's airport at 11pm.

The full itinerary for Pope Francis' visit, as well as more details on the WMOF Pastoral Congress, can be found on www.worldmeeting2018.ie.



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The monthly paper for the Diocese of Nottingham

The **Catholic News**

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Apostleship of the Sea

Supporting Seafarers Worldwide

As an Apostleship of the Sea (AoS) port chaplain, Bryony Watson never quite knows what situations await her when she puts on her hard hat and high-vis jacket and climbs the gangway of a ship.

This month [July 8] is Sea Sunday, when the Church asks us to pray for seafarers and support the work of AoS, whose chaplains and ship visitors provide practical and pastoral help in ports around the coast of Britain. AoS is unique in being the only Catholic agency serving the maritime industry.

Last September in Immingham, Bryony was contacted by a shipping agent, who told her a Bulgarian seafarer had died on board a chemical/oil tanker and the crew wanted to see a Catholic priest.

Requests by seafarers to see a priest are common. Many are Catholic and often, because of long contracts, they haven't had any contact with the Church for months.

Given that crews on ships are very small and close knit, the death of a seafarer can leave everyone in shock.

Bryony arranged for Fr Andrew Cole, from St Mary's Church in Grimsby, to visit the ship. "We boarded the ship to find the crew very quiet and sad. The captain led us to the conference room and told us that while they had been at sea, the ship's electrician, had had a heart attack and died within minutes, despite the crew attempting CPR," she said.

Crew ask priest to bless ship after death of shipmate



"Understandably, the captain and crew were very shaken and upset, especially the crew member who had the cabin next door to the electrician."

Bryony and Fr Andrew listened to the crew while they recounted the experience and talked about their friend. The captain told them of the years they had spent at sea together, and how both families, the family of the electrician back in Bulgaria and the family on board the ship, had experienced a

great loss.

The crew asked Fr Andrew to bless the ship, especially the cabin of their dead friend, explained Bryony. "It was very shocking and totally unexpected as he had been a healthy 62-year-old and had died within minutes. The captain was great and took good care of the crew. They were also grateful for our visit, for the blessing and for being there to listen and offer some comfort."

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



Rosmini Centre

House of Prayer

July

7 Saturday - Deepening our Faith with Bishop Robert Barron DVD. Mass at 10.00 am followed at 11.00 am by DVD on **The Spirit of the Liturgy**. Shared table lunch at 1.00pm 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.

September

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

15 Saturday - Deepening our Faith with Bishop Robert Barron DVD. Mass at 10.00 am followed at 11.00 am by DVD on **Saints for our Complex World**. Shared table lunch at 1.00pm with soup and a roll. Please book in advance. Donations welcome.

22 Saturday - "Prayer is a constant awareness of God's loving presence". Talk by Fr Antonio Belsito. Mass at 10.00 am and talk at 11.00 am. Shared table lunch at 1.00 pm. Please book in advance. All are welcome.

29 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.



FRANKLY SPEAKING

You will have to do the best you can

During my earlier years in industry one factory manager spent most of his time in his office and only left the comfortable surroundings when he had to. If a problem occurred he would respond by saying "you will have to do the best you can," he had a reputation for in effect doing nothing. In stark contrast a priest I knew well used the same words as a source of encouragement only after he had given advice which would sometimes also urge individuals to be at peace.

When the result of the Irish Abortion referendum became known I could not help but contrast how it was reported by the media and the instant reaction from some British politicians than would not have been the case not many years ago. In 1973 the then MP for Newark took part in a public meeting, changed his opinion and said that he had been wrong to vote for the 1967 Abortion act.

In more recent times another East Midlands MP also changed her mind on the issue of same sex marriage and now supports the legislation. On these "conscience issues" are we in danger of taking a blinkered vision and saying its all

right for MP's to vote with their conscience as long as I agree with it? What else can explain the outburst and demands on Northern Ireland on a Bank Holiday weekend when Parliament was not sitting? Yes of course Westminster MP's were entitled to support abortion change, so will they take a similar course of action on other matters that affect a lack of government in Stormont? I somehow doubt it.

During the media coverage of the Irish referendum result I cannot recall the words unborn child being used so, as we digest and move on from that, we know the future for Ireland. Many brave young people campaigned for a "No" vote, they will face a great challenge to serve society and will need courage to do so. Unlike the factory manager they cannot "do nothing" but will need to show that our Catholic culture and Faith will always support and love both the mother and unborn child, but like the priest they must always be at peace.

Frank Goulding
Holy Trinity Parish
Newark

Adventures in Prayer

Discalced Carmelites launch new courses on prayer & prayer guidance



In response to today's hunger for authentic personal prayer and the need for wise, skilled guides on the journey of prayer, Discalced Carmelites are developing their already popular retreat centre at Boars Hill, on the edge of Oxford, as a Centre for Applied Carmelite Spirituality. From September this year it will be offering two one-year courses, both rooted in the Carmelite Tradition – a School of Prayer and a Prayer Guides Course.

The School of Prayer is intended for anyone who realises the importance of prayer in their lives and is seeking a deeper relationship with God. It will offer support and encouragement in this search. It will provide the opportunity both to grow in the life of prayer and to learn through reflection and practice, in the company of fellow Christians, of any denomination, who share the same commitment to the journey and desire to draw from the rich tradition of Carmel.

By joining the School participants will have an opportunity to be nourished by the rich treasures of Christian, and, especially of Carmelite, prayer, through input from experienced speakers; to share experience; to take time for personal reflection including journaling; to share insights from their reading. All this will be backed-up by some essential reading, a framework and support for the ongoing process of prayer, reflection and growth. Another essential aspect of the School of Prayer will be the opportunity for individual prayer guidance and a weekend of Individually Guided Prayer, at a time arranged with each student.

The Prayer Guides Course is for anyone who not only wishes to deepen their own life of prayer but who also feels called to, or finds themselves called upon to, accompany others in prayer, perhaps by leading prayer groups or retreats. Like the School of Prayer, it is open to all Christians and is deeply rooted in the Carmelite tradition of prayer and spirituality.

Developing from the foundations shared with members of the School of Prayer, participants will go on to explore the dynamics of prayer both in one-to-one settings and in prayer group meetings/workshops. They will be invited to take an active part in spiritual conversation, workshops and small groups exploring the experience of prayer; listening skills and relationship dynamics;

basic skills for leading retreats and prayer sessions; difficulties in prayer; aids to prayer. Individual prayer guidance and participation in a weekend of Individually Guided Prayer, at a time arranged with each student, will be an integral part of the course.

If you have read so far you may well be thinking, "So when is this happening?"; "How much will it cost?"; "If I'm interested, what do I do?"

Both courses begin on 1st September this year. The School of Prayer is usually held on the first & third Saturdays of each month. Exceptions come in December (first & fourth Saturdays, 1st & 22nd) and, in 2019, in April (the first & second Saturdays, 6th & 13th) while in June there's an extra day of graduation on 29th June. The day runs from 10am – 1pm & includes lunch.

The Prayer Guides Course is also held on these same first & third Saturdays of the month and runs from 10am – 4 pm with the important addition of three Friday 6pm to Saturday 4pm sessions: 21st – 22nd December; 12th – 13th April; 28th – 29th June.

Costs are kept as low as possible; they cover meals and all residential charges for the guided prayer weekends and the overnight sessions of the Prayer Guides Course. Payment can be made in instalments and bursaries are available. The School of Prayer fees are £690; the Prayer Guides course fees £800.

So, what do you do now, if this interests you? Take a look at the website www.cacarmelitesp.co.uk. If you feel you'd like to talk it over before putting in an application feel free to contact the friars at Boars Hill. When it comes to an application form, you can download one from the website or request one from the Centre:- Centre for Applied Carmelite Spirituality Carmelite Priory Boars Hill, Oxford, OX1 5HB Tel: 01865 322300, mobile(voicemail) 07387 327054 Email: courses@cacarmelitesp.co.uk. And if you want to know more about bursaries contact Fr Thaddeus Ekuma at Boars Hill, bursary@cacarmelitesp.co.uk.

If that plea of the apostles to Jesus, "Lord, teach us to pray" resounds in your heart perhaps one of these courses is for you.

THE CATENIAN ASSOCIATION
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Derby Catenians entertain their Clergy



On a beautiful May evening, the Catenians of Derby entertained 12 members of the Clergy to dinner at the Mickleover Golf Club.

David Barke, President of the Derby branch of the Catenians said: "It is one of the ways that we say thank you to our Clergy for their ministry and also, it gives us an opportunity to pledge our continuing support".

More information about the Derby branch of the Catenian Association can be obtained from Richard Penna at richard.penna@ntlworld.com

Kevin Hurst
Catenian Association, Derby Publicity Officer

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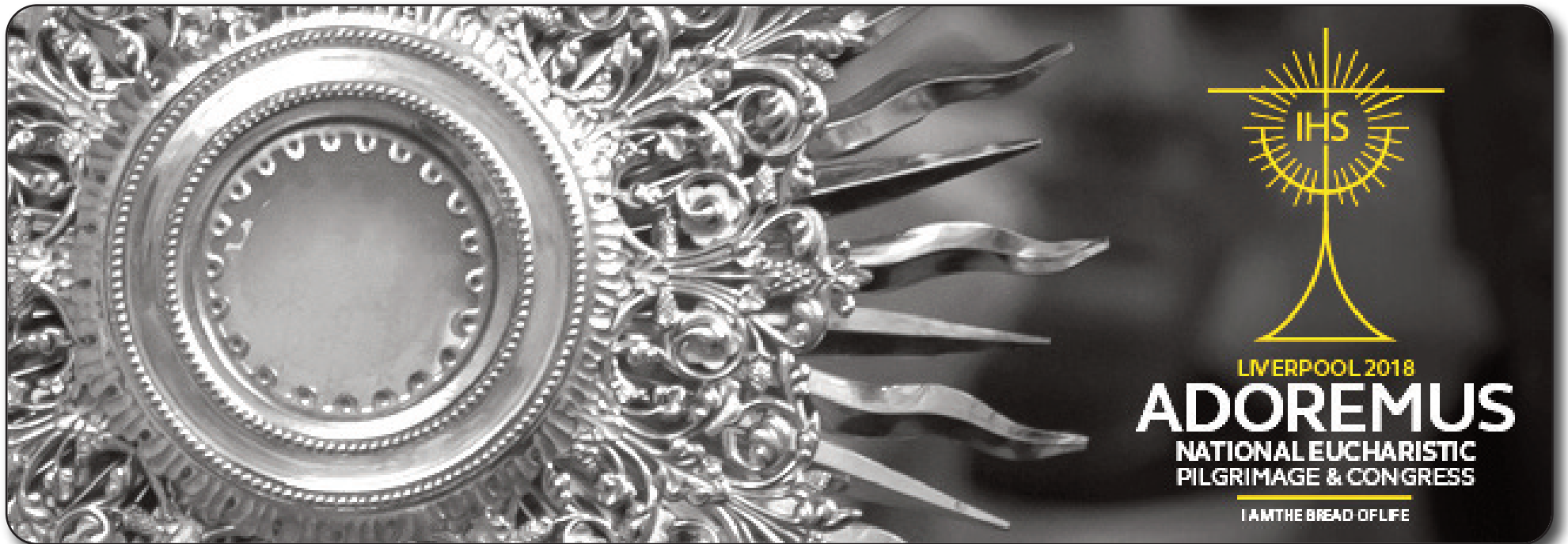


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The Eucharist: A Kaleidoscope

The Ever-New Mystery of the Mass

I SUPPOSE I SAY ABOUT 1,000 MASSES every three years – which means that I've now passed the 9,000 Mass mark. An outsider's reaction might well be: 'Doesn't it get boring, saying the same words day after day?' To which my answer would be: 'But it's always different!' Consider the sheer variety of names used in Christian Tradition to describe it: Mass, Eucharist, The Lord's Supper, Holy Communion, the Paschal Feast, the Heavenly Banquet, the Divine Liturgy, the re-presentation of Christ's Sacrifice, the great Remembering, the Bread of Life, Manna in the Desert, the Real Presence ... No single doctrinal statement can capture all of that.



There is such an infinite richness to this palette of ideas. How could we ever think that we have 'nailed' the (one and only) meaning of the Mass? It is the Pilgrim

Church's pilgrim meal – and to understand it is itself a journey. It is a whole library of meanings. So I prefer to speak of Mass as a **Kaleidoscope**. Every Eucharist brings a new twist to what happened the night before Jesus died. And it is always Christ who is the principal actor in the drama: our host at table; the one we recognise in the breaking of the bread (Lk 24.35); the one who invites us: 'Come and have breakfast' (Jn 21.12).

The Eucharistic Journey

We gather in the name of the Trinity, reclaiming our baptism. The Sign of the Cross isn't just a formality but a reminder of why Christ came – that he might dwell in us and we in him (see Jn 17.21-23). But, of course, we are unworthy of God – for how could creatures 'earn' divine approval? So we **confess** – not chiefly our sins but Christ's mercy – and are in turn drawn into praise of God in the Gloria, together with all the angels and saints; with all who have gone before us and all who will come after us; with the whole Cosmos, in fact. Then we still ourselves to listen to God's Word. In the past Catholics often undervalued Scripture, but the Second Vatican Council arrived at the most beautiful (and startling) expressions of our faith in this presence of the Lord: 'It is Christ who speaks when the Scriptures are read in Church' (SC n.7); 'In the sacred books the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet his children, and talks with them' (DV n.21). Here too we bow and worship. We ponder and reflect (with the help – I hope! – of the preacher) and then we respond in prayer.

Then we offer ourselves to the Lord by bringing forward the bread and wine for the Eucharist. For me, this moment is one of the most moving elements of our worship. **All** of life is here! We hand ourselves over to Jesus; not as we think we ought to be or as we wish we were but as we actually are. Yesterday's arguments, today's wounds, tomorrow's fears ... **these** Christ takes and blesses and breaks and hands back for sharing. The 'handing over' of Christ by our betrayals becomes the 'handing over' of his life for our renewal.

There is such movement in the Eucharist. It is not a static 'tableau vivant', recreating a once-upon-a-time moment. It is a making present of this transformation, this 'wonderful exchange' by which Christ gives us His broken body to make us one. If we are 'there' in the Upper Room, on Calvary and Emmaus, that is solely because He is here in our midst by his Spirit.

He is the one who leads us in our prayer throughout, culminating in the 'Our Father'.

We pray for our **stewardship** of God's world (that God's Kingdom and not our own may come), for **sufficiency** (Give us the bread that we need, rather than the distractions we dream of!), for **reconciliation** (forgiving as we have been forgiven) and for the **grace** to resist evil. This is the path to the peace of which we then share a sign.

Gathered and Sent

And thus we arrive at 'communion' – the paradoxical communion of all those who know themselves 'unworthy to receive' the Lord – but who do so anyway, by faith. He places himself in our hands. But what happens next is our call. Will it change me? Will I recognise the presence of the Lord, not just here in bread and wine but in my brothers and sisters, too, and in myself?

That is the commission which completes our celebration of the Sacrament, closing the circuit that the current may flow, the current of this extraordinary power which is Christ's self-gift. We call it, in an unlovely way, 'The Dismissal'. But that is precisely what it is, a sending out from Mass of those who have eaten the Body of Christ in order to become that Body. We are scattered into the world that the world might be gathered to Christ. So out we tumble!

The Tabernacle – Icon Of Our Exodus



But what of the place of the tabernacle in our churches and our Catholic spirituality? What of Eucharistic Adoration? The consecrated elements are not some inert relic left behind, the 'left-overs' from the meal (although they are chiefly reserved that the sick and housebound might share in the Eucharist and offer a visual reminder of all who are absent from our assembly). The Eucharistic shrine is an icon of the Lord's constant accompanying of us on our Exodus journey. Here is a pilgrim's rest, a place of quiet to ponder what it means to say that we, sinful though we are, are Christ's Body and His presence in the world. And every visit, like every Mass, is another twist of the kaleidoscope, revealing the Lord's patterns in our lives. I hope that the **Adoremus Congress** in Liverpool in September and your own local preparations for this event will remind ourselves of that.

Fr Rob Esdaile,
Parish Priest of Our Lady of Lourdes.

COME AND SEE
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THE BIG PICTURE

"The Big Picture" is a course that uses the bible to look at God's plan for mankind and runs over twelve sessions through weekly DVD clips, book based study and small group sharing. I, like a number of others, attended expecting a bible study course; it quickly became apparent this was not the case, but what transpired was not disappointing.

At the beginning I did not really know any of the participants; the small group sharing soon changed this and in no time, regular groups had formed in which people were able to trust one another enough to be open in communication. It was one of the joys of the course that I came to appreciate the richness and beauty of my fellow parishioners, humbling me in the process. In the early stages I boldly spoke of my insights gained, only to have my pride pricked upon realising everyone else had similarly been inspired, but the compassion and understanding of my group members meant that whilst I felt a fool, I was never treated as one. I learnt how every person has so much to give and how much we can receive from others, if we are open to being taught. Over time, I found I had less to say, and listened much more.

As the sessions progressed, it became apparent, that those used to stillness were being inspired to action, volunteering to assist in parish activities, whereas those already very active in the Church found themselves drawn to giving time to bible reading and prayer.

The purpose of the course is not however, about learning the bible, being able to say "I have read the bible cover to cover" or becoming busy, but it is to reveal to us the great love of God for each one of us and to instill in us a desire to draw nearer to Him and to one another. As St Paul reminds us "I may have all knowledge and understand all secrets... but if I have no love I am nothing".

By the end, I came to see Christ was revealing himself through the course, not just in His Word but also in His Body, and discovered that each time I thought my knowledge and understanding had increased, my eyes would be opened to find the picture had expanded and I, with my



thoughts, had decreased. The big picture is bigger than we can ever imagine.

The parish already has another course planned for later in the year, and some parishioners are planning to continue to meet up meanwhile, having gained so much from sharing with one another. Special thanks must go to the organisers, Tony and Ann Rowlett, assisted by Brian and Patricia Davis, and to our parish priest, Fr Jarosz, who attended several sessions, for his presence, prayers and wisdom.

Each person took away from the course something unique; however, I think an apt summary would be: isolation became community, giving became receiving, pride became humility, talking became listening, action became stillness, stillness became action, knowledge became love and the Word became flesh.

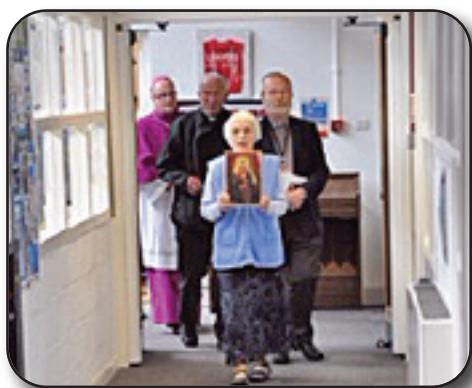
The course may have ended but it feels like the real adventure is only just starting; anyone who has the opportunity to attend the course would do well to take it.

Jo, St Peter & St Paul's, Lincoln

Comments from parishioners taking part:

- "Lovely experience of community"
- "Found a new love of the Bible"
- "Sharing in small groups for the first time was very affirming"
- "Want to do more, continue with something beyond The Big Picture"
- "It felt like the church was our family"
- "It was wonderful"
- "Great meeting and sharing with new parishioners"

Bishop Patrick Blesses St Mary's School Chapel



On Friday 8th June Bishop Patrick McKinney visited St Mary's School in Derby to formally open and bless the new School chapel. The children led a beautiful service of hymns, including 'Mary of Gladness' and 'As I Kneel Before you,' and readings from the letter of St Peter and the psalms.

The Chapel is named in honour of Our Lady of Mercy, in grateful thanks to the Sisters of Mercy who donated the land that St Mary's School is built on. A number of the Sisters attended the blessing and Sr Camilla Hunt donated an icon of Our Lady of Mercy to the School. The icon was carried at the forefront of the procession to the Chapel, where Bishop Patrick blessed it, along with the Chapel and the new Monstrance. Bishop Patrick spoke to the children about

the building blocks of a successful community and they joined in with plenty of ideas - love, sharing, kindness, generosity.

The new CEO of the St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi-Academy Trust, Sean McClafferty, thanked the children afterwards and spoke about his plan to make an "amazing school even more amazing!"

The day ended with refreshments for guests, who also included governors, Jennifer Williams and Sian Eastwood; and Canon Geoffrey Hunton, Fr Tim O'Sullivan and Fr John Guest.



Fulfilment of the Civic Year

Councillor Viv McCrossen of the Good Shepherd Parish, Woodthorpe, Nottingham has brought to fulfilment her year of Mayoral Office with high accolade from members of the Gedling and District Borough Council in fulfilment of her duties and for raising more than £16000 (sixteen thousand pounds) for her Mayor's chosen charity for research into Motor Neuron Disease. A charity, among many others close to her heart as a near neighbor was diagnosed with the same not long before she was asked to take up office of Mayor for the Borough of Gedling.



Viv McCrossen has been well known in Woodthorpe as a mother of children who passed through the then Good Shepherd School, before it achieved academy status, but also for establishing the Beavers as part of the uniformed groups within the parish. It was appropriate at the beginning of her Mayoral Year, as First Citizen of the Borough, to have not only the Beavers, but also the Guides, Brownies and Cubs represented and presenting their standards at the Civic Ceremony of blessing. Mayor Vivienne welcomed Civic representatives from all the local Boroughs of Nottinghamshire as well as National dignitaries to the Good Shepherd Church and entertained all with a traditional afternoon tea after the blessing.

As a keen supporter of the Good Shepherd Parish Community she and her consort and husband, Ron have been prominent at parish bazaars, not only in formal openings, but more especially in the kitchen participating in the necessary washing up as well as ensuring all attendees enjoy a good luncheon. This generous service was highlighted by the Nottingham Evening Post.

As her Mayoral Year of Office ended, Viv was accoladed by her fellow Councillors for her tremendous ability of getting peoples to

part with money for charitable purpose. Gifted with dynamism and enthusiasm, Viv has tried to ensure that all members of the community are heard and supported in their needs. Although the Mayoral Office is now completed both she and her husband continue to support various needs. The latest, with a Coffee morning in their home and the seeking of sponsorship at the same for her husband, Ron to swim the Solent in aid of the Samaritans.

Mayor Vivienne asked her parish priest, Canon Philip Ziomek BD., BA., to act as her Chaplain throughout the course of the year. The accompanying photographs show the Civic Dinner held earlier in the year to support the Motor Neuron Disease charity and the end of the Mayoral Year when at a Civic Ceremony in the Gedling Borough Council Offices Councillor Viv McCrossen was accorded a special vote of thanks for all her achievements during 2017 / 18.



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Share the journey

When Bishop Patrick wrote to the clergy in the Diocese, asking them to promote the Share the Journey campaign, I don't think he imagined it would make two parishioners leave the country! However, when Sue Otter and friend Ellen read about it in their parish newsletter (Our Lady of Victories, Market Harborough) she emailed me to tell me that she wanted to include their miles as they walked the Portuguese Route of the Camino Santiago de Compostela.



Ellen & Sue on their previous Camino route

My first reaction was envy! This historic pilgrimage is something I have wanted to do for many years and have yet to get organised. Sue told me "Our previous Camino was completed over 3 Easter holidays but now we are both retired we have more flexibility and were keen to try another Camino route, this time we are walking from Porto to Santiago which should take 2 weeks. We heard about Share the Journey this weekend and wanted to be part of it. We are clearly not refugees, we have warm clothing and tough boots, and a bed for the night. Walking long distances is however an opportunity to reflect on the plight of those who may be carrying a child as well as a backpack, and who don't have the luxury of a bed or the money for a meal, and perhaps worst of all who are not welcomed by the people they meet. The kindness of strangers was one of the most memorable features of our walk and is something we will reflect on this time.



The Porto Route

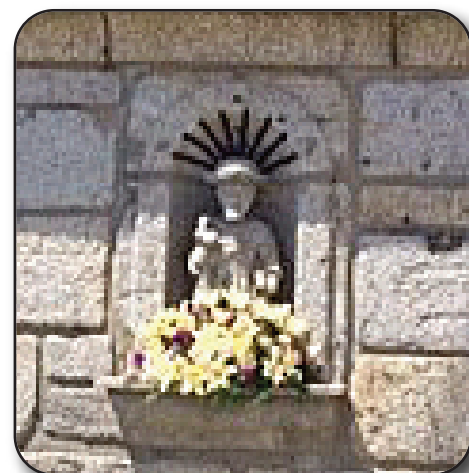
We started in Porto on Wednesday 9 May in bright sunshine having got our Compostela record stamped in the Se cathedral as our starting point. Real walking began on Thursday morning. We decided to take the

seaside route, there are three routes, one inland, one coastal and one seaside; this follows a boardwalk where possible. Our first interesting obstacle was the road bridge at Matosinhos which was raised as we arrived to allow cargo ships through so instead of walking we spent half an hour on a bench watching huge ships creep through the narrow space. Then miles of walking along the boardwalk by long sandy beaches. Huge breakers crashing all round and spray everywhere. We met a group of 30 Australians walking the same route and keep coming across them in various places. Walked in to Vila de Conde where there are several beautiful churches (sadly locked) an enormous convent dating from the 15th century and a Roman aqueduct. From there along the coast to Póvoa de Varzim we noticed several large groups of older men playing serious card games in what looked like glass bus shelters. Overnight in a tiny hotel next to a bullfighting stadium! Didn't know there was bullfighting in Portugal.

Friday walking inland with glimpses of the sea along cobbled tracks – tough on our feet. Through eucalyptus woods wonderful aroma and met a cheerful group of scouts on a walking weekend. Several beautiful churches with statues of St James where we were welcomed by ladies arranging flowers. On to Esponde where a small church had an amazing painted wooden ceiling with 12 Old Testament prophets carved and painted. Saturday was showery so lots of stops for coffee notably one cafe covered in pictures of Che Guevara. Still not met any UK pil-



grims; several American and Canadian and a German girl who was lost and walked with us for a while until she met some compatriots. Into Viana de Castelo where the lengthy iron bridge was built by Eiffel of tower fame! Beautiful cathedral church, more statues of St James and a choir for Mass.



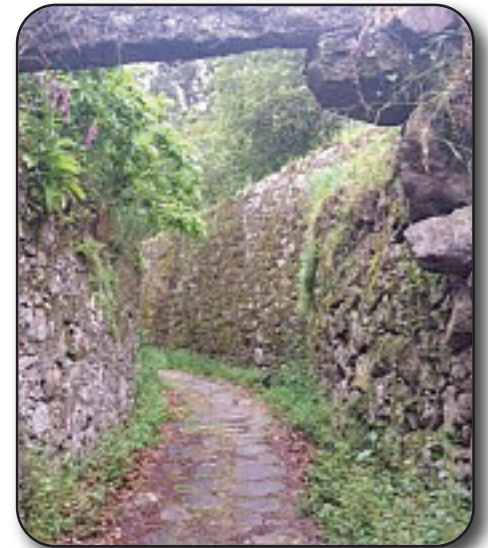
Shrine to St James

Started in Caminha heading for A Guarda. It seems the ferry across the river does not run on Monday but a fisherman with a

small boat took us for 5Euro. Quite a short walk today so we decided to explore the Iron Age village for which this small town is famous. It is of course up a long hill so we clocked 18.5km for the day not quite a rest day then. The Iron Age village hidden in the mist at the top lots of circular stone buildings discovered in the early 1900s. A kilometre long path is lined by huge stone stations of the cross also shrouded in mist and a tiny chapel at the summit. The mist disappeared eventually revealing a wonderful panoramic view of the coast. The sign outside the church said Mass at 6.30 but it turned out to be the Rosary! Our Spanish is not too good

Arrived at 6 pm after a long 33km day walking along the coast beautiful scenery and fields of wildflowers. The last 5km always seem to be uphill and today was no exception walking on a Roman road with chariot ruts! Interesting but hard on my feet and needed to concentrate to keep balance.

Baiona is very picturesque seaside town with wide harbour lots of yachts and restored old town with a beautiful chapel next to a huge walled convent. That's the third convent I have seen today but this one was in better condition. Off to Vigo in the morn-



A typical Camino path

ing. So far we have both walked 187 kilometres – That's 116.2 miles!"

Thanks to Sue & Ellen for the updates of their first week and I hope this inspires you to join in / organise a parish walk!

Maggie Mairura
Nottingham CAFOD Representative

Thank you!

Last month we celebrated National Volunteer's Week and so it is a perfect and timely opportunity to say 'THANK YOU'. At St Barnabas Cathedral on Thursday 7 June at 1pm, a Mass of Thanksgiving was said for all our volunteers from across the North East Region – the dioceses of Hexham & Newcastle, Middlesbrough, Leeds, Hallam and Nottingham.

CAFOD's founding mothers were volunteers who organised the very first Family Fast Day in 1960 and raised funds for one project in one country.



Now the Catholic community in England & Wales supports over 500 programmes in 43 countries. This is because of the amazing generosity of individuals, parishes, schools, groups and communities.

But it doesn't just happen.....

Fast day collections happen because someone organises the envelopes to be given out and puts the poster on the noticeboard.

A Harvest Supper happens because someone gathers a few people together to make the soup and get the parish hall ready.

A school takes part in a CAFOD campaign because someone has volunteered their time and passion for a just world by becoming a school volunteer and has done a school assembly.



Someone orders the campaign cards and invites parishioners to sign them; which meant in December 2017 the World Bank took a big step to protect the planet and the poorest people by stating it will stop support for oil and gas after 2019.

Someone arranges for the confirmation group to use the CAFOD Stations of the Cross during Lent.

Someone comes into the Volunteer Centre every week to record school and parish activities and keep things running smoothly!

A school raises over £1000 during Lent, thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of someone at school to tackle obstacle



Someone organises that instead of buying Christmas Cards for each other, the parish buy World Gifts.



Someone shares their gifts and talents by organising a concert or carol singing for CAFOD.

Are YOU that someone? THANK YOU!

Would you like to BE that someone? THANK YOU!

Out of the mouth's of babes

On Friday in May I travelled up to Lindsey Deanery to take part in the annual Humber Bridge Cross – a joint Christian Aid / CAFOD fundraiser, which this year also incorporated the Share the Journey Campaign. Over 70 people set off from the South Bank and added 316 miles onto the totaliser!



Staff, parents and students from St Joseph's Cleethorpes

To make the most of my 200-mile round trip I visited St Norbert's school in Crowle and St Mary's in Brigg. We don't have any school volunteers up that way so they haven't had a CAFOD visit for a while. As well as thanking them for their fundraising efforts over the years it was also an opportunity to talk about the new campaign, launched by Pope Francis in November. And as Bishop Patrick, a new Trustee for CAFOD, is asking all parishes and schools in the Diocese to get involved, this was a golden opportunity to inform and motivate and inspire the schools and parishes to take part. How arrogant and wrong was I?????

Having asked the children for some of the reasons for people being on the move and being told disasters, for food, for jobs, because of war, I then asked them to close their eyes and to imagine if they had to leave their home and could only take one thing, what would it be?

After a few moments of eye's tight shut and peeking through gaping fingers I invited them to tell me. Food, water, Xbox, mobile phone, the dog, batteries, a family photo. One young man in Year 4 said his St Christopher medal to keep him safe. A little girl in year 1 said a drawing she had done of her grandad who had recently died. What amazing responses.

We had moved on a little but one girl was still sat hoping to be asked, her hand supporting her raised arm. "Go on," I said, "tell me what you would take." "God", she replied.

I was speechless! After a few moments I asked her, "and how would you carry God with you on the journey?"

"He's in my soul and so I won't lose Him or leave Him behind. He will always be with me."

My job that weekend had been done for me – thanks to this young girl in Year 5.



Students from St Mary's Brigg,



Good Behaviour awards at the end of the assembly at St Norbert's, Crowle

As I recounted this story when speaking at the three Masses at St Augustine's in Barton upon Humber and St Mary's in Brigg there were tears. If this doesn't motivate you to get involved, I challenged the congregations, I don't know what will!

Let us be inspired by our young people to engage in this campaign; to walk in solidarity with those facing so many dangers and challenges; let us act to bring about change. Let us Share their journey.

Did I mention we don't have any school volunteers up in this area of the Diocese?

As a CAFOD Education Volunteer you will most certainly receive more than you give! Get in touch to find out more.

By Maggie Mairura



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Remembering Bonaventure's Mystical Theology of Love

by Stephen Lynch, OFM

Editor's Note: As we approach the feast of St. Bonaventure on July 15, Stephen Lynch provides details about the saint's life and his impact on Christians today.

Born in Bagnoregio, a town in central Italy, St. Bonaventure tells us in his book, *The Life of St. Francis*, that as a child, he was preserved from death through the intercession of St. Francis.

There is no evidence, however, that this cure took place during the lifetime of St. Francis. He entered the Order of Friars Minor in 1238 or 1243; the exact year is uncertain. It is certain that Bonaventure was sent from the Roman Province to complete his studies at the University of Paris under Alexander of Hales, the great founder of the Franciscan School.

In 1248, Bonaventure received the licentiate, which gave him the right to teach publicly as Magister regens. He continued to lecture at the University of Paris until 1256, when he was compelled to discontinue, because of the violent outburst of opposition to the Mendicant orders of the secular professors. The Holy See bestowed the degree of doctor on St. Bonaventure and St. Thomas Aquinas at the university on Oct. 23, 1257.

Leaders of the Order of Friars Minor

In 1257, Bonaventure, though not yet 36, was elected Minister General of the Friars Minor. This was an office of peculiar difficulty because the Order had internal dissensions between the Spirituales and the Relaxati. The former insisted upon the literal observance of the original Rule, especially in regard to poverty, while the latter wished to introduce innovations and mitigations.

On June 23, 1273, Bonaventure, much against his will, was created Cardinal-Bishop of Albano, by Gregory X. It is said that the pope's envoys that brought him the cardinal's hat found the saint washing dishes outside a convent near Florence, and were requested by him to hang the hat on a tree nearby until his hands were free to take it.

Bonaventure continued to govern the Order of Friars Minor for the next 17 years until 1274, when at the General Chapter of Lyons, Jerome of Ascoli, afterwards Nicholas IV, was elected to succeed him.

Meanwhile, Bonaventure had been charged by Gregory X to prepare the questions to be discussed at the 14th Ecumenical Council, which opened at Lyons May 7, 1274. While the council was still in session, Bonaventure died. The exact cause of his death is unknown, but it is rumoured that he may have been poisoned. The funeral oration was delivered by Pietro di Tarantasia, OP, Cardinal-Bishop of Ostia, afterwards Innocent V, who reminded his listeners that Bonaventure was a man of "eminent learning and eloquence, and also a man of personal holiness, kindness, approachableness, gentleness and compassion." On the following day during the fifth session of the council, Gregory X spoke of the irreparable loss the Church had sustained by the death of Bonaventure, and commanded all prelates and priests throughout the whole world to celebrate Mass for the repose of his soul.

Learning and Theology

Bonaventure enjoyed especial veneration even during his lifetime because of his stainless character and the miracles attributed to him. It was Alexander of Hales

who said that Bonaventure seemed to have escaped the curse of Adam's sin. There is also the story of St. Thomas visiting Bonaventure's cell while he was writing the life of St. Francis and finding him in an ecstasy the Angelic Doctor quietly withdrew with the comment, "Let us leave a saint to work for a saint."

Bonaventure's *Life of St. Francis* was completed in 1266. His advice was much in demand by the popes of the period. In 1482, Bonaventure was canonized by Sixtus IV, and in 1557, he was made a Doctor of the Church by Sixtus V in 1588. His feast is celebrated on July 15.

Bonaventure united in himself tender piety and profound learning. These two qualities shine forth conspicuously in his writings. The *Commentary on the Sentences* remains Bonaventure's greatest work; all his other writings are in some way subservient to it. While the *Breviloquium* derives all things from God, the *Itinerarium Mentis in Deum* (The Journey of the Soul into God) proceeds in the opposite direction, bringing all things, both matter and spirit, visible and invisible, back to their Supreme End, which centuries later Teilhard de Chardin called the Omega Point. Bonaventure was undoubtedly one of the greatest philosophers of the Middle Ages. He always remained a faithful disciple of Augustine and always defended the teaching of that Doctor; yet he by no means repudiated the teaching of Aristotle.

Bonaventure adopted the hylomorphic theory of matter and form, and he speculated on the possibility of creation from eternity, but rejected that idea. His dogmatic teaching is found chiefly in his *Commentary on the Sentences* and in his *Breviloquium*. His proper place is beside his friend St. Thomas Aquinas, as they are the two greatest theologians of Scholasticism. Thomas was the Christian Aristotle; Bonaventure the true disciple of Augustine. Thomas was the teacher of the schools; Bonaventure of practical life. Thomas enlightened the mind; Bonaventure inflamed the heart. Thomas extended the Kingdom of God by the love of theology; Bonaventure by the theology of love.

To the minds of his contemporaries impregnated with the mysticism of the Middle Ages, the spirit that breathed in Bonaventure's writings seemed to find its parallel only in the lives of those that stand nearest



to the Throne, and the title of Seraphic Doctor bestowed upon Bonaventure is an undeniable tribute to his all-absorbing love for God. This title seems to have been first given to him in 1333. He was made a cardinal in 1273.

Unity of Franciscans

St. Bonaventure has been called the second founder of the Franciscan Order. During his 17 years of government, he was exactly the Minister General the Order needed at the time because he provided both intelligent and conciliatory leadership that shaped the fundamental direction of the Order for generations. He succeeded in gaining everyone's goodwill by his personal reputation for learning and virtue, by his tact and good judgment, by his ability to combine his passionate love for Francis of Assisi with his enthusiasm for the splendid position which the Order had achieved. He also reconciled his admiration for the old hermitages where he loved to spend long periods on retreat, sharing the life of the Zelanti friars, with his justification of urban settlements.

Under his administration, the Order felt united and secure. Franciscans were admired and respected by the outside world and called by the Holy See to carry out important missions on behalf of the universal church. Bonaventure played a leading role in the election of Pope Gregory X, which ended the long papal vacancy. He also had a significant role in the planning of the Second Council of Lyons (1274).

Bonaventure took the position that creation is reflectively self-conscious in human beings, and in an imperfect way, humans reflect God's being in a heightened manner because of their spiritual faculties of memory, intellect, and free will, which are signs of God's indwelling presence. Contemporary thinkers such as Karl Rahner have revived many aspects of Bonaventure's mystical theology of the centrality of love at the center of the cosmic mystery.

— Fr. Stephen, director of evangelization at St. Francis Chapel and City Ministry Center in Providence, R.I., writes frequently for religious and secular publications.

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Raising money for church funds

Isabel Roberts, age 10, resolved herself to raising money towards church funds at Christ the King Church in Mackworth where she is an altar server.

She initially approached her Headteacher to ask if she could hold a stall at an upcoming event but when support from the school was declined she remained undeterred.

After speaking to her parish priest, Fr John St John, it was decided that she would hold a tombola stall after Mass, and a date was set for Saturday 19th May. Isabel worked tirelessly to collect donations from family and friends and was even given some very generous donations by Cromford Studio and Art Gallery.



The Tombola was a huge success, so much so, that it was repeated the following week. All of the parishioners seemed delighted with her efforts and were very supportive.

The total amount raised from the tombolas came to an amazing £105 which has been donated to Church Funds, and Isabel is delighted to have been able to help a cause which is very close to her heart.

Jesuit Refugee Service From Rwandan refugee to medical doctor



“If given the resources, refugee children excel. It is probably because of what they went through, they see education as a way out.” Mirreille says in response to how she went from escaping the Rwandan genocide to graduating from a top Chinese university with a Medicine degree.

Mirreille left Rwanda with her family when she was two after her father was killed during the genocide. For the next eight years she travelled across the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Zambia on foot, before finally settling in Dzaleka camp in Malawi when Mirreille was 10 years old. She remembers the violence, death and conflict which her and her family encountered during their journey and how they often had to survive by eating food from the forest. She arrived to Dzaleka refugee camp with only her uncle and grandfather as her other family members had died or gone missing during their journey.

“I started school in a refugee camp in Zambia, where I learnt English and so I joined

the school in grade 3 at Dzaleka Refugee Camp.” Although life was still difficult for Mirreille and her grandfather in Dzaleka camp, she excelled at school. By the time she completed primary school, Mirreille was top of her class and received a scholarship to attend the exclusive Likuni Girls’ Secondary School.

Mirreille completed her secondary education in the top six performers from the whole of Malawi which allowed her to be chosen by the Chinese government for a scholarship which was awarded annually for the top six academic achievers in Malawi.

In 2010 she started her medical studies in Shandong Province, Jinan city, China. Despite the language barrier, she learned mandarin in a year and graduated as a medical doctor in July 2016. She has since moved back to Dzaleka refugee camp and has registered with the Malawian ministry of health.

“Wherever I am needed, I am willing to go. I want to work with people in the rural areas,

I would love to work with refugees as I know what they go through. I want to give back to Malawi, because Malawi has given me so much.” she says about her future. “I would not be here if it were not for the Jesuits who educated me and provided me with the foundation on which I could build.”

Tim Smith, Director of Jesuit Missions partner Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Southern Africa says, “When you meet people like Mirreille who have gone through the most traumatic of experiences and yet still have an amazing strength to go on and do such great things, it’s truly amazing. It’s definitely the most rewarding part of my job.”

From September 2018, Jesuit Missions will be launching a new volunteer programme in partnership with JRS Southern Africa which will see UK volunteers working alongside local volunteers as part of a long-term project. For more information visit Jesuit Missions website.

Thoughts from Elston Hermitage...

July is usually the month which is celebrated with great solemnity here at the hermitage for two reasons, firstly that we celebrate the anniversary of our priestly ordinations and also we celebrate the feast of our patron Saint Benedict whose rule we follow.

The Rule of Saint Benedict written some fifteen hundred years ago, could be said to be a timeless document - in many ways as fresh and relevant today as when it was written. Initially written for monastics, many of the issues addressed in the rule can be applied to life in the world outside the monastic community and in recent years have been practised in all walks of life, a great study of the rule and its contents have been valued by many. The qualities which make up a valued life, humility, patience, simplicity, solitude, caring for others and living in community to a degree concern us all, these specifics of the rule and the framework provided have great meaning for people who are seeking to live out their faith in today’s world. The rule provides a plan for living a balanced, simple and prayerful life, not only in community, but for the people of the wider world.

Benedict’s rule tells his monks and nuns that a balance between prayer, work, study and leisure is their way, that the Divine Office (prayer of the church) is their work and the vows of stability, conversion of life and obedience are their commitment. Stability

refers to the importance of community and commitment in life. For a religious this refers directly to a life in a monastery where they will spend the rest of their lives, but while we are not all members of a religious order we are able to make our vow of stability to our families, to our faith communities, to our local communities and to our fellow pilgrims on the journey of faith, it also speaks of our commitment to the earth teaching us to be good stewards of all the things God has given us.

The vow of Conversion reminds the religious that everything they do is from, for, and with God and the conversion process is a continual one in our lives. For those in the world it is also an ongoing process, one that helps us walk continually in the presence of God, in order to open our ears to God’s voice and our eyes to God’s presence among us. Benedict tells us that we must keep our hearts and minds open to the ways of God that are moving us. The Benedictine way is one that allows balanced practices of prayer, work, study, hospitality and renewal in our lives to illuminate the ways that God is working within us.

The vow of Obedience is a heavy word for us in today’s world - it can be summed up in the opening word to the prologue of the rule ‘Listen’. Benedict wrote that everyone in the community needed to listen to one another and that God sometimes spoke through the youngest. The vow of Obedience can be seen



as a healthy way of cultivating a disciplined, intentional life that is yearning to be obedient to God, which is not only the desire of those living in community but of so many people living in today’s world. Obedience is as relevant today as when Benedict’s rule was written, obedience entails a healthy sense of humility (self knowledge) and of respecting our fellow travellers along their way to God.

And so the rule offers people a plan for living a balanced, simple and prayerful life and revolves around five practices of Prayer, Study, Work, Hospitality and Renewal of our lives - not only for monks and nuns, but for women and men in all walks of life. Benedict’s wisdom then is both timeless and timely, and we pray may find expression in all our lives.

**Fr. David + h.d.n.
Priest and Hermit
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Mary's Meals

On Sunday 19th March we all woke up to a 4 inch layer of snow and for some here in SSPP's they were snowed in. It was the day I was running the coffee morning for Mary's Meals. I have to confess that my heart sank thinking that it wouldn't be very successful financially. By the time we left the house for church a few people that had promised cakes had already rung to say they weren't going to be able to get to church.

However as usual the parish was very generous. Father Eddy kindly gave us a plug during the 2 morning Masses and the few people that had made it to church were amazing, they just came into the hall to give us 5 and 10 pound notes before leaving to make the journey home safely; we actually made over £200 that morning and I am so grateful to everyone.

One of the things that we had also got ready in the hall was a small table with 4 Backpacks, filled with the suggested articles advised by the charity. On their website under the Backpack Project section it says that children receiving Mary's Meals have never received a present and it had struck me that our children have presents at least twice a year, often more than one. With the help of Peggy, who had seen an article about col-



lecting Backpacks, we put our 4 on the table and left the suggested list of contents for people to read.

Over the next 8 weeks people just came up to me and said "Oh I have a Backpack for you, I'll bring it along on Sunday!" Some folk kindly gave more than one. Over the weeks I gathered 30!!! Mary's Meals sent us 5 sacks to pack them in and they were collected on Tuesday 29th May to go to Mary's Meals distribution centre in Glasgow. This represents amazing kindness and considerable amounts of extra money for which I am so grateful, as are The Mary's Meals charity.

Most of the children they will be going to will have no possibility of obtaining notebooks, pens, pencils, rulers or rubbers, never mind a pair of shorts, T shirt or sandals. These Backpacks will be the pride and joy of their lives and, with the aid of a nutritious meal, be a great help in their studies. Once again, thank you all so very much.

**Patricia,
St Peter and St Paul RC Church,
Lincoln**



Drivers urged to join intelligence-gathering effort against slavery in hand car washes

Drivers are being encouraged to join an unprecedented national intelligence-gathering campaign launched by the Church of England and the Catholic Church in England and Wales aimed at stamping out modern slavery in hand car washes.

Anti-slavery campaigners and other key agencies, including police, are backing the Safe Car Wash app, launched by The Clewer Initiative, the Church of England's campaign against modern slavery, and the Santa Marta Group, the Catholic Church's anti-slavery project.

The Safe Car Wash app can be downloaded for free on to Apple and Android devices.

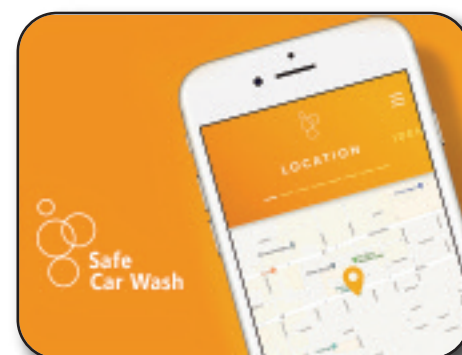
Users can open the app when they are at the car wash and pinpoint their exact location using GPS.

They will be then taken through a series of indicators of modern slavery. They range from practical details - such as whether workers have suitable protective clothing - to behavioural clues, such as whether they appear withdrawn.

If the answers indicate a high likelihood, users will be directed to the Modern Slavery Helpline. Data will also be anonymised and shared with the National Crime Agency (NCA) and the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA).

Clergy have also be asked to raise awareness of the campaign in sermons and Sunday School lessons and hold events to publicise the app.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, said: "I welcome this very helpful and timely initiative in an area of real exploitation. As we learn to see this example of forced labour and modern slavery in our midst, we will also become more aware of the presence of this evil scourge in other sectors in our neighbourhood."



The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said: "Over the last few years we have learnt more about the evil of modern slavery and we have begun to understand how it is perpetrated in our communities in plain sight."

"Through the Safe Car Wash App we now have a chance to help tackle this scourge which is damaging so many people's lives."

Will Kerr, Director of the National Crime Agency (NCA) said: "This App will help to engage the public in identifying car washes, where slavery is suspected, and will also help law enforcement identify those people who may be at risk, as well as those criminals who are exploiting the vulnerable."

Roger Bannister, interim Chief Executive for the GLAA, said: "The Safe Car Wash App is a great way of utilising the technology so many of us have become accustomed to and the GLAA are happy to be working alongside The Clewer Initiative and the Santa Marta Group on this important piece of work."

Kevin Hyland, Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner said: "The value of this app is that in addition to immeasurably improving the lives of victims of modern slavery being cruelly exploited in car washes today, it also empowers a community to act."

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Professor Zoe Trodd, Director of the Rights Lab, a University of Nottingham Beacon of Excellence, said: "Car washes are completely unregulated territory and we don't know how big the sector is, how many hand car washes operate or how many persons are registered to work in them. This citizen engagement in data collection is a powerful technique with potential for mapping other vulnerable services such as nail bars."

The App is also endorsed by the National Police Chief Councils, the Local Government Association and the Office of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner.

Mad dogs and Englishmen!

By Julia Beacroft

Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly." Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said. He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs." "Yes it is, Lord," she said. "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed at that moment.

glect to take the correct precautions against the sun. It has to be said that the phrase 'Mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the mid-day sun' can seem particularly apt!



Yet this particular expression has always – perhaps bizarrely – reminded me of the passage from St Matthew's Gospel (given above), where the Canaanite woman pleaded with the Lord to help her. Her daughter was suffering and she knew that Jesus could alleviate this. Yet surprisingly Jesus refuses, stating that he has come for the Jews alone, but the woman gives such a convincing counter-argument that Jesus immediately heals her daughter.

WE TOO CAN RECEIVE

This story is as relevant for us today as it was then, as it refers to race and culture as well as faith. But you are probably wondering why this wonderful account reminds me of the words 'Mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the mid-day sun'? The explanation is quite simple really... The woman refers to 'dogs', which were doubtless mad to receive the scraps from the table. Both Jesus and the woman were probably out and about in the heat of the sun and finally the story refers to race – Canaanites and Jews – and English are merely another race.

And so it is that as a nation who are often obsessed with climate, we can also be a nation of great faith. We may be like mad dogs as we risk the heat of the mid-day sun, but like the dogs in the Gospel we too can receive the crumbs that fall from the masters table. We too can receive Jesus.

AND SO IN our reflections on the months of the year, we come to the wonderful month of July – a time when the sun is supposed to shine and when the hot sultry weather of summer usually begins.

Sadly, we are often disappointed as the temperamental British weather all too often lets us down, but when the sun does indeed shine and the sky is blue, there is no better place to be than this small island called Great Britain, which we, in turn, call home.

OBSESSION

We know that we are often laughed at by our European brothers and sisters for our obsession with the great British climate and also the fact that it so often rains during our summer months. Only a couple of years ago, a young Spanish girl told me that I lived in a 'raining country', in answer to her question about where I was from. On the other hand, we are equally teased because we sometimes have no idea how to manage hot spells of weather either! We are not participants in the siesta and all too often we get sunburnt and exhausted as we ne-

A Double Mercy Care Centre and St Mary's School birthday!



St Mary's School Bible Story Club, Derby, took their play about courageous Queen Esther, who saved her people from the evil plot of a politician, to the residents of the Mercy Care Centre. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the performance and there was plenty of time for the youngsters to chat with the residents afterwards. Indeed they discovered that there were two birthday girls in the room - Marion was celebrating turning 95 and Farnan was celebrating turning 8! There followed a rousing chorus of 'Happy Birthday!' in honour of them both.

Fran Wickes





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Emotional trip to Auschwitz

Two sixth formers at Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy have spoken of an emotional trip to Auschwitz.

Ella Gritton and George McVeigh visited the former Nazi extermination camp in a trip organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust as part of its Lessons from Auschwitz project.

The project is a four-part course which explores universal lessons of the Holocaust and its relevance to today.

Students took part in a preparation day, during which they met a Holocaust survivor and learnt about what life was like for the Jewish community before the Holocaust.

A few weeks later Ella and George made the journey to Auschwitz where they started the trip by visiting a pre-war Jewish site in a Polish town, where they learnt more about the victims' lives.

They also visited several barracks at Auschwitz 1 before going to Birkenau, where the vast majority of victims were murdered.

George, 16, said he thought it was important that people learnt from what happened at Auschwitz.



He said: "I enjoy History and going to Auschwitz is something that I've always wanted to do. It went beyond what I expected and it was a lot to take in. I think it is important that we learn from history and how people have still not really learnt from what happened."

Ella, 16, said the trip was a life-changing experience for her.

She said: "We learnt about what happened at Auschwitz when we did our GCSEs but this gave us the opportunity to see the humanity, and the inhumanity, behind it."

"We visited different blocks at Auschwitz 1 and we saw rooms where they'd kept hair, shoes and belongings from the prisoners. There were also lots of pictures of them. We saw the gas chambers and the place where prisoners had to remove their clothes and

were shaved. We also saw the book of names which was just massive sheets of paper filled with millions of names of people who had died.

"We took part in a memorial service where we lit candles and that was about how there is so much hate in the world but there is light. I think that made me realise that we were there for a reason, to make sure that more people understand what happened. It was definitely a life-changing trip."

Kevin Gritton, headteacher at Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy, said: "This is such a valuable experience for our students which helps them to come to terms with the reality of what actually happened at Auschwitz and hopefully they will be able to share their experience with fellow students."

Celebrating our Schools

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE SCHOOLS ON THIS PAGE FOR SUPPORTING THE PAPER

Education Sunday will take place on Sunday 9th September 2018. It is a day of Celebration for all those involved in Education.

It is an opportunity for Schools and Parishes to come together to celebrate and give thanks for all the students, staff and parents who work so hard in and for Catholic Schools.

With this in mind we will be celebrating Education Sunday in the Schools section of the September edition of the paper.



To book an advert please contact Janet on 01440 730399 or 07931 836907 as places are limited.

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