



**Ker Anna
sold**

Page 3



**Tribute to
Bishop
Youens**

Page 5



**Love in
a box**

Page 8



Love in a box



The students, their families and staff at Thornton College have really got behind the Mustard Seed Relief Mission's annual 'Love in a Box' campaign this year.

Love in a Box enables schools, businesses, churches and other organisations and individuals to fill shoe boxes with gifts for children in Eastern Europe who would otherwise not receive a Christmas present.

Each shoe box is collected, checked, sealed and sent to the children via lorry. The lorries are met by the distribu-

tion teams where the precious gifts are given out to the children who are eagerly awaiting them.

The children receiving the gifts always thank the distribution team and ask them to say a big 'thank you' on their behalf to all the kind people who show they care about those who are less fortunate than themselves.

A 'wall' of over 120 Love in a Box parcels were collected from Thornton College on 13th November.



A message for Christmas

Christmas can be an unsettling time with unreal expectations which can never be met however much money we spend! How quickly the advertisers move us on to sales and planning summer holidays.

For those of us who have the bedrock of faith in Jesus and in his Church and something real to celebrate, it can still be a difficult time. I do not know about you but my faith continues to be challenged by the scandal of abuse and the damage done to survivors.

Yet, every Sunday, as we profess our faith in the Creed, we bow our heads as we say together about our Saviour "and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man." In fact, at the Christmas Masses, there is often chaos as we are meant to genuflect at those words to highlight the mystery of the Incarnation.

Whatever your Christmas experience is, I pray that you will open your heart to Jesus being with you. Jesus, true God and true man, became flesh to raise us up as daughters and sons of the Father. Our bodies, our whole being, are precious to God, and so are our relationships with one another. Those relationships, not our money or our possessions, define who we are.

Remember that especially when meeting people for the first time and meeting those we do not find it easy to get on with.

However, unsettling, uncertain or challenging life is, may the birth of Jesus strengthen and encourage you throughout the coming year.

With Christmas blessings,

+ **Peter Doyle**
Bishop of Northampton



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FOR THE DIOCESE OF NORTHAMPTON

News beyond Northampton

United Arab Emirates

Pope Francis will visit the United Arab Emirates next year, becoming the first pope to visit the Arabian Peninsula, the Vatican announced.

In a Dec. 6 statement, the Vatican said the pope will "participate in the International Interfaith Meeting on 'Human Fraternity'" after receiving an invitation by Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, crown prince of Abu Dhabi.

"The visit will take place also in response to the invitation of the Catholic Church in the United Arab Emirates," the Vatican said.

The trip Feb. 3-5 will take place less than a week after Pope Francis returns from his Jan. 23-28 visit to Panama for World Youth Day.

Shortly after the announcement, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, vice president and prime minister of the United Arab Emirates, welcomed the announcement of the pope's visit in a post on his personal Facebook page.

The visit, he said "will strengthen our ties and understanding of each other, enhance interfaith dialogue and help us to work together to maintain and build peace among the nations of the world."

In a message published on the visit's official website, Swiss Bishop Paul Hinder, apostolic vicar of Southern Arabia, expressed his hope that the pope's "short visit will be a moment of deepening our faith and our adherence to the bishop of Rome."

Although a detailed program of the pope's schedule "will be published before Christmas," Bishop Hinder confirmed that Pope Francis will celebrate a public Mass in Abu Dhabi Feb. 5 and that arrangements are being made to allow as many faithful as possible "to participate in this historic event."

"Let us keep in mind that it will be the first visit of a pope to the Arabian Peninsula," the bishop said.

The Vatican also released the logo and the theme of the papal visit, "Make me a channel of your peace," which is inspired by St. Francis of Assisi's prayer for peace.

The theme, the Vatican statement said, "expresses our own prayer that the visit of Pope Francis to the United Arab Emirates may spread in a special way the peace of God within the hearts of all people of goodwill."

Rome

George H.W. Bush, who died Nov. 30, was kind enough to come to my ordination as a deacon. To be sure, during the actual ordination Mass he had a meeting with St. John Paul II, so he came after it was over to congratulate us.

Along with 39 of my classmates at the Pontifical North American College, I was ordained a deacon in St. Peter's Basilica Oct. 4, 2001. It was just weeks after 9/11. Many of our families that had traveled overseas did so nervous about the new lethality of airborne terror.

But such was President George W. Bush's esteem for Pope John Paul II that he asked his father, President George H.W. Bush, to travel to Rome to brief the Holy Father that war against terrorists was beginning. The bishop ordaining us was Cardinal Pio Laghi, who had been the Holy See's representative in Washington during the 1980s. He became friends with the elder Bush, as the vice-presidential residence at the Naval Observatory was across the street from the apostolic nunciature. They would play tennis together and visit frequently. minute.

Laghi and Bush agreed to have lunch. But Laghi told the president that he would be tied up in the basilica until late morning. Bush said that was fine — he would meet him there



and greet us at the same time. Bush 41 greeted us informally, congratulating us on our ordination and expressing admiration for our decision to serve God in the ministry.

The rector of the Pontifical North American College, Msgr. Kevin McCoy, addressed Bush on our behalf, telling him that the seminarians were praying for his presidential son, that he make wise decisions in a time of crisis. He was not able to tell us then why he had come to meet the John Paul, but he did tell us that he had been given an audience earlier that morning. Then his eyes began to fill with tears.

"The Pope told me that he and the cardinals are praying for the president," he said, pausing and choking up. "The Pope is praying for my son. ... The Pope is praying for my son," he repeated softly. He was overwhelmed.

At that moment, though, he was a father, and a fellow Christian, and the idea that the pastor of the universal Church would be praying for his son made him weep in awe.

Getting into print

Send news reports, photos and other material to the editor, Fr. Paul Hardy, St. Edward's, Burchard Crescent, Shenley Church End, Milton Keynes MK5 6DX (vine01@btpenworld.com).

We promise to print your news as soon as we can find space for it. Material should be emailed whenever possible. If this cannot be done for digital pictures they should be sent to us on disc. Send photographs in jpg format, as separate attachments, and not embedded in Word documents. Urgent and dated items should reach us by the first Sunday of the month before publication.

A booklet of advice on writing news reports for The Vine is available on request.

Parental permission must be sought before photographs of children are sent for publication. While we accept unsolicited feature articles, we reserve the right to edit the text or not to publish. Letters for publication must include a name and address, which will be omitted on request.

The content of each issue is decided by the editor.

Views expressed in The Vine are not necessarily those of the editor or of the diocese. The publisher of The Vine deals with all advertising. To place an advert ring 01440-730399. For difficulties with distribution contact the editor.

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Mon Dec 10:
Service of Reconciliation/Confessions @ OLG 7.30pm
Sun Dec 16:
Choral Concert @ St W 4.15pm
Christmas Eve 24th Dec:
Carols 4.30pm followed by Mass with children's activities @ OLG 5pm
Carols, followed by Midnight Mass @ St W 11.30pm
Christmas Day 25th Dec:
Mass @ St W 9.00am
Mass OLG @ 11am
Jan 1:
International Thanksgiving Mass @ OLG 10am

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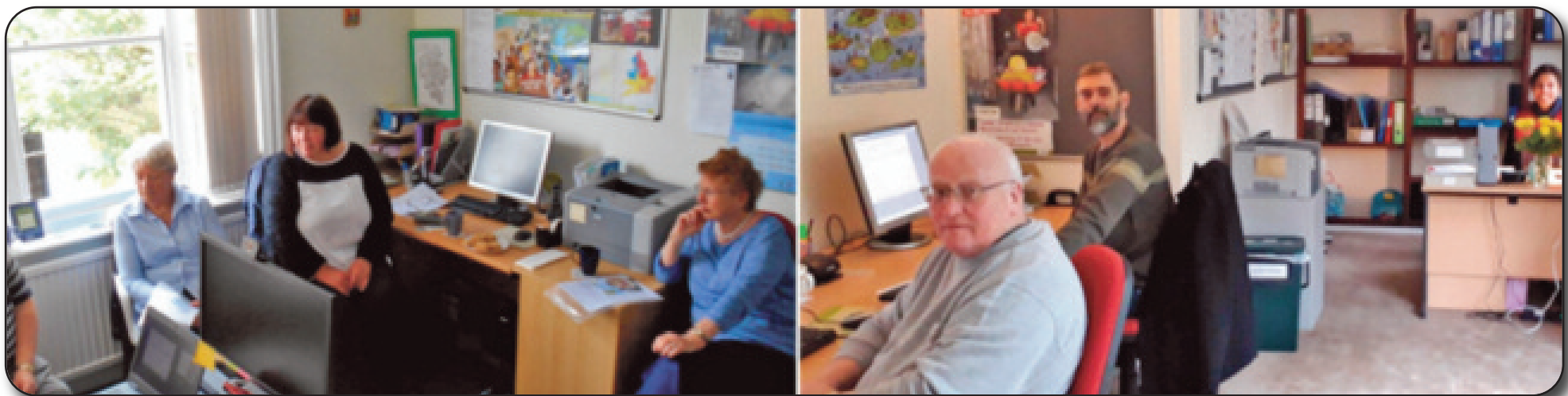
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On the move from Ker Anna

In 2003, the much beloved Ker Anna cottage in Princes Risborough (scene of many a youth retreat and vocations weekend) received a new lease of life when it was repurposed as a diocesan office, home to the diocesan youth team, and Brin Dunsire, of the finance team. There were changes over the years as the youth team moved to Luton, and Deborah Purfield (Diocesan CAFOD manager) moved in. They were finally joined by Avril Baigent in a new role as Pastoral Ministry Advisor last year.

Now however, Ker Anna is moving onto a new phase in private hands, and Brin, Avril and Deborah have found a happy new home in Damien House, part of the presbytery at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Great Missenden.

senden.

Deborah Purfield commented, "The parish in Princes Risborough was so friendly and supportive from day one and hosted many of our events. We would like to thank St Teresa's for their support and prayers over the years! I am delighted that CAFOD is still within a parish setting and we have already been made so welcome here in Great Missenden."

Move to Great Missenden

The move to Great Missenden went very smoothly for Brin and Avril in September and Deborah (CAFOD) in October 2018. Avril said, "It's great still to be working in the same building with each other. Although we

have very different jobs, there's a lot of support and laughter in being together."

The parish of Immaculate Heart of Mary have welcomed us in with open arms and it has been a pleasure to have met some of the parishioners. We are very grateful to the parish for all they have done to accommodate the CAFOD volunteer centre and diocesan staff. We look forward to working alongside the community and continuing our great work in the diocese.

If you are in the area, do pop over for a cuppa! We would love to see you.

Who's who

Deborah Purfield: CAFOD Diocesan coordinator - Working through volunteers in schools and parishes by giving talks, campaigning, praying and fundraising. We have wonderful resources for these which are available on our website for all to use. We are always looking for people who would like to share in our amazing vision and put their faith into action. Do get in touch.

Brin Dunsire: Diocesan Information Manager - maintains diocesan website and archives: Data Protection manager (GDPR compliancy) and Stewardship Adviser for planned-giving appeals.

Avril Baigent: Pastoral Ministry Advisor - adult faith formation; hospital, prison and university chaplaincy; lay ministry and leadership; volunteering.

Contact details:

**Damien House, 23 High Street,
Great Missenden HP16 9AA.**

**Deborah (CAFOD) Tel : 01494 863 777
northampton@cafod.org.uk**

Avril Baigent

(Diocesan Pastoral Ministry Advisor) - 07823 788 310

avril@northamptondiocese.com

Brin Dunsire

(Diocesan Information Manager) - 01494

Pictures

**From top: CAFOD, Avril Baigent,
Deacon Brin Dunsire**



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We remember them

Students mark Remembrance Day



Pupils from St Paul's Catholic School in Leadenhall remembered the fallen of World War 1 when they took part in Milton Keynes Jubilee Branch of The Royal British Legion's annual Remembrance Parade for schools at the memorial at Coffee Hall. The pupils represented The Army, The Royal Air Force and The Royal Marines Cadet Forces at the ceremony on Friday 9th November.

As well as marching in the Parade, three

pupils laid a wreath and Matthew, our Royal Marines Cadet, was one of four cadets who were invited to be vigil sentries and stand sentry at each corner of the memorial during the service.

Anne Hoskins, Senior Pastoral and Chaplaincy Assistant at St Paul's Catholic School, said: "Our pupils represented the school with great dignity and we were proud to be a part of this deeply moving Service of Remembrance."

Tribute to a pioneering bishop



Born in 1873 Laurence Youens joined the Society of African Missions. He taught briefly in Egypt and then became curate in High Wycombe, his birthplace. He then served as rector of Shefford Boys' home. He was consecrated bishop in 1933, and died in November 1939.



Mgr. John Armitage the Rector laid a wreath in commemoration and thanksgiving for the great role of Bishop Youens concerning Our Lady's Shrine in Walsingham. This happened during the Dowry Tour visitation October 11th -13th. Mena McBane and other local Walsingham Association members cleaned the grave and prepared the wreath. Bishop Laurence Youens, the 6th Bishop of Northampton is buried at Belmont Abbey

amidst the various Abbots. Born 14th Dec. 1873 and died 14th Nov. 1939. Bishop Youens did much for the restoration of Our Lady of Walsingham's Shrine and celebrated the first post Reformation Mass on August 15th 1934 in the Slipper Chapel around the time Cardinal Bourne declared in 1934 that Our Lady's Shrine in Walsingham as the National Marian Shrine for England, Mary's Dowry.



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Light & life in Slough

The Night of Light is an international initiative to reclaim Hallowe'en for the church. It is running in many, many countries in the world from England to India, from Africa to New Zealand and Hungary to the United States, with uncountable numbers of people involved.

What immediately comes to mind when you think

of Hallowe'en? Probably, like most people, it is the images of witches and ghosts and so on, which belong to the dark world of the occult and magic - images of darkness and death.

In fact Hallowe'en ('All Hallows Eve'), the evening of the 31st October, is the vigil (beginning) of the feast of All Saints - the feast in which we celebrate

the glory of God in His saints. The victory of light over darkness in the lives of God's holy ones in heaven. Jesus is the 'Light of the World'. The saints lived by that light, and became a beacon in their own generation.

On Wednesday 31st October at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Primary and Nursery School we cele-

brated the Eve of All Saints Day (Night of Life)! Children and staff came into school as a saint for the day or wore white to represent the Light of Jesus. The children looked wonderful and the day was a fantastic opportunity for children and staff to reflect and celebrate God as the light of the world.



Tesco turns the wheels?

St Thomas More school is bidding to bag a massive cash boost from the Tesco Bags of Help initiative.

We are delighted to let you know that our application to the Tesco Bags of Help Grant Scheme has been successful and our project has been put forward to a customer vote in all Bedford Tesco stores from Tuesday 1st January to Thursday 28th February 2019.

Customers cast their vote using a token given to them at the check-out in store each time they shop. The project with the highest number of tokens wins.... So let's make it us!

Our Project - Driving Ambition...

As an extra-curricular activity, our Design & Technology department along with students (both boys and girls) aged 11-18 design and build electric powered racing cars to competitively race throughout the year.

We value each and every one of our students and our aim

is to ensure everyone has the same opportunities to be the best that they can be without being held back due to family circumstances, poverty or disadvantage. In addition, we actively promote our girls to engage with Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) and are very proud of the fact we have female designers, pit crew and racing drivers on the team.

A wide range of students are involved in the racing team and this project has worked wonders for these young people, helping them to develop their inter-personnel skills, academic knowledge and gain confidence in their everyday school life.

Here at St Thomas More School we strive to make every learning opportunity exciting and memorable. Our aim is to also cover practice sessions on suitable race tracks, provide the team with all of the required safety equipment and cover transport and refreshments costs on race days.

Don't forget, voting will take place from Tuesday 1st January 2019 to Thursday 28th February so spread the word!



Now or never

A last call for bookings for the Small Group Leader Training Weekend 25-27th Jan

There are times in our lives when we really grow in faith, and often that is when we get to discuss, laugh and pray together in a small faith group. Here is an opportunity to get groups like this off the ground around the diocese, with a fantastic training weekend in January for all who would like to start new groups or brush up on their skills:

- What is faith, and how do we share it?
- Small group skills – how to get everyone talking, tricky situations etc
- How to lead prayer
- How to choose the right course for your parish
- How to get volunteers and build a team of helpers
- Shared prayer time and reflection with like-minded people

This is a residential weekend at the lovely Kings Park Centre in Northampton, an opportunity to meet like-minded people, to learn, to pray and to be inspired. Maximum of 2 people per parish.

To book a place or for more information, email avril@northamptondiocese.com, 07823 788 310. £25 deposit.

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Avril Baigent
Pastoral Ministry Advisor
Diocese of Northampton
07823 788 310





100 not out



Catenian Brothers came from across the country to celebrate Northampton Circle's Centenary. The 35th Circle of the Catenian Association, Northampton Circle was inaugurated on the 12th November 1918, the day following the signing of the Armistice and the end of World War 1.

Exactly 100 years later on the 12th November 2018, Circle President, Frank Sudlow and the brothers of the Circle marked this auspicious occasion with a centenary meeting and a celebratory dinner. The principal guests were GB National President John Hogan, Provincial President, Province 8, Jonathan Holder and Provincial Director, Declan O'Farrell. There were 95 brothers from 29 Circles and 7 Provinces in attendance, including 4 Provincial Directors, 3 Provincial Presidents and 11 Circle Presidents. Apologies had been received from several former Northampton brothers but many others were in attendance including Past President John Barley who had travelled from Stourbridge. The guests enjoyed a splendid meal of roast beef followed by apple pie and custard with a fine selection of wines.

A slide show and video presentation of past Circle activities were simultaneously running at either end of the dining room. A highlight of the Circle meeting was the enrolment of a new brother, Liam Collacott, to the Circle, increasing Northampton's membership to 38. Each guest received a short history of Northampton Circle in the form of a booklet written and compiled by Marketing Officer, Jim Cooper.

A large poppy wreath lay in the centre of the circle meeting and a two minute silence was included in the Circle payers in remembrance of those Catenian brothers and others who had given their lives in the cause to freedom and their country.

In welcoming the guests and proposing a toast to our visitors, President Frank thanked everyone for their attendance and in particular our National President,

John, who had travelled down from Poynton, Cheshire to join our centenary celebration. Frank said with so many visitors he anticipated there would be many faces he would not recognise. In fact because of visiting he was delighted to meet so many familiar and friendly faces. Brother Frank spoke eloquently about the Catenian experience of friendship through shared faith. He noted that Northampton had always been a radical town. So radical in fact that it's University, the third in the county, was closed by Royal Decree after just 5 years of teaching since the Dons of Oxford considered it too heretical. The new University of Northampton had to have an Act of Parliament to turn over the King's Edict before it could re-open. The town had been a hot bed of the Chartist movement and returned an Atheist as MP in 1880. Unable to take the loyal oath he was sent back and the electors told to vote again. They did and returned him to Parliament. After several attempts to deny him a place, he was eventually admitted to Parliament and the law amended to allow him to affirm rather than swear his allegiance.

Frank went on to note that Lieutenant D.H. Bartrum of Manchester No. 1 Circle was instrumental in introducing the Catenian Association to Northampton town whilst stationed here during World War 1. He had found in the town a band of trusted Brothers who were keen to embrace the Association and a Clergy which would encourage them.

Frank concluded by proposing a toast to all the visiting Brothers, in which he was swiftly joined by all the Brothers of Northampton Circle.

Responding to the toast on behalf of the guests National President John Hogan congratulated the Circle on its fine record of successfully achieving 100 years. He said that Northampton Circle had already outlived 66 other Circles in the Association. In congratulating new member Liam on his enrolment and welcoming him to the Association,

National President, John, presented Liam with a book on the history of the Association and a Catenian lapel badge. With one or two amusing stories National President, John, proposed a toast to


Northampton Circle, along with good wishes for its continuing success over the next 100 years. Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Circle Chamberlain, Brother Gervase Forsyth.

Pictures: Top: Northampton Circle Brothers at Centenary Meeting.

Seated at Table left to right:-

Province 8 Director, Declan O'Farrell ; GB National President, John Hogan. Northampton Circle President, Frank Sudlow; Province 8 Provincial President, Jonathan Holder

Below: Assembled Brothers at Centenary Meeting.



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The Vine January 2019

All white now

by Julie Beecroft

The month of December would surely not be complete without a Christmas anecdote so I'll try not to disappoint... The weather in this country on Christmas Day can, however, be something of a disappointment. In my lifetime alone I have known so many grey, warm or rainy Christmas Days. It's a strange phenomenon, but at any other time during our winter season, we are relieved if the weather isn't too cold, frosty or snowy. But when it comes to the festive season, it seems that this is exactly what we most desire – but rarely get! The bookmakers even lay odds on the probability of us having snow on Christmas Day – but of course they are rarely out of pocket!

CLASSIC

The 1954 American musical and comedy film 'White Christmas' seems to have set this particular turn of phrase as classic and timeless, with the title track achieving much the same. Even today we hear

the question "Do you think we'll have a white Christmas?" asked. For most people the idea of snow and Christmas appear to be synonymous, (as in the film), even though it so rarely occurs in the United Kingdom.

Of course as practicing Christians, we have far more to think about at Christmas than whether or not it will be snowy! The birth of our Lord Jesus Christ is celebrated on Christmas Day and we rejoice that our Lord entered our world in the form of a helpless baby to save mankind. And the Good News is that Jesus made it crystal clear in his teaching that he had indeed come to save one and all – regardless of race, creed or colour.

A priest's alb (under vestment) is white, altar servers usually also wear a white alb and at baptism we are clothed in a white garment. It is no coincidence, of course, that the colour chosen is white, representing purity. Of course snow is

also that self-same colour.

It seems to me that when we sing the famous words of Irving Berlin's film title track, 'I'm dreaming of a white Christmas', we could so easily be referring to a lot more than the possibility of snow. Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ was born on Christmas Day and as the Son of God was completely pure and devoid of any sin. His mother Mary, who had been specially chosen by God to bear His Son, was without stain or spot of sin either. She was completely pure and a virgin.

So whether we have snow or not this Christmas, we know that it will, indeed, be a white one. White is the colour of purity and purity abounds on Christmas Day when we celebrate the Lord's birth to a virgin and handmaid of God. Therefore, in conclusion, may we all dream of a white Christmas this year. May your days be merry and bright and in the Lord's hands – may all your Christmases be white.



JOE WALSH TOURS
PILGRIMAGES 2019

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Northampton's premier Catholic Scout group celebrated a centenary of Scouting

Northampton's premier Catholic Scout group celebrated a centenary of Scouting in the town with a popular reunion, which brought together dozens of former members from across the generations.

The 5th Northampton St Mary's RC Scout Group enjoyed a sun-filled afternoon of fun at the local Scout Activity Centre at Overstone in late October, with Scouting VIPs joining the celebrations and a personal message from the Chief Scout Bear Grylls taking place of honour. Some former Scouts and Leaders travelled from other European countries to attend the event and greetings were received from all over the world.

Mrs Philippa Law and Mr Hugh Williams, descendants of Tom Pepper, the man who founded the group in 1918, were guests of honour and helped cut the anniversary cake.

PHOTOGRAPHS show the cake cutting, former members catching with decades of magical memories and former assistant leader Father Tony McDermott celebrating Mass.



Book Review

The Encyclical Humanae Vitae: A Sign of Contradiction

By Dietrich von Hildebrand. Hildebrand Project

2018 is the 50th anniversary of the Pope Paul VI's encyclical Humanae Vitae, explaining why the Church cannot change her teaching on the wrongness of artificial birth control. It is fair to say that public protest against the encyclical, made by progressive Catholics who had assumed that taking the "Pill" was licit, proved intense, wide-reaching and long-lasting. It is also true that Pope Paul's predictions on what would happen to marriage and relationships in general should society adopt a contraceptive mentality have been proved sadly correct.

The Catholic theologian Dietrich von Hildebrand was one of the few brave minority voices to speak out in defence of Humanae Vitae at the time. This book, now republished by the Hildebrand Project, was first published in German in 1968, only a few months after the encyclical, and translated into English the following year. Reading it for the first time, I was reminded what an original and creative thinker von Hildebrand is. Rather than spending time explaining the difference between "natural" and "artificial" forms of conjugal love and the two purposes of marriage, his whole focus is on showing married couples why spousal love, as he prefers to call it, is a noble and sacred activity.

Emphasising that the Biblical Song of Songs should be interpreted in a literal sense before



its symbolical meaning, von Hildebrand writes of the "deep reverence" that should accompany married love which is "called to be transformed by Christ." Procreation, "entrusted" to couples, becomes a "superabundance" of love, not merely "an instrumental finality" of it. The author's approach to this subject is romantic in its fullest sense, describing how falling in loving and then living together in a spousal relationship becomes "the Yoursublime union in the mutual interpenetration of souls in love." Read with openness to its argument, it is easy to accept how lust becomes a desecration, or "mysterious betrayal of our spiritual nature." Only 100-odd pages this slim book is an indispensable accompaniment to the encyclical itself. Von Hildebrand brings all his faith, his imagination and his wisdom to the subject.

Francis Phillips



Devotion in Daventry

Charlotte, Gemma and Jean braved the M40 and travelled from Our Lady and St Augustine's in Daventry to the other side of the diocese for an uplifting day retreat. It was a

spiritually nourishing day thanks to the inspiring talks by Canon John Udris and the various prayer stations set up for us to be still and contemplate



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

- 7 Judge disheartened Vatican scholar (6)
- 8 Jordan valley where a local chap finds a leader among Hittites (6)
- 9 Part of the church is in a Dublin avenue (4)
- 10 Jack has a nasty turn at home earlier – he's put in charge of the Ark (8)
- 11/12 Chilean had my workings: he's a composer of masses (7,5)
- 15 Bishop shortly is to run against boy – or not (2,3)
- 17 Flock's built-in bearings are leading one along the Nile (7)
- 20 Female's first out: instead is about to spin on ice, being a gymnastic type (8)
- 22 Muslim one imprisoned Persian leader contracted (4)
- 23 To infuse divine grace, nation must change (6)
- 24 Biblical canon police popularized? (3,3)

CRYPTIC Down

- 1 Receive a boost after a hitch? (3,1,4)
- 2 Carreras, with Egyptian leader seen in the wings, is one that worked there (6)
- 3 Old Hindu city almost turned to a god of war (7)
- 4 Language of the masses, or the elite? (5)
- 5 Jews are besieged here, which is through Christmas, a danger (6)
- 6 Bubbly Spanish-American states? (4)
- 13 Gershwin passes on English bit of the Requiem (4,4)
- 14 Communists at summit, many angry over international support Tibetans seek (7)

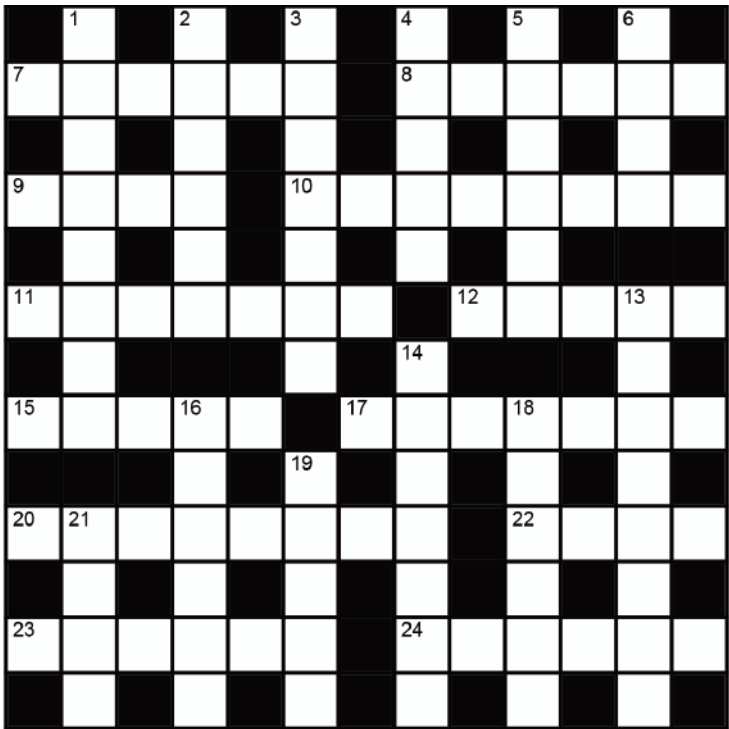
- 16 Serpent turned a little girl white (6)
- 18 Religious celebration oriental found pointless (6)
- 19 Paul's epistles, perhaps, as sent today? (5)
- 21 Gold's next, after dropping half off by Sword Beach's river (4)

QUICK Across

- 7 Christian scholar; saint and Doctor of the Church (347-420) (6)
- 8 In OT the name often used for the Jordan Valley and Dead Sea (6)
- 9 Main part or body of a church (4)
- 10 Man in whose house the Ark was temporarily stored (8)
- 11/12 Composer whose Requiem in C minor was played at his more famous brother's funeral in 1809 (7,5)
- 15 Bish? (2,3)
- 17 Any of twelve Egyptian kings between 1315 and 1090 BC (variant spelling) (7)
- 20 Nadia -----: multiple Olympic champion, 1976-80 (8)
- 22 One of the two main branches of Islam (4)
- 23 Consecrate (6)
- 24 God's instruction on moral, social and spiritual behaviour laid out in the Pentateuch (3,3)

QUICK Down

- 1 Receive a boon; raise the spirits (3,1,4)
- 2 Eleventh son of Jacob (6)
- 3 Former name of the holy Hindu city, Varanasi, on the Ganges (either spelling) (7)
- 4 'Vulgate' language of 7 (5)
- 5 Ancient mountaintop fortress where the Romans besieged the Jews for a year in 72-73 AD (6)
- 6 Spanish fizz (4)



- 13 First words of a medieval 4 hymn describing the Last Judgment (4,4)
- 14 Chinese communists, acolytes of the thoughts published in the 'Little Red Book' (7)
- 16 Highly poisonous snake family which includes the cobra (6)
- 18 Oldest and most important Christian feast (6)
- 19 Passages from the Bible and other religious works used as subjects of sermons (5)
- 21 River of Normandy which flows through Caen (4)


SOLUTION

Across: 7 Jerome, 8 Arabah, 9 Nave, 10 Abinadab, 11/12 Michael Haydn, 15 Rt Rev, 17 Ramesses, 20 Comenec, 22 Shla, 23 Anoint, 24 The Law. Down: 1 Get a lift, 2 Joseph, 3 Benares/Benaras, 4 Latin, 5 Masada, 6 Cava, 13 Dies Irae, 14 Maoists, 16 Elapid, 18 Easter, 19 Texts, 21 Orme.

Top job for parish Administrator

Congratulations to Sister Yvonne Pilarski who has been appointed as a Counsellor to the Superior General of her Congregation. Sadly, this means that she has to leave her role in the Milton Keynes Cluster as Parish Administrator

of Christ the King, Kents Hill and St Bede's, Newport Pagnell at the end of the year. Bishop Peter thanks Sr Yvonne for all she has done in that role and also for her work in the Diocese as Vicar for Religious.



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Sister Yvonne



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