



The Vine

www.bellcourt ltd.co.uk

JUNE 2019
Issue No. 360

Northampton Diocesan News

FREE Every Month

Two
pioneering
parishes

Page 3



Students
visit
camp

Page 4



Chrism
Mass
2019

Pages 6 & 7



He is risen. Alleluia

Bishop Peter celebrates the Easter Vigil



JOE WALSH TOURS PILGRIMAGES 2019



LOURDES DAILY BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

05 JULY | 6 NIGHTS
From Leeds-Bradford

from £749pp

19 JULY | 7 NIGHTS
From Liverpool

from £739pp

25 JULY | 5 NIGHTS
From Birmingham

from £639pp



BOOK
ONLINE
& SAVE £10

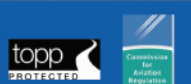
WE OFFER »

- » Full religious programme led by Spiritual Director
- » Direct return flight to Lourdes Airport
- » Return airport transfers in Lourdes
- » Full assistance of professional guides & representatives throughout



MANCHESTER: 0161 820 8790 | CARDIFF: 0292 0003865
www.joewalsh tours.co.uk | info@joewalsh tours.co.uk

Licensed by the Commission for Aviation Regulation, TO 052 and TA 0689 in compliance with the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangement Package Regulation 2018.



News beyond Northampton

Colombo

As we attended the Easter Vigil, a series of suicide bombs exploded in churches across Sri Lanka, killing hundreds. The Easter Exsultet, sung across the world as the bombs detonated in Colombo, hailed the arrival of the "night in which Christ has destroyed death."

Of course the blood-spattered walls and ceiling of St. Anthony's Shrine in Sri Lanka offered what appeared to be a macabre juxtaposition to the empty tomb of the gospel. But those Catholics mourning in Sri Lanka know that light — the light — has come into the world, and darkness cannot overcome it. The Anglican Bishop of Truro, Philip Mountstephen, has been charged by the British government with reviewing its foreign policy failures to address the persecution of Christians worldwide. He says that Western liberalism misunderstands the Christian faith as "an expression of white western privilege," undeserving of protection.

The slaughter of Christians presents a paradox: how can the religion of white western wealth and privilege be the faith of poor minorities around the globe? Can the suffering of Christians be legitimately understood as persecution?

"Actually," Mountstephen observed, "the Christian faith is overwhelmingly a phenomenon of the global poor and people who, by their very socio-economic status, are vulnerable."



Pope Francis has spoken often of his desire to see "a poor Church of the poor." In reality, this is what the Church already is. The killing of the Sri Lankan Mass-goers is a sign of contradiction to a world ready to believe that Christianity is inseparable from a kind of capitalistic white supremacy. But the Church is called to be a sign of contradiction, and such a sign can bear great fruit. The first Easter vigils in Rome were held in catacombs not cathedrals; an empire was converted by the witness of uncounted martyrs, whose unshakable confidence that Christ had risen, destroying death, was a sign of contradiction to the pagan world. But in reality, in the gathering darkness, the light of the faith — like the hundreds of candles light during the Easter vigil — becomes ever brighter. The violence of persecution stokes the fires of faith.

Wedded to her risen spouse and called to share in his glory, those now confidently burying the Church as a remnant of history are destined to find her tomb empty. Through death, Christ has already conquered death, and with him the Church rises victorious.

Rome



Pope Francis has told a gay comedian that people who "select or discard" people because of their sexuality "don't have a human heart." The Pope made the comments to Stephen K Amos in the final episode of the BBC2 series Pilgrimage: The Road To Rome which was screened on Good Friday. The three-part series took eight celebrities walking on the Via Francigena pilgrim route from Canterbury to Rome. In the final episode, the celebrities were offered an audience with the Pope. Amos told a British newspaper that he initially refused the meeting. He explained: "I've been quite vocal in my criticism in certain aspects of the Catholic Church. I thought a private audience meant you go and see him, he blesses you and you leave. I couldn't in all conscience go and do that, it's not me." Amos only agreed to attend if he could ask the Pope questions. The Vatican said Amos could ask anything he liked. During the audience, Amos told Pope Francis: "I lost my mother, three months ago I buried my twin sister, who were both very religious. So me coming on this pilgrimage,

being non-religious, I was looking for answers and faith. But as a gay man, I don't feel accepted."

Pope Francis responded, through an interpreter: "Giving more importance to the adjective than the noun. That is not good. We are all human beings and have dignity. It does not matter who you are or how you live your life, you do not lose your dignity. There are people that prefer to select or discard people, because of the adjective. These people don't have a human heart." He told the group: "I feel myself among brothers and sisters and I have not asked any of you what your faith or belief is, because we have a basic faith in humanity. For those of you who are believers please pray for me. For those of you who do not believe, could you wish me a good journey so I do not let anyone down. Thank you." The meeting left Amos in tears. He said: "It was life-changing. It's given me faith in human beings. It's opened my eyes about not judging religious people based on my own negative experiences. When I left that meeting there was joy in my heart."

Wayne Ricketts
Stained Glass

New contemporary and traditional stained glass designed, made and fitted.

Professional repairs and restoration.
Website: customstainedglass.co.uk
Email: wayne.ricketts@btconnect.com
Tel: 0117 955 5390

Church Pews Uncomfortable?
Why not try

safeoam

top quality upholstered foam pew cushions?
Safeoam, Green Lane, Riley Green,
Hoghton, Preston PR5 0SN
www.safeoam.co.uk
Freephone 0800 015 44 33
Free Sample Pack of foam & fabrics sent by first class mail
When phoning please quote VIN101

Our Lady of Fidelity

The church needs religious sisters URGENTLY to bring Christ to others by a life of prayer and service lived in the community of Ignation spirituality. Daily Mass is the centre of community life. By wearing the religious habit we are witnesses to the consecrated way of life. If you are willing to risk a little love and would like to find out how, contact Sister Bernadette. Late vocations up to the age of 46 welcomed.

**COVENT OF
OUR LADY OF FIDELITY**
Central Hill, Upper Norwood,
LONDON SE19 1RS
Telephone: 07973 6002563
or Fax: 0208 766 6579
Mobile: 07760 297001
Ministers of Religion

Comtec Services
Solutions in Sound, Vision & Communications

Introducing our new Online Store!

Church Sound Systems,
Audio Visual Systems, Induction Loops,
Radio Microphones and much more...

Safe and Secure Payments
Shipping to all of the UK

Simply visit: <https://shop.comtec-services.co.uk/>

Tel: 01462 679655
Email: info@comtec-services.co.uk
www.comtec-services.co.uk

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@btopenworld.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.

Publisher: Bellcourt Ltd, N2 Blois Meadow Business Centre, Steeple Bumpstead, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 7BN Telephone: 0207 112 6710



Three parishes One family

Latin American missionaries will be in the twin parishes of Chesham and Great Missenden for the last two weeks in June.

In 2018 a group of Chesham parishioners, under the leadership of Priest in Charge Fr Alessandro Reno worked in the parish of La Dolorosa in Manta, Ecuador. Now a group from La Dolorosa is about to repay the compliment.

The team will work with young parishioners in the local Catholic schools. They will also help organise and run YouthFest 19, an afternoon of games, music and food for the local Pastoral Area.

They will animate educational and social activities for adults and children. These will include Spanish language classes, salsa dance classes, a cookery challenge, and workshops on rosart making and straw hat making.

Parishioners are promised a creative Sunday liturgy, expressing the two cultures.

There will be ecumenical outreach and fund-raising for the 2016 Ecuador Earthquake Appeal.

There won't be any cultural confusion for Fr Alessandro. He is a native of the sunny south of Italy, belongs to an Ecuadorean diocese and speaks English like a native.



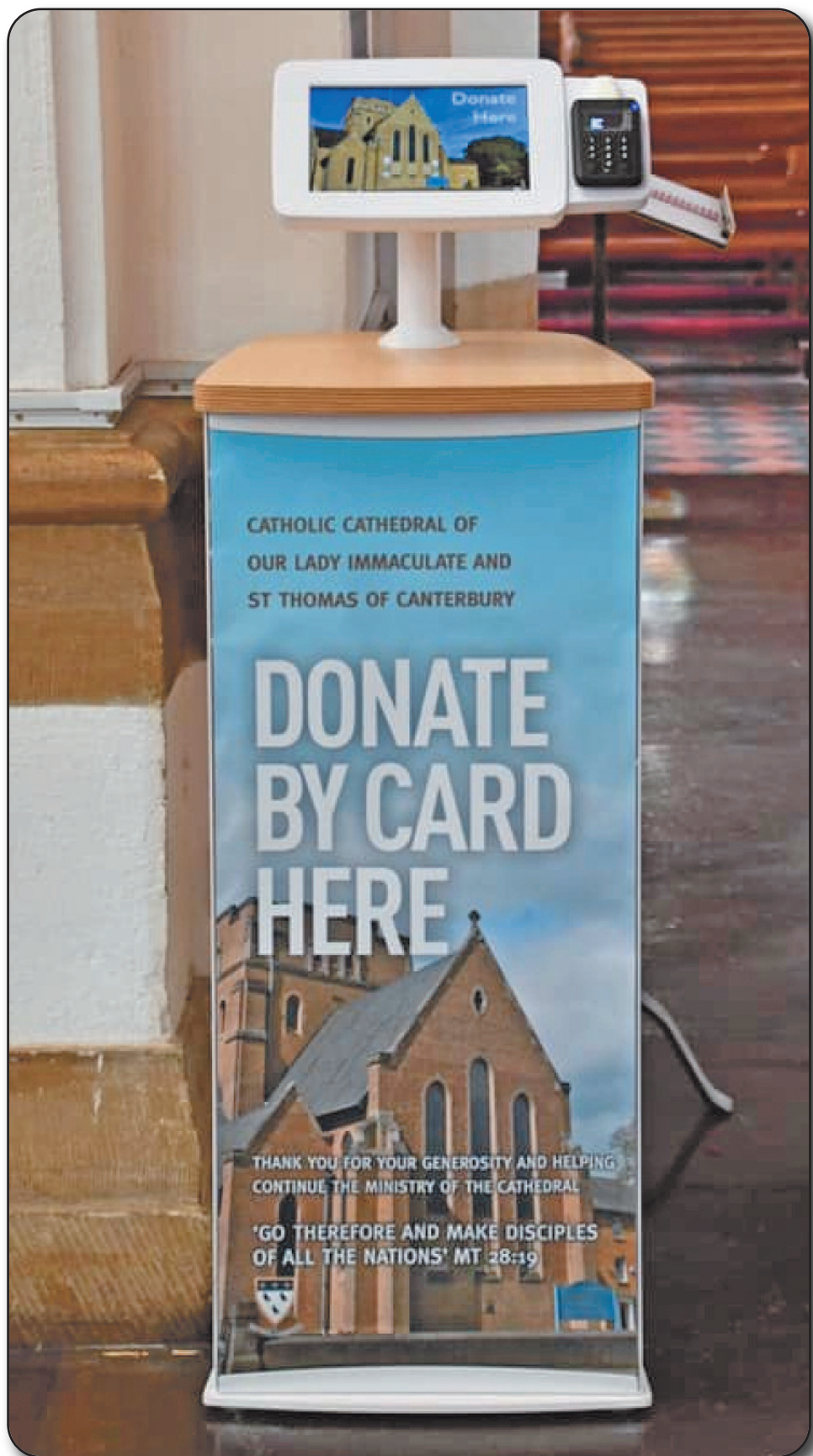
'The Church goes forth as a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice'

Evangelii Gaudium
Pope Francis'
Apostolic Exhortation: 2013



On the cards

Give today and pay tomorrow. Northampton cathedral now lets you make your donation by card. Its a pioneering development in the area and the staff hope that many other parishes in the diocese will join them.



YOU CAN SUPPORT

spiritual and social help for
the sick and suffering

learn more here:

obitel-minsk.com

st.elisabeth.shop@gmail.com

 **CATALOGUE**
St Elisabeth Convent



Students visit Auschwitz

Sixth Form History students from St Paul's school, Milton Keynes, Sofia Greco and Louis Collis, have participated in the Holocaust Education Trust's 'Lessons From Auschwitz' project and are now spreading the word about what they have learned from their experience. The project comprised four parts—the first was an orientation meeting to get to know more about the project and to meet with a Holocaust survivor. The students then went on a one day visit to Oświęcim, the Polish town where Auschwitz is located. After tours of Auschwitz 1 and Birkenau the day culminated in a memorable ceremony held next to the destroyed crematoria at Birkenau. The ceremony included readings, a moment of reflection and ended with all participants lighting memorial candles.

There was also a follow up seminar and the fourth part of the project requires participants to disseminate what they have learned to their peers and the wider community. Sofia and Louis have decided to write an article exploring what the Holocaust has taught us and how we can join together to prevent discrimination. Speaking about their experience, Sofia said: "Going to the Auschwitz concentration camp has genuinely been an incredible experience that I won't ever forget. When I got home after the trip, I felt immensely guilty for the suffering of the people who had been in the camps as I couldn't forget how what had happened to their lives was so unfair, and the horrific conditions they lived through and died in were absolutely abhorrent. Witnessing the massive size of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the second camp, was extremely overwhelming and really put the holocaust into perspective, and seeing in person what I had seen only in pictures so many times before was unforgettable as I hadn't imagined it to be so big. Auschwitz, being one of hundreds of concentration

camps, was only one part of the holocaust and again seeing it put into perspective the extent and size of the atrocity. What I saw has stayed in my mind, particularly the Barracks in Auschwitz-Birkenau, the suitcases taken from the people and the pile of hair cut off of 50,000 people. The site of where the gas chambers in Auschwitz-Birkenau were was eerie as well. At the end of our visit we did a memorial service with a Rabbi, who gave a beautiful sermon on helping other people and sung a Jewish prayer; it was really moving and I felt that the rabbi was singing for the Jewish people at the camps who couldn't, and who suffered so much just for who they are and what they believed in.

"Another reason I am extremely grateful for being able to take part in this educational program was that we met Susan Pollack, a holocaust survivor at a seminar in London before the trip. Her story was amazing and inspiring as when she was a young, Jewish girl in Hungary she and her family were sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau and survived. She is still religious and her response to someone asking if she forgave the Nazis for what they did was that although she doesn't feel anger towards them, she doesn't forgive them. That really stuck with me and the fact that she carries on smiling and talking about it despite what she went through is incredible. She said she was so grateful to tell her story to us because we will be proof that the Nazis didn't succeed and we won't let what happened be forgotten; she believed there was goodness and kindness in the world.

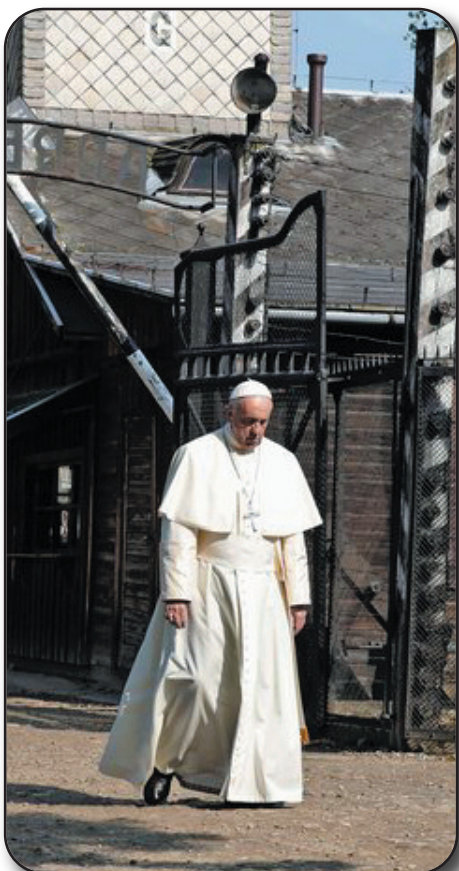
"This educational program and trip has been an interesting and moving experience that has furthered my knowledge on the holocaust and pre-war Jewish life as well as



really further instilled in me how important it is to remember the holocaust to try prevent such an atrocity from happening again, and keeping the memory and testimony of those who died and those who survived alive."

Louis said: "This trip has taught me a lot about life and the holocaust and genocides

in general. When looking at these cases we need to act respectful and be considerate in what the people went through but also we must not dehumanise the perpetrators, we must also understand what they went through. But the most important message I took from this whole experience is that we should never forget the holocaust."



Louis' personal impression

On the 19th February 2019 I embarked on an emotional journey to a place of mass genocide, commonly known as Auschwitz Birkenau. From the experience of being at the camp and seeing the monstrosities we have allowed our people to commit, is indescribable. The LFA program has shown me a lot when it comes to the holocaust so things we should and should not do when talking about it. One of the most surprising things was that we can't call the perpetrators monsters. All they did was follow orders and let the power mentality get to their head. At the end of the day they had families and did the same normal things you and I do. But they just had very different beliefs. This journey is an attempt to understand the true horrors of the holocaust and the perpetrators themselves and how they impacted on it.

We arrived at London Stansted at 5am on Tuesday morning. At 11 am we land in Krakow and start our journey to the famously known town where the great synagogue was burnt down.

Then we come to the place its self and drive along the barbed wired fence and all of a sudden the bus went silent everyone knew where they were and the reality hit all of us. First we toured Auschwitz I, famously known for "abrei macht frei." Our tour guide was amazing at explaining what was happening at this place but he was very right wing and gainst communism. He said that "Auschwitz had never been freed." This was because the red army brought along their communist views and many polish survivors and Jewish survivors were against it. This feeling of emptiness in the camp was very apparent. There was a big overwhelming feeling as we all knew the monstrosity's people were committing here. It was almost too hard to believe.

Later on in the day we visited Birkenau, this camp was built by the prisoners and in June 1944 housed 254000 prisoners. On entry to Auschwitz II everyone fell silent for the second time of the day we learnt where the people ate, washed and

slept. The conditions were so bad that it was hard for people to believe. A barrack shared by 1000 men. To make matters worse the leader of those barracks were kapos. (German rapist's murderers, all type of prisoners.) There were allowed to do whatever they want with the prisoners.

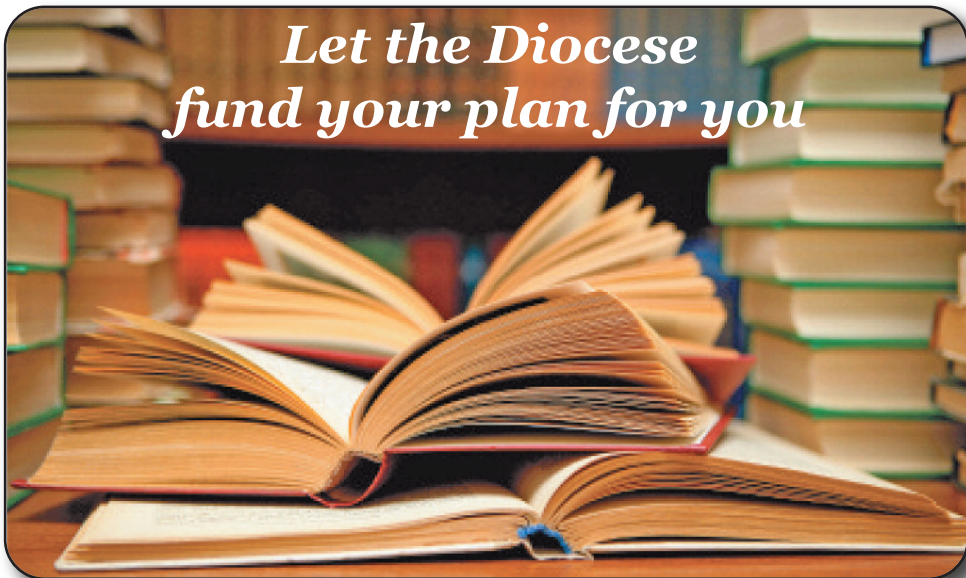
The most overwhelming site was the ruins of the gas chambers. They were able to kill hundreds at a time. If people were to be sent to Birkenau they'd either die on the way there, be selected by Dr Mengele, meaning they died a slow painful death or were gassed upon arrival.

In conclusion, this trip has taught me a lot about life and the holocaust and genocides in general. When looking at these cases we need to act respectful and be considerate in what the people went through but also we must not dehumanise the perpetrators we must also understand what they went through. But the most important message I took from this whole experience is that we should never forget the holocaust.

Blessing Polish Easter baskets: *Holy Family, Slough*



Let the Diocese fund your plan for you



Last July the Diocese launched a Lay Formation Fund – a dedicated pot of money to provide training and formation for lay people active in the diocese. Paid for by generous giving to Together in Faith, the fund releases £20,000 per year to enable lay people to access courses and training, and for parishes to put on their own lay formation projects. Since that time, the Application Committee has been able to award grants to people in the diocese to study a range of topics including hospital chaplaincy, marriage and family life, and evangelisation. One successful applicant is investigating how the Catholic ethos of a Catholic school enables disadvantaged pupils to engage in their studies and the wider school. Another was given a grant to help run a Catholic men's weekend. The Fund also subsidised a training weekend for small group leaders in parishes.

The committee will be meeting again in July to consider applications for autumn

courses. Applications are welcomed for both religious courses such as Certificates in Chaplaincy, Catechesis or Mission from Maryvale and Newman Colleges, but also for any learning which will benefit the local parish such as flower arranging or book keeping. Applicants must live in the diocese, and have the support of their local priest or dean. The funding provided should generally be matched by the parish or pastoral area. The fund is administrated by the Pastoral Ministry Office, and the committee meets to discuss applications three times yearly. The deadline for this round of funding will be 8th July to allow people to start courses in the autumn. For further information and application forms, please visit www.northamptondiocese.org/LFF.

Avril Baigent
Pastoral Ministry Advisor
Diocese of Northampton
07823 788 310

CALLING ALL HEADTEACHERS & RE CO-ORDINATORS

**Reach
for Parents**

**NEW
8-Page
Reach
for Children**

**includes...
Lesson Plans
Homework Sheets
Classroom Resources**

Some of the pages from this edition

£34.95 for 300 copies - £119.80 for the year (£29.95 per issue)
Contact us now on 01440 730399 or schools@reachnewspaper.com
www.reachnewspaper.com

Bishop Peter speaks to the priests of the diocese

I want to thank you for your dedicated preaching of the Word and pastoral care of the communities entrusted to you. All but ten of you carry responsibility for two or more churches or parishes. I am very conscious of the heavy demands on you, not least at a time when people can have their own individual agendas and needs. The words of today's Preface come to mind – "As they give up their lives for you and for the salvation of their brothers and sisters, they strive to be conformed to the image of Christ himself and offer you a constant witness of faith and love."

That desire to be conformed to the image of Christ can be dulled by fatigue and overwork and weakness and there is no one to tell us to stop. If you do get into a pickle or if you know a brother priest is struggling, do look for support from a fellow priest or from me. We are all human. And there is help available in our Diocesan Offices, in HR and Finance, schools, Chaplaincy, Youth and Catechetics to provide support especially if you are doing everything on your own – your successor will not thank you!

Just as personal prayer is essential, so is the prayer of the Mass, both for ourselves and for our communities. Because the Mass timetable is relentless and routine, please do a health check on the devotion and faith with which you celebrate Mass. And please check the idiosyncrasies we are all tempted to introduce into the Masses we celebrate. The Mass is not my celebration or your celebration, it is the celebration of Christ and his Church.

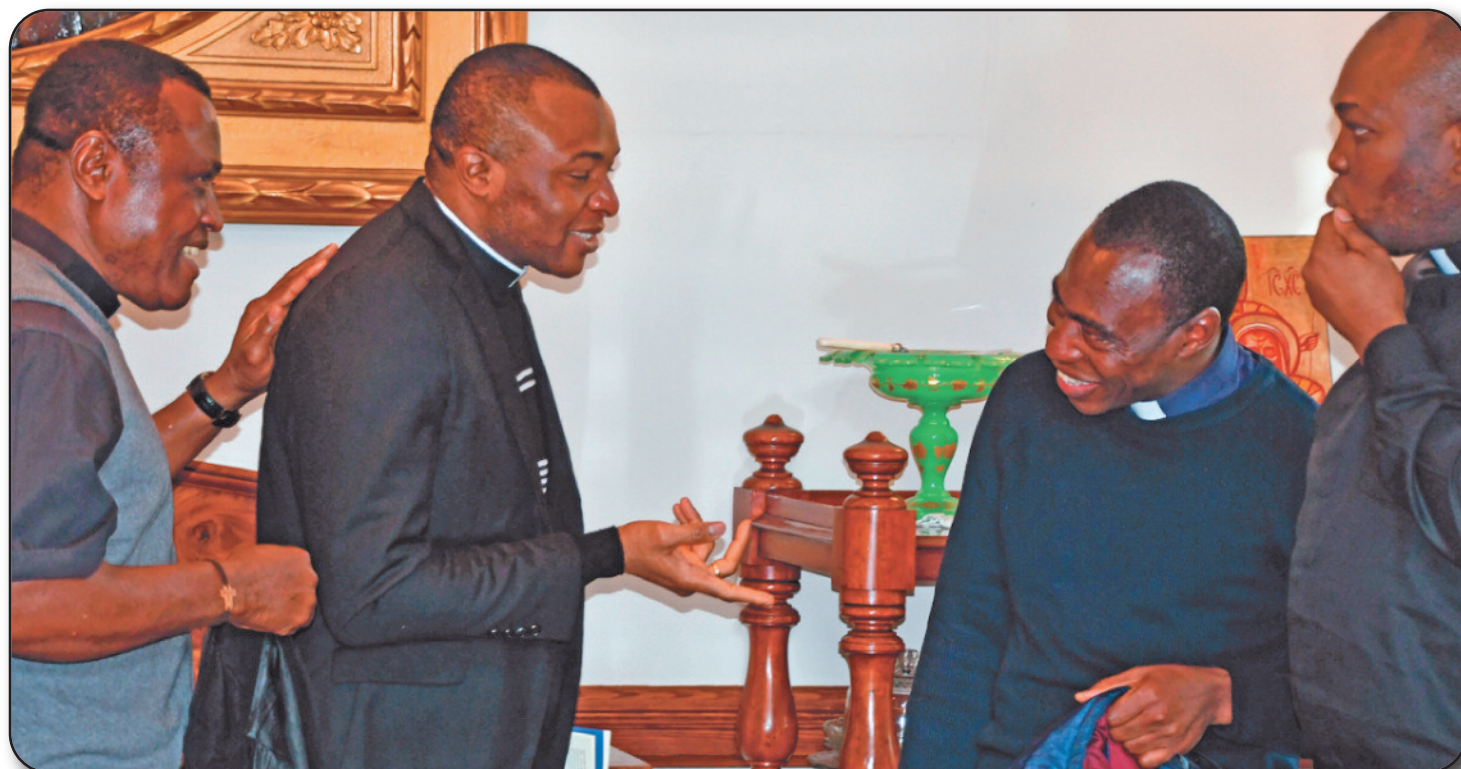
So, in our communion and in our mission where our dependence is completely on Christ and his Spirit, I want you to know my deepest thanks and appreciation in difficult times, my concern for your spiritual and physical health, and my support in the exercise of Christ's ministerial priesthood where, more than having our feet under our own table, we are being called to be more missionary than residential.

It is in the context of all that I have been saying that I want to invite all of you, dear Fathers and Brothers, to renew your priestly promises, to be more united with the Lord Jesus and in your priestly ministry always to be prompted by love of him. May Our Blessed Lady intercede for us all that, like her Son, we may be holy priests, good shepherds and faithful teachers and servants of all.

Finally, to you all, priests, deacons and Christ's faithful people, joy and peace in the Lord.

Amen.

Chrism Mass 2019





Pictures: Neil Roseman

Bishop Peter's sermon

As I visit the parishes around the Diocese, I am amazed by the time and energy and exmany parishioners in the service of the Church and beyond from church cleaning to providing meals for the homeless. Countless people are engaged in the life and mission of the Church, and I want to acknowledge and thank all of you for your commitment and service. I would like to thank, too, all who work directly for you in the Diocese.

But we are so stretched in our communities. And, certainly - among our priests and deacons - there is a sense that we are "just managing". Each year, after Easter and sometimes before, I pray and agonise about how we are going to cope in the coming year with fewer priests, knowing that I cannot meet, we cannot meet, the expectations of the parishes. I think that the Holy Spirit is

prompting us to look for new ways to nourish our faith communities and promote a sense of mission even in our own families who have not time for faith and religion.

One step forward is lay chaplaincies in hospitals, prisons, universities and schools with proper training and support. However, in our country, lay people have only exercised a leadership in their parishes in an informal way. At my request, a group in the Diocese is exploring the possibility of a more formal lay leadership with the necessary training, in partnership with our priests and deacons. I think that this could be a positive way forward, moving us from "just managing" to "leading". So, while lay leadership in our Diocese is not new, it is being developed, and we have some concrete ideas which are being rolled out through our Pastoral Area Councils

To advertise your Theology, Philosophy and Religious Studies Courses

Contact Janet on 01440 730399 or email janett@cathcom.org

**This is an example of a ¼ page advert
170mm high x 128mm wide**

TRAVEL INSURANCE

arranged for readers of The Vine

ANNUAL TRAVEL INSURANCE

AVAILABLE TO ANYONE UP TO 85 YEARS OF AGE.

MOST PRE-EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITIONS ACCEPTED

TOP QUALITY COVER

With a 24 hour helpline and an air ambulance get-you-home service.

Mention this advert to get a Special Vine discount.

Don't forget we also offer SINGLE-TRIP COVER, with no maximum age limit and up to £20,000 cancellation cover per couple.

CALL FOR DETAILS AND PRICES

0116 272 0500

FT

Travel Insurance

Real people - not machines!

Authorised and regulated by the FCA

UK based

Shouts of Joy

AMDG is the young adults' music group based at The Holy Child & St Joseph's Church, Bedford, home of the Shrine of the Miraculous Relic Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. AMDG often provides the musical liturgy at Shrine Masses, services and events. The group, led by Clare and Peter, has just completed the recording of its second album, 'Shouts of Joy'. The proceeds from its sale will go towards the Shrine and the work of the Guardians in promoting the National Pilgrimage Tour of the Miraculous Relic Image around the country.

AMDG stands for 'Ad maiorem Dei gloriam', a Latin phrase translating to 'For the greater glory of God'. Back in 2012, AMDG produced its first album, 'For God's Greater Glory'. So far, it has sold 400 copies and raised in excess of £2,000 towards the Guardians' Fund. This has been one of AMDG's largest fundraising projects to date.

Since recording the first album, AMDG has welcomed many new members and others have moved away. This album has seen the reunion of many previous members who have travelled back from abroad and elsewhere in the UK. As last time, the new album features guest vocals from well-known professional singer Katherine Smith from Christ the King Parish, Bedford.

'Shouts of Joy' was created at Damage Audio Recording Studios in Bedford, with producer Ben Farestvedt. Apart from vo-



cals, AMDG laid down piano parts, as well as guitar, flute and violin accompaniments. In addition, other unusual instruments are featured including a charango (a small Andean stringed instrument of the lute family), bamboo flute, tambourines and the triangle!

The mix of music is varied and features new compositions from the group as well as popular favourites. Amongst others, tracks include '10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)', 'Go down, Moses' and 'Our Lady of Guadalupe', not to be confused with the re-recording of

'Hymn to Our Lady of Guadalupe'!

AMDG would like to thank everyone who bought a copy of the last album, it is much appreciated! Please pray for the success of this new project, which was made possible through the generosity of a benefactor.

They hope to have the new album ready for sale in April 2019 at the start of the 2019 National Pilgrimage Tour of the Miraculous Relic Image. The CD will be on sale from the repository at all this year's venues.

TANGNEY TOURS

The Pilgrims Choice

Join the Northampton Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage

with Bishop Peter Doyle and the Catholic Association
2019 theme - "Blessed are the poor"



By air - from £874 per person
Flights direct from Stansted and Manchester 23rd - 30th August
www.tangney-tours.com/CA

Lourdes by air - From London

26 July | 7 Nights | From £769 pp plus flights

9 Aug | 7 Night | From £769 pp plus flights

Fatima by air - From London Heathrow

11 Sept. | 6 Nights | From £679 pp inc. flights

11 Oct. | 4 Nights | From £580 pp inc. flights

Holy Land Pilgrimages

12 Nov | 7 Nights | From £1426 pp inc flights

Lourdes, Burgos, Santiago & Fatima

6 Sept. | 8 Nights | From £840 pp inc flights

Rome, San Giovanni and Assisi

8 Oct. | 7 Nights | From £739 pp inc flights



www.tangney-tours.com

e-mail: sales@tangney-tours.com

FREE BROCHURE LINE: 0800 917 3572

www.CatholicDirectory.org

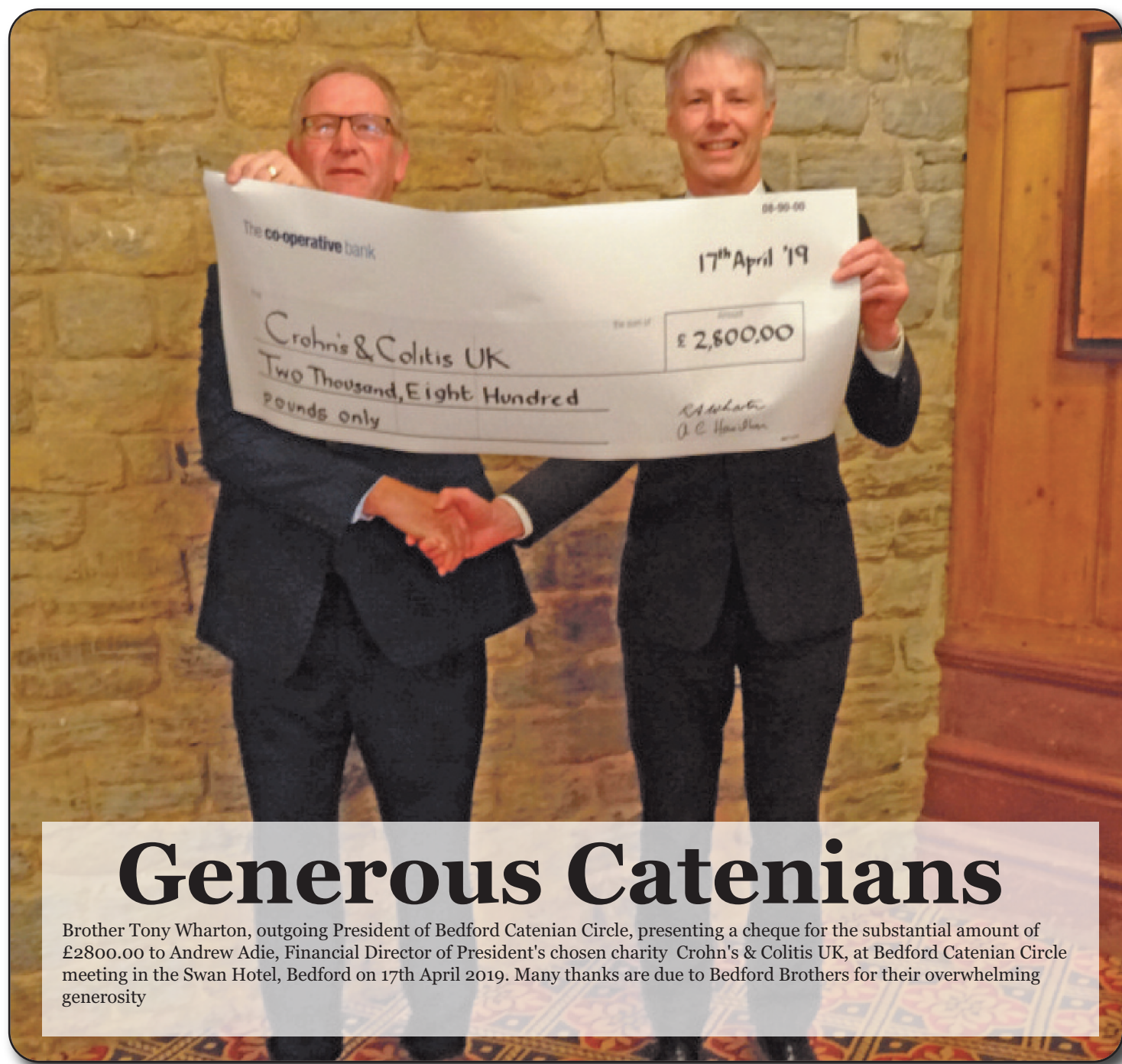
The Online Catholic Directory since 1997



Part of the CathCom Group

Publishing: Catholic Voice of Lancaster | Middlesbrough Voice | Hullam News | Catholic News | The Vine

Catholic East Angles | A&B News | Catholic South West | Reach | View | Unity | CMC News | The Catholic Mirror



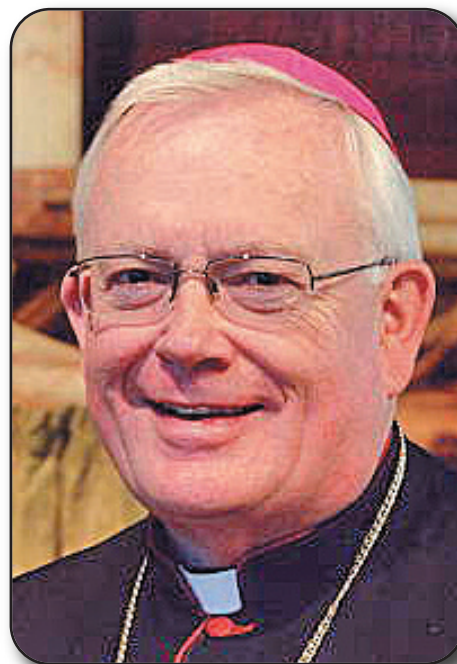
Generous Catenians

Brother Tony Wharton, outgoing President of Bedford Catenian Circle, presenting a cheque for the substantial amount of £2800.00 to Andrew Adie, Financial Director of President's chosen charity Crohn's & Colitis UK, at Bedford Catenian Circle meeting in the Swan Hotel, Bedford on 17th April 2019. Many thanks are due to Bedford Brothers for their overwhelming generosity

PLEASE
SUPPORT
OUR
ADVERTISERS

*Pastoral Letter
for Good Shepherd Sunday*

Bishop Peter resigns



In his Pastoral Letter for Good Shepherd Sunday Bishop Peter asked, 'What are we praying for on this World Day of Prayer for Vocations? Firstly, that all of us who are baptised may respond to God's call to be holy, to be whole and healthy, in living our faith, within the family of the Church.

That calling can be expressed in so many different ways and, without excluding any of them, I would like to concentrate on three vocations, the vocation to marriage, the vocation to the consecrated life as a nun or a monk, and the vocation to the priesthood. In each of those vocations, the emphasis is on God's call. Is God calling me to this or that way of life in his service?

In our uncertain world, people shy away from a long term commitment. Yet Jesus has made an eternal commitment to every one of us. At the heart of our communities must be couples who reflect that eternal commitment in the Sacrament of Marriage.

That is what is so different from just living together. A married couple reflect God's ever-faithful love, sharing their life of faith and bringing new life into the world. The families we build are not perfect, but they are schools of love and faith and sacrifice. I want to urge our young people to buck the trend, to commit themselves to each other in the sacrament of marriage and, if so blessed, to a family.

It is couples who live their vows for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, who seek the common good and cherish life, who then sow the seeds for other vocations. How much we need the witness and support of men and women who, in the consecrated life, give their whole being to Christ the Good Shepherd in the service of the Church and the world.

And, finally, please pray that some men may be open to the call to the priesthood. We need men of great generosity and faith to

have the courage to answer God's call. Not one of us is worthy. It is only God who can lead us on to the life of priesthood. And, as we pray, let us accompany one another in our different vocations as single people, married couples, religious or priest.

As I complete my fifty first year as a priest, I want to end on a personal note. Earlier this month I was seventy five, the age at which bishops submit their resignation. I continue as your bishop until my successor is appointed. Currently, this seems to take eighteen months plus. Please take a prayer card, and pray for a new bishop who will shepherd God's people in Northampton Diocese with good priests, deacons, religious, families and lay faithful. I certainly thank God for the privilege of serving you as bishop with your wonderful help and support.

**With every blessing,
+ Peter
Bishop of Northampton**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world, now and forever.

Say six times a day for nine days.

Funeral Services

Helping with
all your needs

If you would like to
advertise in this
section please call

Janet on 01440 730399



• A family run
Catholic Funeral Directors

• A very personal service

• 24 hour call out

• Order of Service printing

• In House Florist

• Pre-Paid funeral plans available

**Chapels Of Rest in
Houghton Regis and Arlesey**

e-mail info@benedictfuneral.co.uk
website www.benedictfuneral.co.uk

**Houghton Regis 01582 249268
or Arlesey 01462 337684**

Chiltern Handover

The April meeting of the Chiltern Circle was busy evening as it commenced with the AGM which was followed almost immediately by the Annual Handover Meeting where the first order of business was for Odran Steed to install Richard Byrne as President. Richard and his wife Ripalda are active members of the parish of Our Lady of Lourdes in Bedgrove.

No sooner was Richard installed than he found himself being asked to enrol Deacon Tony Falcon from the Sacred Heart Church in Leighton Buzzard as a Catenian. Deacon Tony who has been married to Marilyn for the past 50 years moved to Leighton Buzzard 41 years ago and spent his working life commuting to London where he worked as a medical scientist in an NHS hospital.

Deacon Tony took early retirement 10 years ago and in response to the Lord's call was accepted by Bishop Peter Doyle for Forma-



tion and Training as a Permanent Deacon. This involved attending St John's seminary in Womersley and St Mary's University at Twickenham over a four-year period. He was ordained in 2014 at his parish church in Leighton Buzzard.

Deacon Tony and his wife Marilyn are grateful that their marriage has been blessed with four children and three grandchildren with another grandchild expected soon.

Haseldine Funeral Services

"Compassionate care when you need it most"

Independent Family Funeral Directors with over 15 years experience

We cover Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire
and Milton Keynes

• Cremations • Burials • Green Burials
• Private Chapel of Rest • Flowers • Catering
• Headstones • Pre paid Funeral Plans
• Home Arrangements • Personal Service

• 24 Hour Service



01234 757529

www.haseldines.co.uk

Golden
Charter

192 High Street, Cranfield, MK43 0EN

**Don't
miss out
on**

**Advertising
Book your
advert now**

Please note the deadline
for advertising
is the 10th of each month

**Telephone
01440 730399**

A big thank you to our wonderful CAFOD volunteers



June 1-7 is National volunteers' week, a time to celebrate, and most importantly thank, all our wonderful volunteers. Being the volunteer coordinator for the Northampton diocese, I am privileged to work closely with some of the many people who give up their time to support CAFOD's work.

Thinking about Volunteers' week and all our volunteers contribute I was reminded of the story of how CAFOD began and how relevant this still is for CAFOD's mission today.

CAFOD was created by a group of women who, seeing their brothers and sisters in need, were moved to make a difference. CAFOD's founders, Jacquie Stuyt and Elspeth Orchard (from our Diocese!) came together with others from the National Board of Catholic Women, the Catholic Women's League and the Union of Catholic Mothers to organise the first Family Fast Day in 1960. The response of the Catholic community far exceeded their expectations and due to the number of collections taking place across the dioceses, two years later, the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales registered CAFOD as an official charity. exceeded their expectations and due to the number of collections taking place across the dioceses, two years later, the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales registered CAFOD as an official charity.

Looking at my own work with volunteers

this quote from Elspeth Orchard, one of the organisers of the first Family Fast Day particularly resonated with me:

"We weren't doing anything special, we were just doing what we thought we ought to do, remembering that we are all God's children."

Although, like Elspeth many of our volunteers don't consider themselves to be doing anything special, they embody CAFOD's story; that of ordinary people determined to make a difference and reach out to those in need. This is as true in 2019 as it was in 1960.

Today, CAFOD's work is supported by over 5,000 volunteers who work tirelessly on behalf of our brothers and sisters in the Global South. In parishes and schools volunteers mobilise and inspire the Catholic community to take action for global justice. Their passion for a better world helps promote CAFOD's work, connecting our communities here in England and Wales with those overseas. Most of all their actions ensure that our brothers and sisters in the poorest places in the world can have more prosperous and fulfilling lives. This National volunteers' week I'd like to take this opportunity to celebrate volunteers

and all they have achieved, and to say a huge thank you to each and every one of you – the gift of your time and talents is priceless.

If you would like to join our amazing team of volunteers we have roles to suit everyone. Visit <https://cafod.org.uk/Volunteer/Volunteer-with-us> to find out more and to start your volunteer journey with CAFOD.

For more information get in touch with Deborah Purfield : 01494 863777 northampton@cafod.org.uk

CAFOD

Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

On the run

A teacher at St Paul’s Catholic School’s fundraising efforts to support a colleague who is living with multiple sclerosis (MS) have culminated in running the Virgin Money London Marathon and raising over £4,000 for her chosen charity, the MS Society.

Lisa Shepherd, Psychology teacher and Head of Year 11, said: “When my colleague Kelly Dennis was diagnosed with MS last year I knew I had to do something to help. Despite the devastating impact this has had on her life, and those around her, she never ever gives up and is an absolute inspiration to everyone. She truly is remarkable and anything I can do to help her I will. In her honour I was determined to finish the marathon and raise as much money as possible to help her and others in the same situation.”

Despite suffering an injury which hampered her training schedule quite significantly Lisa managed to complete the gruelling marathon course in six hours, 27 minutes and 17 seconds. She also organised a number of other fundraising activities including raffles, charity events and selling donated items on eBay.

Kelly, a Health and Social Care teacher at St Paul’s, said: “Lisa has done an incredible thing and the funds she has raised will help the MS Society in its vital work of raising awareness of MS, funding essential research and helping people with the condition to live the best lives they can. I feel so lucky to work with such an amazing colleague.”

Lisa added: “I would like to say a huge thank you to all the St Paul’s community, my family and friends for supporting me so enthusiastically on my fundraising journey – I couldn’t have achieved this without you.”

If you would like to donate to Lisa’s fundraising for MS you can find her Just Giving page here <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lisashepherd50>

You can find out more about MS and the work of the MS Society here <https://www.mssociety.org.uk>

Pictures show Lisa Shepherd at the finishing line at the Virgin Money London Marathon and at St Paul’s with her colleague, Kelly Dennis.



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

- 1 Lovely lass from the outset left key within to visit (4,2)
- 4 'Fake place'? That's low even for a disgusting rag to get involved (6)
- 9 Biblical site to trumpet about? (7)
- 10 It's up to peacekeepers to prepare the ground, mostly (5)
- 11 State of 22 that's randomly taken on board (7)
- 12 Circumference defined using retro heavy trigonometry (5)
- 13 Tom and Jerry: no act amused better! (3,3,5)
- 18 Philistine's suit tailor only partially fits (5)
- 20 Sailor, an Irishman, is announced as David's third mate (7)
- 22 Some stars like Lugosi lost heart with support in the end (5)
- 23 Mary's boy is in your school (3,4)
- 24 With London band regularly coming back, golf around Home Counties fits in, it's true (6)
- 25 Idiot's admitted to changing due to being married (6)

CRYPTIC Down

- 1 Dupe a king to entrap a knave (6)
- 2 Saul's daughter married bachelor, about to retire (5)
- 3 Tic Arab gets, uncommon where the camels come from (7)
- 5 Fleeced, stomach's upset with number taken in (5)
- 6 One that works to make Greek god the brightest star in the firmament (7)
- 7 Oracle ushered back Greek character (6)
- 8 Couple in the Bible fiddle a good man out of three grand (3,3,5)
- 14 Riviera resort's against elite contracting (7)
- 15 Greek's letter to explore parts of volcano, Micronesian

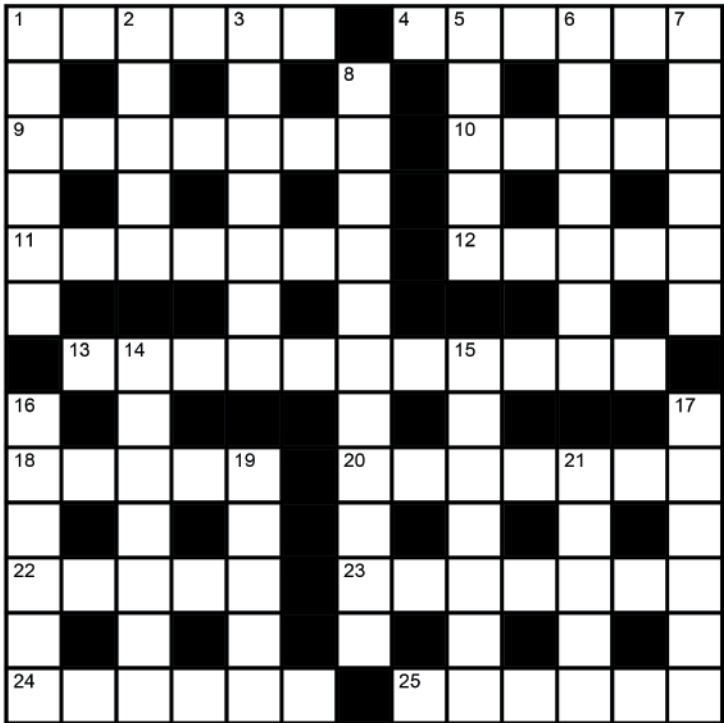
- section (7)
- 16 Place Amalekites burned in Zion, including killing Levites and Gideon's leaders (6)
- 17 Ran around, sure getting whipped (6)
- 19 Fancy motorway trip's a long time coming (5)
- 21 One huge hold on ship, they say (5)

QUICK Across

- 1 Obtain: pop in (4,2)
- 4 Heavenly dwelling of the Norse gods (6)
- 9 Strategic oasis town near the Dead Sea taken by Joshua (7)
- 10 As far as time allows (5)
- 11 Africa's oldest republic (1847) (7)
- 12 Belt put around a horse to secure a saddle (5)
- 13 Game of battle or other contests where first one side, then the other, has the upper hand (3,3,5)
- 18 Philistine who stood by David against Absalom... (5)
- 20 ...and David's third wife (7)
- 22 Seventh sign of the zodiac (5)
- 23 Another designation for the Blessed Virgin Mary (3,4)
- 24 One of several narratives of the life of Christ, and the principles laid down therein (6)
- 25 ----- Reformed Church: merger of the Congregationalists and English Presbyterian Churches in 1972 (6)

QUICK Down

- 1 Coax, persuade (6)
- 2 Saul's elder daughter who married Adriel (5)
- 3 Ancient Central Asian land which gave its name to the



- two-humped camel (7)
- 5 Conned: shocked (5)
- 6 Important star in Scorpio (7)
- 7 Oracle site in Asia Minor (6)
- 8 In Revelation two nations under the dominion of Satan (3,3,5)
- 14 French Riviera resort, originally a Greek port (7)
- 15 15th letter of the Greek alphabet (7)
- 16 Place Achish of Gath gave to David to live (6)
- 17 Scourged; excoriated (6)
- 19 Persona: idol (5)
- 21 Hold, stop (nautical/archaic) (5)

SOLUTION

Across: 1 Come by, 4 Asgard, 9 Jericho, 10 Until, 11 Liberia, 12 Girth, 13 Cat And Mouse, 18 Itai, 20 Abigail, 22 Libra, 23 Our Lady, 24 Gospel, 25 United. **Down:** 1 Calote, 2 Merab, 3 Bactria, 5 Stung, 6 Antares, 7 Delphi, 8 Gog and Magog, 14 Antibes, 15 Omicron, 16 Ziklag, 17 Flayed, 19 Image, 21 Avast.

Remembering our Northants martyr

The Guild of Blessed Peter Wright honoured his memory with a Mass at St. Paul's Thrapston on May 22.

Peter Wright was born into a recusant family of modest means in the village of Slipton, near Thrapston, in 1603. This was the time when Catholics were being persecuted by the State, and in the case of priests, executed simply for being a priest. After working in a lawyer's office in Thrapston for ten years, he travelled to Flanders where he studied to become a Catholic priest and was ordained in 1636. In 1638 he was appointed chaplain to the English Regiment of Colonel Thomas Gage, based in Flanders, and returned to England with the colonel in 1643/44 in support of Charles 1st in the English civil war. Colonel Gage was killed in battle in 1645, where Peter Wright administered the last rites. For the next six years he was chaplain to the Marquis of Winchester, mainly in London.

He was arrested in February 1651 as he prepared to say Mass in Newgate prison, tried and condemned to be hanged, drawn and quartered on 19th May. This method of execution was

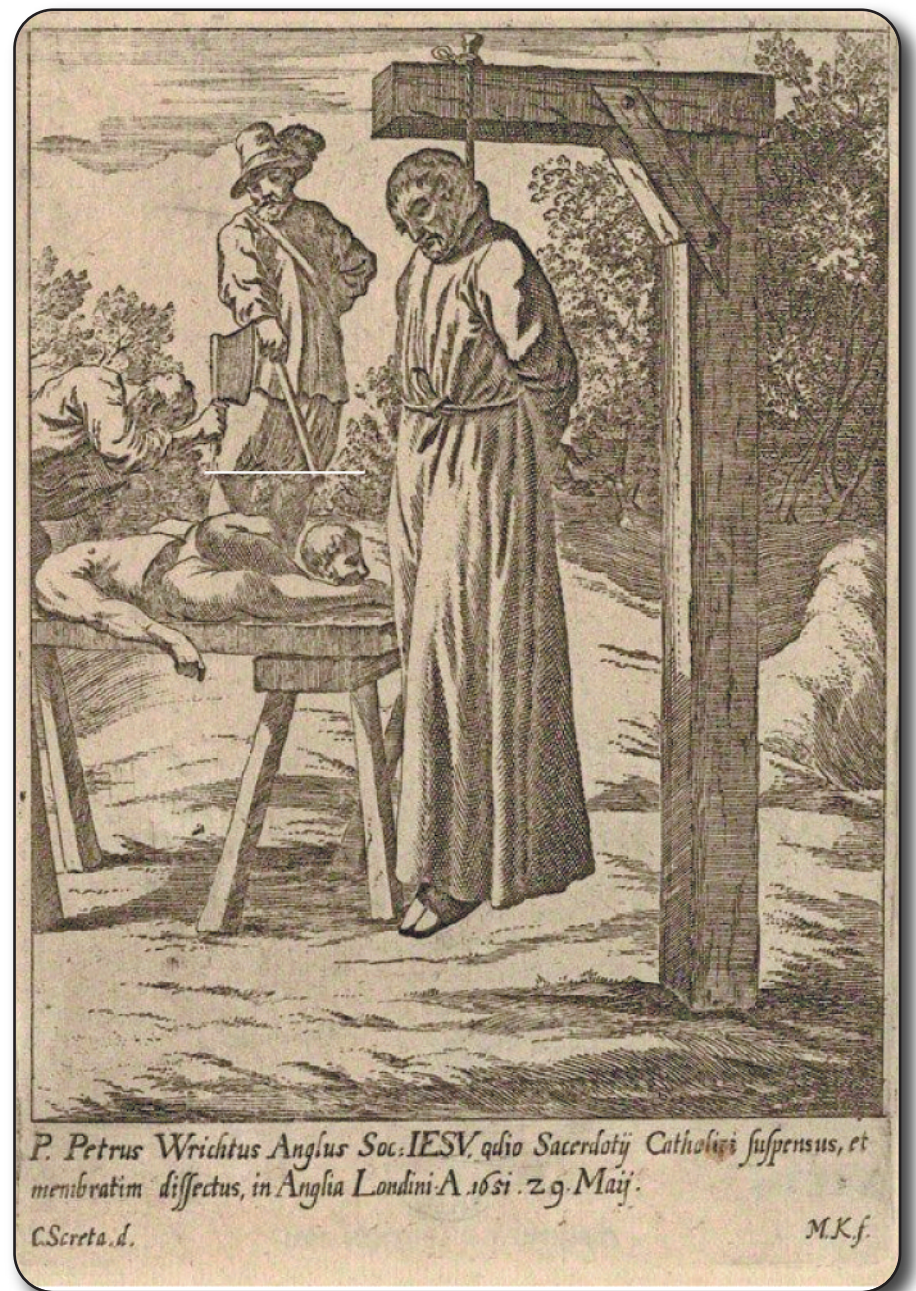
designed to maximise the torture, as the victim was usually prevented from dying on the rope, but taken still alive for the remaining tortures. However such was the sympathy and respect of the crowds that the hangman ensured that Peter Wright was already dead after the hanging.

Before his execution Peter Wright made a speech from the scaffold, a speech given with the joy that he would shortly be with God in heaven. His body was never recovered but a short length of the rope used to hang him was saved and acts as his holy relic. It is displayed in St. Paul's Church, Thrapston

Peter Wright and many other martyrs was beatified by Pope Pius XI in 1929.

1651 seems a long time ago but the forces of intolerance are still with us in the world. The persecution of Christians, including murder, is widespread in more than a dozen countries. We pray for an end to their sufferings, just as we pray for the soul of Blessed

Peter Wright



Celebrating our Schools

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

BEDFORD CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
A TRULY UNIQUE JOURNEY

JOIN US FOR A TRULY UNIQUE JOURNEY

ST JOHN RIGBY PRIMARY
ST JOSEPH'S & ST GREGORY'S PRIMARY
ST THOMAS MORE SECONDARY
INSPIRIT ST THOMAS MORE TEACHING SCHOOL

Executive Principal: Mr Tony Bishop
Tel: 01234 334635
bedfordcatholicschools.org
@BedsCatholicEd
BedfordCatholicSchools

OUR LADY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
Henshaw Road,
Wellingborough NN8 2BE
Headteacher
Mr C Robinson
Telephone 01933 224900

Reach
www

Our website has moved to
www.ReachNewspaper.com



THORNTON

WHOLE SCHOOL OPEN MORNING

SATURDAY 12th OCTOBER 2019 (10.00 am - 12.00 noon)

**For further information or to book a place
please call 01280 812610.**



THE ONLY LEADING GIRLS' INDEPENDENT DAY & BOARDING SCHOOL IN THE AREA

Thornton College, Convent of Jesus and Mary, Thornton, Buckingham, MK17 0HJ.

T: 01280 812610 E: admissions@thorntoncollege.com

For girls aged 2½ to 18 with co-educational nursery.

WWW.THORNTONCOLLEGE.COM

HEADTEACHERS

If you would like to support The Vine and promote your School to Catholic families in the area, please contact Janet on 07931 836907 or mail janett@cathcom.org