



The Vine

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April 2020
Issue No. 370

Northampton Diocesan News

FREE Every Month

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PLEASE



DO NOT LEAVE THIS IN THE CHURCH

once you have picked up this paper please take it with you

END OF ONE ERA...

Bishop Peter left his home at Bishop's House in Northampton on Monday 9th March for the final time. His belongings had been taken to his new home outside Winchester as he prepares to settle into retirement. As the staff at Bishop's House waved him off there were no dry eyes! He waved as he left, having taken tea and cake with all the staff for the final time at 11.00am. We wish him well for the next part of his journey and know that we will see him again from time to time. Bishop Elect David Oakley arrived at Bishop's House on the afternoon of Friday 13th March. He had the weekend to settle in before meetings began on Monday morning. Visitors to the 11.00am Mass on Sunday 15th March were treated to a glimpse of their new Bishop as he concelebrated.



...BEGINNING OF ANOTHER

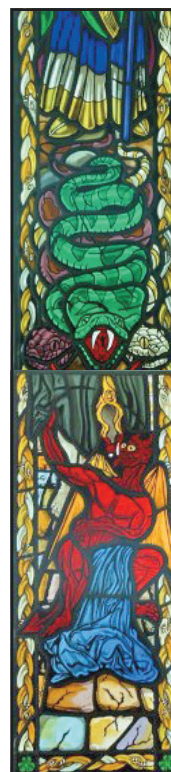


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CORONAVIRUS AND WATER MANAGEMENT

We are all aware of the outbreak of Coronavirus that is hitting the UK and advice is currently being updated daily by the government. We would like to remind all parishes of the importance of heightening general hygiene throughout the parish, i.e. disinfecting worktops, door handles and ensuring that the supply of hot water and hand wash is available. Simple hygiene measures like washing your hands with soap and water often, and avoiding people who are unwell, can help stop viruses like coronavirus spreading.

Linked to this, it is now a good time to look at your water management practices within the parish. Are water temperatures checked monthly to ensure hot water temperatures are achieving over 50°C (unless a thermostatic valve is fitted then this must reach 43°C)?

Advice has now been circulated that all stoops / fonts and other water holding containers are to be emptied, and are to remain empty. This is therefore a good chance to disinfect such stoops and to create a schedule for emptying / disinfecting going forward once in use again. Good Water Management will not only help limit the spread of Coronavirus but will also decrease the risk of Legionella – another unpleasant disease with potentially severe consequences. For more advice around water management please contact the Property Department.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL 2020

09TH	CHRISM MASS, NORTHAMPTON CATHEDRAL
10TH	GOOD FRIDAY
12TH	EASTER SUNDAY
25TH	YOUNG ADULTS BRUNCH, WWW.NYMO.ORG
29TH	XLT IN LUTON WITH DOM QUAGLIA AND SARAH KROGER
30TH	XLT IN BEDFORD WITH DOM QUAGLIA AND SARAH KROGER

MAY 2020

01ST	XLT IN MILTON KEYNES WITH DOM QUAGLIA AND SARAH KROGER
02ND	BLAZE, CONFIRMATION CONFERENCE DAY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
04TH	XLT IN CORBY WITH DOM QUAGLIA AND SARAH KROGER
16TH	CATHOLIC BASICS, ADMIN@NORES.ORG.UK
30TH	YOUNG ADULTS BRUNCH WWW.NYMO.ORG

JUNE 2020

01ST	ROSARY LINK FOR VOCATIONS, ST GREGORY'S, NORTHAMPTON
05TH	ROSARY LINK FOR VOCATIONS, SLOUGH 7.00PM AND BLETCHLEY 10AM
06TH	WORDFEST, WWW.NORTHAMPTONDIOCESE.ORG/WORDFEST
09TH	ROSARY LINK FOR VOCATIONS, DUNSTABLE, 09:30AM
12TH	ROSARY LINK FOR VOCATIONS, ST JOSEPHS IN BEDFORD. 7:30PM
20TH	ROSARY LINK FOR VOCATIONS, GREAT BILLING, 10.00AM
20TH	CATHOLIC BASICS, ADMIN@NORES.ORG.UK
24TH	ROSARY LINK FOR VOCATIONS, WELLINGBOROUGH, 12 NOON

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CATALOGUE
St Elisabeth Convent

On a hill far away stood an old wooden cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame.

Rosary gathering to worship
the most Sacred Heart of
Jesus and to thank Him for
His most Holy Death.

Meditating on Our Lord's passion the
Sorrowful Mysteries:

1. The agony in the garden
2. The scourging at the pillar
3. The crowning with thorns
4. The carrying of the cross
5. The crucifixion

Spy Wednesday, 8th April 2020
around 1pm after holy Mass
Meeting at
Christ the Cornerstone church
300 Saxon Gate West
Central Milton Keynes MK9 2ES

Our Lady of Sorrows pray for us.

For more information please phone
Monica on 07401 366 330

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Getting into print

Send news reports, photos and other material to the Diocesan Communications Manager and editor Neil Roseman email - communications@northamptondioocese.com. We promise to print your news as soon as we can find space for it. Material should be emailed whenever possible. Send photographs in jpg format, as separate attachments, and not embedded in Word documents. All items should reach us by the first Sunday of the month before publication.

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 email 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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CATECHIST'S AGM

Catechist representatives from our Pastoral Areas along with others involved in catechesis in the Diocese gathered at the RE Centre on Saturday 14



March for our first Annual General Meeting for Catechists. They shared what was happening in catechesis from their areas and also reflected on developments in catechesis in the Church. The AGM follows on from catechist gatherings in parishes and Pastoral Areas that have been established in the last year to support our catechists.

During the meeting they also explored the Diocesan Catechist Brochure, which is now available from the NORES website. This carries full details about the support and training available for our wonderful community of catechists in the Diocese. As well as the Bishop's Certificate in Catechesis, which is offered over 4 levels, there are also other opportunities such as a retreat for catechists and a session introducing the YouCat for Kids resource. After a busy morning of prayer, conversation and reflection on the issues we face together our committed group of catechists headed home to share the news with their parishes and fellow catechists.

For catechists wishing to find out more please read through the online Catechists Brochure (this is also available in hard copy on request from the NORES Office) or contact Alex Heath at the NORES Office for more information and to book a course.



Alex Heath is the Adviser for Adult Faith Formation and Chaplaincy. He has worked in our diocese since 2007.

You can contact by him email on heath@nores.org.uk

SVP ANNUAL LUNCH IN MARLOW

For over 30 years, the SVP Conference at St. Peter's, Marlow, has organised an annual lunch for the elderly, lonely and housebound every February, designed to offset the post-Christmas "Blues" and to bring people some welcome respite from the gloom of winter: hence its nickname, the "Snowdrop Lunch".

This year's event took place just recently and again proved a popular success. As ever, the guests were welcomed from the wider local community (Catholic and non-Catholic alike) and sat down to a delicious meal prepared by our sister parishioners of the TWA. This was accompanied by a variety of desserts and wines and ended with a prize draw.

The occasion was enhanced by the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress of Marlow, Cllr. Richard Scott and his wife, Linda, who both took time out to circulate among the

guests and the stalwart band of volunteer helpers and drivers. This helped to ensure that the event was a most enjoyable opportunity for socialising, as well as dining.

The volunteers themselves came not only from the SVP and the Parish itself, but also, (like a number of the guests), from the wider Marlow community (a tribute to the modern day ecumenical spirit within that community).

As always, our volunteers excelled themselves, engaging in a variety of necessary activities, not only in the advance preparation of the event, but also in setting up the Parish Hall (beautifully laid out so as to bring an early foretaste of Spring to the occasion), serving and waiting at tables, clearing up afterwards, and transporting many of the guests to and from the venue.


All in all, a most enjoyable community occasion.

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 Buckfast Abbey

God calls to us constantly, longing to guide those who yearn for life and desire to see good days into the way of peace. The Rule of Saint Benedict helps us to hear God's voice, in the Holy Scriptures, in the sacred liturgy and in our brothers in community. If you are a single man longing to live your Catholic faith in a way which brings great joy as it demands the best of you, consider whether God is calling you to be a Benedictine monk at Buckfast Abbey. Please reach out to us, and we will do all we can to help you.



Work on the large open space continues to progress.



The Cathedral Centre looks big on the outside and is big on the inside!

OUR CATHEDRAL CENTRE IS MAKING GOOD PROGRESS



Fr Mark Floody admires the view from the large windows looking over the garden and Bishops House.



Fr Mark Floody, Dean of our Cathedral in Northampton discusses plans with Ben, the site manager.



The main space will be flexible using dividers to create differing size rooms. It is hoped that receptions for diocesan functions will be hosted in this space

The new Cathedral centre in Northampton is making great progress as we aim to open the centre this summer. Work has developed swiftly over the last few weeks with the scaffolding being removed from the side of the building and the windows being put in – it really looks impressive!

Canon Mark Floody, Dean of our Cathedral was delighted with progress recently as he took a tour of the building with the site manager and architect. Fr Mark was shown the different spaces including the main hall area, which can be divided into smaller spaces, office space which will be housing Cathedral parish staff and Fr Mark. At the top of the building in the old coach house, there will be a café for public use which we hope will be managed by external professionals.

Fr Mark said “It has felt like a long time coming but the end is in sight...or is it the beginning! I am delighted that so many people will be able to make use of this wonderful building when they visit our Cathedral”.

DID YOU THINK LEPROSY WAS A THING OF THE PAST?

For thousands of years leprosy has been the scourge of poverty-stricken communities across the world and, sadly, it still exists in many countries today. The disease frequently leads to severe, life-changing disabilities and those who suffer from it are often excluded by their community, and struggle to fend for themselves.

124 years dedicated to the relief of suffering

St Francis Leprosy Guild has been dedicated to the relief of suffering caused by leprosy



for more than a century, during which time many religious sisters, brothers and priests have made it their life's vocation to care for those with the disease. Today we are determined to build on their legacy and seize our opportunity to help beat leprosy once and for all.

A leprosy-free world is finally within sight

Just a few decades ago, more than five million people were being diagnosed with leprosy every year, their lives destroyed physically, emotionally and socially by the disease. Today, this number has reduced significantly but remains stubbornly at over 200,000 new cases annually, worldwide. St Francis Leprosy Guild is committed to achieving a leprosy-free world and we genuinely believe that it is now within sight, if only people like you are prepared to help.

Early detection can stop leprosy in its tracks

Leprosy is curable and since the World Health Organisation made multi-drug treatments freely available 16 million people have been cured of the disease. New cases of leprosy tend to

be concentrated in isolated communities where people are still living in dire poverty and have little or no access to healthcare. If leprosy is to be stamped out for good, your support is needed to train local healthcare workers who can reach out to these communities. By supporting early detection and treatment - before the disease takes hold - you can help to prevent untold suffering.



If you are able to send a donation of just £30 today, you will help us support around 30 inspirational partners, such as the Bombay Leprosy Project. This is training local healthcare volunteers to work both in the slums of Mumbai and surrounding rural areas, so they can monitor people for early symptoms and provide prompt medication.

Help to beat leprosy for good

St Francis Leprosy Guild and its partners are working with remote and marginalised communities across Asia, Africa and South America. Please send £30 today using the form below or donate online at www.justgiving.com/stfrancisleprosyguild. Together, let's seize the opportunity to create a leprosy-free world and help put an end to people's suffering at last.

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THE YOUTH MINISTRY CONFERENCE



Vivit', the Apostolic Exhortation following the Synod of 2018. They spoke of young people's desire for authentic accompaniment not entertainment! They were able to give practical examples of accompaniment in action from their combined 40 plus years' experience ministering to and with young people.

Our Diocesan Youth Ministry Conference took place on Saturday 7th March with almost 40 youth ministers from across our diocese gathering together. NYMO, the Northampton Youth Ministry Office treated them to a day of insights, resources, modelling of good practice, latest research and a fresh strategy for parish youth ministry.

The day began with the news that the morning's keynote speaker, Fr Paul Farnen, from the Diocese of Derry, was unable to be with us. He was due to fly from Northern Ireland the day before but, due to the coronavirus his diocese had refused him permission to travel across the sea. Neil and Beccy Roseman stood in at the last moment to present their interpretation of 'Christus

There were three workshops to choose from; the relational model, LifeTeen – a parish programme and outreach. Pope Francis encourages us not to just consider those young people who are within our walls already but to create a youth ministry that goes beyond the confines of our boundaries out into the world.

Joining us for the day was Danny Curtin. Danny is the current CEO of the young people's charity Million Minutes and one of the authors of the latest research into catholic young people in the UK, 'Complex Catholicism'. Danny was able to lead us skilfully through a journey as we recognised how the research data enhanced the gravity of 'Christus Vivit'.

The highlight of the day was a panel of young people, who were able to answer questions from the youth ministers present, honestly and openly. These young people taught us the importance of relationship and not getting caught up with numbers! As one put it "Small groups are best because we can get to know each other and speak more intimately".

With an enjoyable and plentiful lunch, the day closed with some practical steps of how to get started on this fresh expression of youth ministry. The



opportunity to connect with other people from different parishes who share a care for young people was invaluable. Our desire to 'do' something for our young people is natural but what they asked for through the research and the synod was for us to 'be' something. The next Youth Ministry Conference is on Saturday 10th October. Email fiona@nymo.org for more information.



EPISCOPAL ORDINATION

This month we have gone to print early due to the coronavirus. We have genuine concerns that we may not be able to print and deliver the newspapers if we leave it any longer. There-

fore, we ask for your understanding, especially with the omission of the episcopal Ordination of Canon David Oakley. At the point of writing we do not know if it will happen in the way

we have planned or on a smaller scale. Naturally we would have hoped that this edition would be filled with pictures and words from this wonderful celebration but like all best laid plans..

Please continue to pray for Bishop (Elect) David and all our diocese as we enter a new phase of our mission to share the Gospel.

A FRESH APPROACH TO YOUTH MINISTRY

In September 2010, we welcomed Pope Benedict XVI to the UK. Before he came the paper talk was entirely focused on abuse of minors by members of our Church. In the few days he spent in England and Scotland Pope Benedict changed not just peoples minds but also their hearts. Significantly, he also changed the way we approach Catholic youth ministry.

Pre-2010, most youth ministry consisted of hiding a bible under a pizza box! Youth leaders had to find sneaky ways of getting God into the conversation. 'Fun' was the name of the game; the number one priority, "if they enjoy themselves they will come back". Although this is true in some part it is not the full story. We know that young people have other aspirations too, such as being fulfilled, deeper thinking time, tackling issues. Then, in walked Pope Benedict, suddenly thousands of people (including hundreds of young people) sat or knelt silently in Hyde Park in front of the Blessed Sacrament. No introduction, no razzamatazz, simply Jesus.

By 2013, our approach to youth ministry across our diocese had also begun to transform. The games and pizza approach was gone and a bold, courageous youth ministry was born.

Encounter replaced games as the priority of our ministry. Pope Benedict had reminded us all who we were and more importantly, who we should focus on. He had given our youth ministers courage to trust our Lord, and so we did!

At our next youth residential weekend, 'Lux' we introduced our teenagers to Adoration and Benediction, and none of us could have predicted the outcome. These moments of silent praise, face to face with

Jesus transformed our young people and our youth ministers. Furthermore, it was the focus of their evaluation forms too; they wanted more of Him! At our youth summer camp Jesus present in the Eucharist takes centre stage. Even amongst the thrills of a day at Alton Towers or climbing and abseiling, Jesus is the most anticipated and desired. Believe me when I say that I am not referring to young people who are somehow abnormal but ordinary, street-wise young people who you would know.

Encounter, is now a key focus to our parish youth strategy. Encouraging volunteer parish youth ministers to be bold and courageous, trusting that it is Jesus Christ who our youth are searching for.

Fast forward nine years and Pope Francis issues the post synodal Apostolic Exhortation, Christus Vivit. This incredible letter to youth ministers, clergy and young people is the basis for NYMO's fresh and challenging strategy for engaging teenagers in our churches. Youth groups in isolation are no longer recommended along with regular group meetings that come and go. Through the Synod of 2018, we know young people are asking for authenticity and consistency. They want to know "Are you who you say you are?" And "Are you going to be around when I don't live exactly as you (our Church) say I should?". So the much more daunting prospect of accompaniment is recommended. Walking alongside our young people as they enjoy and endure life, even when they leave the path we would wish for them. Walking with them as they make mistakes, struggle with who they are or make decisions that are 'against the rules'. All the time, waiting for a brief opening to lead them (and us)

to an encounter moment. The days of parish youth ministers being available for 2 hours a week are behind us – successful youth ministry is now 24/7 availability!

This parish youth ministry strategy is fresh but it is not new. This is the call of the second Vatican council:

"Adults ought to engage in such friendly discussion with young people that both age groups, overcoming the age barrier, may become better acquainted and share the special benefits each generation can offer the other. Adults should stimulate young persons first by good example to take part in the apostolate and, if the opportunity presents itself, by offering them effective advice and willing assistance. By the same token young people

should cultivate toward adults respect and trust, and although they are naturally attracted to novelties, they should duly appreciate praiseworthy traditions."

Accompaniment is a skill which can be learnt. Our church is not about quick wins, we are focused on the long game – walking side by side together (with our young people) towards sainthood.

Our diocesan youth ministry team, NYMO, would love to come to your parish to meet with those interested in accompaniment of young people so that you too can transform the lives of our young people and walk with them on our road to Saint-hood. Email fiona@nymo.org or visit www.nymo.org/parishes for more information.

Monsieur Claude's Great French Adventure

By Julia Beacroft



Format: Paperback

Pages: 38 pages

Category:

Modern & contemporary fiction (post c 1945)

ISBN: 9781528905862

£10.99

Available online at Amazon, Book Depository And Austin Macauley Publishers - £10.99p

Monsieur Claude, the 'Beanie Baby' crab, is upset and worried. His family lives in France and he would dearly love to visit them because his mum hasn't been well. His owner, Jamie, is going on holiday to Paris but only two of Jamie's 'Beanie Babies' can go with him. And Monsieur Claude isn't chosen to be one of them... However, the rest of his 'Beanie Baby' friends devise a cunning plan to smuggle Monsieur Claude into Jamie's backpack! But disaster strikes at the airport when Monsieur Claude falls from the bag! Will he be rescued? Will he ever see his owner again? The little crab has a thrilling series of adventures along the way, but will he ever be re-united with his mum?

Age 6-8 years

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Saturday 22 February saw another wonderful CAFOD supporters' day held at St Augustine's Church, Milton Keynes. Over 50 people from twenty-two parishes in the diocese were represented.

It was a very affirming, informing and inspiring day. CAFOD coordinator for the diocese, Deborah Purfield, thanked everyone for their amazing support. She reiterated how CAFOD works through "local experts" to help communities develop long term. We heard about some amazing local experts like Sr. Consilia from Zimbabwe who, having been treated for malaria herself, is now a trained pharmacist helping to fight HIV, malaria, typhoid etc.. In the past year, not one person in their clinic has been lost to illness. What an achievement!

We had an interactive session led by Oliver Larkin, a parish volunteer at St Augustine, on how to inspire fellow parishioners during the short talk at mass. He said, "Don't be nervous and be yourself. If you are inspired, you will inspire others!" This gave us

renewed eagerness to go back to our parishes to deliver the talk and do more.

We had a chance to share what we did in our parishes. Some collected unwanted items (phones, old coins, jewellery etc.), and sent it off to "Recycling for good causes" who give the proceeds to CAFOD. We had others who got the youth involved in selling small Easter eggs (housed in knitted chickens!) and delivering the short talk. Another great idea was having "a pound table" from unwanted Christmas and birthdays items. We picked up great tips to try in our own parish!

Ged Nolan, volunteer Campaigns coordinator, encouraged us to raise awareness of the plight of those in need through our voice. This has had amazing success! Supporting campaigns by prayer and signing a petition, telling others about it, buying Fair-trade goods and acting for the climate were some of the ways we could put our faith into action.

We were very fortunate to

have CAFOD's director, Christine Allen, share her experiences. What an inspiring and encouraging lady! Christine saw how, with CAFOD's support, fresh water saved lives, better hygiene and access to water released girls to attend school with dignity on her trip to Africa.

Christine also spoke of her attendance at the UN General Assembly and even got to meet Pope Francis when she attended a Caritas Internationalis meeting! She was delighted that over 300 MPs were lobbied last year saying, "it was a great witness to the work of the love of God and spread of the Gospel". Christine certainly inspired everyone to keep going.

Ka-Yee (CAFOD volunteer - St Augustine) made a beautiful card and we all filled it with well wishes for Bishop Peter. This was handed to him later.

What an inspiring day! From informed speakers to committed CAFOD supporters. We all left enthused to support the parish in its ministry through CAFOD.

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The Vine

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Don't Screen Us Out!

Shockingly published figures highlight that 90% of babies who are prenatally diagnosed with Down's Syndrome are aborted.

Heidi Crowter, a 24-year-old woman from Coventry who has Down's syndrome, has joined forces with Cheryl Bilborrow of St Mary's parish in Great Eccleston, to launch a landmark case against the UK Government under the banner 'Don't Screen Us Out' over the current discriminatory abortion law which allows abortion up to birth for Down's syndrome. Cheryl has a two year-old son Hector with Down's syndrome. Cheryl recounted a conversation she had following a prenatal test when she was offered a termination for Hector at 38 weeks gestation because Hector happened to have Down's Syndrome. Cheryl replied in shock and disgust "I'll pretend I didn't hear that."

Currently in England, Wales and Scotland, there is a general 24-week time limit for abortion, but if the baby has a disability, including Down's syndrome, cleft lip and club foot, abortion is legal right up to birth.

Appearing with Cheryl on the Victoria Derbyshire show in February and doing several media interviews Heidi said: "At the moment in the UK, babies can be aborted right up to birth if they are considered to be 'seriously handicapped'. They include me in that definition of being seriously handicapped – just because I have an extra chromosome! Can you believe that?"

What it says to me is that my life just isn't as valuable as others, and I don't think that's right. I think it's downright discrimination!

The United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recently said that the United Kingdom should change its abortion law to make sure that people like me aren't singled out because of our disabilities.

Sadly, the Government decided to ignore their



Cheryl with big sister Tilly and Hector

recommendations and didn't change the law. So now, I am going to take the Government to court with other members of the Down's syndrome community to make sure that people aren't treated differently because of their disabilities."

Can you help Heidi and Cheryl?

Heidi and her legal team have set up a CrowdJustice crowdfunding page to help raise the initial £20,000 to start legal proceedings, pay for legal advice and begin the preparation of the case. To find out more and to make a contribution to the case please visit: <http://www.crowdjustice.com/case/downrightdiscrimination/>

THREE IN ONE

By JULIA BEACROFT

APRIL IS QUITE an expensive time for me, each year as we have three family birthdays that month – my daughter-in-law and my own twins. It may be twenty-seven years since they were born, but I can distinctly remember an episode that occurred when I was expecting them...

Accompanied by my husband, we had gone to the hospital for my second scan. We had just about recovered from the shock of the first one, when we were told that we were going to be the proud parents of twins! Then my husband told me that he was disappointed that they hadn't found a *third* baby at that second scan – and he was serious! Needless to say, I was astounded and also very relieved that this hadn't, in fact, happened!

There is a school of thought which suggests that both bad

things and good things can come in threes. I'm not too sure of the veracity of this, but it is true that trilogies work well, ornamental groupings always look better in threes and a three-course meal is usually a recipe for success!

The number three is a highly significant biblical and theological number, of course. God calls Samuel three times, the Magi brought the infant Jesus three gifts; Jesus goes back to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray three times; and he also repeats the phrase 'feed my sheep' to Peter three times. Peter, of course, had previously denied Christ three times. It further goes without saying that we can't talk about the number three in this context without referring to the significant fact of Jesus rising from the dead after a period of three days. In fact, in Jewish culture at that time, three days

after the time of death indicated that a person was truly dead, so this made Jesus' resurrection all the more remarkable for the people of that era – and obviously this didn't happen by chance.

Finally, we can't consider the number three without looking at the Trinity. God is three in one – the Godhead – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Our God is a trinitarian God above all other.

And so, whether our good and bad things come in ones, twos or threes, we can always be assured and reassured that we worship, adore and give thanks to a God who is three-in-one. I myself, may not have received three babies for the price of one, (two was quite enough!) but my faith shows me that three is, and continues to be, a significant number in our lives. Thanks be to God!

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FOND FAREWELLS TO THE DAUGHTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



Holy Cross Conference in Bedford said farewell to their members, Sr. Margaret and Sr. Mae whilst enjoying a tea party followed by prayers in The Sister's Chapel.

For some time, the Sisters have been the mainstay of our Conference and at one time when there was a shortage of members, their support prevented our Conference going into abeyance. They tirelessly carried out numerous visits caring for many people in hospitals, Care Homes, Foodbanks and their homes.

Their contribution to Bedford's community, particularly at Holy Cross Church and the SVP Conference over many years has been truly remarkable.

We will miss them very much and will always be grateful for the support they gave us. The late, Mahatma Gandhi once said "There are no goodbyes for us. Wherever they are, they will always be in our hearts".

PRO-LIFE CHAIN

On Saturday 25th April SPUC Northampton are forming a Pro-Life Chain on St Peters Way Northampton. It will be a silent act of witness to the lives of 9 million unborn babies killed by abortion since the implementation of the Abortion Act on 27 April 1968. Please will you come and join us?

In order to make the chain we need a minimum of six people and being a group of just four we need your help. Please will you help us in this witness?

The chain will be from 11am to 1pm but you could join us at any time.

If you can help us then please contact William Currie on wpcurrie@btinternet.com, or tel 01604 499833.

If we could save the life of just one baby or help a woman who has suffered trauma following an abortion then there will be great rejoicing in Heaven.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Patroness of the Unborn—pray for us



DEACONS IN TRAINING

On Saturday 14th March, our diocesan deacons-in-training joined other men and their wives from other dioceses to continue their training at St John's Seminary in Womersley. Gerard and Lanre are in their second year, whilst Oliver is his first-year training. These great men give their time, one day per month to discern and learn as they prepare for life as a permanent deacon. The day begins early with morning prayer followed by lectures, then Mass before a beautiful lunch, where the trainee deacons serve the food to their guests – good practice for parish life! After lunch there is diocesan time, where each month a different person joins them to teach and discuss a topic. After yet more lectures they finish their day with vespers before returning home. I know you will join us in praying for Lanre, Gerrard and Oliver as they continue to serve the Lord in this vital ministry.



REDEDICATING ENGLAND AS THE DOWRY

History shows us that when the people pray a surrender to God’s will for their lives, society is transformed. By taking up this personal dedication in 2020, you can be a part of the renewal of this nation, drawing ourselves closer to the will of our loving God, through Mary.

On 29th March the Rededication will take place throughout the country, and you are invited to take part. Mgr John Armitage, the outgoing Rector of the Shrine at Walsingham is encouraging as many people as possible to participate in this great moment, “People often ask why don’t we have a big event at Walsingham or Wembley Arena? And I say, ‘We want as many people as possible across our whole country to participate, not just those in an

arena’”. IN our own diocese, there will be a Marian procession in Ss Philip and James Catholic Church, Seven Way, Bedford and Bishop (Elect) David will be celebrating the 11.00am Mass in our Cathedral in Northampton on Sunday 29th March. This Mass can be viewed live through our diocesan streaming service, www.northamptondiocese.org/live

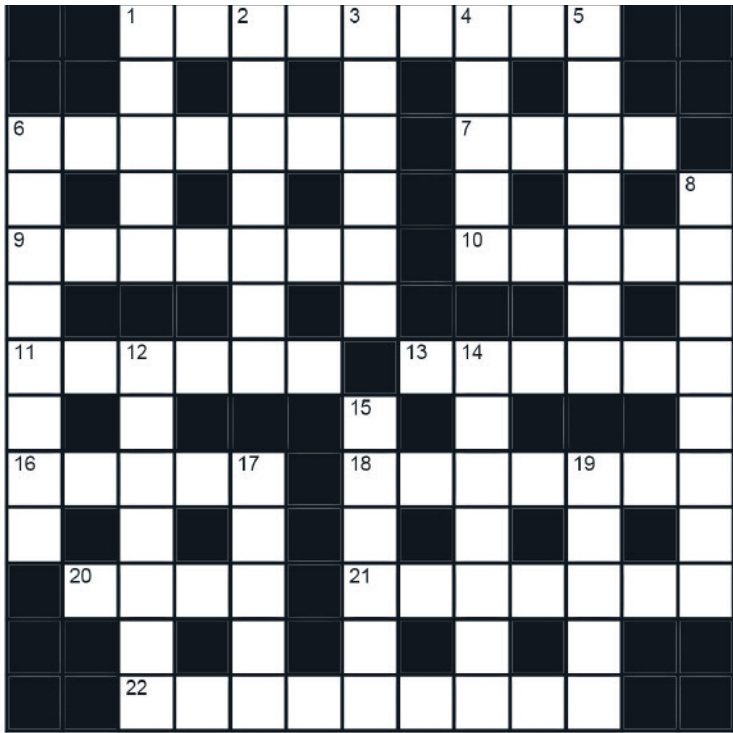
You are invited to respond to rededication in two ways; by praying The Angelus Promise, a prayer in which we say “yes” in union with Our Lady through the words of the Annunciation and through a Communal Entrustment, as the people, we will, once again, renew the vows of dedication made to Mary by King Richard II, praying together the Act of Entrustment.



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Use the QUICK clues to help you work out the solution.



QUICK Across

- 1 Those from Asia Minor with Charlie murdered Sicilian (9)
- 6 One tribe's adopted son, the first from Seleucia to become king in Parthia (7)
- 7 Gold's next after dropping half off by Sword Beach river (4)
- 9 Peter Nally's intrinsically indestructible (7)
- 10 Repeated theme brings staleness to essence of duet (5)
- 11 He foresaw, in dividing bread, hard time to return (6)
- 13 Elegant lieutenant to ex-England manager's not quite English (6)
- 16 Cripples saint, and blacksmiths? (5)
- 18 For St Peter's he wrote an unfinished dirge, retro-style, following everyone else (7)
- 20 Mildew found in the US, and many an

- ancient place in North Wales (4)
- 21 Card needed to enter a hospital in Gadite town (7)
- 22 Mad Seneca's angry being representative of yrian city (9)

QUICK Down

- 1 Indian division English players head (5)
- 2 Part of old Italy for Santa to drop in on a number (7)
- 3 Cellist's a class apart (6)
- 4 Cool American? Idiot's totally revolting (5)
- 5 Raised roads, for example, in an African country (7)
- 6 Mate of Daniel's gone funny after lying in (8)
- 8 Wicked heathenism divided saint shortly abandoned (8)
- 12 What road engineer has to inform carmaker? (7)
- 14 Almost rude and extremely trite book of verse (7)

- 15 About to 'allez', as they say, landing in France (6)
- 17 Very bad place sees Norman bishop entering extremes of sadism (5)
- 19 Gill's going to order round (5)

SOLUTION

Across: 1 Cilicians, 6 Arsaces, 7 Orne, 9 Eternal, 10 Fugue, 11 Nathan, 13 Svetle, 16 Gilles, 18 Allegri, 20 Mold, 21 Ataroth, 22 Damascene. Down: 1 Caste, 2 Lucania, 3 Casals, 4 Aloof, 5 Senegal, 6 Abednego, 8 Nehemiah, 12 Telford, 14 Vulgate, 15 Catalis, 17 Sodom, 19 Globe.



PALM SUNDAY

St Matthew's long account of Jesus' suffering and death is the gospel reading on Palm Sunday (3rd April). When we lose someone we love, we often seek to remember as many details as possible about their last days and hours. Similarly, all four gospels provide lengthy accounts of Jesus' death.

While the basic story is shared with the other gospels, Matthew includes a few unique features. For example, only Matthew mentions the unsuccessful intervention by Pilate's wife and the governor's subsequent gesture of hand washing (27:19-25).

Pontius Pilate was a wily Roman governor, who was sometimes not afraid to provoke the people of Judea. For instance, he upset the Jewish population by trying to bring Roman military insignia into the Jerusalem temple, although their images of Tiberius Caesar broke the Jewish Law.

In the account of Jesus' passion, Matthew reports a message sent to Pilate by his wife when he was seated on the judgments chair. Because of a recurrent troubling dream about Jesus, she urged her husband to have nothing to do with him. Her dream shows us that not all the im-

perial establishment wished to see Jesus dead. The dream represents the voice of conscience, or perhaps a subconscious perception that executing Jesus was wrong.

After Jesus' birth, his foster-father Joseph acted on another dream to take the young child to safety in Egypt, away from King Herod's murderous intentions. By acting on his dream, Joseph saved Jesus' life. Yet on this occasion, Pilate does not act on his wife's dream, but instead allows Jesus to be executed.

However, to express his ambiguous feelings about the death sentence, Pilate calls for water and washes his hands in front of the crowd. Does this action really absolve him of blame? Pilate seeks to pretend that he is not responsible for the death sentence that he has just passed.

The Jewish law had a ritual of hand washing when the body of a murder victim was discovered, and the killer was unknown (Deuteronomy 21:6-9). But here the Roman governor actually decreeing the death was washing his hands. In an earlier century, the prophet Isaiah had warned the people: "Your hands are covered in blood. Wash,

make yourselves clean. Take your wrongdoing out of my sight" (Isaiah 1:15-16).

Matthew then reports the crowd's response to Jesus' death sentence: "His blood be on us and on our children." Often in past centuries, this verse was cruelly misused to justify ill-treatment of the Jews.

But the Vatican Council teaches us: "Although the Jewish authorities pressed for the death of Christ, what happened in his passion cannot be charged against all the Jews, without distinction, then alive—nor against the Jews of today" (Nostra Aetate, paragraph 4). Matthew was aware of the destruction of the Jerusalem temple, previously foretold in the gospel (24:2). Some of the crowds, with their children, would rebel against Roman domination in 66 AD, but the Romans would brutally crush this Jewish revolt in the year 70. This devastating event could be viewed as punishment for the crowds involved in demanding Jesus' death.

But in his 2011 book (Jesus of Nazareth, volume 2), Pope Benedict suggests another interpretation: "These words are not a curse, but rather redemption, salvation." If we believe that

Jesus willingly shed his blood on the cross to save everyone, could it be that unwittingly this crowd was actually (in the divine plan) calling for Jesus to save them through his blood?

Noting that Matthew's account speaks of all the people demanding Jesus' crucifixion, Pope Benedict declares: "Matthew is certainly not recounting historical fact here. How could the whole people have been present at this moment to clamour for Jesus' death?" Moreover, according to the angel's announcement to Joseph before the nativity, Jesus' mission will be "to save his people from their sins" (1:21). Surely, by shedding his blood Jesus does save his people from their sins.

These details from St Matthew, describing the way Jesus was sentenced to death, add poignancy to our prayerful reflection on the crucifixion. Pilate had so many opportunities to spare Jesus, but failed to do so.

Sometimes we fail to respond to Jesus' mercy, and instead relapse into our sins. As we contemplate Jesus giving up his life to save us, let us pray for the grace to see him more clearly, love him more dearly, and follow him more nearly, day by day.



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