



# The Vine

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May 2017

Issue No. 335

Northampton Diocesan News

FREE Every Month

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Public  
speaker**

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aBlaze**  
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hopeful?**  
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# Happy birthday to you

St Augustine's, Milton Keynes celebrated the 40th birthday of the parish on Laetare Sunday. Bishop Peter celebrated the Mass, along with Fr Rinaldo Guarisco, Vicar General of the Canons Regular of the Immaculate Conception, the Order to which Fr James Cassidy and Fr Allan Jones belong. The bishop led a chorus of 'Happy birthday' at the end of Mass.



## Teenage Art

*This is one of the  
products of  
'Blaze',  
the pre-  
Confirmation  
days.  
See page 5.*



### Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

#### MAGNIFICAT ANIMA MEA DOMINUM

And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and cried out with a loud voice saying, "Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb!"



**Rosary procession/gathering to honour the  
Queen of Heaven  
on the vigil of Tuesday 30th May 2017  
at 6pm.**

Meeting outside  
Christ the Cornerstone church  
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**St Joseph, St John the Baptist, St Elizabeth  
and St Zacharias pray for us.**

For more information please phone Monica on  
07401 366 330

# Joy in Fatima

Pope Francis has approved the recognition attributed to the intercession of two of the shepherd children who saw Our Lady of Fatima in 1917. Both children died during the influenza epidemic which spread through Europe after the first world war. Francisco Marto was aged ten and Jacinata Marto was nine. Along with their cousin, Lucia does Santos, they reported seeing the Virgin Mary on the 13th of each month from May to October 1917.

Many people are hoping that Pope Francis will preside over the canonisation ceremony during his centenary visit to Fatima on May 12 and 13.

Lucia died in the Carmelite convent at Coimbra in 2005 at the age of 97. Pope Benedict waived the five-year waiting period before the cause of her sainthood could open.

Bishop Virgilio Antunes formally closed the local investigation of her life in February of this year. The documentation is now with the Vatican.

## 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.



## 100 YEARS OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

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# The voice of justice and peace in the diocese

Bishop Peter was a welcome visitor to the recent diocesan meeting of the Justice and Peace Commission. The commission is the coordinating body for the work being done in parishes to promote justice and peace issues, central to the Church's social teaching. Indeed parishes lie at the heart of the commission's work. They mirror Pope Francis' outreach, itself following on from Jesus' example. Ideally it would be great to have representation from each pastoral area in the diocese, if not parish!

The current concerns which the commission are focusing on are the plight of refugees, discerning how best to adopt Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudate Si* and promote CAFOD initiatives, including Live Simply and the Fairtrade Fortnight.

A diocesan-wide event is being planned for 2018.

Bishop Peter told the group that, as he was approaching the end of his twelfth year as Bishop, he was delighted to see the Commission in good health and raising awareness of the relevance of justice in promoting the Church's teaching. He thanked the Commission and encouraged all to persevere in being the voice of justice and peace in



the diocese.

If you are interested in being part of the

commission or would like to know more, please get in touch with Stephen Forster (secretary) at [franforster2@gmail.com](mailto:franforster2@gmail.com).

## Treasurers confer



March brought together treasurers from many of the St Vincent de Paul conferences from across the Diocese come together with their presidents. The meetings, held at NOAH in Luton, offered the opportunity to reflect and learn about the changes being made in the recording of the finances for the parish conferences. These meetings are being held throughout the country in each of the 23 SVP Central Council areas.

The sessions were led by Clare Dalton, the Head of Conference Finances at SVP National Office, and covered a wide range of topics including the making of financial returns and the changes

in support payments. The use of electronic returns was covered as well as the reasons for all the changes. Because of Clare's relaxed and informal approach people felt happy to ask for help and share experiences making for two very useful sessions.

And always, at the core of her work, Clare reminded members that the work of the treasurers was a vital part in the SVP's commitment to helping the poor and that all the revised procedures were there to aid the efficiency and effectiveness of parish conferences. We went home reassured and feeling well informed.

### Advertisement



Mary's Meals is a global movement that sets up school feeding programmes in some of the world's poorest communities, where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining an education.

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The Mary's Meals campaign began in 2002 when Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow visited Malawi during a famine and met a mother dying from AIDs. When Magnus asked her eldest son Edward what his dreams were in life, he replied simply: "I want to have enough food to eat and to go to school one day."

That moment was a key part of the inspiration leading to the founding of Mary's Meals, which began by feeding just 200 children at a Malawian primary school in 2002. Today we

are reaching more than 1.1 million children with a nutritious daily meal in places of learning across four continents.

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# Luton Student Wins Province 14 Public Speaking Challenge

Vincent Masterson a sixth form student at Cardinal Newman Catholic School, Luton won this year's public speaking challenge hosted by Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School, St Albans

Vincent gave a four-minute presentation on 'Should some people be barred from voting'. His persuasive reasoning and skilled delivery convinced the judges to award him first place ahead of Tyra Andrews of St Anne's Catholic High School for Girls, Enfield who spoke on 'The pros and cons of the internet'.

The winner of the provincial competition will now go forward to the national final to be held in Manchester in September of this year

Students from, Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School, St Alban's, Cardinal Newman Catholic School, Luton, St Ignatius College, Enfield, St. Anne's Catholic High School For Girls, Enfield took part in this year's event and other students from these schools formed part of a large audience of eager listeners.

The judges were Denis Murphy Provincial President of Province 14 of the Catenian Association, Dr Erin O'Rourke, Public Engagement Officer, External Relations, Rothamsted Research, Harpenden and John Davis, Director of the national Catenian Association. Commenting on the speakers, Denis Murphy chair of the judging panel praised all the students for taking part, for being so knowledgeable about their chosen subject and for making the task of picking a winner so difficult. He congratulated all the schools involved for taking part

This is the second year that the competition has taken place and based by the interest this year, 2018 is expected to be an even bigger event with twice the number of entrants anticipated.

Province 14, of the Catenian Assoc comprises of twelve individual circles and stretches from London in the South to Bedford and Milton Keynes in the North and Bishop Stortford in the East.



*Chair Denis Murphy (left) Provincial President of Province 14 of the Catenian Association with the winner Vincent Masterson (centre) of Cardinal Newman Catholic School, Luton and Dr Erin O'Rourke, Public Engagement Officer, External Relations, Rothamsted Research, Harpenden*

## A Lenten feast in Flitwick

### £625 sent for famine relief in Sudan

The SVP Lenten Soup for Sudan Lunch is a regular feature in the life of the Sacred Heart Parish in Flitwick. Every year members of the SVP, and their wives, make a variety of soups and another generous parishioner bakes homemade rolls, and the parish room is transformed into a restaurant for a lunchtime. No charge is ever made, no expenses are ever claimed and donations are quietly but very gratefully accepted.

In the past years, the money raised has always been sent to support the baby feeding programme run by the SVP in South Sudan. However this year, the news of the famine that has been declared in that troubled country resulted in something different. The money raised will go to the SVP to help with famine relief in South Sudan and many people donated money even though they couldn't attend the event. On the day, Tuesday 14th March, although some soup ran out, people kept coming and new places had to be set; SVP members were kept very busy serving, replenishing plates and washing up.

On counting the donations, the members of the SVP were delighted as they found that over £535 had been given. The following Friday, the SVP ran the Flitwick Hall coffee morning and the £92 that was raised has been added to the fund so that a total of over £625 has been sent to support famine relief work by the SVP in South Sudan.



# Setting Confirmation candidates a-Blaze



220 young people preparing for Confirmation in the diocese attended one of the 'Blaze' days in recent weeks; a retreat day to explore what it means for these young people to be confirmed, and to meet other young Catholics who are preparing to receive this sacrament.



This year there were two blaze days. The first was at Thornton College where the young people received the usual warm welcome from the community. The second took confirmandi somewhere new, a project called 'Restore Hope', a farm that has been converted into a retreat venue. The old barn has become a conference space, and places around the farm, such as the old dairy have become a lounge for seminar-style workshops.

created stained glass windows that were lit up and brought into the barn to create a sacred space for our celebration of Mass with Bishop Peter.

Youngsters at the Blaze days had a choice of workshops to attend, including workshops for art, dance, drama, prayer vocations and workshops exclusive for boys and girls, to explore their Christian calling. Those confirmandi in the art workshops at Restore Hope designed and

The young people also had the chance to meet the Bishop and text in questions to him. He faced some tricky topics this year including why there is suffering in the world, and if animals go to heaven. The young people were also keen to hear about the Bishop's hobbies, and they heard about his beloved rugby. In his sermon at Mass he told the congregation that although Northampton Saints had an important derby match that day, there was nowhere he would rather be, than with them, seeking to do God's will.



*Pictures by Steve Harris*

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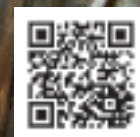
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# Chrism

The cathedral was full for the Chrism Mass, with a significant number of African and Asian faces amongst both congregation and clergy. Bishop Peter expressed his sense of excitement as the people of the diocese came together. 'Welcome to each and every one of you, and a special welcome to our priests, for this Mass is a visible expression of the unity of the priesthood and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, which continue to be present in the Church'. But the bishop admitted that it was consoling to read that Jesus 'was troubled in spirit'. 'As we gather, many of us are troubled in spirit by some sad events in our diocesan family and by the challenges which face us, bishop priests and people, especially as this September we expect there to be six less priests serving the diocese'.

'It is an opportunity' said Bishop Peter, 'to learn from Jesus what he himself learned when he says to us 'do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me'. There would be great joy at Easter when new brothers and sisters celebrate the sacraments for the first time as members of the anointed people of God'.

Bishop Peter then referred to the blessing of the Holy Oils, and the numbers of people who would be anointed with them:

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*A display of deacons*



*Deacons present the oils*



*The bishop breathes over*



*The bishop pours scent into the chrism*



*Chrism is brought for co*

# m Mass

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'What an infinite stream of grace and mercy flows from the cross in all the sacraments administered by our priests'. He reminded the congregation that the sacraments are not private, but are part of the life of the community of faith. We need more and more volunteers to undertake the work of Christ, building up communities in partnership with priests and deacons. He revealed that the diocese is looking for a Pastoral Ministry Advisor, to develop the formation that is already going on.

Bishop Peter then turned to the priests. He thanked them for the generosity of their response to God's call. He emphasised the importance of prayer and on-going formation. He ended with words from St. Francis de Sales: 'Walk simply with the cross of the Lord, and be at peace with yourselves'.

The Chrism Mass continued in its traditional way. The priests renewed their promises. The oils were blessed. The eucharist was celebrated. Lunch was waiting. And a promise was made for the future: 'In 2019', said Bishop Peter, 'hopefully I will be able to invite you to the reception in your new Cathedral Centre'.



*Sr Brenda Moore reads the lesson the gospel*



*breathes over the chrism*



*The oils are given to the deans*



*ought for consecration*



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# Pledging to Pray for a New Pentecost

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement, which invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. What started out as an invitation from the Archbishops' of Canterbury and York in 2016 to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer. The hope is that: people will commit to pray with God's world-wide family - as a church, individually or as a family; churches will hold prayer events, prayer stations and prayer walks, across the UK and in other parts of the world; people will be empowered through prayer by the Holy Spirit, finding new confidence to be witnesses for Jesus Christ. More information and resources are available from: [www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global)

This resonates very much with our own Diocesan initiative, now in its 7th year, promoting the Pentecost Novena. The Pentecost Novena of course itself is an ancient tradition that goes back to the early Church when the Apostles prayed for the coming of the Spirit as recorded in Acts of the Apostles

(chapters 1 & 2).

We would like to encourage all our parishes and schools to make use of these resources to support prayer in our communities in preparation for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit for a new evangelisation. We have produced prayer cards, prayer leaflets, various service sheets, an ecumenical prayer service as well as some ready to use resources for Acts of Worship in Schools. The Diocesan Pentecost Novena resources are produced by the Northampton Diocesan Evangelisation Team and are all available for free from the Diocesan website:

[www.northamptondiocese.org](http://www.northamptondiocese.org) (then select FAITH and EVANGELISATION). Unlike previous years we will not be coordinating a schedule of prayer over the 9 days but leave communities, households and individuals free to pray as and when they can over the 9 days, whether that's one special event or more regular prayer over the 9 days. Alex Heath, Chair of the Diocesan Evangelisation Team can be contacted via the NORES office to give support and answer any questions.

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## Youth Parliament for MK's Ijeoma



Following the recent elections, Ijeoma Ogbuju - a Year 11 pupil at St Paul's Catholic School, has won a place on the United Kingdom Youth Parliament and has been elected Member of Youth Parliament for MK South.

In the summer Ijeoma will be going to the Annual Sitting to represent Milton Keynes in Youth Policy and in November, will attend the Houses of Parliament sitting.

Ijeoma has been a member of Milton

Keynes Youth Cabinet for two years and said: "It has made me determined to raise issues that young people are currently affected by, at a national level, such as bullying, university fees and school meals. I am passionate about giving young people a voice that is heard, especially to those who don't think they have one."

Meghan Jones, Teacher at St Paul's Catholic School, said: "Ijeoma ran a dynamic campaign and her manifesto obviously res-

onated with the young people who voted. We're very proud to have one of our pupils as a member of the Youth Parliament and wish her and her colleagues every success in giving a voice to young people in Milton Keynes."

Ijeoma added: "I am now ready to give young people a voice they deserve and I see it as an excellent opportunity not only for myself, but everyone involved"

## Youth Parliament

The UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) is a youth organisation in the United Kingdom, consisting of democratically elected members aged between 11 and 18.[3]

Formed in 2000, the parliament has around 600 members, who are elected to represent the views of young people in their area to government and service providers. Over 500,000 young people vote in the elections each year, which are held in at least 90 percent of constituencies. It is managed by the British Youth Council.[4]

Members meet regularly to hold debates and plan campaigns at least three times locally a year and on a twice national level, which includes the annual debate within the Chamber of the House of Commons every November. Young people hold important positions throughout the organisation's management, and it has been endorsed by the majority of the UK's political parties.

Those elected for UKYP hold the suffix of MYP (Member of the UK Youth Parliament), or DMYP (Deputy Member of the UK Youth Parliament) in their names.



# Sixth Form learn to be quizzed

Sixth Form students are helping to pass on their knowledge and experience to future students through their participation in focus groups exploring the university interview process.

At St Paul's, Sixth Form students undergo a mock interview to help them prepare for real life interviews at their chosen universities. The school matches them up with interviewers who have experience that is relevant to the courses they are applying for.

The focus groups were held to find out what students thought about the mock interview process and how it compared to their real university interviews. Students also had the opportunity to discuss the different styles of university interviews they had encountered such as one to ones, carousels/'speed dating' and group discussions.

Emma Exelby, UCAS Co-ordinator at St Paul's Catholic School, said: "We're very grateful to our students for attending the focus groups and providing such invaluable feedback on their experiences. It will help us to further refine the work we do to help our students prepare for university and ensure that they present themselves confidently and have the appropriate knowledge for a successful interview."

Speaking about his recent experience, Year 13 student Ben, said: "Pretty much every question I was asked in my mock interview came up in the real one. When I didn't know how to answer a question in the mock I then had time to go away and do some research."

Some of the tips students passed on during the focus groups included:

- Make sure you prepare thoroughly
- Think about how you present yourself and your body language
- Do research on the course you have applied for
- People expect their interviews to be really scary and daunting but it isn't always like that. Think of it as if you were doing a presentation in front of your class

Picture shows Miss Exelby (left) with a Sixth Form student at one of the focus groups.



# Let the priests pray over them



*Bishop Peter at the annual anointing of the sick from the parishes of Milton Keynes.*

*Picture: Vijay Fernando*

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# May: the month of Mary

She would have been a teenager at the time - sixteen or so. What would people say ...? The journey to Bethlehem must have been a relief in one way ... it took her away from all those scurrilous tongues in Nazareth, for a cloud of suspicion hung over all her life, and over her son. But it was an anxious journey too - all depended on the footfall of a donkey! What did she make of the tale the shepherds brought of their vision in the hills? What did she make of the strange visit of the Magi? What did she make of those episodes in the Temple with Simeon and Anna? And having to flee from Herod ... ? What did she later feel for the women back there in Bethlehem who had lost their sons?

Then that little cameo of domestic crisis when Jesus, at the age of his Bar-Mitzvah, got lost to them in their homeward caravan, and they found him in the Temple, a child genius in the area of religion. It is said, "She didn't understand Him then. "Small wonder "she pondered these things in her heart."

Then, when they would all have expected him to carry the proper burden of family responsibility, He insisted on going off to pursue His mad dream, to preach!

This was surely a time when "a sword pierced her soul."

However bravely and gallantly she coped with his firm, though kindly rebuke at the wedding feast in Cana, she knew that day that she had 'lost' Him to a purpose and a cause far higher than any she could offer, or compete with, or even perhaps comprehend (what did He mean, "My hour has not yet come?"). She had implicit trust in Him, in His judgment and His intentions, though ... "Whatever He says to you, do it." She knew He would do something! That can only have been borne of her thirty years' experience of Him in the home. She knew the sort of man He was.

Then there was the evident distress and embarrassment later when "His mother and His brothers" came to fetch Him home, because He had become an embarrassment to them. If today a young carpenter started out by putting Bishops and Cabinet Ministers in their place he would make his family look ridiculous in the eyes of neighbours. Imagine what Mary had to take from the brothers at home. Remember the episode later still when they "took the mickey" out of Him because He said He was not going up to the Feast ... and then He went. "He's a fraud, a hypocrite," they said. (John 7:1-10) "His brothers did not believe in Him." They despised and repudiated Him.

When He said, "A prophet is not without honour save in his own country, and among his own kindred and in his

own home," and "A man's enemies shall be those of His own household," He spoke from experience! That episode, incidentally, recorded only in John's Gospel, is an interesting bit of evidence for the relationship there was later between Mary and John, after he had taken her to his own home. In Mary, John had a source of information the other Gospel writers did not have. The two of them must have talked of many things in later years. How much input did Mary have into the making of John's Gospel?

He was misunderstood and "put down" at home, and Mary had to cope with that. She would not have enjoyed it; she had memories from His infancy the others did not have and could not appreciate. She must have struggled with these things often. For I believe she was proud of Him, baffled by Him though must also have been.

She made a home for Him. She loved Him from first to last. She never attempted to dominate Him.

She maintained the family unity.

His arrest and trial and crucifixion must have been painful in the extreme.

When did she receive the news of His arrest? Where was she then? With whom was she staying, and what support did she have from them? It could hardly have been John; he had gone with Peter ...

It was all so disgraceful and wretchedly public (the Romans marched the prisoners to their execution the long way round). He was reduced to such an extreme of suffering and humiliation, robbed of all human rights and dignity. She would have bled for Him, for she watched it all through.

A. E. Whitham, "The nails driven through His hands were driven through hers. The jar as the Cross with His body nailed to it was dumped into its socket must have torn her nerves and wrenched her bones as they did His. The thirst that inflamed His mouth scorched hers. She was in travail again for Him."

"There stood by the Cross of Jesus Mary His mother." John 19:25

She was not old, certainly not yet 50.

Images from across the years would have crowded into her mind.

She could remember, watching Him there suffering so terribly - looking alien and inhuman (Isaiah 53) - she could remember as others could not, saying prayers with Him at night when He was a child, the warmth of Him nestling into her bosom, the brightness of his laughter and the ravishing win-

someness of his child nature. How she had loved Him!

Then He "got his strange ideas" ... went off into the hills alone ... had long discussions with the local rabbi far into the night ... read and read and read the scrolls in the local synagogue (she would never have been able to afford a Bible). Then He went off, preaching ... and upset people, nice respectable people too.

And there was that day when He said, unwilling to come out and meet her, "Those who did the will of God were His mother, and His brothers." (Matthew 12:46-50) A sword pierced her soul that day. Had she not done the will of God for Him? It is a miracle she was not mortally offended.

We might recall here the episode on the way to the Cross, to which she was probably witness. When the women of Jerusalem bewailed his plight, crying, "Blessed be the womb that bore you and the breasts that suckled you," Mary might have felt a moment of pride shine through her distress, but then she heard her own beloved son reply, "Nay, rather, blessed are who hear God's word and keep it." Was she to be spared nothing?

She must in some degree have "lost track of Him."

But her intuitions always overrode her reasoning, and she believed in Him, no matter how bewildered or distressed she was. Some woman, this!

What was going on in her mind and heart as she watched Him there? What had it all come to? All those marvellous promises given to her by the angel, by Simeon and Anna; all that talk of fulfilling some grand destiny God alone had reserved for Him. How could she reconcile that with this?

Then Jesus remembered her, "Lady, behold your son. Son, behold your mother."

What did she make of that?

Kind? ... yes; she knew she stood secure in His love. But if you think about it, cruel too. He was handing her on. She wasn't his any more, not even when she could have hoped He would need her most, when He was dying!

It is a situation that has the epic proportions of a Greek tragedy. It is not a small domestic trifle - just another mum who did not understand her son and wasn't understood by him either. She had lost Him to some awesome, divine purpose which soared far above her comprehension.

Easter day must only have served at first to bewilder her even more. How



could she recognise in one who returned after death strangely transfigured her own human son? What on earth was going on?

Then that relationship built over the years from infancy had all to be undone. The bond so forged must be broken, just so that she could relate to Him as we do ... not as "her darling boy", but as the divine Saviour of her soul, as the Lord who stood to her soul in the place of God Himself; not as her son but as God's Son. In Paul's words she had to learn that, "even if we have known Christ after the flesh, now know we Him thus no longer." She may possess Him only as all others may, by the Spirit of adoption that makes Him ours and us His. She must lose Him (in the natural sphere) to gain Him (in the salvation sphere).



# Here at last after 70 years

For the first time in its 70 years history Catholic Peoples Weeks are holding an event in Northampton Diocese this year from 21-24th October. It is to be in the beautiful Nene Valley at the 'Rock UK frontier centre' in Irthlingborough.

Catholic Peoples Weeks or CPW were started shortly after the end of the War by Reginald Trevett and John Todd as a sort of substitute for a Catholic university to educate Catholics in their faith. It now has over 800 members.

The term Catholic Peoples Weeks is somewhat of a misnomer. Although it primarily offers formation for Catholics in their faith it warmly welcomes people of other faith traditions and is especially cherished by those in a 'mixed marriage'. 'Peoples' means it runs event for all ages and is run by unpaid lay volunteers. 'Weeks' is also slightly misleading as we run events of varying durations. Every event is not just a holiday but gives a unique chance for a

short period to get away from our every day concerns and be part of a small community with a shared interest in deepening its understanding of what God wants his people to be.

Some Weeks are 18+, others are all-age events with a parallel children's programme. There is plenty of free time, and a social programme in the evenings. Liturgies are lively and inclusive. Each event has a theme which is explored through a variety of talks discussions workshops etc. All CPW events take place in locations that offer lots of local interest.

Here is what someone who discovered CPW last year said about it: "We heard about CPW from one of our parish friends. We thought CPW sounded amazing and would be just the type of event we would want to be involved in.

It did not disappoint us one bit, from the first minute of arrival we were

made to feel most welcome and part of a larger family (we even had help with our luggage). Everyone spoke to our children making them feel instantly at ease.

As for the week itself we all had a wonderful time truly, the programme was full and intense but very well put together and so satisfying. On more than one occasion we were totally filled with the Holy Spirit. More importantly though as parents we were amazed by the attitude, love and warmth of all the helpers who were so good with the little ones. They loved being with the helpers and getting involved with everything.

We would recommend CPW to all families, it was an amazing week."

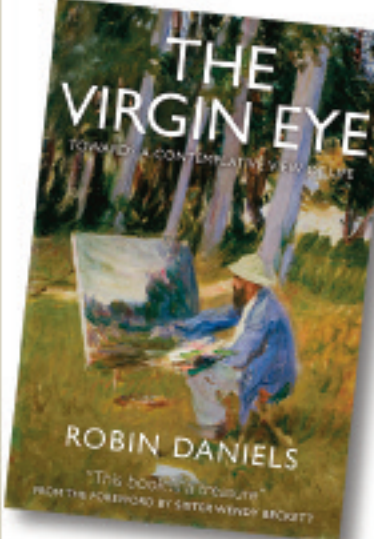
The weekend in the Nene Valley is an all age event and the children will be a very important part of it. During the adult sessions they will have the own programme according to age, but on

by trained 'helpers' many of whom are teachers who use as many avenues that ingenuity can rise to to make the time interesting and enjoyable for their young charges. They will have an important part to play in the Liturgy. Over the four days under the title 'Step up, lean in: divine participation' we hope to explore how we can enter into an intimate relationship with the Blessed Trinity through worship, prayer, liturgy discussion art drama and music. It sounds as though it will be an exciting and challenging long weekend.

CPW is a charity and aims to keep cost of events as low as possible. For new members there is a 25% discount and special rates for large families. Also there is a 'friendship fund' so no one should be deprived through lack of means.

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# David joins the squad

## *A future for him in the Olympics?*

David Boakye, a Year 11 pupil at St Paul's Catholic School, has been selected for the Great Britain athletics squad taking part in the International Catholic Student Games (FISEC) near Venice in July. The G.B. squad will be competing against teams from Austria, Brazil, The Netherlands, Belgium, France, Portugal, Spain, Malta, Hungary and Italy.

A talented sprinter and 100m specialist, David hopes to compete at this distance and in the 200m too.

David said: "I'm just really grateful for the opportunity to compete, especially after failing to make the team for the past 2 years. It just goes to show that perseverance is so important in sports and life. It is also fantastic that my first international championship will be right next to my hometown, which will make the whole experience so much better."

Ross Knapper, Head of PE at St Paul's, said: "This is a fantastic achievement for David, I know he has worked so hard to put himself in contention for a place on the international stage. He was disappointed a year ago when he narrowly missed out on selection, but he went away trained harder and never gave up. We are all so proud that his perseverance and commitment paid off, the PE Department wish him the best of luck."

The FISEC Games is one of two world competitions for school based sport. This competition is recognised by the International Olympic Committee and follows international rules. Over the years, the Catholic Schools Sports Federation of Great Britain through FISEC, has provided the opportunity for young people to experience international sport for the first time with many going on to achieve full international honours in Athletics, Football, Swimming and Volleyball.



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