



# The Vine

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July 2017

Issue No. 337

Northampton Diocesan News

FREE Every Month

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# Happy 350th!

***The Daughters of the Holy Spirit celebrated their foundresses 350th birthday on May 27. Turn to the centre pages for the report, the bishop's sermon and the inside story.***

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# Beyond the diocese of Northampton

## Nuncio

## Cambridge

## Musical

## treat



Pope Francis has appointed Nigerian Archbishop Jude Okolo as apostolic nuncio to Ireland. He is the first African to represent the Holy See in the country.

The archbishop previously served as nuncio to the Central African Republic and Chad, then as diplomatic representative to the Dominican Republic. He will take up his new role in the summer.

Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh welcomed his appointment, saying, 'Archbishop Okolo's rich experience in the diplomatic service of the Holy See means that he brings many gifts to bear on his new mission in Ireland.'



Professor Eamon Duffy and Professor Nicholas Lash were installed in the Papal Order of St. Gregory by Bishop Alan Hopes. Professor Duffy is an historian of Christianity. Professor Lash is a theologian, and well known in the diocese.

Following upon last September's highly successful grand gala concert, CANTARE SINGERS will be back again at the Cathedral singing their hearts out and raising much needed funds for the Northampton Cathedral Development Campaign. Why not make up a parish party and listen to some great music for all tastes!  
Wednesday, July 12, 7.30pm.

Advance booking is strongly recommended.  
Tickets from the cathedral parish office: £5

## Getting into print

Send news reports, photos and other material to the editor, Fr. Paul Hardy, St. Edward's, Burcharde 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.



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# Corby's new canon

Fr Michael Harrison of Our Lady of Walsingham and St John Ogilvie Parishes in Corby, was installed as the newest member of the Cathedral Chapter which carries the title of Canon. Congratulations Canon Michael!"

There are always eleven Canons in the Northampton Cathedral Chapter, who meet a few times each year and advise Bishop Peter. Canons were once the main advisors to the Bishop, a function nowadays undertaken by the Bishop's College of Consultors.

Canon Michael was ordained in 1990 in his home parish of St Thomas Aquinas and All Saints Church in Bletchley where he has lived since his family moved there from Wealdstone in 1962. He attended local schools including St Thomas Aquinas Primary School from its opening day fifty years ago in September 1967. Since ordination at the age of 29, he has

served in parishes in Aylesbury, Luton, Corby, Northampton and Slough as well as eleven years as Parish Priest in his home parish of Bletchley. He was also Diocesan Youth Officer for five years in the early 1990's.

Being chosen to be a Canon was a most unexpected honour for Fr Michael and nobody has been more delighted at the news than the parishioners in Corby who are absolutely thrilled.

Since becoming a Canon two jobs have come the way of Canon Michael: Safeguarding Clergy Advisor and Chair of Clergy Ongoing Formation"



## Masters of the Dunstable feast



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# Painting Peru

Andrew Beckett, a chaplaincy assistant at St. Paul's school, Milton Keynes grows and sells hanging baskets each summer. He gives half the income to St. Edwards parish Lent Project. The other half goes into an orphanage in Peru, where the homes have to provide for themselves.

Here, volunteers inspect the art materials bought with last summer's gift.



## Slipping into God ...

by Julia Beacroft

*SOME TIME AGO, in a previous article, I mentioned my involvement in church care or cleaning, at my local parish church for one morning per week.*

In fact my main task is vacuuming and I find it strangely soothing, relaxing and even spiritual, as it gives me a much needed opportunity for prayer and reflection. Yet the other week I was jolted out of my reverie by one of my co-volunteers. As she approached me, duster and polish in hand, I couldn't help but notice that she was giggling. As I raised my eyebrows, she began to explain:

"We're not supposed to polish the actual seats of the pews," she said, "For health and safety reasons. It makes them too slippery. But I was just thinking that perhaps it might not be such a bad idea after all."

"Really?" I queried, trying to work out where the conversation was going.

"Yes!" she continued. "The parishioners can slip straight off their seats and onto their knees to pray, without having to make any effort at all!"

### PERSONAL

It was hardly surprising that we both laughed at the silliness of the suggestion but I also made a mental note to repeat the joke to another friend later that day. Yet after this re-telling, I found myself seriously contemplating the ways in which we pray and the significance – if any – of these.

Prayer is extremely personal to each one of us as it is at the heart of our own relationship with Jesus Christ. Yet in the main we are able to recognise when others are praying by their actions and body language. Sitting or kneeling, hands pressed together palm to palm, clasped or held out palms uppermost, are the classically recognised positions for prayer. neither simple nor straightforward.

And in fact, these physical positions are so accepted as the norm, that I've even seen a few people become upset, when they're unable to kneel to pray for medical reasons.

### HEARTS

When we pray we use our minds and sometimes our lips but using our bodies in this way is also perfectly acceptable. Yet, of much greater import is the prayer which emanates from our hearts. God knows our innermost thoughts and desires anyway, regardless of what we choose to share with him in prayer. Yet prayer is truly vital to build and maintain a loving, lasting relationship with the Lord.

Falling to our knees when we pray is a sign of reverence to the Lord – and rightly so – because he is Lord. Yet it is the reverence of our hearts and minds which we can gladly offer to God in our prayer life. In short, slipping to our knees to worship is good. Slipping into God in our hearts is sublime.





# Volunteers are the heart of CAFOD

Every year, Volunteers' Week is held from 1-7 June so charities and organisations have an opportunity to thank their volunteers and celebrate the difference they make. Across the UK, nearly 14 million volunteer regularly, and in the Diocese of Northampton there are over 200 volunteers who regularly give up their time to volunteer with CAFOD.

Volunteers have been at the heart of CAFOD since the charity's beginning in 1960, when four volunteers from the National Board of Catholic Women organised the first Family Fast Day, to fundraise for a mother and baby clinic in Dominica. Some of whom were from this diocese!

Over half a century later, more than 5,000 people from all over England and Wales actively put their faith into action each year as CAFOD volunteers.

One such volunteer is Rose Bluett.

Last Harvest Fast Day 2016 Rose, a reader at Our Lady Help of Christianity in Luton, was asked by the parish volunteer then to help deliver Fast Day talks. She found that she enjoyed this and felt that it made a difference. She then came forward to support the CAFOD volunteer in the parish but

soon found herself having to take over the role when the parish volunteer stepped down. This did not faze Rose and she immediately took to the role!

Before long, Rose became the coordinator for the Luton pastoral area where she started networking with the other volunteers and parish priests. For Lent Fast day 2017, she proactively got in touch with them to find out if all parishes had someone to give the Fast Day talk at Mass. When she could not find a volunteer, she did it herself!

When asked why she took on the role of coordinator, Rose said: "I believe in the Catholic ethos of CAFOD's work in working for Justice and Peace without discrimination. I enjoy getting to know people and working with the church community. Even though I am still learning about CAFOD's work, I feel I can make a difference and am keen use the skills I have to do so".

Another, CAFOD volunteer in the diocese is 16 year-old Isabella from Dunstable.

With the support and encouragement of the parish volunteer, Isabella has given the Fast Day talk at St. Mary's in Dunstable and is now an active volunteer with

CAFOD in her parish. Thanks to her efforts and the generosity of the parish, £1,700 was raised to help CAFOD's vital work. She has also stepped into the role of media volunteer where she writes articles for the CAFOD blog as she enjoys writing.

Isabelle recalls her initial feeling when giving a Fast Day talk back in October. She said: "One way I felt I could contribute to support my brothers and sisters overseas is by using my voice to let others know how they can make an impact. I love public speaking and was delighted to give the Fast Day talk in my parish." She added: "I really want to be part of helping others to have this even via small acts like standing up and speaking."

Deborah Purfield, CAFOD's representative in the diocese said: "We cannot do our important work without the contributions of our fabulous volunteers. They have been so inspirational! I can't thank them

enough for all they do."

She added: "We are always on the lookout for new volunteers to help us reach those in need across the globe. We are a diverse team from a range of backgrounds and new volunteers are assured of a very warm welcome."

CAFOD Northampton is always looking for volunteers who can support our vital work. Contact Deborah Purfield by emailing [northampton@cafod.org.uk](mailto:northampton@cafod.org.uk) or calling the office on 01844 274 723.



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# Sisters celebrate 350 years of ministry

The Daughters of the Holy Spirit, who have six communities in the diocese, held a very big party on May 27. It was the 350th anniversary of the birth of their foundress, Marie Balavenne. They gathered in the church of one of their Sisters, Sister Rita Scott, is the Administrator of the parish.

The congregation was warmly welcomed by the Provincial, Sister Regina Bond. She offered profound personal insights into the vocation of Marie Balavenne and of her companion Renee Burel. They were both two ordinary women, sensitive to the plight of the poor in rural Brittany. In 1706, under the guidance of Jean Leuduger, a priest of the Breton Missions they formed the first small community of what was to become the Congregation of the Daughters of the Holy Spirit.

In his homily Bishop Peter looked at the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives. It is the Spirit “who comes to us in our weakness.”

In our weakness, our contentment, our delight is in the Holy Spirit because we cannot fix things as the world tries to do and fails, a world which permits all and forgives nothing. In the Spirit, on the other hand, the Church does not permit all but forgives everything. When I was younger, I used to be slightly amused by the description in Romans of “the entire creation groaning in one great act of giving birth.” But the creative impulse of the Spirit is at work in each of us, in the Church, and in the entire creation. And it can be painful. We have to wait on the Spirit with patience.

That theme of waiting on the Spirit with patience was brought home to me when I was talking with the Provincial of one of the Fransalain Provinces in India. I was telling him how I had visited a community of sisters running a huge, all-age girls’ school in Varanasi. When the sisters mentioned that the

vast majority of the students are Muslim, I asked innocently how many converts did they have. None, they replied. And the Provincial said, “Of course, we are waiting on the Spirit.” What a spiritual lesson that was for me because I am tempted to live and work in the spirit of the world and try to fix things!

One who was attentive to the Spirit was your foundress, Marie Balavenne. As you all know so well, she was a woman of her time, brought up in a farming community where life was hard. She married a widower with five children whom she brought up after his death. She was a woman of prayer and service seeking to spread God’s love in responding to the needs of the poor people around her. She was a woman open to the pressing needs of her time, teaching children prayer and the catechism, and visiting the sick. Noble-hearted, she devoted herself to the service of Christ and the poor, and, ultimately, she was a woman of God who had lived her life as “a humble woman in whom the boldness of the Spirit dwelt.”

It is wonderful to read of the movement of the Spirit among the women who followed on from Marie and her companion, Renée Burel.

Hard though it must have been, what a gift it was for England and for other parts of the world when the Daughters of the Holy Spirit had to leave their native Brittany at the beginning of the 20th Century following the introduction of the laws of secularisation. In particular, what a blessing it has been for the local Church in the Diocese of Northampton. Not only have I experienced an integrity and a fidelity to the vision and mission of their foundress in the communities here in the twelve years I have been in the Diocese, I know what deep affection priests and people have for you, dear sisters, in all you have done and continue to do in the Diocese. Just as an aside, I would

like to thank you for the way in which you cared for some of my predecessors in Bishop’s House. How many stories are there to tell about that time!

What lessons we can learn from you that there is no mission without adoration, without calling on the Spirit to renew the face of the earth; that you draw strength to serve the less favoured in society from the love of the Trinity, praying in a special way to the Holy Spirit and seeking the intercession of the Mother of God. You certainly participate in the prayer of the people among whom you live and you seek to hear what God is saying to you through the Scriptures and all that is happening

in the world.

With you and for you, it is a joy to give thanks to God during this Mass in this year of your foundress.



## Book Review

### Leaving God for God

Leaving God for God is a study of five generations of Catholic Sisters in Britain from 1847 to 2017, and of their wide-ranging ministries to people in poverty.

As members of the Company of Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul – co-founded by St Vincent de Paul and St Louise de Marillac in seventeenth-century France – the Daughters of Charity belong to the largest transnational institute in the Catholic Church.

This comprehensive history, written with full access to the Daughters of Charity’s archives in London and Paris, assesses how far the Sisters have lived out their undertaking to serve the most marginalised in society. Other themes explored in the book include: the nature of the Daughters’ community culture; the development of Marian devotional life in Britain; questions of lay and religious status and of gender in the Catholic Church’s ministry; the Sisters’ engagement in civil society and with the State; and the interplay of national identities in Catholic Britain.

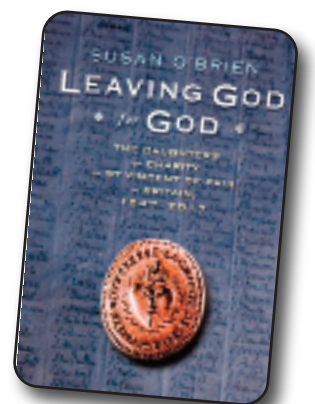
The history of Catholicism in England and Scotland is seen in fresh perspective through the lens of this singular transnational community of women. Their history, it

is argued, challenges both the mainstream narrative about the nature of philanthropy and charity in Britain and the Church’s narrative about Catholic Sisters in the twentieth century.

Published in hardback by Darton, Longman and Todd *Leaving God for God* (448pp) is fully referenced and indexed and includes 64 pages of full-colour visual essays and a Gazetteer providing details on every House opened and closed by the Sisters since 1847.

Susan O’Brien is currently a Senior Member of St Edmund’s College, University of Cambridge and former Principal of the Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology in Cambridge.

On sale from now from the Daughters of Charity through their website: [www.daughtersofcharity.org.uk/LeavingGodforGod.aspx](http://www.daughtersofcharity.org.uk/LeavingGodforGod.aspx) for £20 plus £3 packing and postage or via Darton Longman and Todd and Amazon for £25





# View from inside

“God moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform”. So wrote the 19th century English Poet, Lord Tennyson. The history of the present day Province of England, Ireland, Wales, from its beginning in 1902, is a moving example of the truth of Tennyson’s words. The anti-clerical legislation of the French government during the last decades of the 19th century reached a climax in 1902 with the iniquitous ‘Loi sur les Associations’ aimed at the suppression of all teaching Congregations. This meant exile for the many and forcible eviction for those who dared to resist.

This open persecution did not take our Congregation altogether by surprise. A year or so before it erupted, the Major Superiors sensing what was likely to come, had been seeking a foothold elsewhere. To this end, Mgr. Morelle, the Vicar General of St. Brieuc sent out letters, in 1901, to the Bishops of England and Wales with reference to the possibility of opening houses in their country... The first to give a favourable reply was Bishop Riddell of Northampton, others followed suit ....

Between 1902 and 1914 eighteen foundations were established by the Daughters of the Holy Spirit, 6 in England, 12 in Wales. .. Over the years some 300 Sisters were sent from France to these foundations. The Sisters faced very hard times; they had to learn another language become accustomed to another culture and its traditions. They also had to obtain the required teaching qualifications. The most urgent and for many years the main task was to ensure a means of livelihood. They began by giving lessons in French, music, needlework, painting and drawing. They did laundry work and embroidery for the more well to do people. True to the charism of the Congregation they remained attentive to the poor, especially those of the parish where the Sisters gave catechism lessons to the children, prepared them for the sacraments and visited the sick the poor and housebound. At Olney in 1904, a dispensary was opened by a sister who had many years of experience in nursing. From there, she attended, free of charge, anyone who came to her.

During World War1 the sisters at Pontypool, and in other houses, took in refugees from Europe. They supported the soldiers in the trenches; sent parcels

to prisoners, gave concerts to raise funds – all this was undertaken by the Sisters and the pupils.

As the years went by the Sisters succeeded in obtaining the University qualifications needed for teaching and over the next years opened Private Boarding Schools in: Abergavenny, Aberystwyth, Bedford, Newton Abbott, Olney and Pontypool. The Sisters also taught in Voluntary Aided Primary and Secondary schools in: Abergavenny, Bedford, Birmingham, Carmarthen, Luton, Newton Abbott, and Pontypool. They made an invaluable contribution to education and among their pupils were a number of future priests and religious.

The care of the sick has always been one of the traditional works of the Congregation but in this country, professional nursing in hospitals, did not start until after World War II. Sisters then nursed in hospitals, hospices and joined Red Cross Teams when they responded to overseas emergencies. Later some Sisters trained as social workers and others became involved in Spiritual Direction. We opened a Retreat Centre in Clapham Park, Bedford which welcomed people of all denominations.

After Vatican II the ministries in which our Sisters engaged were further diversified.

In 1964 the Sisters responded to a call from the Bishop of the OYO Diocese in Western Nigeria and founded a community at Ile –Ife..... today we have a thriving Vice- Province of Nigeria. In the 1980’s two Sisters were sent to join existing communities of DHS in Chile. In the 1980’s two Sisters were sent to join existing communities of DHS in Chile. In 1993 two Sisters undertook a project supporting the Bosnian refugee

In 1994, moved by the plight of the children in Romania, we opened a DHS community at Dofteana to work in a local orphanage. Later we built a Community House, a kindergarten, and a church in Iugani. We withdrew from Romania in 2013 leaving our Mission in the hands of a Romanian Religious Congregation.

In recent years with Sisters retiring from professional work more voluntary ministries have been undertaken such as: Hospital and prison chaplaincies; Day Shelters for the homeless; befriending women who have been trafficked; in-



volvement in the work of the SVP ; teaching English to immigrants; Parish ministries; – visiting the sick and elderly, counselling, retreat days, prayer days and faith exploration programmes; Justice and Peace involvement at local and diocesan levels; promotion of Fair Trade goods. A Sister works with the Inter - faith Grassroots Team in Luton on its Spirituality of Justice project. She is also the inter- faith Co-ordinator for the Diocese of Northampton.

Today in the Province of England, Ireland and Wales we are 43 Sisters in 8 localities: Dublin, Abergavenny, Liverpool, Birmingham, Northampton, Olney, Bedford and Luton.

The Provincial House and Formation Community are in Northampton.

As a Congregation we are present in 12 countries: 1706 France, 1902 England, Wales, Belgium, Holland, USA; 1954 Cameroon , 1962 Chile, 1964 Nigeria, 1979 Peru, 1983 Ireland, 1994 Romania ( withdrew 2013) 1995 Burkina Faso.

The DHS Spiritual Family now includes Sisters, Associates, and Consecrated Seculars. We share the same charism, spirituality and missionary thrust. We live our baptismal consecration in the Spirit of Pentecost.

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Church in the World, reporting on events within the Church internationally; Notebook, giving a light-hearted round-up of recent events; the Letters section, where readers worldwide share their views; Books, covering subjects from theology to biography and fiction; and the Arts section, with reviews of exhibitions, theatre, cinema, TV, music and opera.

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## A generous congregation

Caroline Glen, of Corby, was shocked when she discovered that a young family member had a rare form of bone cancer. So the family organised a fund-raising day. Caroline's daughter and niece had their heads shaved. Canon Michael Harrison, of Our Lady's, encouraged his congregation to sponsor the girls. They took £16,599 to the bank!



## Mgr Patrick McAleenan

### Requiem aeternum dona eis Domine

Mgr Pat McAleenan died at Kettering General Hospital on May 9, shortly after being anointed by Fr. Pius Amoako. He was 79.

Originally ordained as a Carmelite Friar of the Irish Province. Incardinated into the diocese in 1977 he served in Bletchley, Kettering and Thrapston before going to Our Lady's, Corby in 1983. From 1990 to 2001 he was Vicar General to Bishop Leo McCartie, becoming a Canon and then a Chaplain to His Holiness. He retired from Corby in 2009.

Bishop Peter was the principal concelebrant at his Requiem Mass on June 13.

## Inspired people

The death of a young Canadian catholic woman during the London Bridge attack has inspired people to help save lives in their own community. Christine Archibald, whose family lives in British Columbia, died in the June 3 attack that also claimed seven other lives and injured forty eight people.



The Archibald Family, parishioners of St Rita's parish in Castlegar, British Columbia, released a statement describing Christine as 'a person who had room in her heart for everyone, and believed strongly that every person was to be valued and respected'.

'She lived this belief working in a shelter for the homeless, until she moved to Europe to be with her fiancé, the statement continued. 'She would have had no understanding of the callous cruelty that caused her death. Please honour her by making your community a better place. Volunteer your time or labour or donate to a homeless shelter. Tell them Chrissie sent you'.

## WORD IN SEASON

In the ups and downs of our lives, we are blessed to have the Book of Psalms to give us words for our prayers. The psalms play a central role in the public and private prayer of the church, because there is a psalm for every occasion and mood.

Several psalms eloquently express our yearning for God, using the image of thirst. Psalm 42 has the symbol of the deer panting for water in a hot climate: "Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God." Psalm 63 also has the image of the dry desert land waiting for water to make it fruitful: "O God, you are my God, for you I long. For you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water."

Sister Carmel McCarthy comments: "When you look at a photo of a desert, what comes to mind? A dry land, dusty and unproductive? But if rain falls on this desert, it quickly produces signs of life, even tiny flowers. — This desert can be like you. On some days, you may feel arid, as dried out as a desert shrub. Do you thirst for God? Do you desire the One who alone can assuage your parched heart? Using psalms of desire, perhaps you can allow your dryness to become fruitful."

Father Zbigniew Zieba also meditates on Psalm 63: "The psalmist uses metaphors and images such as 'thirsting soul,' 'fainting flesh' and 'dry weary land without water,' in order to allow the reader to discover a deep meaning. The poet thirsts and hungers for God in a manner other than the physical. It is, in fact, a spiritual desire. 'Thirsting soul' and 'fainting flesh' are powerful images, which exemplify the psalmist's spiritual thirst and hunger for God."

At other times, what we are seeking is God's power to strengthen us. When we encounter upset and turmoil in our lives, we turn to God to give us strength. The psalms express our need with the image of God as a rock. Psalm 18 begins: "I love you, Lord my strength, my rock, my fortress, my saviour." When we realise that we can be weak and fickle, we can look towards God for strength: "My God is the rock where I take refuge."

When we see things around us full of uncertainty and change, we turn to God, who is eternal. A famous hymn says: "Change and decay in all around I see. O Thou who changest not, abide with me." And if we face opposition, we can rely on God's power to protect us: "God is for us a refuge and strength, a helper close at hand in times of distress" (Psalm 46).

God's protection is also expressed in the image of a shepherd. Because the people of Israel knew that God cared for them, Psalm 80 begins: "O Shepherd of Israel, hear us." But perhaps most familiar to us is Psalm 23: "The Lord is my shepherd. There is nothing I shall want." Because it beautifully expresses God's providential love towards us, we often hear this psalm at funerals, although sometimes it is sung on other happier occasions like weddings.

This psalm recognises that we can go through difficult times: "If I should walk in the valley of darkness, no evil would I fear." The psalmist is aware that God is present, even if sometimes he can seem remote: "You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort." The

*Be Still*  
 AND KNOW  
 THAT I AM GOD  
 -PSALM 46:10

scriptural image of shepherd reassures us that we are safe in God's hands.

St Teresa of Avila was aware of God's constant love, even amid the trials and tribulations of her life. Her prayer (known as St Teresa's Bookmark) reminds us of God's providential love: "Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing frighten you. All things are passing away: God never changes. Patience obtains all things. Whoever has God lacks nothing; God alone suffices."

[For a readable guide, see Carmel McCarthy, *The Psalms: Human Voices of Prayer and Suffering* (Dublin: Dominican Publications, 2012). See also Zbigniew Zieba, *Psalm 63* (Sutton Coldfield: Oscott Publications, 2013). Here I have used the Hebrew numbering system for the Psalms, whereas many liturgical books follow the Latin numbering system.]

**Your deadline  
 for  
 August &  
 September  
 is August 2**



# Annual Mass for altar servers



Not only was the 13th May the 100th anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady of Fatima but it was also the date on which the annual Altar Servers Mass was held here at the Cathedral.

The annual Mass is an opportunity to give thanks for the great work of Altar Servers throughout the Diocese and to encourage us all in the vital ministry in helping the Priest at the Altar.

The Mass was beautifully celebrated by Bishop Peter and there were a number of concelebrating Priests and Deacons from the Guild of St Stephen present too. There were Altar Servers not only from the Cathedral but also from across the diocese including Burnham, Luton, other Northampton Parishes and Milton Keynes to name but a few of the areas.

In Bishop Peter's homily, we were all encouraged to

follow the example of our patron, St Stephen, and stand up boldly for our faith in Christ even at the cost of not being popular amongst our peers. Something which deeply resonated with us all as we continue to carry out our duties as Servers.

Afterwards, there was an opportunity to speak to Bishop Peter and enjoy the great feast of food that was kindly served to us by the great team here at the Cathedral.

All in all, it was a great day to celebrate our faith in Christ and the work of Altar Servers young and old throughout the Diocese. I'm very much looking forward to next year's celebration when, I pray, there will be even more Servers from across the Diocese.

*John Ramsey*



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## Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Blessed Virgin Mary to Saint Dominic, "One Day through the Rosary and Scapular I will save the World."

"Whosoever dies clothed in this (scapular) shall not suffer eternal fire."

This is Mary's Promise made July 16, 1251 to Saint Simon Stock.

### Prayer of St. Simon Stock

O beautiful Flower of Carmel, most fruitful vine, Splendour of Heaven, Holy and singular, who brought forth the Son of God, still ever remaining a Pure Virgin, assist me in this necessity. O Star of the Sea, help and protect me! Show me that Thou art my Mother.

### Rosary procession/gathering

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# Can we be a Live Simply diocese?

In his inspiring encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis calls on each of us to see a right relationship with Earth as much part of our Catholic faith as our relationship with God and with our neighbour. The Pope invites us all to “work with generosity and tenderness in protecting this world which God has entrusted to us” (#242).

Bishop Peter, upon reading *Laudato Si'* commented, “It encompasses such profound insight into the Gospel and I would very much encourage all to respond to its challenge”

But how do we go about doing this? Where do we start and what actions can we take?

One way would be for parishes, schools and communities to take up the LiveSimply challenge.

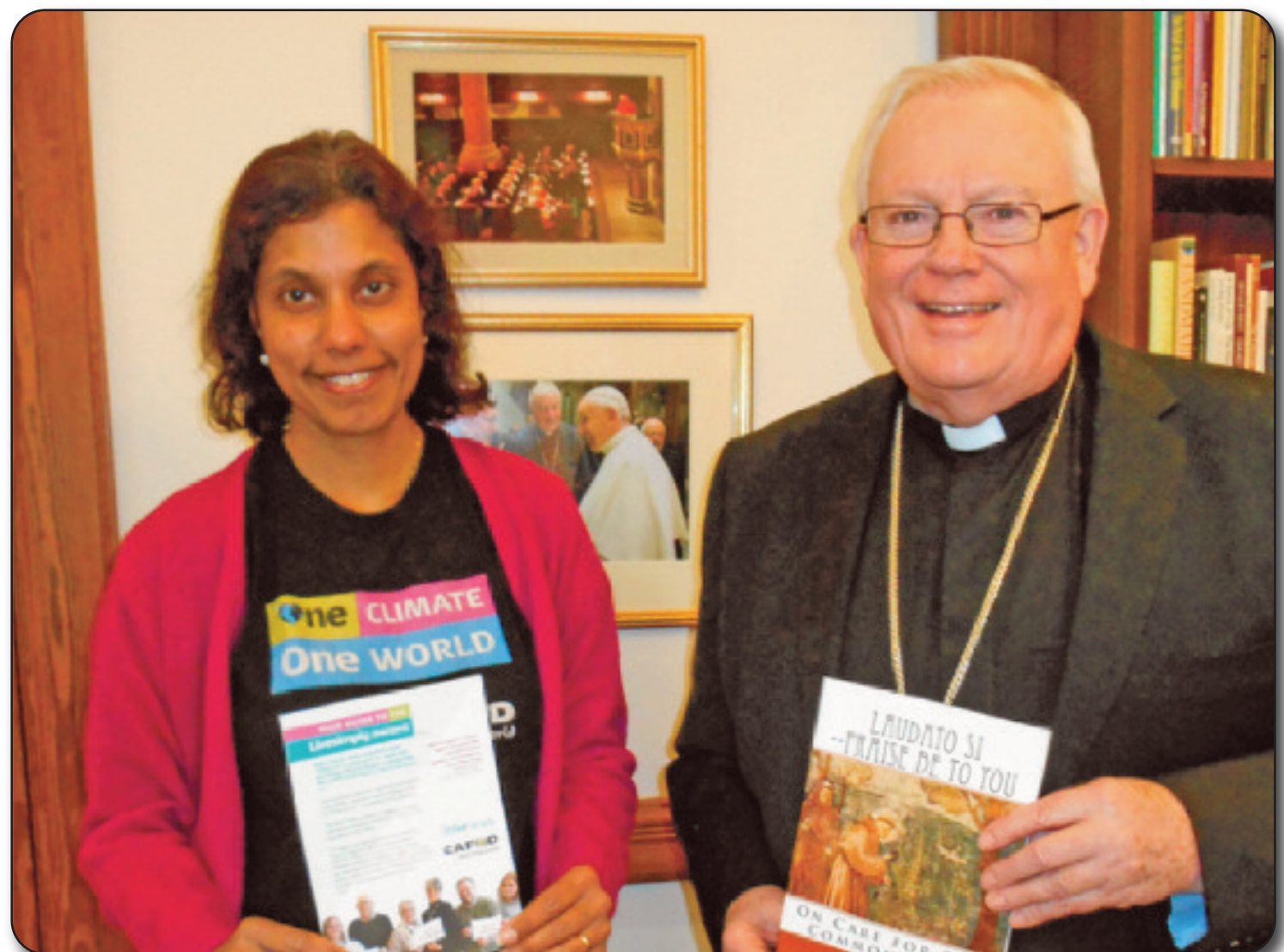
The Livesimply challenge is an opportunity for Catholic communities to respond to Pope Francis’ invitation. It invites groups to celebrate how they already living simply and gives them the focus and inspiration to go further.

CAFOD is offering a LiveSimply award to communities who have been living:

- simply,
- in solidarity with people in poverty and
- sustainably with creation.

These principles are deeply rooted in Catholic tradition from ancient times to the present day. The award is a great way of celebrating and thanking communities for their dedication and being a wonderful example to all in living the Gospel!

The first step of any community wishing to work towards the award is to create a small team, whether that is an existing CAFOD or Justice



& Peace group or a handful of enthusiastic people ready for a new challenge. However, it is vital for the group to get the backing of their parish priest or Headteacher as well as their community. This team will lead the way but not do everything. Each person’s contribution, families, individuals, the housebound, parish groups (eg SVP, bereavement group, children’s liturgy, flower arrangers, welcomers etc..) all play a part in this and their different strengths and interests will contribute to making it a success. You would need to

Parishes who are regularly supporting the local foodbank, the home-

less shelter, CAFOD Fast Days, Fairtrade Fortnight etc... are already on the journey to LivingSimply.. Just sign up and register for the award on our website.

Deborah Purfield (CAFOD coordinator) said, “The LiveSimply award is not an end in itself; rather it is encouragement to keep trying to change from consumption to better stewardship of creation and being fully present to others. Actions can be as simple individual pledges to walk instead of drive where possible, to go vegetarian more often or for families to come together for a meal (without technology at the

table) at least once a week. They can also be quite grand actions such as creating a parish garden or allotment. Lots of little actions taken by many people has a significant impact.”

Bishop Peter, has given his full support of this stating, “It would be really wonderful if we could respond to the *Laudato Si'* challenge and be a LiveSimply Diocese.”

For more information on the Livesimply award, please go to [cafod.org.uk/livesimply](http://cafod.org.uk/livesimply) or call Deborah on 01844 274 723 ([dpurfield@cafod.org.uk](mailto:dpurfield@cafod.org.uk)) for more information.



# Fame & Fortune

Cardinal Newman School, Luton has certainly been in the news recently. In February student Vincent Masterson won the Catenian Province 14 Public Speaking Competition and recently Past Grand President John Fry presented eleven bursary fund cheques worth £250 to students preparing for their trip to Cambodia.

Monsignor Kevin McGinnell VF, Episcopal Vicar for Education wrote, "It is very good that the Catenians have been so involved and so supportive of students at Cardinal Newman School, and the deanery is very appreciative of that support which is so good for the school and the local church".



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# How can we find priests for the Community .....from the Community?

We live in interesting times in our Church. Pope Francis frequently urges his Bishops towards more local decisions and more local initiatives and there are some notable signs of this beginning to happen.



Cardinal Marx who leads the Munich Diocese, is one of Pope Francis' C9 distinguished advisers - a sort of Vatican Cabinet member. He has recently announced that

there will be no more parish closures or mergers in his diocese, like those happening across the United Kingdom and all over Europe. The Cardinal is setting up pilot projects to train lay people to run their own parishes wherever a priest is only occasionally available. At least two other dioceses in Germany and one in Switzerland are known to be making similar preparations. Before long, projects like these might well run alongside the ordination of married men of proven good character - viri probati, as they are often called.

Years before there was any need to consider such measures in Europe, training manuals were devised for African Church Elders and Catechists. Local lay people in many parts of the Third World have had to run huge remote parishes for months, between visits from an ordained priest. A German Bishop from South Africa called Fritz Lobinger worked for many years in the African missions. He is known for his excellent, straightforward writing in 'Every Community its own ordained Elders', an illustrated handbook for laity, but now even more for his seminal book 'Like His Brothers and Sisters', first published in 1998. There he explains at greater depth his plan for training Team Priests from and for the Community.

Significantly, that book has recently been reprinted in English (ISBN 0-8245-1850-0) by The Crossroad Publishing Company. Aimed at clergy and laity alike - especially at Bishops - perhaps now its time has come - or is coming?

Tony Flannery, the Passionist Priest from Limerick is well known. With Fr Helmut Schuller, Fr Flannery is one of the leaders of an International Church Reform Network ( [www.ICRN.info](http://www.ICRN.info) ) where priests' associations and reform movements work together. Two senior priest members of the network are close associates of Bishop Lobinger and are working with others to show that his practical ideas are indeed now very timely and relevant in Europe. On October 21st this year, Fr Flannery will be speaking in Birmingham at a conference dedicated to examining how the church can move forward in these difficult times. The conference title is 'Locally Ordained Community Leaders - an ancient solution to a contemporary problem' The other two speakers are the distinguished theologians, David McLoughlin from Newman University and Professor John Sullivan from Hope University. There are more details about the conference at the ACTA website [acalltoaction.org.uk](http://acalltoaction.org.uk).



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

### CRYPTIC Across

- 7 Coax old king to embrace a knave (6)
- 8 Feral feline spotted wildcat (6)
- 9 Army lost much artillery in the initial stages of Crimea battle (4)
- 10 As rich - as poor - as a tribal leader (8)
- 11 Act badly to rib one that may need rocking to sleep (7)
- 13 Kick out at alien snatching little boy (5)
- 15 Cheat out of demesne, a knight (5)
- 17 Quietly report to Bishop, perhaps (7)
- 20 Religion that's active, serious-minded, but has no see, which is strange (8)
- 21 'Blow up French capital', you texted with extreme menace (4)
- 22 Hardly make it from pub to cathedral (6)
- 23 Bait regular teachers to infiltrate island, the western end (6)

### CRYPTIC Down

- 1 The best student secured backing to flower (6)
- 2 River falls are a stellar phenomenon (4)
- 3 Entrance to internet being down's a cause of some irritation (7)
- 4 Western group exercises involved US intelligence in the old days (5)
- 5 One on a quest, English vicar's poor record's about to be overturned (8)
- 6 Ancient law for marbles, put together by Greeks? (6)
- 12 Ruth's people are dead: bird attacks linked (8)
- 14 One Catholic's taken about a month in the Sorbonne to learn an ancient language (7)
- 16 Usual article by one coming from France (6)
- 18 Barrow's American emigrated with tenor

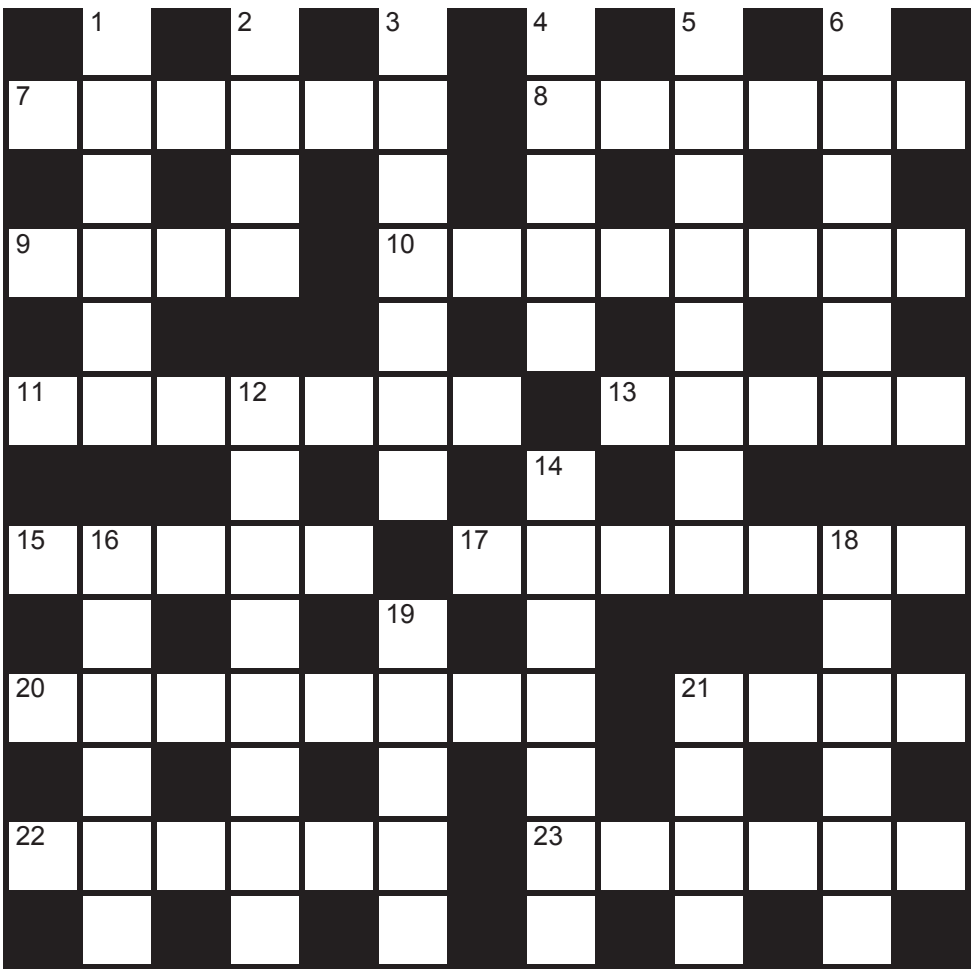
- in brouhaha (6)
- 19 Turned up in company of lowly bishop: bit of a 'seer', this one (5)
- 21 Tizzy over terribly subfusc cub's riotous coming out (4)

### QUICK Across

- 7 Persuade (6)
- 8 South American wild cat (6)
- 9 ---- River, battle in the Crimean War, 1854 (4)
- 10 Patriarch son of Jacob and Leah (8)
- 11 Hanging bed of canvas or rope netting (7)
- 13 Dispossess (of property) (5)
- 15 Move quietly trying not to be seen (5)
- 17 Senior clergyman and dignitary (7)
- 20 Ancient Celtic religion (8)
- 21 Be mad or angry (4)
- 22 Just (6)
- 23 Malign (6)

### QUICK Down

- 1 Showy bloom: any plant of this particular Mexican genus (6)
- 2 Exploding star (4)
- 3 Possess (7)
- 4 Search party (5)
- 5 Knight of the Round Table (8)
- 6 Law of the Jews from Mt Sinai (6)
- 12 Descendants of Lot's son (8)
- 14 Semitic language, dialects of which are still used by some Christian sects (7)
- 16 Medieval style of architecture (6)
- 18 Ferment (6)
- 19 One of several prophetesses of Babylonia, Egypt, Greece and Rome (5)
- 21 Palaver (4)



### SOLUTION

Across: 5 Mesopotamia, 7 Purr, 8 Tutelage, 9 Stir fry, 10 Twig, 12 Lead, 14 Elysian, 17 Amethyst, 18 Ruin, 19 Novatianism, Down: 1 Usurer, 2 Upstart, 3 State, 4 Amulet, 5 Mount Hermon, 6 Anglicanism, 11 Flotsam, 13 Dative, 15 Sordid, 16 Kyoto

Across: 5 anag, 7 pun, 8 Tut+E+lage(-r), 9 stir+ry, 10 T+wig, 12 double def, 14 Ely's+ian, 17 a+meth(y)s+t, 18 (-B)ruin, 19 anag of 'invasion+(-E)am', Down: 1 pun, 2 ups+art, 3 s+Tate, 4 a+mule+it, 5 mo+anag of nun+mother, 6 anag & pun, 11 hidden word in 'AerofLOT'S AMERICAN', 13 dat(iv)e, 15 eve'e letters 'o+d+d' through 'IRS' [rev], 16 anag & und