



Deacon delivers

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Boots from Bedford schools

Students and families from St John Rigby Primary and St Joseph's & St Gregory's Primary of the Bedford Catholic Schools, have donated football boots, trainers and kit to children in the poor communities of Soyapango, San Salvador with the charity Avoca.

Avoca supports communities in Central American countries by raising funds for social and environmental projects which aim to help people improve their quality of life.

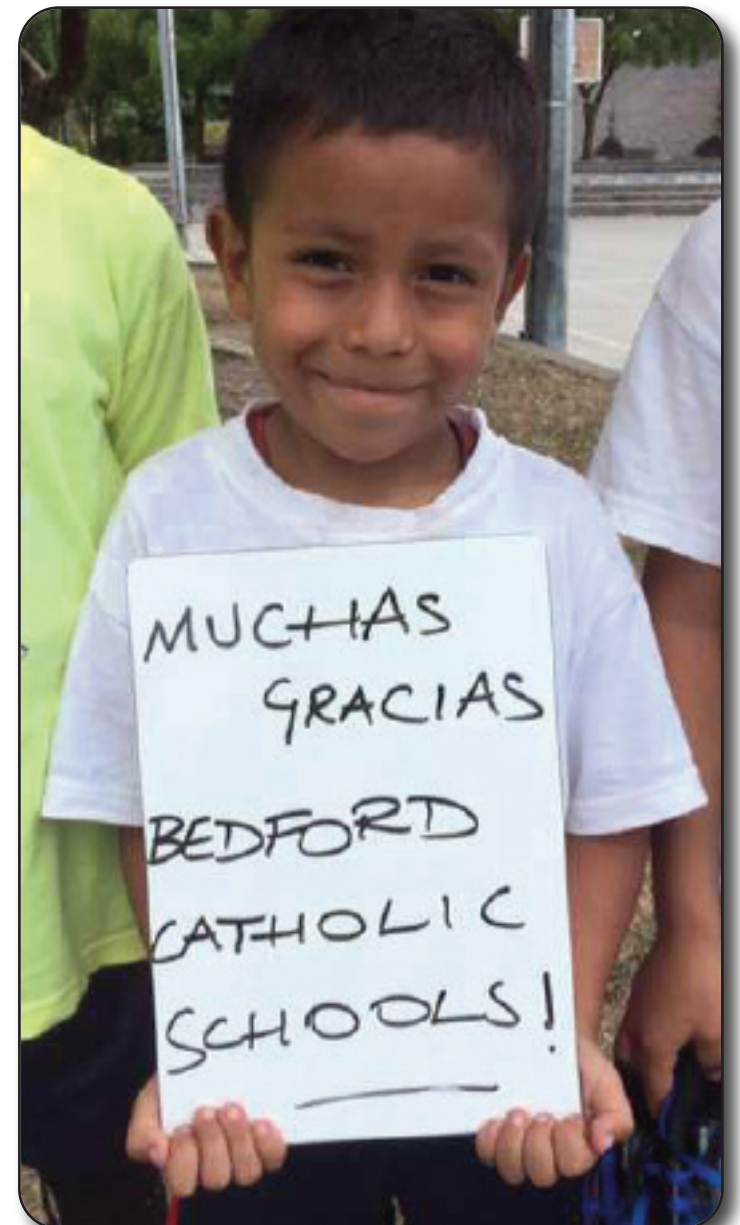
The football coaching side of the charity, Avoca Esperanza (Hope), now in its 10th year, was set up by Graham Millie, who used to teach at BCS, and Peter Bull.

This year, Avoca Esperanza delivered coaching to over 500 children in one central venue during Easter week. The children came from different communities and would normally not be able to so-

cialise with one another due to gang boundaries. They also delivered a coach education course for over 40 young adults, the aim being to create positive young role models in communities so troubled by gang and drug cultures.

'At the end of the week, all the children and community leaders came together for a large prize giving celebration where the children received certificates and the donations of boots/football shirts from BCS. The community leaders ensured every child that needed boots or trainers received a pair, whilst others were gifted a football shirt.

We are proud to be supported by the Bedford Catholic Schools and it is a real pleasure to be able to take across donated boots, trainers and football shirts. The children of Soyapango are hugely grateful and would love to say thanks to each and every one of you in person.' (Graham Millie, Avoca Esperanza)



Mind your Data

If this Vine has come into your hands around the last weekend of May, the world of Data Protection Law has just changed in a fairly massive way.

On the 25th of May the Europe-wide General Data Protection Regulation came into force, enacted into UK law by a new Data Protection Act. We signed up to it in 2016, before the Referendum, so it isn't negated by Brexit and we all have to comply.

This affects the Church as much as it affects businesses, schools, Government departments and other charities.

It is all about raising the importance of our privacy and controlling how our personal information is

shared around. And it will require our Parish and Diocesan offices to be still more careful about computer security, mailing lists and censuses.

As with Safeguarding, it may mean more inconveniences in our lives and our offices. But as with Safeguarding, we will get used to it; and certainly we have a duty to our parishioners to act as Good Stewards of personal and sensitive information. Indeed, that duty has been very familiar territory to our Confession-hearing priests for hundreds of years!

The Diocese has appointed Brin Dunsire, who may be known to you as the website manager, Archivist and former Planned Giving adviser, as its Data Protection Man-

ager. By the time you read this, he will have made a start on running a series of awareness-raising presentations around the Diocese, to be followed up by visits to all the parish offices. So guidance and support is available.

He and Tim Redding, the Financial Secretary, have been working on a national group helping to prepare the Catholic Church in England & Wales for the new regime.

At the time this was written, he was intending to have a collection of Policies and Data Protection clauses available on www.northamptondiocese.org. If you have specific queries, contact Brin on brin@nrcdfinance.com or on 01844 273337.

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News beyond Northampton

Rome



The Swiss Guard has broken with centuries of tradition by adopting new helmets that are made out of plastic and created by a 3D printer.

The new helmets are lighter to wear and, at £740 each, around half the cost of the old metal ones.

Each pvc helmet is stamped with the coat of arms of Pope Julius II, who founded the private army of mercenary troops in 1506 and was known as 'the warrior pope'. They are also resistant to UV rays. Guards spent much of their time standing outside the Vatican, halberds in hand. The new headgear was presented by Christoph Graf, the commander of the corps ahead of an annual swearing

in ceremony in April.

Thirty two new recruits, all of them Swiss Catholic men under the age of thirty joined the force for a minimum of two years.

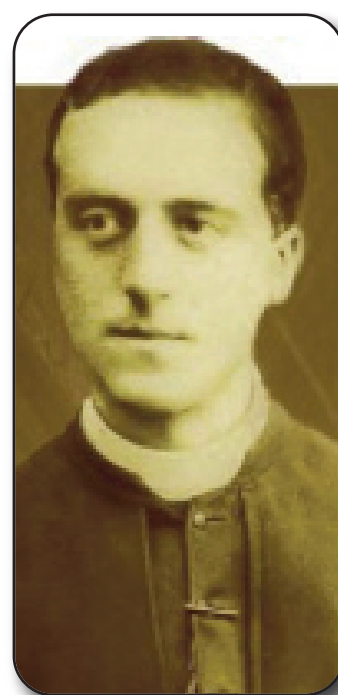
They wear distinctive striped blue, red and gold uniforms. For the most formal ceremonies they add a large white ruff, plate armour and an ostrich plumed helmet.

Although they undertake their ceremonial duties with swords, halberds and pikes they carry a range of modern firearms, including when deployed in plain clothes

Bologna

The story of Edgardo Mortara, a Jewish boy seized from his family and raised as a Catholic — after Pope Blessed Pius IX learned he had been secretly baptized by a nursemaid — prompted an immediate outcry in 1858.

A century and a half later, the story has sparked a fresh burst of controversy, amid reports that a translation of Mortara's memoir, written after he grew up to become a Catholic priest and often expressed "gratitude" for the Pope's intervention, had been "doctored" to place Pius' decision in a more "sympathetic" light. Father Mortara's complex story is now the subject of an upcoming Steven Spielberg film, and a 2017 English-language translation of his "doctored" memoir has renewed debate over the Pope's actions.



The 6-year-old son of Jewish parents in Bologna, one of the largest cities of the Papal States, Edgardo was secretly baptized when he was an infant by his 16-year-old nursemaid, after he fell ill and doctors feared he would die. When government authorities in Bologna learned what had happened, they followed Church law and decreed that he should be educated as a Catholic. Edgardo was "sequestered" from his family and brought to Rome at Pope Pius IX's direction. Educated by the Order of the Canons

Regular, he later entered the order as a 16-year-old novice. Last month, David Kertzer, the Pulitzer-prize-winning Brown University was the first to raise questions about the Italian translation of Mortara's autobiography by Vittorio Messori, the Italian Catholic journalist "In reading the Italian text, I found many elements that were historically inaccurate, but I was not sure to what extent those inaccuracies were the work of Mortara himself ... or had been the result of changes in the Mortara text introduced by Messori."

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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.

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Catenians support Nazareth House

A highlight of Northampton Circle's recent St. Georges Night Dinner and Dance was the presentation of a cheque to Northampton's Nazareth House. Northampton Circle chose Nazareth House as one of the four charities to support during 2017/18. A cheque for £500 was presented by President Terry Joyce to Sister Celine-Marie Donnelly, Sister Superior of Nazareth House who warmly thanked the Circle for its generous and continuing support. Northampton Circle's association and support for Nazareth House goes back for almost a century.

As Northampton Circle celebrates the centenary of its inauguration this year it is interesting to record that the following was reported in the December 1918 copy of Catena, the Catenian Association's monthly house publication "The Circle decided to undertake the arrangements for a Grand Concert to be held in aid of Nazareth House early in January 1919. Mr. Gervase Elwes kindly consented to provide the whole of the artistes. The members have raised a good sum of money amongst themselves and from friends towards this very deserving institution and have succeeded in relieving the re-

cent pressing needs which have been caused mainly by the withdrawal of contributions owing to the war".

The February 1919 Catena referred to "satisfactory accounts were given of various matters in connection with Nazareth House, Northampton. A Grand Concert, given by Mr. Gervase Elwes in aid of the building debt (the arrangements for which were almost wholly in the hands of a committee of the Circle), was a great success, over £420 being realised [equivalent to over £15k at today's value]. The general fund, started a few months ago to assist the Sisters tie over the winter months, has reached £340 [equivalent to over £12k at today's value] the greater portion of this amount being collected by members of the Circle". Further information about the Catenian Association may be found at www.thecatenians.com.

Picture: Sister Celine-Marie Donnelly receiving the cheque from the Circle President, Terry Joyce.



Deacon delivers

Brin Dunsire, the Permanent Deacon at St. Augustine's, High Wycombe, encourages people to join the newly-formed Society of St. Vincent de Paul Conference.

The conference got off to a flying start with eight members. They held their first meeting on April 5.

The May Fayre, which is held on the Rye in High Wycombe was an excellent opportunity to promote the new Conference.



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Blaze '18



On Saturday 28 April, NYMO hosted the annual Blaze retreat day for 341 of this year's confirmandi at the Ridgeway Centre in Milton Keynes.

The day was an excellent opportunity for young people at varying stages in their confirmation programmes to enjoy a retreat with others beyond their own parishes and to meet Bishop Peter.

Confirmandi spent the day mixing in mixed parish groups, and attended a host of workshops and performances led by speakers who were using their chosen skill or vocation as a vehicle to express their faith. Workshops included music, art, boxing and talks from Pax Christi and The Columbans.

The young people were treated to thought provoking performances and workshops from the Rise Theatre company, and were entertained during lunch by Christian street magician Andrew Thornton. The Sacrament of Reconciliation was available to all as our visiting priests heard confessions throughout the lunch break.

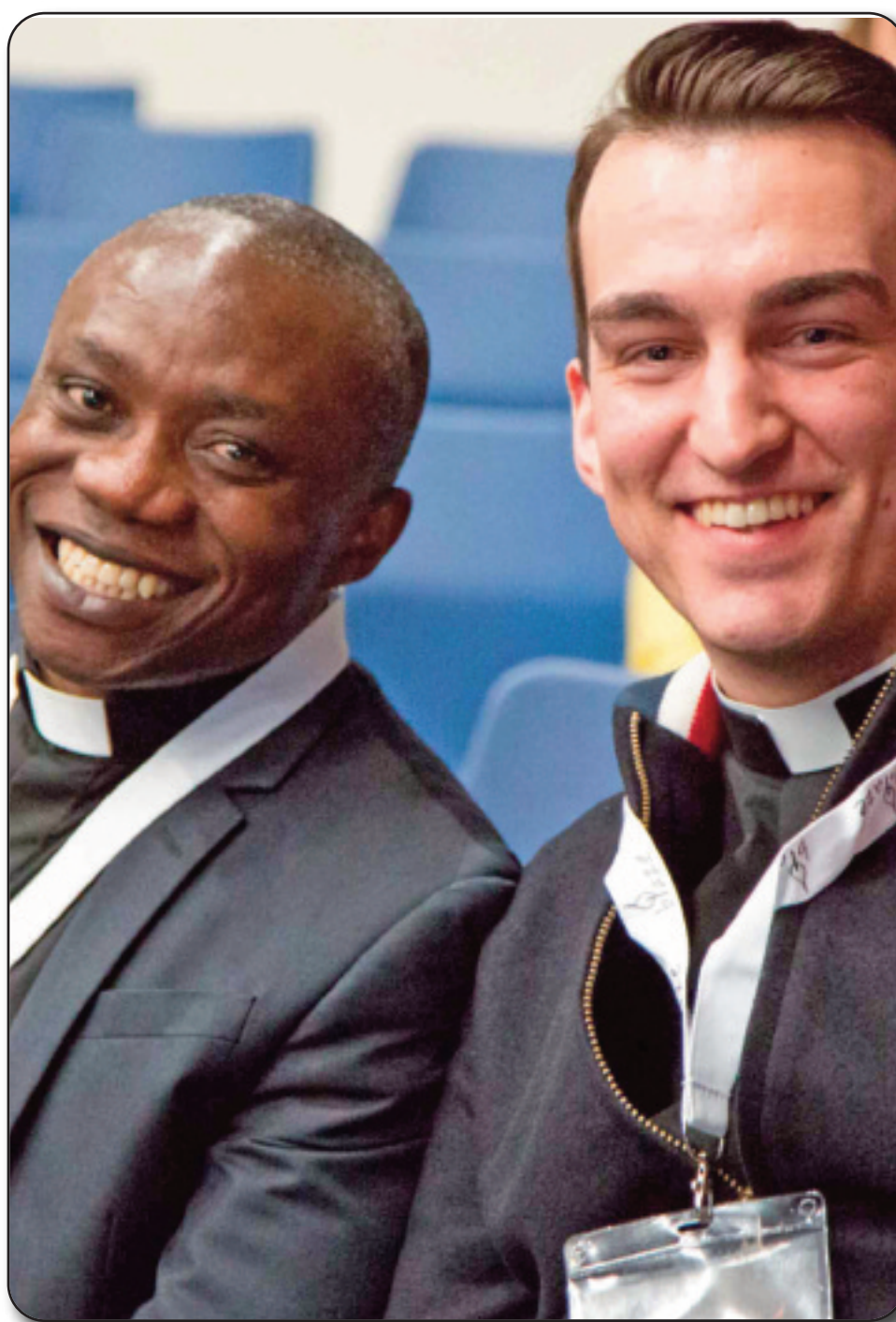
We were particularly excited to welcome Will Hince as one of the workshop leaders. Will runs True Survivor: Beyond the Wild, an apostolate blending outdoor survival skills with the elements of our faith required for spiritual survival, such as Confession and the Eucharist. On 27 May, Will will be taking a group of young men aged 13-18 from the Northampton diocese to experience a few days in the wilderness; there are still a few spaces left for any young men who are interested.

The confirmation candidates were given the opportunity to put whatever questions they wished to Bishop Peter, who valiantly fielded interrogations on all subjects, from world politics and Catholic teaching, to his own experiences as a priest and Bishop. We can reveal that he enjoys classical music and the Beatles, and that his most memorable day was his ordination.

Blaze 2018 finished on a high with Mass, and a meditation on what it means to be the branches of the true vine – connected to Jesus and to one another.

The highlights of the day were beautifully captured by Don Lewis of www.donlewisphotography.com.





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20th August – 26th August 2018

at Boars Hill Carmelite Priory, Oxford OX1 5HB

15th October – 21st October 2018

at Boars Hill Carmelite Priory, Oxford OX1 5HB

Parish Healing Mission:

7th – 10th June 2018

at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Torquay, TQ2 5NJ

Outreach Days:

4th June 2018

at The Third Age Centre, 11 Canbury Terrace,
 Southampton, SO14 0LH.

19:00 – 21:30

1st September 2018

at The Third Age Centre, 11 Canbury Terrace,
 Southampton, SO14 0LH.

10:00 – 16:30

15th September 2018

at The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe,
 The Holy Child and St Joseph Church,
 2 Brereton Road, Bedford, MK40 1HU

10:45 – 16:30

1st December 2018

at Clare Priory, Ashen Road, Clare, Suffolk, CO10 8NX

10:00 – 15:30

Healing Event:

10th – 11th November 2018

at St Vincent de Paul Church, Bedwell Crescent, Stevenage, SG1 1NU

10:30 – 17:30

Annual Mass for married couples

The annual Mass for married couples had to be rescheduled because of the 'beast from the east' which blocked the roads with snow. It was eventually celebrated at Holy Family, Slough on April 14.

The parish laid on the warmest of welcomes. Parish worker Kieran McKeon had arranged an electronic display shown while people waited. It showed the finer points of the recently refurbished and extended church. Bishop Peter was, as usual, the principal celebrant and the local priests concelebrated. Readers, musicians and servers played their part to perfection.

Bishop Peter spoke of the vocation of marriage and the marriage covenant that strengthens the bond of peace, charity love and commitment to children. He went on to emphasise that from the marriage bond flows the gift of children, and it is from them that new priests are added to the diocese.

The Bishop then invited the couples to rededicate themselves to each other. 'We pledge ourselves anew', they said, 'to love and honour each other for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, till death do us part. We pledge ourselves anew to love and support our children and to share with them all we value'. The whole congregation then continued 'we pledge ourselves anew to be loyal, considerate and forgiving to all those with whom we live, that in our home we may find Christ and in our lives others may see him'. The Bishop then prayed for the couples: 'bless them, strengthen their faith, confirm them in hope and let them grow in love'.

The Mass ended with the distribution of certificates to those celebrating significant anniversaries. Lots of applause went to those marking sixty or fifty years. But one couple were delighted to be celebrating their first anniversary. No matter what they were marking, generous tea and buns followed.

Photos courtesy of Sr Mary Lou Winter





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Cool young dudes



Pupils at St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Primary School, Luton were proud to celebrate and learn about the different cultures that they have within their school. All 21 classes took on a different cultural identity where the teachers had prepared fun and creative activities for the children to take part in.

Every child in the school had their own passport which they used to gain access to each country. The children were treated to performances from Nostalgia Steel Band and The Walshe Academy of Irish dancing as well as tasting cuisine from around the world with dishes being prepared by our wonderfully dedicated

and supportive parents. Year 3 and 4 took part in dance workshops where they learnt different dances from around the world. On Friday, the children were invited to come to school dressed in their national dress and they showcased their beautiful attire on the runway in the fashion show. They were amazing!

Obituaries

Gerard Anthony Harris

Fr Tony Harris died on April 17. Ordained originally as a Redemptorist in 1954, he arrived in the diocese in 1964. He served in Kettering, Northampton cathedral, Bletchley and St. Clare's, Aylesbury.

Bishop Peter presided at his requiem Mass

in Leighton Buzzard on May 8.

Stephen John McGuinness

Fr. Stephen McGuinness began his working life as an engineer at Corby steel works. He was ordained in 1986, serving first at Our Lady of Lourdes, Milton Keynes until 1988. From there he moved to St. Anthony,

Slough, and then St. Gregory, Noerthampton. Next he moved to Thrapston, and then to St Wulstan, High Wycombe, where hew was also Parochial Administrator of Our Lady of Grace, High Wycombe. He returned to his home town in2006, taking over at St. John Ogilvie. He retired because of ill health in 2015.

He died on May 7 and Bishop `peter presided at his funeral on May 20.



St. Patrick aids Ecuador

A typical Irish-themed dinner dance at Our Lady's School in Chesham Bois was organised on St Patrick's Night – 17th March – to celebrate Ireland's Patron Saint and fundraise for the post-earthquake mission in Ecuador.

A total of £1,791.30 was raised during the night through a raffle and various donations which will enable a community in Manta (Ecuador) to buy a flat-pack wooden house for a family who was left homeless after a catastrophic earthquake. Bonds between Chesham and Ecuador are very strong thanks to St Columba's parish priest, Fr Alessandro, an enthusiastic Italian missionary priest who lived in Ecuador for 7 years and who

also leads the parish of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Great Missenden.

He said: "This was my first St Patrick's Night since I moved to the UK and I thoroughly enjoyed it. It was a very lively evening with over 100 guests of all ages and nationalities all living in this Pastoral Area. It was particularly good to see parents, grandparents and children involved in the preparation of the event and coming together to celebrate and help others who are less fortunate than ourselves".

The joyful tunes (familiar to any Irish), were provided by a local folk band called *All Hands Around*, who kept people

glued to the dancefloor throughout the evening. Authentic, home-made Irish food and beer certainly helped create the merry atmosphere. A fabulous Irish dance display was part of the entertainment, performed by 6 very talented young children, some of which from Our Lady's school. Mark Holdsworth, headmaster of the school, added: "I was delighted to see this community supporting so generously such a worthy cause. This follows another Spanish-themed event in November 2017 hosted by our school that raised £1,200 for Ecuador. I am glad to be able to provide the space for this community to grow in friendship and service to others"



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Prize-winning poets

Creative Pupils Have Works Published in Poetry Games Competition

Creative pupils at St Paul's Catholic School in Leadenhall expressed their thoughts and feelings on the world today and had their works published as part of a poetry competition run by Young Writers.

The Poetry Games: Truth or Dare poetry competition encouraged self-expression from secondary school pupils. The 'truth' entries revealed what the writer was passionate about, whilst the 'dare' entries were intended to question the conventional and voice an opinion.

Mrs Esther Ajala, English Teacher at St Paul's, said: "We were very impressed with the quality of our pupils' poems. Our poets covered an interesting range of subjects including dyspraxia, society, confidence, love and equality and they all demonstrated great creativity and maturity"

Pupils were so motivated by the opportunity to express themselves through poetry that they are intending to submit entries for future Young Writers' competitions



Catenians in celebration mood



**"Open my eyes, that I may see wonderful things."
- Psalm 119:18**



Augustine has been living his childhood in darkness. Will you help a child see the wonder of God's creation?

Dear The Vine reader,

As a fellow Christian, I wanted to share with you how incredibly powerful it is to witness a child seeing for the first time, after eye surgery.

As we carry out our work at Christian Blind Mission, we are constantly moved by the astonishment and wonder on the faces of children when the bandages are removed and they get their first clear look at their smiling loved ones.

The photo to the right shows 6-year-old Augustine with cataracts, leaving him barely able to see. But cataracts aren't difficult to treat. Surgery taking just a couple of hours could restore his sight.

Just think, in this short time his entire life can be transformed. Instead of living with darkness, frustration and exclusion he could have light,

colour and a future filled with opportunity. He could start school and find a way out of poverty. He could even fulfil his dream of becoming a radio reporter.

Cataract removal surgery costs £95, but families like Augustine's can barely afford even basic necessities, so I am turning to you in the hope that you can help.

If you could send a gift of £95 today, you could pay for surgery for a child like Augustine. You could open a child's eyes to the beauty of God's creation. And we'll send you an update on Augustine's surgery.

God bless you,

Andrea Brandt von Lindau
Programme Manager for Inclusive
Eye Health



Augustine has been living his life in darkness, due to his cataracts



His tearful question each morning: "Why can't I go to school?"



Your gift could help a child see and transform a life

Christian Blind Mission is a huge inspiration to me. It works in more than 50 countries, including some of the world's poorest communities, to restore sight, mobility and independence to people living with disability. It's putting Christ's love into action for the most marginalised people. Will you join Christian Blind Mission by supporting this amazing work?

Diane Louise Jordan, Friend of CBM



Yes, I will give £95 to make a blind child see the wonder of God's creation.

I will give: ☐ £95 ☐ My choice amount of: _____

☐ I enclose a cheque/postal order/CAF voucher made out to CBM or
☐ Please debit my Visa/Mastercard/Maestro Card/CAF Card

Card holder's name: _____

Card number: _____ Expiry date: / /

3-digit security number: _____ Cardholder's signature: _____ Date: / /

Title: _____ First Name: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

We will send you an update on Augustine's surgery.

We'd love to keep you informed about our work and how your support is transforming lives. If you are happy to hear from CBM UK by email or phone, please let us know your details:

Phone: _____ Email: _____

We like to contact our supporters with postal fundraising messages and updates from the projects we support. If you do NOT want to receive such messages from us in the future please contact our Supporter Care team on info@cbmuk.org.uk or via 01223 484700

Please return this form to: Freepost Plus RSKK-HXAX-CYGZ, CBM, Oakington Business Park, Dry Drayton Road, Oakington, Cambridge CB24 3DQ

In the event of there being insufficient funds to carry out a project, or in the event of a surplus arising on a project, any unspent funds will be used wherever the need is greatest.



Increase the value of your gift by 25% *giftaid it*

If you are a UK taxpayer and if you tick the Gift Aid box when you make a donation, HMRC will add an extra 25p for every pound you donate.

☐ I want to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Christian Blind Mission. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

We will need your name and address to claim the additional 25% of your donation from Gift Aid.

Call 01223 484700 to make your donation today. THANK YOU.





Share the Journey ✱

#sharejourney

It is wonderful seeing so many parishes, schools, groups and individuals getting involved with CAFOD's Share the Journey campaign.

Why are they doing it? Inspired by Pope Francis' special concern for people on the move, they want to send a strong message and urge world leaders to protect the rights of refugees and migrants in the forthcoming global compacts on migration and refugees.

How are they doing it? Praying, signing a Petition to the PM and organising walks. By adding their voices and miles walked (we aim to walk around the world - 24,900 miles), they hope that world leader will also step up to protect the rights of refugees and migrants. Bishop Peter has also supported the campaign and signed the petition to the MP.

Some of the great campaigning that has gone on :

The central Beds. Pastoral area did the walk together. Under the very well organised 5 stage walk from each parish, Alban Macdonald from St Peter's Biggleswade led groups each Saturday in Eastertide for about a 10mile walk. They had both very hot and very wet and cold walks which gave the walkers a very small experience of what some refugees face. It was also a wonderful opportunity to build community spirit! It was great that Andrew Selous MP joined part of one of the last stage too! All signed the petition to the PM as well.

Parishes have also stepped up and St Teresa – Princes Risborough was no exception. With the support of the amazing CAFOD group led by Marie Pennell, the parish held several walks. One was a sponsored walk (2.5miles) which raised well over £800 and the next walk will be held on 16 June. The parish walking group also decided to focus on Share the Journey for one of their walks.

Individuals are also keen on doing their part like 88 year old Andrew Milne from Dunstable. Andrew was sadly taken into hospital and as he was recuperating, decided he wasn't going to be left out partaking in the campaign. So, during his thrice-daily walk up and down the ward to recover his strength (20m), he prayed for refugees and migrants and his mile was added to the total miles walked. Andrew also got family to join him too! What an inspiration to all of us!

There are many events planned throughout the diocese in June and July. Refugee week is on the 18 – 24 June so if you can organise a walk then, all the better. The walk doesn't have to be long. It can be several rounds in the church. Resources are all on our website. If you plan to do a walk, please let us know as we would love to share it with others: northampton@cafod.org.uk or call 01844 274 723.

