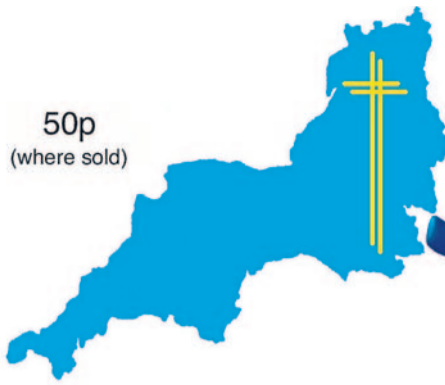


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Serving the
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South West

APRIL
2024

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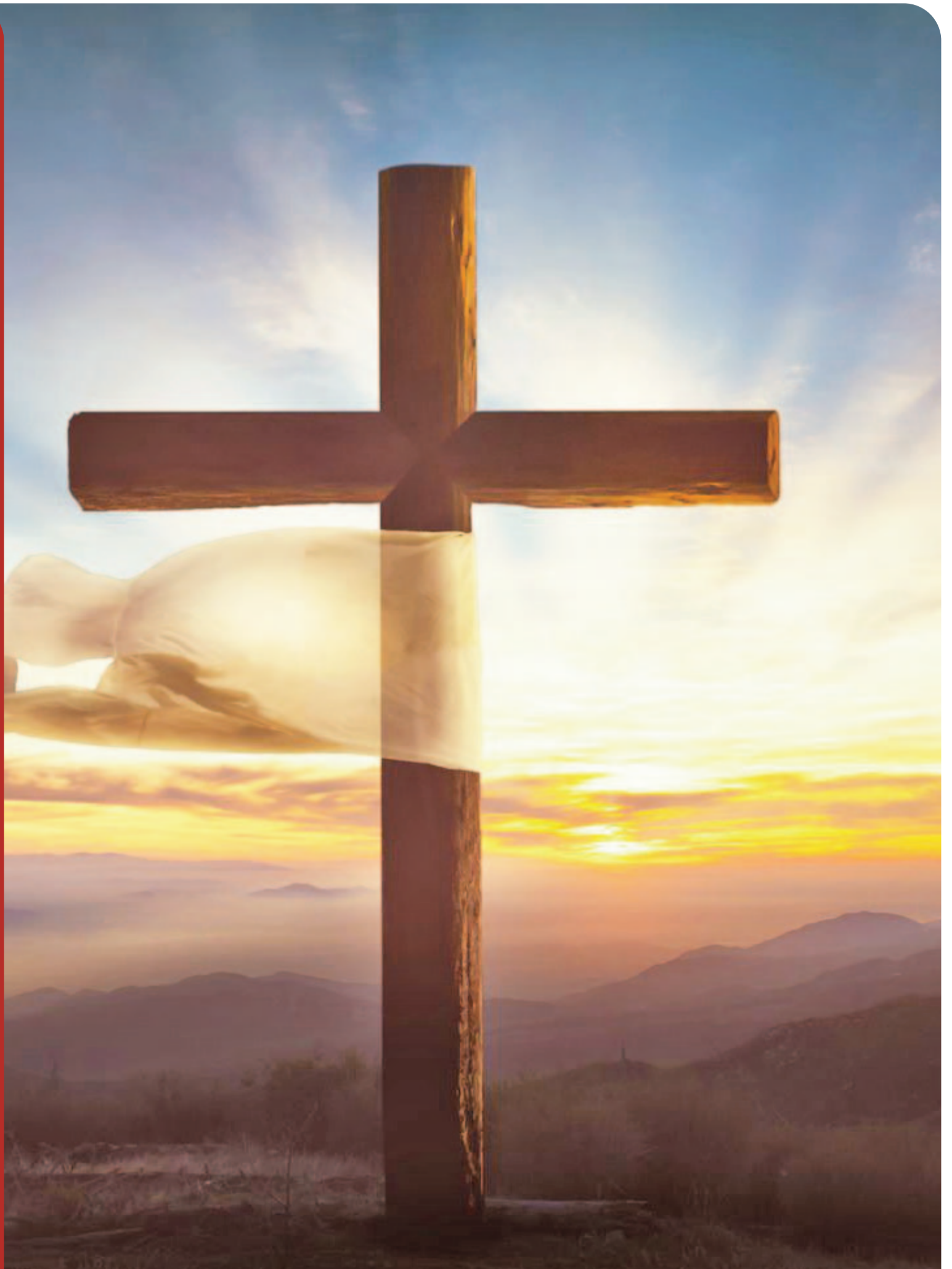
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Catholic South West

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Catholic South West is a monthly newspaper for Catholics in the Plymouth, Clifton and Portsmouth Dioceses. It is published by Bellcourt Ltd

AIMS

To build community in the South West by sharing stories relating to Catholic life around the South West.
To encourage readers to get more involved in - or start - projects and initiatives in the local area.
To provide thought-provoking articles to help readers deepen their Faith.

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Readers: If you can encourage other readers in your parish please do so.
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DATES

Catholic South West goes to parishes on the last full weekend of the month. It is printed around the middle of the month - so if you would like to advertise or send in editorial please do it as early as possible.

Caritas In The Community: An Intergenerational Art Project



It is always a delight to witness generations coming together and sharing time of fellowship, learning and stories. One such opportunity to see this happening took place at St. Peter's Catholic Primary school in Plymouth, where their pupil chaplain team who have been working on the Caritas Intergenerational Project, came together with members of the Salvation Army for an art workshop at their school. Local artist Andrea McCarthy came to offer her expertise and teach each person how to make and use a lino print. We explored the theme of sustainability and recycling, and it was lovely to see the interplay of 5 generational eras sharing stories of what this looked like in their childhood. We listened to stories of items being delivered and picked up by horse and cart and the benefits of collecting horse droppings for the garden.

The games that were played and pennies given as incentives to recycle your household waste to save them from landfill and the children enthusiastically shared who their hand me down clothes went to or who they were given items from. All were given the chance to illustrate their own examples of ways to look after our world by making a lino print block and printing from it to make not only paper copies to take home, but also a textiles version. This has stayed with Andrea and will be made into a wonderful art piece for the Caritas Laudato Si, celebration exhibition to take place in the Cathedral at the end of May.

All parties have said how much they enjoyed being together, they have expressed the joy that has spilled over into their lives from coming together and they are all very

much looking forward to the next time that they can visit each other again.

We said a special Thank you to Debra Balfour their teacher and RE lead for the school. She has been awarded our Caritas in Action Award for her outstanding commitment and contribution to making a difference to the community through the Intergenerational project and outreach to the local parish and community groups.

We look forward to hearing more about what this lively group get up to next.

If you would like to know more about the intergenerational project them please contact Caritas@prcdtr.org.uk

Tanya Trevena

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

1) Think of the readers: If you are writing about an event, think about the readers that don't know anything about it. Outline what happened, but focus on why people go, why it is important to them, or some teaching that was given. Make sure readers learn something from your

article - they don't just want to know who was there and what snacks were available!
2) Keep it brief: Make sure you make your point - but keep it brief and punchy.
3) Pictures: Send pictures as they are - even if they are very big to email. Don't reduce them in size or put them inside a Word document. They look fine on the screen but terrible in the paper!

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Jubilee 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope – Getting Ready for Social Action



A range of charities and organisations came together on 6 March at St Boniface House to discuss the upcoming Jubilee Year. The meeting was chaired by Fr James Barber, our diocesan Jubilee Coordinator.

Fr James noted the inspirational history of the jubilee – it goes back to 1300 – an amazing 925 year long tradition! The Jubilee Year is one of the heartbeats of the church and we only get the opportunity to celebrate 2 or 3 in our lifetime.

The meeting was called to discuss the six social action themes of the 2025 Jubilee : Care for Creation, Food Poverty, Modern Slavery, Managing Debt, Forgiveness and Rest. The meeting included representatives from Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth), SVP, the Catenians, Legion of Mary, Love in Action Group (Plymouth Cathedral), CWL, CAFOD and the Caritas Diocese of Plymouth team.

The meeting shared the amazing range of activities already happening in the diocese around each of the Jubilee themes and reflected on how much is happening that we don't get to hear about very often. Examples included events for Laudato Si' week and Season of Creation on the theme of Care for our Common Home; diocesan work to reduce our carbon footprint; the great work of parishes and schools in caring for people and planet, including those working towards the CAFOD Live Simply Award; the contribution that parishes and charities are making towards

directly addressing food poverty but also tackling the wider issues of poverty in our society including the issue of debt; the support we offer to foodbanks, soup runs, warm spaces and other activities targeting poverty and isolation. The Jubilee theme of Modern Slavery is an area where Caritas and CAFOD already raise awareness and advocate for change, and we discussed what more we can do to address this issue.

The theme of rest led to discussions about reaching out to those who are isolated and lonely as well as considering how we can promote rest through prayer, reflection and pilgrimage. The meeting discussed the importance of forgiveness and reconciliation; the vital work of our diocesan safeguarding team working with victims and survivors of abuse; how our diocese supports prisoners and their families.

The breadth of work happening through our parishes and groups was inspiring and filled us all with energy and hope. What next?

The key priorities for the Jubilee year are Honouring and Celebrating; Complementarity and Cooperation; Local Action for Meaningful Change and Audaciousness. The meeting discussed activities happening during the year and how they might fit with the Jubilee Calendar as well as exploring some new areas. This will form the basis for the next stage of planning.

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for Mount
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Home
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Innocent and why
we use it
page 11

A story of forgiveness

**MIZEN
FOUNDATION**

**Promoting the Good
in Young People**

"For me forgiveness is about not wanting revenge and not being angry"

In May 2008, Jimmy Mizen, a 16 year old boy from South London, walked into a local bakery with his older brother. After a few minutes somebody else entered the bakery and was known to the brothers as he had been cautioned by the police years earlier for harassing the older brother and on this occasion brushed past the brothers which resulted in a scuffle. During the scuffle, Jake hurled a glass dish at Jimmy and the result was fatal.

Immediately following the incident in the bakery, Jimmy's parents, Margaret and Barry spoke to the media with a message of peace and compassion and not revenge. Jake is now serving a life sentence for the murder of Jimmy Mizen and Margaret and Barry have travelled the country sharing their message of forgiveness and compassion.

Margaret says, "For me forgiveness is about not wanting revenge and not being angry". The day Jimmy died I promised him two things: one, I would keep his name alive and tell I would dedicate my life to working for peace."

Margaret Mizen MBE
People can book a talk by visiting the website mizenfoundation.org or contact or email directly tals@mizenfoundation.org

I meet a lot of families who have lost loved ones to murder, who are driven with anger. But it's so destructive to the family. People blame each other and argue. Hatred is so damaging. The pain it causes on top of the pain of losing a child can destroy families.

From Our Lady & St Neot Liskeard

"Heavenly Father, we know that you long to nourish and strengthen us as we come before you in prayer. Grant us the grace to persevere in our prayer and spend time with you, so that we may grow in love for you and communicate that love to those around us. Only prolonged contact with God can transform each of us inwardly into a disciple of his. It is through prayer, meditation and silent listening to God that we are enabled to speak to other people."

MATTHEW: 26:40 – So you had not the strength to keep awake with me one hour?

Sunday Mass at 11:00 and Holy Hour on a Thursday at 18:00 - Exposition and Divine Mercy Litany, followed by a time of silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament - will both be live streamed every week via YouTube. The link to watch the live streaming is on our Parish website. Where we now have a new "Donate Here" button. Donations for the Parish can now be made via our website. Please do look if you are able?

Our Warm Space this year, where all are welcome to come along, has taken a different direction this year. While walking around the streets of Liskeard, inviting anyone to come along and join us for a 2 course Hot Meal, we have been joined by



teenagers between 16 – 18 years, who have come back with us and interacted with us. One young girl saying that this

was the first time she had ever stepped inside a church. Liskeard like many places in Cornwall do not seem to cater for this age group, which is very sad.

Friday February 16th and throughout Lent saw the start of our Mass and Lenten Lunches starting at 12 noon. Like Warm Space all donations will be split between two local charities – Liskeard Foodbank and St Petroc's. As Saltash will also be doing Mass and Lenten Lunches, Liskeard and Saltash will alternate each week with either Mass or Stations of the Cross. Saltash donations will go towards Saltash Church Roof Fund.

Just before Christmas we reopened St Neots Repository and have had lots of positive comments about the wonderful selection of cards and Catholic gifts on sale. We are intending to get the Repository set up on our website – where you will be able to view and purchase items. We also have a Monthly Meat/Vegetable Hamper Raffle. The first draw took place on Saturday 2nd February during open church which is on the first Saturday of every month and a lucky parishioner won a nice pork and vegetable hamper.

Also, a new Fund Booster is being set up on the 1st March based on the National Lottery bonus ball with a draw taking place on the first Wednesday and first Saturday of each month. 50% of the prize money will be shared between the two draws – so two chances to win each

month. The other 50% of the money will be donated to the Parish funds. You reserve a number between 1-59, on a first come, first serve basis, at a cost of £5.00 a month per number and payment can be made by various methods. Please contact the Parish Secretary to reserve a number or ask any questions.

Our Bethany Group meeting was held on Wednesday 21st February in the St Neot's room of Liskeard Church. We explored St Valentine plus great love stories of the Old Testament as part of God's unfolding plan. Some of the love stories we discussed: Genesis 16: Abram and Sarai {later called Abraham and Sarah} – first recorded surrogacy; Genesis 24: Isaac and Rebecca – Love at first sight; Genesis 29 – Jacob, Leah and Rachel – The things we do for love; Judges 16 v 4-22 Samson and Delilah – Love, pillow talk and betrayal; 2 Samuel Ch 11 – desires and sin; Ruth 1-4 Ruth and Boaz – Love at first sight. This led to a very lively discussion and put into perspective God's unfolding plan for his children.

Lent is a journey towards the joy of Easter Sunday but also a bold affirmation of our baptismal promises, for through baptism we are born again and enter the kingdom of God, becoming a new creation. 'New life in this kingdom is about joy, righteousness, peace and bearing witness to the fruits that the Holy Spirit gives especially – love and patience' {Galatians 5:22}.

Article & Photos by Rosemarie de Boyer



Scripture Focus

By Fr Jeremy Corley



Shock News of Empty Grave

When we lose someone we love, it is natural to have feelings of emptiness. The departed person who has filled such a great place in our life is suddenly no longer with us, and we feel a void.

After Jesus' tragic death on Good Friday, his followers would have felt a great sense of emptiness. The male disciples would also have felt terrible shame. Despite their protestations of loyalty at the Last Supper, they had deserted him.

At least Mary Magdalene and her companions had remained with Jesus even at his death. And they had accompanied Joseph of Arimathea in his rushed burial of Jesus' battered corpse.

What hope could exist now? Jesus had been a great teacher of God's ways. He had been a wonderful healer of those suffering in mind and body. And now, seemingly, it was all over. They were just left with their memories.

After the sabbath rest, Mary Magdalene and her friends decide they want to honour Jesus' bruised body with some dignity, by anointing it with

spices. But when they go to the tomb early in the morning, they are shocked by what they find.

The large stone covering the tomb has been rolled away, and Jesus' body is no longer there. Instead, an angel tells them he is no longer there, because he is now risen. What's more, they are told that they will see him again when they return to Galilee.

The gospel from the Easter Vigil misses out the next verse, stating that the women said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid (Mark 16:8). Strangely, this verse is how Mark's Gospel ends in the earliest Greek copies.

Some interpreters have understood this verse to indicate that these women were really just as fearful as the male disciples, afraid of the Roman authorities. But in fact, the women had shown great courage to stay with Jesus right until his death.

More likely, they said nothing to anyone because they were awestruck. Nothing like this had ever happened before. God had intervened in a marvellous yet perplexing way. This sense of fear was like the awe felt by the twelve disciples when Jesus calmed the storm on the lake (Mark 4:41).

The original form of Mark's Gospel leaves us hanging at the ending. The women experience feelings of awe and wonder when they no longer find Jesus' body in the tomb. They are amazed by the news that Jesus is risen and will show himself to them in Galilee. But the original Gospel did not narrate any resurrection appearances by Jesus.

On Easter Saturday (6th April), we read the continuation of the resurrection story, added at the end of Mark's Gospel by a later scribe. We hear of how the risen Jesus appeared first of all to Mary Magdalene on Easter morning (as in John 20 – the gospel for Easter Tuesday). In this way, she became the Apostle to the Apostles, even if at first they were slow to believe her shocking news.

The story continues with an echo of the Emmaus story (Luke 24 – the gospel for Easter Wednesday). Even though Jesus showed himself to two travellers going away from Jerusalem, the male disciples did not immediately believe them.

It was only when he showed himself to the Eleven at table that they finally accepted the shock news that their Saviour was risen (John 20 – the gospel for Sunday 7th April). At last, the penny drops for them.

Jesus is alive and has overcome death.

Then Jesus tells them: "Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation." This good news is not something to hide. It offers hope for every human being.

In our personal lives, where we can suffer loss and bereavement, we discover that death is not the end. Instead, we have the hope of seeing our beloved deceased relatives in the life of the resurrection.

For our world of today, where hopelessness and death often seem to be the last word, Jesus' resurrection also offers us hope and inspiration. God can intervene to turn things around. God does not want death to triumph. Instead he wants to lead us to eternal life.

Pope John Paul II said: "We are the Easter people, and alleluia is our song." As we celebrate Jesus' resurrection, let us pray that we may radiate Easter joy in our words and actions.

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Unveiling tradition: Exploring the meaning behind why women veil

Ask the average Catholic about the history or significance of the mantilla or chapel veil and you will probably be met with blank faces.

After Vatican II women were no longer obliged to veil at Mass. Consequently, the practice of veiling became redundant, with few understanding this ancient custom and therefore having little interest in it.

If you go to any Catholic Mass in the UK, it's unlikely you would see many mantillas, except at a Traditional Latin Mass where veiling is customary and is becoming popular again with younger Catholics, especially in the USA.

However, fifty years ago the picture was quite different. Women would always wear a veil, or at least a hat or scarf on their head and always when praying before the Blessed Sacrament.

When it came to the colour, traditionally black veils were worn by married or widowed women, while young girls or unmarried women wore white. Today, you can find veils in a variety of colours and shades.

Veiling is practised for reasons which are often deeply rooted in tradition, spirituality, and personal devotion.

Tradition: For centuries Catholic women wore a mantilla because it was part of their Catholic culture. Whilst this reverent practice has declined largely in the UK, Poland and other eastern European countries have revived the tradition, with a shawl often used in place of a mantilla.

A sign of modesty and reverence: The mantilla is a symbol of female modesty, reflecting the traditional values of humility and reverence; it is an outward expression of a woman's respect for God, especially in the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

The Church veils sacred things: This is central to why women veil and many women cover their heads in imitation of our Blessed Mother.

Our Lady is always veiled, and she is the holy Tabernacle which held and gave birth to Christ.

Note also, the Tabernacle is veiled, the chalice is veiled, altars are veiled, and Moses veiled his face after he had seen God.

A symbol of submission: Mary is always veiled, an outward expression of her humility and submission to God's will, as



Pamela Boucher, Sacristan and parishioner of St. Cuthbert Mayne, Launceston and Mary Wardell, parishioner of Our Lady of Victories, Callington

well as a representation of her Jewish culture where women covered their hair, the hair being an external, visible sign of a woman's beauty.

Celebrating femininity: For some, wearing their mantilla is a celebration of their femininity; it is associated with feminine elegance and grace within the context of their faith.

Significantly, wearing a mantilla today makes a strong counter-cultural statement about the value of womanhood. It speaks directly to relativism, where culture tells us that men and women are the same or at least interchangeable.

It separates the sexes and represents all the beauty of women, as God made them, one half of his mighty Creation, different yet complementary to men.

Focus and protection: Some women find their veil helps with focus and shuts out needless distractions from others around them. It creates a sort of 'lacy bubble' and a personal sacred space from which to pray and meditate on the Word of God.

Symbol of marriage: Just as a bride veils at her wedding, the mantilla is also thought to symbolize the marriage between Christ and the Church, with the veil representing the bride's submission to her divine bridegroom.

But more commonly, women wear the mantilla as a personal devotional practice, which affirms their faith, giving them a feeling of deeper connection to God.

It is a beautiful, visual expression of their love and reverence for their Saviour, a symbol of piety and of their aspiration to the state of purity and holiness of Our Lady.

Quite simply, the veil is a special, visible gesture of giving God the worship that is due to Him. Long may it continue.

Written by Mary Wardell



I am a practising Catholic, worshipping at the Church of Our Lady of Victories in Callington, within the parish of Launceston.

Currently there are about 6 women in our Callington congregation who veil which is wonderful to see!

I have been veiling since 2011.

Pictured left Mary Wardell at her Consecration

View from the Pew

By Dr Jay Kettle-Williams



Only God knows ...

Ours is a broad Church with a global reach. But, like any family, it has its rifts, divisions and perhaps even diversities, inconsistencies and contradictions.

I well remember a small linear settlement straddling a winding road clinging to the mountainside in the highmost highlands of Bolivia. Upon my arrival villagers came out from their modest dwellings to greet the newcomer. As I stood there on the roadway outside the church, they came forward, the men grinning widely, many wearing alpaca wool chullo hats modelled on the helmets worn by Spain's sixteenth-century elite infantrymen. The women wore their customary bowler-style hats complemented by colourful, many-layered skirts. The villagers, men and women alike, pushed and shoved, milling around me to run their fingers through my hair - its texture so fine in comparison with theirs - and to stroke my cheeks and forehead, my skin being so pale and soft in comparison with that of the indigenous population.

The church, nestling against and built into the hillside, was like a modest but musty and dusty church hall. The parish priest had either been chased away or was absent on business elsewhere in the diocese. My Quechua, the language spoken thereabouts, was nowhere near good enough to catch the full meaning or

inuendo of what was being said, despite the many gestures accompanying the villagers' eager explanations. The church remained open to all and sundry.

The interior of the church was what you'd expect: stations of the cross, a framed image of the Sacred Heart, a small font and the Pietà, the statue depicting the Blessed Virgin Mary cradling the mortal body of Jesus Christ after his Descent from the Cross.

The altar itself ran almost the entire breadth at the far end of the structure. I sat on a dusty pew more or less in the middle row to take in what was in front of me. The crucifix commanded the central position, flanked on either side by items of devotion, respect and aspiration. The European or rather North-American provenance of most of the items was plain to see. A crumpled Coca-Cola can stood incongruously to one side, prompting me to think how thirsty I was. Being at such an altitude quickly makes you thirsty, if not a bit heady, and longing for a drink.

The settlement's one and only bar on the other side of the road offered the local cola, branded 'Inca-cola', or chicha, the term for a fermented beverage made from maize (corn). The bar offered cramped seating on frail wooden-slatted chairs sufficient only



for a mere handful of customers. High up on the wall, on a narrow shelf behind the bar, stood two statues positioned side by side, Jesus and Mary, above which there was a large black doll. The barman took pleasure in explaining that the two statues were Jesus and his sister Mary while watching over them from above was their mother, 'Mamá Suerte' ('Mummy Luck').

Outside on the heavily inclined roadway a lorry's brakes screeched as the over-laden vehicle shunted and slithered to a halt, having been winding its way up and down laboriously along the precipitous mountain roads. I'll never forget the words in Spanish emblazoned across its front bumper: 'Sólo Dios sabe mi destino', words which translate somewhat ironically as 'Only God knows where I'm going'.

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Dr J L Kettle-Williams is an experienced business communications consultant and wordsmith (tutor, writer, translator).

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Pastoral work disrupted by violence – but churches are still full



Haiti is on the brink of a civil war, with many roads blocked and Church personnel facing the threat of abduction, making it difficult for clergy to travel and minister to the faithful, according to the country's most senior bishop.

Nowhere in the country is completely safe and pastoral work is "very badly affected" – but people's faith remains strong, Archbishop Max Leroy Mésidor of Port-au-Prince, President of the Haitian Bishops' Conference, told Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN).

Archbishop Mésidor said: "There is a real danger of civil war breaking out..."

"The armed gangs act like an organised army... The police cannot keep up with them."

ACN has reported a number of abductions of clergy and religious in Haiti this year.

Archbishop Mésidor said: "There are kidnappings everywhere..."

"Everyone is afraid, including the religious. As soon as you leave Port-au-Prince, you are in danger."

"The gangs even come into the churches to kidnap the people there."

The archbishop added that he struggles to carry out his clerical duties "because one must cope with daily life – and this daily life consists of suffering, violence, gunfights, poverty and deprivation..."

He said: "I cannot visit two-thirds of my diocese because the roads are blocked."

"To reach the south of the diocese, I must take a plane. I have not been to the cathedral for two years..."

"The last celebration I was able to do in the cathedral was the Chrism Mass. It was full..."

"But from the Agnus Dei until the end of the service shots were ringing out. We could see the smoke rising nearby."

He underlined that the faithful "show resilience despite their suffering... They are used to suffering – even when, as now, the suffering is on a terrible scale."

The archbishop added that seminarians and catechists "persevere" and "brave the danger" because they "wish to fulfil a mission".

He stressed the importance of bishops working together, saying: "We must bear our cross and follow Christ – especially during this time of Lent."

"We persevere and we count on the prayers and solidarity of the people."

He added: "The most important thing is that the Church continues to bring people together despite all the difficulties."

"Through sermons or spiritual exercises for young people, we try to rekindle their hope, to get them to organise themselves and not sink into resignation."

He expressed his gratitude for ACN's help, without which "it would be very difficult for the Church to function" because "priests receive almost no salary and many of the faithful are impoverished", and "the wealthy have gone abroad."

"I would like to thank all the benefactors. We keep them in our prayers, and we ask the Lord to protect them. "Do not forget us. May God bless you all."

ACN's support in Haiti includes formation, retreats and other programmes for seminarians, religious and lay people, as well as Mass stipends for priests and emergency aid for religious Sisters.

Parkminster Monks Switch To Solar Energy

The Carthusian monks of St Hugh's Charterhouse in Parkminster, near Horsham, have invested in solar panels to power their monastery. The monks have made a significant commitment to green energy by investing in 500 PV panels to power their 240 hectare site with free, clean, and silent solar energy.

The move could lead to a carbon saving of an enormous 2,307 tonnes of CO2 over a 20 year period.

There are 26 monks living at St Hugh's – the only post-Reformation Carthusian monastery in the UK. They commit to a life of solitude, spending much of their day praying, reading and chanting. They also support the community by cooking, gardening and working in the monastery's library. Parkminster is a place of incredible beauty and serenity, the perfect setting for a simple life of prayer and worship, and the Carthusians have long shown a commitment to the natural environment by growing their own food and following sustainable practices.

As well as installing 500 solar panels, the community is also investing in a



Facade of St Hugh's, a broad, solid, stone-built monastery

battery which will store any excess electricity that can be used when the panels are not generating power. The organisation helping the monks, OHM Energy, is one the South Coast's most experienced renewable energy consultants. Brother Hesychios, a monk at St Hugh's, explains: 'Initially, when beginning this process we were complete beginners, so we were hoping to be able to rely on a solar panel installer who had the ability to put themselves in the shoes

– or sandals as the case may be – of the novice solar panel user to be able to explain to us in layman's terms step-by-step the process involved. I am very glad to say that the OHM team did this.'

Jason Lindfield, Director at OHM Energy Solutions, says the system will pay for itself in under seven years: 'The new system is not only silent but will transform operations, helping St Hugh's financially as well as environmentally. The

projected energy yield is 231,650 kWh with an annual saving of £27,196. At current energy prices, the entire system should pay for itself within 6 years and 7 months, which makes a very sustainable investment for the community.'

Sources: story Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales; image St Hugh's Charterhouse.

AFAQ Project bringing hope for the future through enterprise

Transitioning from tourism to skilled jobs

80% of Palestinian Christians have lost their tourism-related income due to the combination of Covid-19 and the current war. With such an unstable political situation, it is unlikely that tourists will return for some time.

For the future of the Christian community in the Holy Land, it's essential to support careers and businesses that don't rely on pilgrims and tourists.

Working with Bethlehem University and the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, we are supporting self-employed people through the AFAQ Project.

We have helped 29 existing small businesses by providing business development, professional coaching, and grants for much-needed equipment.

Raji's Barber Shop



Tomah was able to open a small barbershop in his village. The grant helped him to buy a barber's chair with adjustments for children, as well as razors and scissors. He is proud to build his business, and welcomed the Parish Priest as one of his first customers.

Family Pastries

This family has been able to develop their pastry business and offer a larger selection of products in their community thanks to the AFAQ Project. The grant meant they could invest in a food mixer, freezer and kneading machine. Working together makes the family feel more hopeful about the future.



Location Sandwich

These two entrepreneurs were about to close the business they'd been fighting so hard to keep. Support from the AFAQ Project helped them to buy vital kitchen equipment, and to work on a sales plan in order to turn their sandwich service into a success.



The AFAQ Project helps people start a new chapter in their professional lives – it builds resilience and self-esteem and offers a way for Christians to create a source of income in the Holy Land without having to cross into Israel or rely on tourism. That means fewer Christian families emigrating.

The Hope & Healing Fund will help to power this project. Thank you for your donations.

I'M STANDING WITH CHRISTIANS IN THE HOLY LAND

DON'T LET THEIR LIGHT GO OUT

"I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. WHOEVER FOLLOWS ME WILL NEVER WALK IN DARKNESS BUT WILL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE." — JOHN 8:12

Give today:
friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/hope

May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds' especially that caused by war in the Holy Land, and may you help us bring Hope and Healing to our brothers and sisters this Eastertide.



Book Reviews



Deliver Us From Evil

Bishops' Conference of England and Wales
£9.95

CTS Product Code: DO968
Please refer to this code when ordering over the phone
ISBN: 9781784697693
www.ctsbooks.org

This attractive volume is a treasury of prayers and supplications from Holy Scripture and Sacred Tradition that can be used by the faithful in spiritual warfare against the powers of darkness, in any time of fear, distress or temptation.



This attractive volume is a treasury of prayers and supplications from Holy Scripture and Sacred Tradition that can be used by the faithful in spiritual warfare against the powers of darkness, in any time of fear, distress or temptation.

Fiducia Supplicans

Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith
£3.95

CTS Product Code: DO972
Please refer to this code when ordering over the phone
ISBN: 9781784697792
www.ctsbooks.org

The Vatican explains the pastoral meaning of blessings. "[Blessings] lead us to grasp God's presence in all the events of life and remind us that ... human beings are invited to seek God, to love him, and to serve him faithfully."

The Vatican's Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith explains the pastoral meaning of blessings.

"Blessings are among the most widespread and evolving sacramentals. Indeed, they lead us to grasp God's presence in all the events of life and remind us that, even in the use of created things, human beings



are invited to seek God, to love him, and to serve him faithfully. For this reason, blessings have as their recipients: people; objects of worship and devotion; sacred images; places of life, of work, and suffering; the fruits of the earth and human toil; and all created realities that refer back to the Creator, praising and blessing him by their beauty." (FS8)

30 Day Consecration to St Joseph

Fr Gerard Skinner
£3.95

CTS Product Code: D850
Please refer to this code when ordering over the phone
ISBN: 9781784697730
www.ctsbooks.org

St Joseph shows us a very special example of holiness. In this beautiful book of consecration, Fr Gerard Skinner provides meditations to bring us to Jesus through the powerful intercession of his foster father, St Joseph.

St Joseph shows us a very special example of holiness. The titles given to him by the Church tell us he is the most just, chaste, prudent, strong, obedient and faithful. He is named the Pillar of Families, Solace of the Wretched, Hope of the Sick, Patron of the Dying, Protector of the Church and Terror of Demons.

In this beautiful book of consecration, Fr Gerard Skinner provides the prayers and meditations to bring our hearts and our needs to Jesus through the powerful intercession of his foster father, St Joseph.

The Religion of the Day

£14.95

CTS Product Code: DO973
Please refer to this code when ordering over the phone
ISBN: 9781734882650

We are living in a highly religious age. Secular gospels and dogmatic faiths promising salvation are all around us. So what is the belief system that is displacing Christianity as the assumed narrative by which our post-Christian, modern societies live?

Sequel to From Christendom to Apostolic Mission We are living in a highly religious age. Secular gospels and dogmatic faiths promising salvation are all around us. So what is the belief system, the religious vision, that is displacing Christianity as the assumed narrative by which our post-Christian, modern societies live? And what is the religion that we ourselves need to be converted out of, if we are to be fully converted to the Christian faith?

This is My Body: A Call to Eucharistic Revival

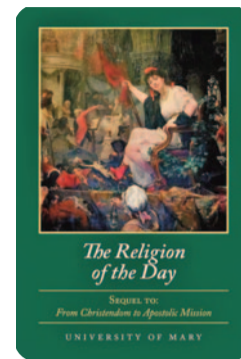
Bishop Robert Barron
£6.95

CTS Product Code: DO969
Please refer to this code when ordering over the phone
ISBN: 9781784697716
www.ctsbooks.org

Many Catholics do not believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. This indicates a spiritual disaster in the Church. "This Is My Body: A Call to Eucharistic Revival" from Bishop Robert Barron is designed to accompany renewal of devotion to Christ truly present in the Eucharist.

A recent Pew Forum survey revealed the startling statistic that 69% of US Catholics do not believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, and the state of belief in the UK, as outlined by Professor Stephen Bullivant in the foreword to this UK edition, is not dissimilar.

This indicates a spiritual disaster in the Church, for the Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life." This Is My Body: A Call to Eucharistic Revival is designed to accompany renewal of devotion to Christ truly present in the Eucharist. In this brief but illuminating text, Bishop Barron offers a threefold analysis of the Eucharist as sacred meal, sacrifice, and Real Presence, helping readers to understand the sacrament of Jesus's Body and Blood more thoroughly so that they might fall in love with him more completely.



Discover the profound truth flowing out of Jesus's words at the Last Supper: "Take, eat; this is my body. . . . Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant."

Endorsements

"Robert Barron is a great teacher of the Church and a gifted biblical commentator who breaks open the Word of God for our day as Ambrose and Augustine did for theirs."

(George Weigel, Ethics and Public Policy Centre)

"One element of Bishop Barron's appeal is that he's so reasonable. He probably incarnates the classic Catholic synthesis between faith and reason more thoroughly and overtly than virtually any other living figure."

(John Allen Jr., bestselling author and Vatican journalist)

7 Words on Marriage

Fr Ivano Millico
£6.95

CTS Product Code: PA69
Please refer to this code when ordering over the phone
ISBN: 9781784697778
www.ctsbooks.org

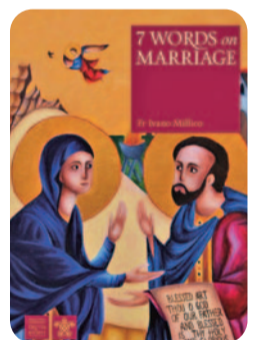
Drawing from the marriage promises, married couples in Scripture, and the insights of Pope Francis and Pope John Paul II, we can discover the faithful presence of our loving God in the life-journey of every married couple.

Raphael. I take thee. Ring. Blessing. Nuptial bed. Cana. Sunem.

These are seven life-giving words on your marriage and to your marriage, as it is here and now, whether you took your vows decades ago, are newly-wed, or even still preparing for your wedding day. Drawing from the marriage vows, from stories of couples in Sacred Scripture, and from the practical and inspirational insights of Pope Francis and Pope St John Paul II, we can discover the faithful presence of our loving God in the life-journey of every married couple.

Every marriage is different, yet the same: joys and sorrows, blessings and failures.

These seven words reveal marriage as a sign of hope: an assurance that we can still have faith in marriage, the most beautiful thing God has created.



Bishop of Clifton retires, successor appointed



The outgoing Rt Rev. Bishop Declan Lang



Bishop-Elect Bosco MacDonald

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has accepted the resignation of the Right Reverend Declan Lang as Bishop of Clifton. Bishop Declan was ordained the ninth Bishop of Clifton on 28th March 2001 and has served the Diocese for 23 years as its bishop.

The Holy Father has appointed Rev Canon Bosco MacDonald, a priest of the Diocese of Clifton, until now Dean of the Cathedral Church of St Peter and St Paul, Bristol, as the tenth Bishop of the Diocese of Clifton.

Bishop-Elect Bosco MacDonald said: "I am humbled that His Holiness Pope Francis has called me to become the 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Clifton, following the retirement of Bishop Declan Lang who has served us so lovingly and faithfully for 23 years, giving his life completely to the joys and hopes as well as the challenges of our Catholic communities here in the West of England.

As I embark on this new journey, I am filled with gratitude for the prayers and affection of so many wonderful priests and people, family and friends far and wide.

I am eager to renew my profession of faith and deepen my communion with the Successor of Peter and my brother Bishops. And just as Pope Francis encourages Bishops to be close to their people in a spirit of service, I accept this new role in obedience to my priestly call with a commitment to serve the priests

and people of Clifton to the best of my ability, with care, tenderness, and compassion.

May the love of Christ and the intercession of Our Blessed Lady, Conceived Without Sin guide every step I take as the 10th Bishop of this lovely Diocese of Clifton."

Bishop Declan Lang said: "I would like to congratulate Canon Bosco MacDonald and accompany him with my prayers on his appointment as the 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Clifton. He has many years of pastoral experience having worked in a number of parishes both as an assistant priest, parish priest and Dean of Clifton Cathedral. He brings much experience to his new ministry within the diocese which he will carry out with dedication and faithfulness.

I am sure he will also be a valuable member to the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales as we discern the way forward in a changing society.

Please remember Canon Bosco in your prayers as he prepares for this new ministry.

The Episcopal Ordination of Bishop-Elect MacDonald will take place in the Cathedral Church of Saints Peter and Paul in Clifton, Bristol. The date will be announced in due course."

Diocese of Clifton

Buckfast Abbey

Holy Week Services at Buckfast Abbey 2024

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD: 24th March
 09:00 Parish Mass (Blessed Sacrament Chapel)
 11:00 Procession of Palms & Pontifical Mass *Sung by the Abbey Choir*
 15:00 Solemn Vespers & Benediction *Sung by the Abbey Choir*
 20:00 Compline

MAUNDY THURSDAY: 28th March
 06:45 Matins
 07:45 Lauds
 18:00 Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper *Sung by the Abbey Choir*
Mass is followed by watching at the Altar of Repose until midnight
 20:30 Compline

GOOD FRIDAY: 29th March
 06:45 Matins
 07:45 Lauds
 15:00 Celebration of the Lord's Passion *Sung by the Abbey Choir*
 19:00 Seven Last Words from the Cross *Sung by a Schola of the Abbey Choir*
 20:30 Compline
Compline ends with veneration of the relic of the True Cross

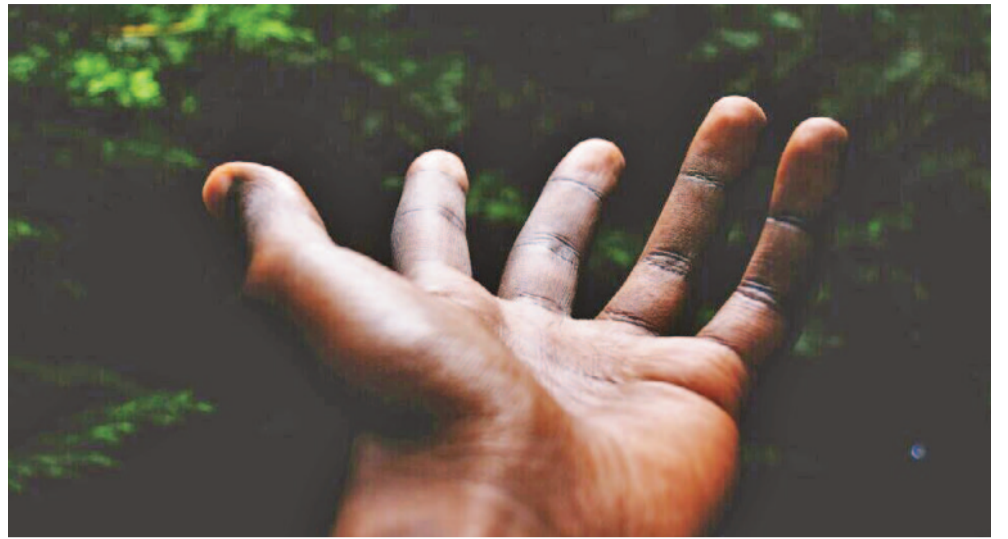
HOLY SATURDAY: 30th March
 06:45 Matins
 07:45 Lauds
 18:00 Vespers
 20:00 Solemn Easter Vigil Mass *Sung by the Abbey Choir*

EASTER SUNDAY: 31st March
 09:00 Parish Mass (Blessed Sacrament Chapel)
 11:00 Pontifical Mass *Sung by the Abbey Choir with Orchestra*
 15:00 Solemn Vespers & Benediction *Sung by the Abbey Choir*

A full list of music for Holy Week services can be found at www.buckfast.org.uk/music

Buckfast Abbey Trust Registered Charity number 232497

Cultivating Daily Prayer: Morning and Evening Prayers



As we are called to deepen our prayer life this Lenten season, Fr Denis Collin, based at St Mary's Parish in Poole, Dorset, has kindly shared some cherished prayers with us that may be of inspiration and spiritual assistance as we strive to cultivate daily prayer.

Morning Prayer - On rising:

Thank you God for this wonderful new day.
Fill my heart with your Love and let the praise of your Glory be on my lips and the joy of my life every second of this day.

I praise and thank you today with a grateful heart.
I thank you for all the Blessings you will bestow on me.
Fill me with your Holy Spirit that I may be positive and energised; and in all things today remain happy, joyful and sincerely thankful.
My smile is your Love in me.
Amen.

by V Thorne

Bedtime Prayer

Thank you, God for all the blessings you bestowed on me today and on those I have thought about... prayed about...and met.

I welcome your presence in my life and thank you for the gift of today.

For my failures, lack of joy or lack of positive thought or action, I ask for your love and forgiveness.

Now, in trust and humility, I lay myself in your loving embrace.

Stay with me, touch me, heal me.

May I sleep well, and wake rejuvenated into the joys and hope of a wonderful new day.

Amen.

by V Thorne



You can use both sets of clues to solve the puzzle: the solutions are the same.

CRYPTIC Across

- 5 Cavort with miners about a place in Galilee (9)
- 8 Good little boy Scots defile (4)
- 9 Impossible poet Noah employed (3,1,4)
- 10 Book comfortable-sounding passage to a Baltic port (7)
- 12 Regular Bishop's oddly dismissed in retrospect from West Country town (5)
- 14 Ultimate craft leading seaman needs to cross un known depths (5)
- 15 President's vital new study's reviewed internally (7)
- 17 Embarrassed girl in front of the king (8)
- 18 Cheese one finds in buffet areas (4)
- 19 Jerk attending university in jeans is in the book (9)

CRYPTIC Down

- 1 He was a killer in California's north (4)
- 2 Hero lover's name appears in editorial (7)
- 3 Number in party keeled over, getting bugs (5)
- 4 He reformed instrument to capture the earliest piece of Handel performed (8)
- 6 She's on coins - one or two sovereigns, for instance? (9)
- 7 The goddess Portia he'd metamorphosed (9)
- 11 Spielberg's limited knowledge about a part of Lincolnshire (8)

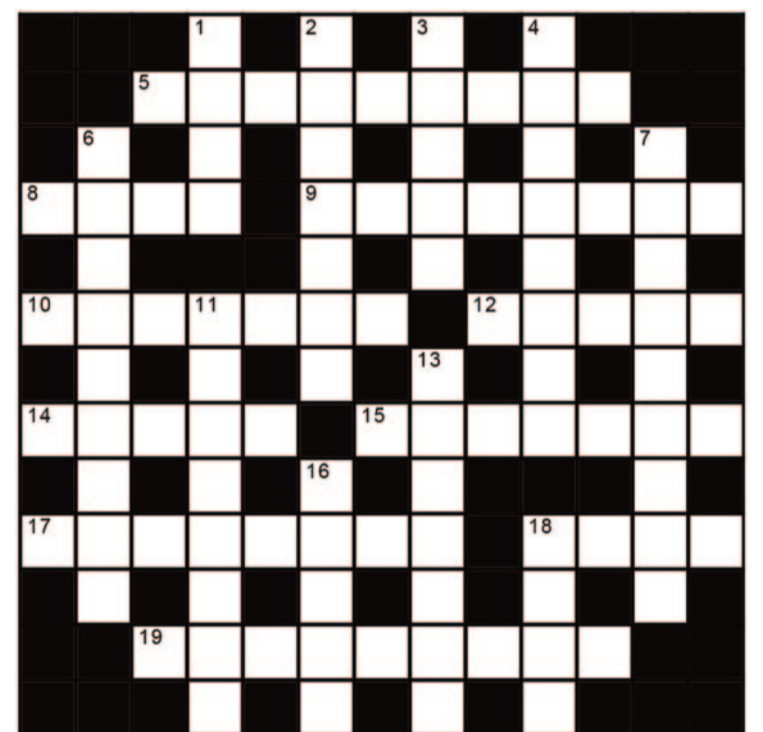
- 13 Demise comes in a short time (at ten to one) earlier, for the guitarist (7)
- 16 Pagan priest is an odd fake, receiving scripture training throughout (5)
- 18 Amusement one gained seeing a spirited old goat (4)

QUICK Across

- 5 Jesus' base when he was teaching in Galilee (9)
- 8 Secluded valley (4)
- 9 Without a prayer; forget it! (3,1,4)
- 10 Book and major prophet of the OT (7)
- 12 County town of Cornwall (5)
- 14 Bottomlesspit;chasm(5)
- 15 US President inaugurated in 1961 (7)
- 17 King of Wessex (865-871), succeeded by Alfred the Great (8)
- 18 Greek, sheep and/or goat, salad cheese (4)
- 19 Third book of the Torah (9)

QUICK Down

- 1 First child of Adam and Eve(4)
- 2 Lover of the priestess Hero in Greek myth (7)
- 3 In some Bibles an Egyptian plague equating to 'Mosquitoes' (5)
- 4 Of a form of Protestantism outlawed by a particular Diet in 1521 (8)



- 6 English settlement in New Jersey where Princeton University was founded in 1746 (9)
- 7 Greek goddess of love and beauty (9)
- 11 One of the three historic Lincolnshire 'ridings'; administrative centre, Sleaford (8) 13 Jimi ----- US R&B/Rock legend (1942-1970) (7)
- 16 AncientCelticpriest(5)
- 18 Roman woodland deity close to the Greek satyr (4)

SOLUTION

Across: 5 Capernaum, 8 Glen, 9 Not a hope, 10 Ezekiel, 12 Truro, 14 Abyss, 15 Kennedy, 17 Ethelred, 18 Feta, 19 Leviticus. Down: 1 Cain, 2 Leander, 3 Gnats, 4 Lutheran, 6 Elizabeth, 7 Aphrodite, 11 Kesteven, 13 Hendrix, 16 Druid, 18 Faun.