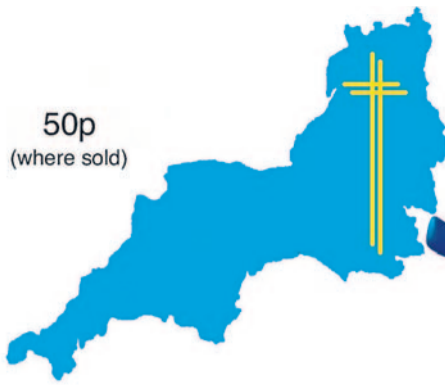


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Catholic **South West**

Serving the
Church in the
South West

SEPTEMBER
2024

Inside



Farewell and Welcome
Page 3



Two new priests
ordained
Page 5



View from the Pew
Page 7



Bring my
Daughter home
Page 8

Love the Stranger

Page 2

EVERYONE IS

WELCOME



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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

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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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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 Diocese of Plymouth Refugee and Migration Project



Caritas Diocese of Plymouth initiated the Refugee and Migration Project last year in response to the Love the Stranger document by the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales, which calls us to consider the individual behind every migration statistic and to see ourselves in every person leaving their homeland in search of a safer life. The aim of the project is to find ways to build on the great work already being done in many parishes across the Diocese to engage with people seeking asylum, those with refugee status and migrant workers, to open our hearts and share a culture of welcome.

Many people coming to the South West to support the care sector come from Catholic communities in India, Africa and the Philippines and their presence has boosted congregations; there is much to celebrate in the diversity that they bring. To name but a few, Plymouth Cathedral held a beautiful Mass for Refugees during Refugee Week this year and the joyful Flores de Mayo festival; Exeter Sacred Heart Church holds an International Day

each year; Our Lady of Lourdes, Plympton has held International BBQs, Exeter Waymakers Community Sponsorship group held fundraising cinema night showing The Swimmers, an amazing story of resilience and selfless bravery of people seeking asylum. All these events bring the whole community together, help to break down barriers and focus on our shared humanity.

The Caritas Refugee and Migration Project strengthens the links between the Diocese and local organisations and agencies working with people seeking safety, enabling us to provide effective signposting to key sources of support and information. We have held parish events and a poster campaign to raise awareness of the potential signs of Modern Slavery affecting migrant workers. Modern Slavery is one of the six key themes for the upcoming Jubilee Year, and Caritas is planning more events to strengthen our response to this scourge. A Caritas online event for Refugee Week: A Journey to be Made

Together gave powerful first-hand insight into the life-changing effect of a warm Catholic welcome for a lady seeking asylum, and showed examples of ways we can offer practical and moral support, with spiritual guidance from Bishop Paul McAleenan, the Lead Bishop for Migrants and Refugees.

We are holding an event in Exeter for World Day of Migrants and Refugees at the end of September which will explore A Culture of Welcome. All are welcome to attend and you can register by going to plymouth-diocese.org.uk and searching for News and Events. We encourage all parishes to use Pope Francis' prayer for refugees and to consider his suggestions for a step-by-step itinerary on his chosen theme: God walks with His people.

If you would like to report concerns, suggest actions or arrange a parish visit to talk about issues relating to the project, please contact Alex, Caritas Plymouth Refugee and Migration Project Lead alexandra.miranda@prcdtr.org.uk

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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Liskeard Parish bids farewell to their Parish Priest and welcomes their new Priest

On Sunday afternoon 21st July at 15:00 an Open-Air Mass was held in the grounds of Sclerder Abbey under a Marquee, to bid farewell to Father Gilmour McDermott, who will be retiring in September after having spent almost 10 years in the parish of Our Lady and St Neot Liskeard. The Church of Our Lady of Light, Sclerder Abbey, Looe, is just one of the four churches under Father Gilmour's ministry. Along with Our Lady of the Angels, Bishops Close, Saltash, and St Joan of Arc, Moor View, Torpoint. Father Gilmour who last year celebrated at Our Lady and St Neot, Liskeard on 14th July 2023 his 50th anniversary of priesthood, having been ordained at St John's Seminary, Womersley on 14th July 1973. It was lovely to see Deacon Peter, assist Father Gilmour with the Mass, Dean Peter who himself has not been at all well, make a return to Sclerder Abbey. After the beautifully sung Mass, the Chemin Neuf Community who lease Sclerder Abbey now, provided along with the parishioners, some wonderful refreshments and wine afterwards. Many thanks to them and all who helped to make this afternoon a celebration to remember and say a big thank you to Father Gilmour – a gem among the priests who have served Sclerder Abbey in the past.

Father Cyriacus Uzochukwu has been appointed as our Parish Priest to succeed Father Gilmour when he retires from parish ministry in September. Father Cyriacus' first Masses as Parish Priest will be on 21st /22nd September. He recently visited the parish and is looking forward to living in Liskeard. At present he is caring for Tavistock and Yelverton and will be replaced when he comes to our parish. We look forward to welcoming him into our four-church family. We offer up our prayers for Father Cyriacus and his new apostolic ministry at Liskeard. Also,

we pray for a new Bishop to guide us in our Diocese. Quoting Mother Teresa "Everything starts from Prayer".

On Saturday 3rd August 2024 at Liskeard Public Hall Our Lady and St Neot Catholic Church, Liskeard, held our Summer Fete – a big thank you goes out everyone who helped, donated and attended. It was a very successful, joyful day, and an amazing amount of money was raised for the Parish. The Lady Mayoress of Liskeard attended along with representatives from all four of our churches, Liskeard; Saltash; Sclerder Abbey, Looe and Torpoint and lots of local people came along to join in the fun. Congratulations to everyone involved!

We have been called by the Diocese of Plymouth to turn away from violence and embrace peace and reconciliation: "The Southwest of England has long been a place of welcome. Our beautiful countryside and wonderful coast have been havens for those fleeing violence and discrimination. The realisation that we feel helpless as individuals in the gigantic, global upheavals in our time disturb that peace and bring fear and anxiety not only in family relationships or friendships, but also discrimination in different races and cultures and those of different faiths.

What can be done? We Pray!! Jesus tells us to "treat others as we would like them to treat us". This is our hope. This is our prayer.

When we pray – God listens. When we listen – God talks. When you believe – God works. When you can't pray – God knows (What's in your heart).

When we have nothing to give, let us give him that nothingness! The essential thing is not what we say, but what God says



through us. Prayer does not demand we interrupt our work, but that we continue working as if we were a prayer.

The more we go around, the better we understand how very necessary it is for us to pray for the work we do, to make the work our love for God in Action. The more we receive in silent prayer, the more we can give in our active life.

Strengthen our resolve to work for reconciliation and peace within our communities.

Help us not to harden our hearts, to redouble our efforts to welcome the stranger and to reach out to those in need.

Thus, God leads us by strange ways; we know He wills our happiness, but we neither know what our happiness is, nor the way. We are blind; left to ourselves we should take the wrong way; we must leave it to Him. Let us put ourselves into his hands, and not be startled though He leads us by a strange way, a mirabilis via (wonderful way), as the Church speaks. Let us be sure He will lead us right, that he will bring us to that which is not indeed what we think best, nor what is best for another, but what is best for us!

Article by Rosemarie de Boyer:
Photos by Alfie Hillson



Scripture Focus

By Fr Jeremy Corley



Jesus' Call for Purity of Heart

After a dispute about handwashing, our Lord calls for inner purity in the gospel for 1st September (22nd Sunday of the Year). Jesus redirects the concern for physical hygiene felt by his audience, to focus on being pure in heart.

During the COVID pandemic, we all became aware again of the importance of washing our hands to avoid spreading infection. This is a basic rule of personal hygiene. At the time of Jesus, the Pharisees emphasised the need for handwashing, as part of the purity rules for devout Jews.

Jewish tradition had elaborate regulations about purity, based on the Book of Leviticus. These rules often became distinguishing marks for Jewish communities when they lived among non-Jews.

In our modern society, we can find it hard to understand the Jewish purity regulations. For instance, in the Jewish faith, eating pork is forbidden (Leviticus 11:7). Besides the religious

reason, there was a practical hygienic reason, since pork quickly became unsafe to eat in a hot climate without refrigeration.

Besides the Jews, various other communities have their own dietary laws. Devout Muslims only eat halal meat, and many devout Hindus avoid eating beef. Diet can be a sign of identity. Unlike the French, most English people would avoid eating horsemeat.

In this gospel reading, Jesus is criticised for letting his disciples eat food without first washing their hands properly. His response is to turn his attention onto the rather judgmental attitude of the Pharisees.

To be sure, the Pharisees were not bad people. Rather, they were trying to practise their faith devoutly. Indeed, on several occasions Jesus accepted dinner invitations from them (Luke 7:36; 14:1).

But as with other religious people, the zealous Pharisees sometimes missed the point, according to Jesus. In verses from

Mark 7 omitted from the lectionary, Jesus explains his view by referring to the Corban practice.

If a devout Jew promised to give his wealth to the temple, he regarded himself as excused from the obligation to use his money to care for his elderly parents. But Jesus points out that this legal loophole contradicts one of the Ten Commandments: "Honour your father and mother" (Exodus 20:12).

We often understand this commandment as teaching children to respect their parents (Ephesians 6:1). But at the time of Jesus, this command was understood as teaching the need to care for elderly parents—as in the first reading for the Feast of the Holy Family (Sirach 3:2-6). The need to look after elderly parents still remains relevant today.

For religious people, it can be a great temptation to focus on external conformity to the regulations. But Jesus called his disciples to inner purity. While many of his audience were concerned about dietary rules, Jesus reminded his hearers that after any food has been eaten, waste products are passed into the sewer.

Instead, what Jesus sees as important is to be pure in our hearts. We can face inner drives and compulsions to violent rage, avarice, pride, folly, and sexual sins. But if we wish to be clean before God, we are called to uproot these sinful behaviours.

We learn by experience that our own strength is not enough to overcome all these sins. We need to rely on the power of God. The psalmist prays: "A pure heart create for me, O God. Put a steadfast spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10). Only the Holy Spirit can give us the strength we need to overcome our weaknesses.

As Catholics, we believe that Jesus offers us forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, when we confess our sins. Our faith tells us that Jesus died and rose again to bring us pardon for our offences.

We seek God's help to live holy lives. Prayer is the means to open ourselves to God's loving assistance. And so we pray: "Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of your love."

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Two new priests ordained for Portsmouth



On the Memorial of St Henry, 13th July 2024, Bishop Philip Egan ordained two men to the priesthood to serve in the Diocese of Portsmouth.

St John's Cathedral was full of family, friends and supporters from around the Diocese who came together to participate in this joyful day and to pray for Father Tom Hiney and Father Ambrose Chou as they prepare to serve the Diocese in the months and years to come.

Reflecting on a momentous day, Father Ambrose remarked:

"On Saturday, I had the most life-changing and awesome day of my life as I experienced priestly ordination for the Diocese of Portsmouth alongside my brother, Fr Tom Hiney.

The day marked the completion of my formal formation for the priesthood – although priestly formation is a lifelong journey and commitment that will remain with me in perpetuity.

It was genuinely humbling to encounter so many people in the Cathedral and feel their support – from my friends, family and most especially from my sister Anjulie. I grew up in the Diocese and have attended many Youth Ministry events – from camps to pilgrimages and World Youth Days. I simply felt surrounded by the love of the family of God. To have the people who I have grown up with alongside me, to support me, was so moving.

For me, the most memorable and moving part of the Ordination was when I laid prostrate before the Bishop, before the Altar, when the Litany of the Saints was being sung. I had this sense of giving myself up to Him and I could feel the prayer all around me. Following that, when my brother priests came to lay their hands on me, I felt empowered for the life of service that lies ahead.

After the Mass, and at our reception at a local secondary school, we were able to give first blessings. What an experience – I remember looking up at the size of the queue. But as time went on, I felt confident to offer more personal and individual blessings to those who wanted one. It was wonderful engaging with people, asking them about their favourite Saint or their prayer intention and I was able to incorporate that into the blessing. I truly relied on the grace of God to get me through.

One of my formators gave me a word of advice a while ago. He said to me, when you are ordained, turn around and just look at your wife – the people of God. That was my first thought when I turned around after my Ordination. I savoured the moment and thought to myself: 'I am going to minister with and live for these people. How blessed am I!'

Father Tom Hiney summed up his experience as follows: "I am very grateful to Bishop Egan for taking me seriously when I first approached him six years ago. Having come back to faith while living in

Africa in my late 20s, I was working as a Protestant Army chaplain when I met him, but the saints and sacraments of the Catholic Church (St Therese of Lisieux in particular) and the serenity of the doctrine had drawn me in. Discovering Marian devotion still makes me weep! The whole thing has been like entering a new world, and to now be a priest within it is an inestimable privilege."

The Diocese currently has seminarians training in four seminaries – Oscott College in Sutton Coldfield; Allen Hall, Chelsea; Venerable English College,

Rome and at the Beda College, in Rome. Students who need some time to transition and prepare for seminary life also spend a year in pre-seminary at Valladolid in Spain.

Further ordinations over the Summer include Stephen Patterson and Zacharias Parambi will be ordained to the diaconate on Saturday 27th July in the Cathedral and Ryan Browne, a student for the priesthood, who was ordained deacon at the English College Villa at Palazzola on Wednesday 10th July.

Image credit – Ana Dobeson



Father Tom Hiney (left) and Father Ambrose Chou (right) with Bishop Philip Egan

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SEASON OF CREATION 2024

An Evening of Reflection, Marnhull, 24 September

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Season of Creation begins this year on Sunday 1 September. The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with God and Creation. The theme this year is “Hope and Act with Creation,” drawn from Saint Paul’s Letter to the Romans (8:19-25), which focuses on the hope of salvation that is born of faith, namely, the newness of life in Christ. The Pope’s message is in nine sections, which all highlight our responsibility to take care of our Common Home. It stresses that, as Christians called to live in faith and charity, caring for the environment is “a task to be undertaken freely, in obedience to Jesus’ commandment of love.”

Caritas Diocese of Plymouth, in partnership with CAFOD, will be holding an event in Marnhull, Dorset from 6.30-



8.30pm on Tuesday 24 September to reflect on the beauty of God’s creation and our responsibility to care for it. We are delighted to be joined by Sr Margaret Atkins OSA who will lead the discussions. Sister Margaret is a Canoness of St Augustine in the community at Boarbank Hall, Cumbria. She is a lecturer and author in Theology with special interest in

the ethics of the environment. Not to be missed!

We would love people to come and join us. Refreshments will be provided. Places are limited so please register by going to plymouth-diocese.org.uk and searching for News and Events.

Letters to the Editor

All correspondence to Letters to the Editor to be sent by post to Catholic South West, N2 Blois Meadow Business Centre, Steeple Bumpstead, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 7BN or via e-mail to csw@cathcom.org and must give a contact name and place of residence. Anonymous correspondence will not be considered for publication.

Dear Editor

I am a regular reader of CSW but was disappointed to read the ‘View from the Pew’ by Dr J Kettle-Williams in the July edition of CSW.

This article is suggesting that the Mass is equivalent to a theatrical performance. This suggests that Dr Kettle-Williams has no real understanding of the meaning of the Mass and to (in his final paragraph) attempt to excuse his comments by saying that we should all have a sense of humour does not excuse his trivialising of the Mass.

Incidentally I do have a sense of humour, something which is shared by most of the parishioners I know.

I really do not think that the article should have been published in a Catholic newspaper. But in all other respects, thank you for regularly publishing CSW!

Reply from JKW:

The enactment of Mass, which nowhere do I compare with a modern stage or theatrical production, prompted the Miracle Plays from within its own nature. Originally enacted within church, these plays then took to the road - travelling by cart and presented at selected venues beyond the church wall - before being installed at fixed venues, latterly deemed ‘theatres’.

The ‘parody’ issue is not of my creation but of Canon Matthew’s, whose assertion thereto I treat as a joke. I cast no assertion as to anyone else’s sense of humour or lack of it.

Dear Editor

I was disappointed (to say the least) to see a headline Voice of the People Voce of God over a picture of Rees Mogg in the CSW June 24 edition. - together with a plug for GBNews. I’ll not be putting these copies out in our church.

Reply from JKW:

I make no plug for GB News any more than I do for Marmite. My point is that some people can be as strongly against one thing as others may be strongly appreciative. Our Catholic faith shares that very predicament. We ought to do more to combat the negativity. Perhaps more of us should follow and help promote the example set by Sir Jacob Rees-Mogg, renowned for losing no opportunity to openly declare his commitment to the Catholic faith.

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View from the Pew

By Dr Jay Kettle-Williams



Taking it on the chin

Cross-culturalism, multiculturalism, pluriculturalism or, for those of less Latin but more Greek persuasion, polyculturalism are among terms bandied back and forth these days. They are like Greek sirens taunting society. The terms underscore the defiantly variant natures at loggerheads with each other, gnawing at the fabric of our society. Diversity, individuality, the consuming self-respect over and above that for others hold pole position, vying against the common good. We see a fragile craft increasingly out of kilter in an increasingly restless sea.

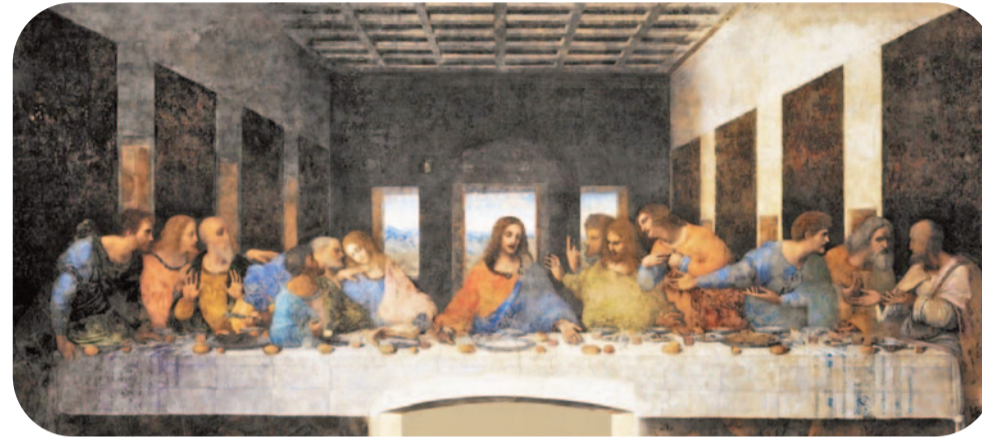
It's such terms as catholicity - referring to the inclusion of all - and Catholicity - the universality of the Catholic faith - which offer the opportunity to bind us all as one family striving together for shared goals. Therein lie core issues of Christian ethos such as diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) which we see embodied in the five main British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

So it was that I sat down one evening in July in front of the box - I admit with glass in hand - to enjoy the opening ceremony of The Olympics, Paris 2024, looking forward thereafter to witnessing the efforts of the world's leading athletes in pushing forward their abilities.

The nine years of preparation by France in the run-up to Paris 2024 had taken the previous opening ceremony of the 2012 Olympics, hosted by the UK, as the benchmark. Not that anyone expected President Macron to be effecting any form of Elizabethan skydive! It was indeed a pity that that highly heralded outdoor event was marred by inclement weather. But that was a risk the French had taken, nobody really expecting such inclement weather in July.

Attention had long been focussed on the Olympics opening ceremony artistic director, Thomas Jolly (b. 1982, Rouen) and to how the opening ceremony would play out. Jolly had envisioned an inclusive celebration along the Seine river based on 12 tableaux. Jolly's grandfather had taught catechism to children but Jolly himself never received a religious education.

France, as we know, is a secular country. Be that as it may, that fact does not deter



the whole French nation from taking any opportunity to enjoy, although perhaps not to celebrate, all Holy Days in the Christian calendar.

Imagery employed under Jolly's direction at the opening ceremony has enraged many for its apparent parody of the mural 'The Last Supper' (see inset) by the Italian High Renaissance artist Leonardo da Vinci (c. 1495-1498). In the face of criticism from around the world and death threats on social media, Jolly has denied it was ever his intention to cause offence or show disrespect. However, a member of the troupe appears to have contradicted Jolly on this point by saying that the intention was to launch 'The New Gay Testament', albeit in defiance of the Aristotelian classic 3-part theory on persuasion calling for Logos (Logic and consistency of an argument), Pathos (Connection with people's values and beliefs) and Ethos (One's credibility and standing to persuade).

The opening ceremony for Paris 2024 had been based around a procession of small boats moving downstream on the Seine carrying the numerous teams of athletes. Those athletes had been waiting patiently in their thousands for the ceremony to get fully under way. A variety of sideshows were enacted along the river's bank and at various other venues. I admit to being a bit confused.

Market research tells us that 80% plus of adult spectators and viewers had been impressed and that they had duly applauded the spectacle. I admit to siding with the minority on that count, although the final moments with the illuminated image of the horseman who came riding down the river in the style of Noyes was truly an artistic wonder.

I remember being in hospital some years ago, recovering from a major operation.

They'd put me on morphine. I was hallucinating wildly seeing images like those now parading on the screen before me. I checked the bottle from which I was drinking. Good ole Chilean red. Nothing wrong there.

However, Mr Jolly's image which has caused a bit of a stir was that of a meal, a supper with a number of personages facing me from behind a long table. The Olympics, born of practices long before the advent of Christianity, had turned to ridicule the Christian basis on which Western culture was based. No doubt, by the time you read this, many bishops - other than those predominantly from the USA - will have also given voice to their indignation.

As a young lady from Syria recently commented: 'I'm a Muslim. I'm sick of this. Why aren't Christians doing anything? Why are you weak?'

However, as Christians, we turn the other cheek, we take the hit. And what could be a more defiant gesture of strength than to turn the other cheek? But, on the other hand, as Evangelists, ours at such a point as this is not to fall silent, or to move lamely to one side but somehow to bounce back off the ropes.

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

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From a Palestinian mother to the world: "Bring my daughter home"

Lulu Aranki-Nasir can't tell the story without crying and recalling lots of pain-but she wants the world to know.

On 7 April, in the darkness at four in the morning, armed vehicles pulled up to her home, where she, her husband, and her daughter, Layan, were sleeping in their home in the town of Birzeit in the West Bank.

Israeli soldiers were banging on the door. "We woke up," said Lulu. "My daughter was calling for me."

That night began what has now become four months of imprisonment for Layan-and day after day of anxiety and grief coupled with sheer determination from her mother.

Looking back, Lulu is thankful, that her sons were not there that night. "Fortunately, my sons were not home because my eldest son is a doctor, and my younger son, Layan's twin brother, was traveling to Istanbul for a vacation," she said. "If they were at home, the soldiers would have treated them very badly."

When Lulu opened the door, the soldiers entered the house. "I started asking them: what do you want from me?" Lulu said. "A soldier told me 'Don't talk or we will shoot you' and he put the gun on my face."

Other soldiers went through the house. "Everywhere, they searched," said Lulu. "Then they asked us to put our hands on the wall."

Layan's parents were also told not to move or talk. So they didn't.

"We didn't want to make trouble for us or our daughter," said Lulu. "Then the captain told us he was taking Layan with him." The soldiers showed no arrest warrant for Layan and no warrant to search the home.

Layan, who was sitting in her room, asked to change from her pyjamas into her clothes. "He brought a woman soldier who stayed with Layan when she was putting her clothes on," said Lulu. "Then he blindfolded her and handcuffed her."

As Lulu recalls watching her helpless daughter taken away, she breaks down when she tries to describe how she felt. "She was very weak at that moment," said Lulu, who wept at the memory.

From that moment on, Layan has been held in what is defined as "administrative detention" without any charges. "They blame that she is a danger for the security of the Israeli state," said Lulu. "How come this young lady is a danger to the Israeli state?"

A deafening silence

The lack of communication with her daughter hangs like a weight on Lulu's shoulders. In four months, she has been allowed to talk to Layan two times.

"The lawyer tries to ask for a visit," said Lulu. "He is not allowed to stay for more than 15-20 minutes." The meetings are conducted in the presence of Israeli security officers, which violates basic principles of due process of the law and human rights.

Leaders from Layan's Anglican church have also been denied visits. Layan's parents have shared her story with World

Council of Churches (WCC) moderator Bishop Dr Heinrich Bedford-Strohm and WCC general secretary Rev Prof Dr Jerry Pillay, who called for the immediate release of Layan and other unjustly detained Palestinians.

Meanwhile, Lulu worries about Layan's health in prison.

"Inside the prison, the quantity of food is a very small portion for each prisoner," said Lulu. "My strong call to the churches is not only to press to bring my daughter home but also to press their governments to make the prison situation better," she said. "The prisoners are suffering. There is no food."

She has also received some good news: "We have heard Layan gives a very positive energy to all the prisoners," said Lulu. "One of the prisoners is very sick and Layan helps her."

In her own mind, Lulu is imprisoned in a home without her daughter's presence. "I cannot enter her room because I am too sad," she said.

"My eldest son got a chance to go to USA to specialize in internal medicine in Atlanta."

Layan's older brother had to leave without saying goodbye to his sister. Her twin brother, who used to commute to work with her, sharing a car, now goes alone each day. Layan, a university graduate with a degree in nutrition and a minor in business administration, worked in a women's development non-governmental organization before she was detained.



Layan and her twin brother pictured cutting the cake during their last birthday together before Layan was detained.

Photo: courtesy of the Nasir family

How many more days?

Lulu is asking the world to pray for her strength and courage as she counts the days that her daughter has been gone. "I'm not sure she will be out in December," she said. "They may renew her staying in prison."

"She turned 24 on May 20-in prison-with no visits," said Lulu. Her twin brother didn't celebrate his birthday, either, out of solidarity with his sister.

When the profound emptiness threatens to overwhelm her, Lulu recalls joyful events of the past: birthday parties, Layan's games of basketball and soccer, and simple family dinners. "When I feel sad, I also pray," she said. "I pray to God to help me be strong. Layan has a strong personality-and she has a sweet heart. I have to have the courage for her."

Approximately 3,615 Palestinians are held in administrative detention, including 40 children and 20 women. A Palestinian can be arrested by Israel based on secret information, which cannot be accessed by the detainee or a lawyer; without trial; and without having committed an offence, on the grounds that he or she plans to break the law in the future. There is no legal limit on the overall time that a person can be held in administrative detention, so the detention can be extended over and over.

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Becky's legacy lives on

Sometimes even the most modest of funding can make the world of difference. This month, Becky's Café, at the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph's parish in Christchurch has been awarded a £845 grant from the Dorset Community Foundation (Grants for Groups – Dorset Community Foundation) to allow it to continue providing company, friendship, support and a warm and inviting community facility where people can meet, relax and enjoy fresh home-cooked food.

The Café, which is open every Thursday, has been running for two years and is well-established in the neighbourhood, offering home-made soup, sandwiches and cake with hot drinks, as well social activities and a chance to get together with others, in a warm space, to help combat loneliness and isolation.

The Café is named after Becky Jordan, a much-loved young parishioner, who always said that 'things are always better with friends, tea and cake around us'.

The Café won a similar grant from the DCF the previous year and once again the money will be used to fund the supplies it needs, supplemented by the generosity of donations by volunteers and customers.

"We have built a wonderful team who make the food, serve and welcome everyone," explains Rosie Proctor, who manages the café with her husband Brian and a group of around 20 volunteers. "The fact we are open all year has been particularly welcomed by all our guests and is a wonderful foundation on which to build next winter's provision."

Around thirty people from many different backgrounds visit the Café each week; some come because they are hungry, others because they are lonely, some are carers needing some care and respite themselves. Several of the café's regulars come with or to meet others they know through the Cafe.

"Younger families visit the church site to access help and advice at the Christchurch Food Bank, which is housed onsite in the old chapel and have told us how much it means to them, whether they come once or are regular patrons," says Rosie. "We work with the Food Bank and



Rosie and Brian Proctor

Christchurch Community Partnership as well as local schools and the medical centre to enrich the quality of life to all those we can reach.

She added: "We are very grateful to the Diocese Fundraising team for their work on our behalf to secure the grant and we are delighted with the outcome."

If you would like to support the vital lifeline that the Café provides to the local community and help to ensure that Becky's legacy continues to live on, please get in touch by contacting: fundraising@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



Left to right: Volunteers Marion Jackson, Maureen Gage and Helen Dawson

For all your advertising requirements please contact Nick on 01440 730399

Book Reviews



How to Overcome Distraction in Prayer

Fr Ed Broom
£3.95

CTS Product Code: D849

Please refer to this code when ordering over the phone

ISBN: 9781784697655

www.ctsbooks.org

Distraction can be a major hindrance to forming a habit of prayer and a deep prayer life. In this book, Fr Ed Broom offers practical advice on how to overcome distractions so we can speak to God with our whole heart and mind.



Prayer can be a struggle. Whether it's because of busyness at work or school, the chores and clamour of family life, intrusive worries and anxieties, or ever-present digital distractions. Many of us struggle to form a habit of prayer. Fr Ed Broom is here to help Catholics learn to pray. In this book, he teaches us to recognise the causes of distraction in our lives and gives simple, practical advice on how to overcome them so we can speak to God with our whole heart and mind.

Ministering the Word of God

Fr Allen Morris
£3.95

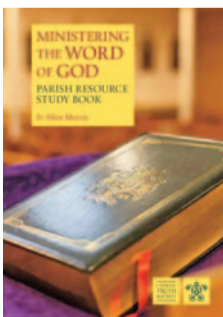
CTS Product Code: LT15

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ISBN: 9781784698195

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This brief introduction to the liturgical ministry of Reader explains how the Liturgy of the Word works and its place in the life of the Church as well as giving guidelines for Ministers of the Word at Mass and leaders of children's liturgy and Lectio Divina.



For parishes wanting to help the faithful understand the changes to the Lectionary, we recommend Hearing Christ's Voice instead.

Revised and expanded to mark the introduction of the new Lectionary in England, Scotland and Wales, this brief introduction to the Liturgical Ministry of Reader answers the most important questions for those who proclaim the Word of God to the faithful. Explaining how the Liturgy of the Word works and its place in the life of the Church this booklet includes guidelines for Ministers of the Word at Mass, leaders of Liturgy of the Word with Children and leaders of Divine Prayer and Lectio Divina.

COMPANION ITEM: The Word is Very Near to You, a workbook for the training and formation of Ministers of the Word.

The Word is Very Near to You

Fr Allen Morris
£6.95

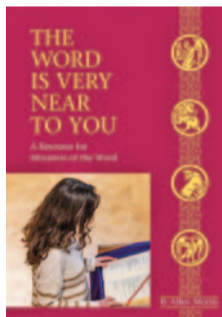
CTS Product Code: LT14

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ISBN: 9781784698072

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Designed to accompany the use of the newly-revised Ministering the Word of God in the training and formation of Ministers of the Word, this workbook is ideal for use in parishes, chaplaincies and schools, or any other setting in which the Word of God is a central part of ministry.



Designed to accompany the use of the newly-revised Ministering the Word of God in the training and formation of Ministers of the Word, this workbook is ideal for use in parishes, chaplaincies and schools, or any other setting in which the Word of God is a central part of ministry.

A Simple Prayer Book

Catholic Truth Society
£3.95

CTS Product Code: D665

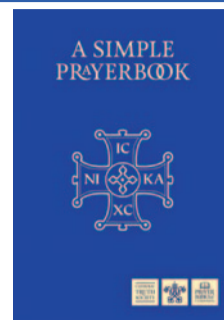
Please refer to this code when ordering over the phone

ISBN: 9781860822599

www.ctsbooks.org

A Simple Prayer Book is the essential companion to prayer every Catholic needs, including the Order of Mass, a wide assortment of prayers, and simple explanations on key elements of the Catholic faith.

Featuring a large selection of Catholic prayers and devotions, A Simple Prayer Book includes everything you need to learn how to pray, from basic prayers such as the Hail Mary, to Morning and Evening Prayers, and prayers for various needs and occasions. Essential Catholic prayers such as the Stations of the Cross and the Divine Mercy Chaplet are also featured.



Additionally, A Simple Prayer Book will guide you in the Catholic faith, with explanations on Catholic teaching, as well as instructing how to pray the rosary, how to go to Confession and how to make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament. The Order of Mass is also included, alongside the Act of Spiritual Communion if you can't get to Mass, and prayers for before and after and Communion.

As CTS's bestselling Catholic prayer book, this handy booklet is the essential companion to prayer every Catholic needs.

Eager to Love

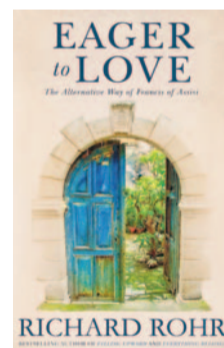
By Richard Rohr
£7.50

Product Code: 103572

ISBN: 9781473604018

www.rpbooks.co.uk

Richard Rohr focuses his attention on all frames and doorways to the divine – the alternative way of Francis of Assisi. Francis of Assisi, one of the most beloved of all saints, was at once very traditional and entirely revolutionary in the ways of holiness. A standing paradox, he stood barefoot on the earth yet touched the heavens; he was grounded in the Church yet instinctively moved toward the cosmos; he lived happily inside the visible and tangible, yet both suffered and rejoiced in the invisible. Rohr places the tradition as first practiced by Francis and subsequently by others, within a context for the uninitiated audience. This is not a historical accounting, but a perspective on how the alternative orthodoxy can deepen spiritual life for anyone. Eager to Love is grounded in the Gospels, the prophets, a broad blend of psychology and theology and in literature and art, to continue to communicate through all the sources that articulate specific alternative ways of understanding ways of understanding God with us.



Freddie Freckles and the Sacraments

By Timothy J Buckley, C.Ss.R.
£4.95

Product Code: 1751

ISBN: 9780852314944

www.rpbooks.co.uk

Join Freddie as he goes on a journey where he learns more about the sacraments. This collection of short stories is written for children aged seven to nine and explore many rites from the Catholic Church –



looking back to the significance of their baptism and forward to their confirmation. Along the way Freddie also learns the true meaning of Easter and Christmas and begins to have a better understanding of prayer and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. For each chapter Fr Tim has written helpful guides for when to tell each story along with scripture references. Ideal for small groups of children but also great for children to read on their own. Freddie Freckles is a gentle way to teach them about the sacraments.

I Belong - Children's Book First Holy Communion

By Aileen Urquhart
£7.95

Product Code: 1051

ISBN: 9780852313770

www.rpbooks.co.uk

I Belong is a programme that contains lively, colourful material in which illustrations and examples are used to reflect the world where today's children live and experience faith. It is hoped that the children using this book will create a personal momento of this special time in their relationship with God. At the end of each chapter is a "Family Time" page with suggestions for prayer and something to do together as a family. Small information boxes have been added throughout the book. These cover areas such as: search the church for particular items, explanation of Catholic practices, what to look out for while at Mass and new words associated with reconciliation, First Holy Communion and the Mass. There is also a symbol of a Bible to check out bible references at the end of scripture passages. A small candle features on the corner of each page which, when coloured, indicates progress through the book.

The impact of Stained Glass Window dedicated to Blessed Carlo Acutis in Malmesbury!

St Aldhelm's in Malmesbury is proud to be the first parish in the country to feature a stained glass window dedicated to Blessed Carlo Acutis. Known as "The Millennial Saint," Carlo was just 15 when he died of Leukaemia, but this young computer programmer has left a powerful legacy that continues to inspire young people around the world.

Carlo was a devout child with a deep love for the Blessed Sacrament and the Rosary. He rarely missed an opportunity to attend daily Mass, and his dedication and faith continue to inspire thousands of young people worldwide.

Although not yet canonised, London-born Carlo can be venerated in a church with special permission from the local diocese after being declared Blessed. With this aim in mind, permission was obtained to erect this window in 2022. Excitingly, the second miracle attributed to Carlo has been approved, paving the way for his canonization, with the date yet to be decided.

In this article, we explore how this window has inspired so many people, both young and old, and garnered special attention in the media over the past two years.

St Aldhelm's found itself at the centre of national attention in May 2024, thanks to an inspiring piece run by The Daily Telegraph. The article, titled "The video game-loving teen who was made a saint – and immortalised in a Wiltshire church window."

On the day, Malmesbury shopkeepers found themselves in a bit of a tizzy. Suddenly, copies of the newspaper were flying off the shelves faster than free samples at a cheese festival. Bewildered, they wondered what on earth could be causing the frenzy. Apparently, the local fascination with this modern-day saint had reached fever pitch, and everyone wanted a piece of the action — or at least a copy of the Telegraph.

The piece highlighted the church's dedication of a window to Carlo Acutis, the teenage tech enthusiast turned saint. The parishioners and the town is immensely proud of this moment, which has not only put their church on the map but also drawn visitors from across the country. The article noted that the window depicts Carlo in a contemporary light, complete with a modern watch and mobile phone,

symbolising his unique blend of modernity and piety. This installation was a thoughtful choice to resonate with younger generations.

The window gained significant attention after Pope Francis informally announced that the second miracle attributed to Carlo was going to be approved, clearing the path for his sainthood. This announcement amplified the interest in Carlo's story, drawing even more visitors to the church.

Since the publication of the Telegraph article, St Aldhelm's has seen a surge in visitors. Many are drawn specifically by the story of Carlo, eager to see the window that so beautifully captures his spirit. "He spoke to young people," says Father Thomas, highlighting the significance of choosing Carlo for the window. This newfound attention has filled the church with an air of excitement and reverence, as parishioners and visitors alike gather to admire the window and reflect on Carlo's legacy.

The window itself, crafted by stained glass artist Michael Vincent, has become a focal point for both locals and tourists. Its presence not only enhances the church's aesthetic but also serves as a powerful reminder of Carlo's enduring influence. The artist has even prepared an additional pane to update Carlo's title from "Blessed" to "Saint" upon his canonisation, reflecting Father Thomas's firm confidence in Carlo's sainthood.

We truly believe that with the window and its appeal to young people and young families, St. Aldhelm's will become a hub for reflection and spiritual growth. It will be a place where young people can gather, reflect on their own lives, and consider how they can dedicate themselves to God, initiating and making progress on the path to holiness. We have placed a kneeler in front of the window, providing a space for prayer and a place to leave their prayers and petitions, as well as responses to answered prayers.

We have composed three sets of prayers for the intercession of Blessed Carlo. The first prayer is designed for children aged 1-13 years, the second for youth aged 14-20 years, and the third for adults. Each prayer is tailored to resonate deeply with its intended age group, ensuring that everyone, from the littlest believers to the wisest among us, can seek Blessed



Carlo's guidance in a way that speaks to their hearts.

Over the past three years, our efforts have been focused on the project of constructing a parish hall. This endeavour is crucial because our parish has never had a dedicated space for catechesis, children's education, and social gatherings. As we strive towards this goal, having already raised nearly half of the required funds, we are filled with hope.

The recent influx of visitors, especially young people and children drawn to Blessed Carlo, the young saint, highlights the urgent need for such a facility. This

hall will serve as more than just a physical structure; it will be a place where our youth can gather, deepen their understanding of Blessed Carlo's life and teachings, and grow spiritually. It will empower them to embody holiness and spread the light of faith wherever they go.

To learn more about our parish and this project, we invite you to explore our website: <https://www.saintaldhelms.com/new-parish-hall-project>

Fr Thomas Kulandaisamy, JCD
Parish Priest of St Aldhelm's
Malmesbury

Pope Francis asks for prayers so that politicians might work in "service to their own people" and give "priority to the poorest"

In The Pope Video for August, Pope Francis invites us to pray for political leaders, that they might "work for the common good."

In the video message that accompanies his prayer intention, the Pope affirms that even though "politics doesn't have a very good reputation, it is much more noble than it appears."

The Pope also invites us to thank the "many politicians who carry out their duties with a will to serve, not of power."

A world without politics?

"Today, politics doesn't have a very good reputation: corruption, scandals, distant from people's day-to-day lives." In his message introducing his prayer intention this month, the Pope's opening words seem to say what many of us are thinking – that politics is a dirty business in the hands of those who only think of getting rich or holding power. In the eyes of the normal person, those who dedicate themselves to politics should be viewed with suspicion – it's taken for granted they have some hidden personal interest.

Nevertheless, as the video goes by, it becomes clear that Pope Francis is saying something different. He is reminding us all that another type of politics is always possible, a "POLITICS with all capital letters," as he calls it, at the service of the people, in particular, of the poorest. We all need "good politics," Pope Francis highlights, if we want to "move ahead toward universal fraternity." The temptation to get rid of politics, often raised by populists of every type, is a huge delusion.

A service of charity for the people

Politics can be challenging to the moral character of those who participate in it. Nevertheless, it can also be a vocation worthy of holiness and virtue. In this regard, at the beginning of the video, the Pope recalls the words of Pope Paul VI who defined politics as "one of the highest forms of charity because it seeks the common good."

It's a matter of a social consciousness that overcomes individualism in favor of a greater good – the people. This is why Christians, especially the laity, are called to participate in political life, to

collaborate in building a more just and supportive society. "Individuals can help others in need, when they join together in initiating social processes of fraternity and justice for all, they enter the 'field of charity at its most vast, namely political charity.'" Pope Francis wrote, reflecting on this theme in his encyclical Fratelli Tutti (2020).

At the service of the poor

In his message, Pope Francis asserts that good politics is not "holed up in huge buildings with large hallways," but "listens to what is really going on," is "at the service of the poor," and is "concerned about the unemployed."

When a politician does not allow space for dialogue, cooperation and the commitment to the dignity of people – key aspects that the Pope emphasizes in Fratelli Tutti – the integral development of society is not achieved. Problems such as hunger, poverty, war, or the environmental crisis, to name a few, continue to be exacerbated due to egotistical and power hungry political leadership.

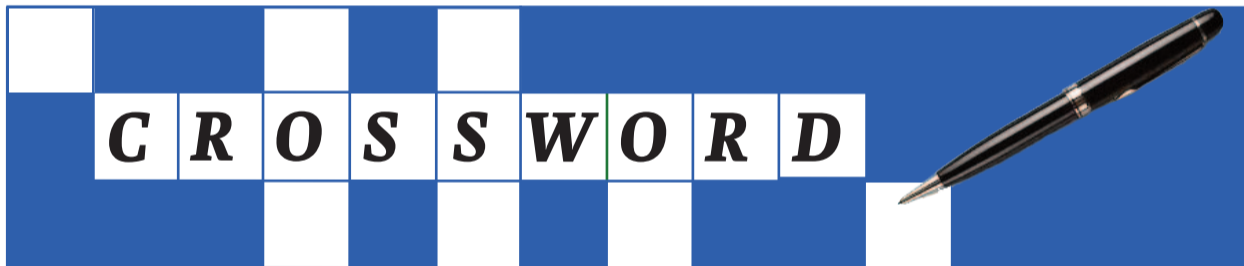


FOR POLITICAL LEADERS

The challenges of politics

Father Frédéric Fornos S.J., International Director of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, asks, "Pray for political leaders? Political leaders are who we make of them. Instead of fueling contempt for them with our words and thoughts, let's help them to be the men and women we would like them to be. Let's pray for them, as Pope Francis invites us to do. What courage it takes to be where they are and to try to live uprightly. They invest themselves totally: their time, their family life, their capabilities, their physical energy, their reputation.... How easy it is to think, "it's greed, it's power, it's money, it's their ego." At times that is true. But at the same time, there are many who truly serve the common good. And us? What are we doing? What would we do in their place? The least we can do is pray for them."

To watch the video, visit thepopevideo.org



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

CRYPTIC Across

- 7 Book about a Norseman on Latin (6)
- 8 Philistine town where a quiet religious academic's hosting a ball (6)
- 9 A-lister, one that shines, wise men follow (4)
- 10 Woman's bad times with those in an early sect (8)
- 11 King of Jerusalem's barren victory (7)
- 12 Draw a holy place for Muslims (5)
- 15 Promote Tottenham's home theme (5)
- 17 Two containers I split are for the church in Rome (7)
- 20 One with a Uniat community girl returns, staying in touch (8)
- 22 Council beginning at Arles gets Dijon epilogue (4)
- 23 Get girl, university student, in a classical bear hug (6)
- 24 Syrian soldier's cured Indian bread mother tucks into (6)

CRYPTIC Down

- 1 National Theatre-Shakespeare character's elevated South American saint (8)
- 2 Abbot of Rievaulx's distress, getting flushed (6)
- 3 Chap's name's changed by Necho; the priest's goal is protecting the king (7)
- 4 The bridge between Ruth and 2 Samuel? (5)
- 5 Site of homage at quiet river in Spain (6)
- 6 Spare St Thomas? (4)
- 13 Abraham, for example, had clean resolution (8)
- 14 Women on right to be brought up in a 6th century archbishopric (7)
- 16 Book for the going... (6)
- 18 ...and the coming? (6)

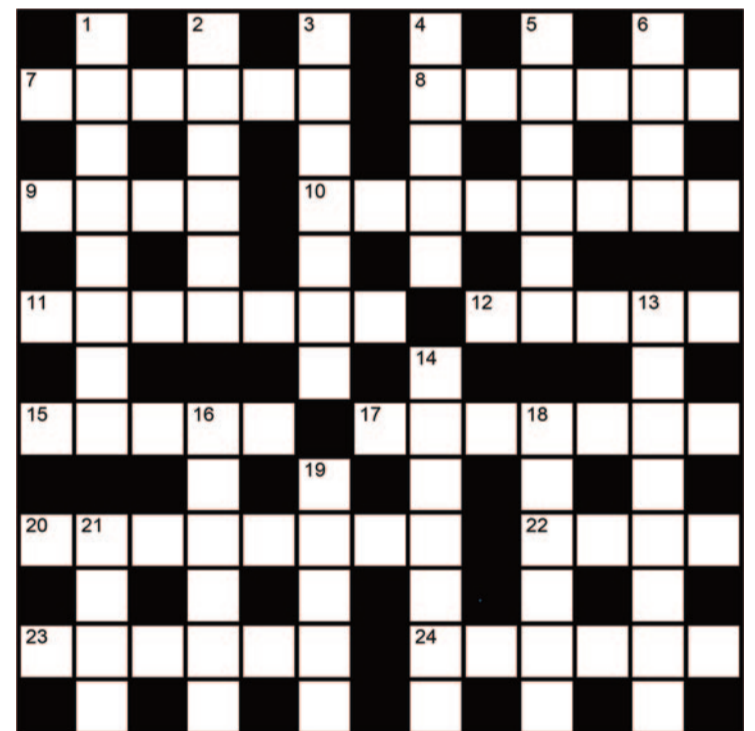
- 19 Had Ulster divided, all over Jacob's daughter (5)
- 21 Account about a battle in the Crusades (4)

QUICK Across

- 7 One of the four Major Prophets (6)
- 8 Philistine city taken by Uzziah and later restored by Herod the Great (6)
- 9 ---- of David, insignia of Jewish identity (4)
- 10 Early Christian sect members who aimed to return to innocence through nudity (8)
- 11 Archbishop of Canterbury, 1184-90, who died on the Third Crusade (7)
- 12 Muhammad's birthplace (5)
- 15 Sacred choral anthem (5)
- 17 ----- City, the world's smallest country by area (7)
- 20 One of a Syrian Uniat community, in formal communion with the RC Church since 1182 (8)
- 22 Council of 560, from which 47 genuine canons are preserved (4)
- 23 Romano-British 'saint', removed from the Catholic calendar of saints in its 1969 revision (6)
- 24 Syrian army officer healed of leprosy by Elisha (6)

QUICK Down

- 1 South American capital named after one of the apostles (8)
- 2 Abbot of Rievaulx, 1147-67 (6)
- 3 Steward in the household of Hezekiah (7)
- 4 Woman raped by Amnon and avenged by her brother Absalom (5)
- 5 Site of homage on a pilgrimage (6)



- 6 Saint (1478-1535), Lord Chancellor of Henry VIII's England (4)
- 13 Relating to Aramaic-speaking people of Babylonia (8)
- 14 Italian city, overrun by invaders after the fall of Rome, made an archbishopric in the 6th century (7)
- 16 Second book of the Pentateuch (6)
- 18 Major OT prophet (6)
- 19 Daughter of Jacob and Leah (5)
- 21 Important Crusader base experiencing sieges in 1189-91 and 1291 (4)

SOLUTION

Across: 7 Daniel, 8 Ashdod, 9 Star, 10 Adamites, 11 Baldwin, 12 Mecca, 15 Motel, 17 Vatican, 20 Maronite, 22 Agde, 23 Ursula, 24 Naaman, Down: 1 Santiago, 2 Alired, 3 Etiakim, 4 Tamar, 5 Shrine, 6 More, 13 Chaldean, 14 Ravenna, 16 Exodus, 18 Isalah, 19 Dinah, 21 Acre.