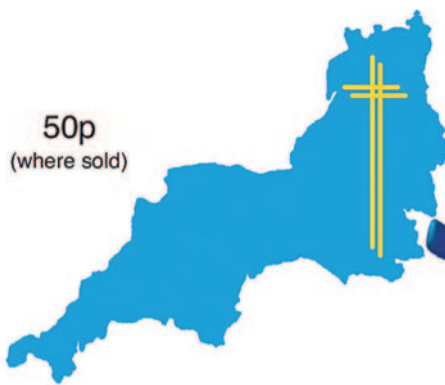


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Catholic South West

Serving the
Church in the
South West

OCTOBER
2024

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Photograph courtesy of Diocese of Plymouth



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CONTACTS & DETAILS

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.

GET INVOLVED

We need your help!

Articles: We need your local articles - we can only include what we get. So if you have an article or just a photo with a short description - please send it in.
Ideas: We need your ideas for the paper and we need your ideas in the paper. If you have any thoughts on what we should include - or if you are thinking about starting a new initiative - get in touch - we'd love to support it!
Readers: If you can encourage other readers in your parish please do so.
Advertising: We rely on advertising - if you know of anyone that would benefit from promoting their business, event or anything else to parishioners throughout the South West, do let us know.

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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 Jubilee Photography Project



View from Pew Tor by Tanya Trevena

During the upcoming Jubilee Year, we are invited to reflect on six issues challenging us to live the Jubilee in our churches and communities today. One of these issues is Care for Creation. We hear in Genesis that "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it." (Genesis 2: 15). As Christians we are inspired to be good stewards of the earth, to conserve and protect the earth's resources.

Caritas Diocese of Plymouth would like to collect and share photographs of our Diocese by parishioners on the theme of Care for Creation. The pictures can be either people or places in the Diocese of Plymouth.

We would like to explore three themes that call to mind the reflected glory of the

Lord in the beautiful world we are asked to care for. The themes are Beauty, Good Choices and Humanity. We want to hear and see the positive actions that people are taking to care for creation as well as the challenges we face.

Beauty – What about God's creation, inspires you, brings you joy, and makes you draw deeper in relationship with him?
Good Choices – How do we change direction and look after the earth and all that is in it? What are the good choices we can put into our everyday living?

Humanity – Where do you see God's love in action played out around you?

We invite you to share with us your photographs that explore each of these three themes. Each photograph can be

submitted by searching for Caritas jubilee photography project, where you will also find information about how the pictures will be used.

We invite you to give your photo a title that completes the sentence We care for creation..... An explanation can also be added.

Any photographs which could identify a person will need to be accompanied with a model release form, found on the same link. Thank you for your participation. We look forward to receiving and sharing your work.

If you have any questions about this project please email caritas@prcdtr.org.uk.

[Picture above courtesy of 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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Pope Francis appoints Bishop Philip Moger as the new Bishop of Plymouth

His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed Bishop Philip Moger as the new Bishop of Plymouth.

The Diocese has been in a period of transition for over two years since Bishop Mark O'Toole, Bishop of Plymouth between 2014 and 2022, was appointed Archbishop of Cardiff. During that time the Diocese has been under the leadership of Canon Paul Cummins who has acted as Diocesan Administrator, a role which comes with most of the authority of a Diocesan Bishop albeit without the ability to make significant changes.

A priest of the Diocese of Leeds for over 40 years, Bishop Moger has, until now, served as an Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Southwark.

Following the news of his appointment, Bishop Moger said: "I'm very honoured to be asked by Pope Francis to be the 10th Bishop of this great Diocese of Plymouth. I know that the diocese has been without a bishop for the last two years, so I am very grateful to Canon Paul Cummins, who has administered the diocese during the vacancy so ably and generously, and all who have supported him. I look forward to visiting and getting to know the clergy, religious and lay faithful in this beautiful part of the Lord's vineyard.

"At the same time. I shall very much miss the Archdiocese of Southwark, where I've been privileged to minister for the last 18 months. The Archbishop, my fellow Auxiliary Bishop, clergy, religious and lay faithful quickly took me to themselves and gave me their love, friendship and encouragement."

On hearing news of the appointment Archbishop John Wilson, the Metropolitan Archbishop of Southwark, said: "On behalf of everyone in our Archdiocese of Southwark, I would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Bishop Philip Moger on his appointment by our Holy Father as the new Bishop of Plymouth.

"Bishop Philip's many gifts, and his warmth and kindness, have been so very much appreciated during his 18 months with us as an Auxiliary Bishop.



Photograph courtesy of Diocese of Plymouth

"We thank him for all he has done in Southwark and assure him of our prayers and best wishes for his new ministry. May Christ the Good Shepherd continue to bless him and all those he will serve."

Congratulating Bishop Philip Moger, Cardinal Vincent Nichols added, "I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Canon Paul Cummins who has led the diocese over the last two years. I thank him most sincerely for the contributions he has made not only to the Diocese of Plymouth but also to the working of the

Bishops' Conference of England in Wales." Canon Paul Cummins said: "We welcome Bishop-elect Philip to the Diocese of Plymouth as our new shepherd. The faith community of the southwest has been well-served by its predecessors, and we are confident that our Bishop-elect will continue their legacy.

"Bishop-elect Philip, you have our full support as you prepare to join us here. We pray that all the saints of the Diocese of Plymouth walk with you each step of the way. Know that a warm welcome and our

prayers await you as you take up your new role among God's people. We look forward to your arrival."

News of the appointment was greeted with a round of applause at the Adoremus National Eucharistic Congress by parishioners attending from the Plymouth Diocese.

The date for Bishop-elect Philip Moger's Installation as Diocesan Bishop is Saturday 9 November at the Cathedral Church of St Mary and St Boniface, Plymouth.

Scripture Focus

By Fr Jeremy Corley



Letting Creation Be Beautiful

The Feast of St Francis of Assisi (4th October) brings to a close the Season of Creation, when we have been re-newing our efforts to care for creation and pray for its wellbeing.

When we think of scriptural texts about creation, naturally we turn to the first pages of Genesis: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." We treasure the world, not only because it is our common home, but also because it was beautifully made by God.

An important text comes in the first chapter of Genesis. God tells humanity: "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it, and have dominion over all creatures." This points to the key role of human beings at the top of the pyramid of creatures.

But what does the word "subdue" mean here? Surely it does not mean that humans can do what they like with God's creation. We cannot just cut down all the rain forests or slaughter all the rare animals. In fact,

most people today understand God to be speaking about careful human stewardship of creation.

Such a view could imply that all creatures need to be ruled by human beings. But God's speeches in the Book of Job remind us of creatures that live in the wild without any human supervision.

Job's terrible trials and tribulations have caused him to become preoccupied with himself, but God seeks to broaden his outlook and open his eyes to the marvels of creation.

Chapter 38 of the Book of Job offers a brilliant description of creation's wonders, including sunlight, rain and snow. The chapter ends by pointing to the wild lion, which never needs to be fed by human beings (except in a zoo).

Job chapter 39 depicts a whole series of wild animals that are not under human control. No human serves as a midwife when wild goats give birth in mountain caves. No human being feeds the wild donkey that roams across the semi-de-

sert. No human can tame the wild ox or buffalo that likes to run free over the plains.

Another curiosity of creation is the ostrich, which lays its large eggs on the ground, where they could easily get trampled. Although it is a bird, it can hardly fly, but over a short distance it can outrun a horse.

God then points to the military horse, which surprisingly is trained to run towards a battle, not away from it. When the trumpet sounds and it catches the scent of battle, it will fearlessly race into the heart of the conflict.

Hawks and eagles do not tend to stay near humans. Instead they live in inaccessible crags of rocks. Without any humans to feed them, they use their sharp eyes to single out prey from a great height, before swooping down to catch them.

In this way, God reminds Job that creation is vast and mysterious and full of marvels. Hungry animals do not need humans to feed them. An ostrich is a bird that cannot

fly, yet it can run faster than a horse. Whereas most animals flee from a noisy attack, a trained war horse will run straight into battle.

In other words, God's world is full of a whole variety of strange and wonderful creatures. God is perfectly able to look after the entire range of creatures in his creation without human involvement. Perhaps Job needs to let God be God.

Sometimes we human beings think that we need to intervene to manage creation or even to save it. But perhaps what we most need to do is to avoid harming it. Without polluting the planet, hunting wild creatures, cutting down rain forests, and carelessly burning fossil fuels, maybe we would give creation more of a chance to be its beautiful self.

We join the psalmist in acclaiming the Creator: "How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your riches."

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The Fools Pilgrimage - The adventures of a Roaming Catholic in Croatia

love being Catholic - I often get described as religious but really, I'm a spiritual being on a human adventure and religion simply offers a springboard to help get me there!

What's great about being Catholic is that everywhere we go there's likely a Catholic Church or place that 'like-minded' folks can get together and spend some time in reflective contemplation. Now, whilst you don't need anyone else when you do meditate or pray having others around it sure does help in making a more profound impact. After all, "where two or more are gathered in my name - there I am" (Matthew 18: 19-20)

We recently went on a family holiday to Croatia and I went to Mass, a lot! My daughters felt like they were on a tour of old churches!

I don't speak Croatian but aided by a copy of Universalis on my phone I was able to follow along. What was especially lovely on my first trip to mass was a baptism that was included into the service - even though I'm not part of the local community I could definitely share in the joy and love of the experience.

I'm a big fan of the teachings and spiritual exercises of St Ignatius and whilst in Dubrovnik we went up the Jesuit steps (made famous by the Games of Thrones for being the steps of shame) and into the church of St Ignatius.

The aim of all St Ignatius' exercises is to culminate in the contemplatio - to be in a state of awareness that reaches the highest level of contemplation and literally be held in the Divine state of love. This is found in all forms of spiritual practice - Samadhi in yoga. Enlightenment in Buddhism. Ruhhaniyyat in Islam.

How you get there depends on the traditions you follow or were born in to, but the end result is the same - to reach a higher state of consciousness where peace and tranquillity in all the chaos reigns.

What was particularly brilliant for me on that Sunday morning in Split watching this Baptism was how this little soul being baptised into the church was being held in a collective love. I didn't know anyone there but that didn't matter we were all focused on this little brilliant soul being covered in water and laughing about it and holding them and their family in a state of love. No common language was needed just a feeling of love.

Whilst on our travels from Split back to Dubrovnik we planned a stop in a place called Ploce - where I planned a 'mini-Pilgrimage', a Camino of sorts into Bosnia and Herzegovina and went to the village of Medjugorje.

This is a well-known pilgrimage site for Catholics and it's a place I've wanted to go to for a very long time.



Mary, and all things Marian are highly regarded for Catholics, she helps us out by 'having a word' on our behalf.

It was my Gran who first really introduced me to the rosary, she was a member of the Legion of Mary, and I remember going to 'Rosary' with her and I've been a fan ever since!

When you're a natural 'sinner' it's really useful having the Queen of Peace on your side - whenever I do a deep contemplative meditation and these usually culminate in a triple colloquy, I often find my conversations with our lady most surprising, she doesn't only give a feminine perspective on the situation but often a dose of common sense and motherly good advice!

Medjugorje is a small village and its name literally means 'between mountains' and guess what, it sits between the mountains! It was in 1981 that "Our Lady of Medjugorje" first appeared to 6 children between the ages of 12 and 16. There is an uncertainty about the authenticity of these apparitions as some call the whole thing supernatural - yet the message of Our Lady of Medjugorje is pretty simple - Peace! And a calling to find that peace through discovering God - And there sure is a peaceful setting and ambiance about the place.

The Church that sits in Medjugorje is the Church of St James the Greater - I think

he was greater than St James the Lesser simply in stature not because of value!

Nonetheless St James has always had a significance to me. Santiago, as they would call him in Spanish represents the 'common man' that's why the Camino to Santiago De Compostella is known as the way of the common man, although in 2024 we would say the common person.

As a 'commoner' the simplicity of the Camino attracts me - as I looked around the Pilgrims in Medjugorje, like looking around the people in church or in the supermarket - we all share a common denominator that is what the common bit means! Whether we are wealthy or poor, healthy or sick, stressed or at ease. Young or old, male or female we all share a commonality with each other.

We are all pilgrims on our way through life. We are all people on a journey through time!

Traditionally we think of a Pilgrimage as a journey to a Holy Place, but actually ALL places are Holy and wholly is the state of existence we all want to get to.

"All roads lead to Rome" my gran used to tell me, and she was right - so if all roads lead us to where we need to go it doesn't matter how you get there, or how the person next to you is getting there - we're all on our own journey of experience - enjoy it

Dan Sobey



Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) are looking for volunteers



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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, please email ccs@ccsplymouth.org.uk or call 01364 645420.

Catholic Children's Society Plymouth. Charity Registration No. 282803

The Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth), also known as CCSP, is the only Catholic children's charity in the Diocese, which covers Devon, Cornwall and parts of Dorset. Their Patron is Professor Sheila the Baroness Hollins, eminent psychiatrist at St George's Hospital, specialising in learning disabilities. Her Catholic faith is central to her life.

CCSP also has a small Board of Trustees, made up of enthusiastic volunteers, who meet four times a year at their offices at St Boniface House in Ashburton. Each trustee is passionate about making a difference and each one brings a different skillset to the board. They are looking for new trustees to supplement the existing strengths and are particularly interested in recruiting trustees with professional skills in areas such as HR. This is a voluntary position, both rewarding and challenging.

What CCSP does to help families They help families of all faiths and none in times of financial need and provide support to parents and carers in raising their children.

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Our Good Shepherd programme, working with schools to encourage their pupils to think of others less fortunate than themselves.

Rainbows GB Bereavement & Loss service, where our parent/carer facilitator provides Bereavement & Loss CPD training for staff in CAST schools and parishes. For those that become

Rainbows sites, facilitator training can be provided for nominated individuals who will run related peer support sessions in their own settings which help foster emotional healing to students who have experienced bereavement or loss, which includes divorce and those that are care experienced.

CCSP are also looking for youth trustees to bring the views of young people to their work. Maybe you are at university or have just completed your studies and think you would enjoy making a difference to some of the most deprived families in our Diocese ? This volunteering role would give you good business experience, an ability to find out how a small charity works, knowledge of safeguarding, as well valuable experience working as part of a diverse team and much more. You will need to be aged 18+.

Further details can be found by visiting www.ccsplymouth.org.uk, by contacting the office on 01364 645420 or by emailing ccs@ccsplymouth.org.uk

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Southern Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra join Abbey Choir for All Souls' Day Concert

On Saturday 2nd November (All Souls' Day), the Choir of Buckfast Abbey will be joined by the Southern Sinfonia for a special concert in remembrance of the faithful departed. The main work is Maurice Duruflé's sublime Requiem, performed in the version for choir, mezzo-soprano and baritone soloists, orchestra and organ. Completed in 1947 and dedicated to the memory of the composer's father, this expressive music unites the timeless Gregorian chants for the Mass of the Dead with the sensuous harmonies of twentieth century France, in a piece of both great drama and spiritual tranquillity.

In the first half, Abbey Organist, Charles Maxtone-Smith will play Francis Poulenc's electrifying Organ Concerto, and the choir will open the concert with a new choral arrangement of Maurice Ravel's well-known Pavane pour une infante défunte (Pavane for a dead princess). Both of these works are dedicated to the Princesse de Polignac, the American-born heiress to the Singer sewing machine fortune, who was a great patron of the Parisian music scene in the early 1900s and is buried locally in Torquay Cemetery.



Tickets to the concert, which starts at 19:30, are priced at £15 and are available from the Abbey Visitor Welcome Centre, or the website. Audience members can make an evening of it and dine before the concert at the restaurant at Northgate House or at the Abbey's pizzeria, San Benedetto's.

Buckfast Abbey is conveniently located midway between Exeter and Plymouth, just off the A38. Home to a community of Benedictine monks, the Abbey offers a unique, tranquil ambience, and is open seven days a week to the public. For more information about music at Buckfast Abbey visit www.buckfast.org.uk/music

View from the Pew

By Dr Jay Kettle-Williams



Where there's a will.....

No doubt we've all been the object of falsehood or the brunt of a wrongful accusation at one time or another (1). It's at such times that we might witness that fissiparous nature of humankind. No doubt it's then, in the face of such injustice, that we either retaliate tit for tat or simply think that to do so would be beneath ourselves, merely pyrrhic, not worth the candle, getting us nowhere but to highlight our resentment, however much justified, at the wrongful, baseless actions of others. So, which way to jump in such circumstances? It's entirely down to us, or is it?

The ability to make choices and to act on one's own account - the concept of free will and its implementation - have long entertained the minds of many, among them philosophers, scientists and theologians of any number of religious or other persuasions. How come God can be all-knowing, but the ability to jump one way or another is down to us? Where do I stand with regard to such '-isms' as determinism (to the effect that only one course of events is possible), incompatibilism (that free will is incompatible with determinism), metaphysical libertarianism (that determinism is false)?

I'm no theologian. How to address the apparent contradiction of exercising free will within the constraints upon us? I once put the matter to my mentor, a Catholic bishop, who had been tutoring me in a specific course of study. 'We have the free will,' he explained 'to act in any one of a number of ways within prescribed parameters [and perimeters].' And that made sense. We are bound by the human dimension, a dimension which, in itself,

might afford some flexibility as our abilities and the opportunities before us develop. A trite example, for which I ask you to excuse me, is that we might well acknowledge certain constraints when driving down a country road, constraints which we perhaps need not take into account when driving down a five-lane motorway. Not that that image, I admit, really serves in any way as a cautionary tale.

A cautionary tale we recognise as a story, experience or situation that serves as a warning or alert to others. It might involve a lesson or address a moral issue. So perhaps the following personal experience of mine might well fit that bill:

He was standing on the edge of the pavement, sporting a bushman's leather hat, his toes on the curb as he faced the roadway, his head bowed as if listening intently to the cars driving past. I was walking towards him, approaching from his left side. 'You ok?' I asked. 'Is there anything I can do?' It was then that I saw he carried a white stick in his right hand.

'That would be very kind of you,' he said and smiled broadly. 'Perhaps you could help me get across. The traffic is very heavy today.' He took me firmly by the arm. 'By the way, would you mind if, when it's all clear, we could stride across purposefully, march even, like soldiers on parade?'

We set off, arm in arm, vigorously overtaking the other pedestrians crossing the road like us, meeting head on and marching through the ranks of those doing likewise but coming in the opposite direction.

'That was great,' he enthused when we reached the opposite pavement. He then looked a little coy as he said, 'I don't suppose I could ask another favour?'

'Why not?' I replied, wondering what he was going to say.

'Let's stay arm in arm and when it's all clear, when there's nobody in the way, we just run like mad along the pavement. I haven't run for years.'

What then followed was like a pantomime moment, to the obvious bemusement of onlookers: two grown men grasping each other firmly by the arm, running along the pavement for all they were worth, both laughing, one spasmodically giving way to raucous giggles as he tried not to lose his hat.

Well, that incident has stayed with me for years. Do we accept the bondage of our limitations or choose instead to work with the opportunities? Well, where there's a will...

(1) See Deuteronomy 5:20; Exodus 20:16; Proverbs 6:17; The Ninth Commandment Acknowledgements and Attribution: Texts/References adapted and/or adopted from <http://en.wikipedia.org> under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License 4.0: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>



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

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Pilgrims from our diocese who attended this years National Eucharistic Congress were blessed to encounter and spend some time with our new Bishop-elect Philip Moger, who was also a key-note speaker.

Reflecting on this wonderful experience, one of our diocesan pilgrims Tanya Trevena shared the following words: 'A round of applause went up as Archbishop Mark O'Toole introduced Bishop-elect Philip Moger to our Plymouth Diocese pilgrims at The Eucharistic Congress yesterday at Oscott College! The group enthusiastically welcomed our new Bishop-elect and a great day was had by all as we reflected on "the joy of the sacrifice. The stress being on not giving up but on giving. As all feasts are an occasion of joy, we eat and rejoice because the Lord our God has blessed us," and He truly has.'

During his inspiring homily Cardinal Nicholls spoke movingly about the role of the Eucharist in our lives as Catholic Christians, referring to it as 'the fount and source of all our efforts, of every act of evangelisation. As we seek renewal in our mission let's take to heart that every act of dialogue and proclamation, of service and compassion, flows from our love of Christ. And every action is an invitation, implicit or explicit, to those whom we serve to come to know and love the Lord.'

A moving experience for all in attendance, pilgrims from our diocese have returned with a renewed sense of connection to their faith. As a diocesan community we continue to pray for our Bishop-elect Philip, and, with hope for the future, look forward to welcoming him and celebrating his installation on November 9th.

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 Nick on 01440 730399
nick@cathcom.org

Fifty years of Faithful service

On the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary, Kevin Grant, Sacristan and Altar Server at the Church of Our Lady of Victories, Callington received his Guild of St. Stephen's Gold Medal from Parish priest, Canon John Deeny, VG, marking more than fifty years of faithful service at the altar.

Following his presentation, I sat down with Kevin to ask him a little more about his years of service, how it began and to get his thoughts about this special role.

Mary: "Kevin, take me back to when you began as an Altar Server".

Kevin: "I started at Christchurch Priory in Eltham when I was six years old and served there until I was twelve. Then we moved to Liskeard in Cornwall, and I began serving at the Church of Our Lady in St. Neot where I continued as an Altar Server for the next thirty-two years. Following that, I moved again and joined Our Lady of Victories church in Callington and began serving there. I've been there fifteen years now and served every weekday Mass since then."

Mary: "Why did you become an Altar Server?"

Kevin: "It started really when I was at school. The convent school I attended had a wonderful chaplain who encouraged us to take on different ministries at a young age.

My first role was Boat Boy carrying the incense for the Thurible and following the Thurifer. It brought me closer to those who serve at the altar and revealed their important role in assisting the priest during Mass. I think from there my interest grew."

Mary: "What do you find most spiritually enriching about being an Altar Server?"

Kevin: "For me, it's about feeling close to the priest who is Christ at the altar. I also feel very blessed to have been encouraged by some of the most wonderful priests over the years. It's always been a privilege to serve at Christ's altar rather than simply an act of serving."

Mary: "What attribute do you believe is crucial for an Altar Server to possess?"

Kevin: "To be dignified and reverent in the way you move and serve the priest. Your actions must not detract from anything the priest is doing at the altar, but rather draw the congregation in closer to the Mass and what is taking place before them."

Mary: "Do you think this is a service that anyone can offer for their church and community?"



Kevin: "It is, but the most important thing is regular Mass attendance and a real desire to serve in this role. I never miss Sunday Mass unless I am ill and fortunately my employers give me the time off on weekdays to serve at Mass. Things are different now as well because the Guild of St. Stephen is open to all - boys, girls, men and women. Children from the age of eight can join the Guild of St. Stephen once they have celebrated their first Holy Communion."

Mary: "Has the desire to become an altar server declined over time?"

Kevin: "In my opinion, it has. Bringing children to church at a young age is a positive practice. Nevertheless, it is common knowledge that they tend to drift away once they reach adolescence.

But the Lord goes with them, and they often come back. There are Servers who gave it up for twenty or thirty years, then return to their parish as married men and ask to take up serving again."

Mary: "Do you think there are now more adult Servers than children?"

Kevin: "Yes, in rural parishes like ours. However, the situation changes in the larger parishes. I recently went to my sister's parish in Fareham, Portsmouth and at their Sunday evening Mass they had ten servers."

Mary: "How do you feel God has touched you through your years of serving at the altar?"

Kevin: "At one point I thought He was calling me to the priesthood, so I joined a religious order. From there I went on to the Diocesan Seminary because I felt that He was calling me to that ministry but then I didn't take my final vows.

"A wonderful priest in Liskeard at that time helped me to realise that sometimes God calls us to serve locally rather in an ordained role and that's what I continue to do today."

Mary: Has being an Altar Server given you a deeper understanding of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass?

Kevin: "Yes, absolutely. I'm also twenty years a Sacristan. When you prepare the sacred vessels and the Eucharist in the form of ordinary bread and wine and then through the miracle of the Holy Mass know they become the sacred body and blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ, it is such an amazing thing.

As devout Catholics we cherish this gift, both in our belief of the transubstantiation and in our receiving of Christ at each Mass."

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The Guild of St. Stephen is an international organisation of Altar Servers

founded in England in 1904 by Father Hamilton McDonald when he formed a Society of Altar Servers at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in London. In 1905, St. Pius X, Pope, gave his approbation to the canonical establishment of the Guild at Westminster Cathedral and in 1906, the Sacred Congregation of Rites made the Guild an Archconfraternity prima primaria, enabling all the parish branches to be linked with it.

The Guild spread and, in 1934, Pope Pius XI enabled all Guilds of Altar Servers throughout the British Commonwealth to be affiliated with the Archconfraternity at Westminster.

The objects of the Guild of St. Stephen are:

- To encourage, positively and practically, the highest standards of serving at the Church's Liturgy and so contribute to the whole community's participation in a more fruitful worship of God.

- To provide Altar Servers with a greater understanding of what they are doing so that they may serve with increasing reverence and prayerfulness and thereby be led to a deepening response to the vocation in life.

- To unite Servers of different parishes and dioceses for their mutual support and encouragement.

The Hodder Sunday Missal

For use with the new Lectionary from Advent 2024
Publishing 21 November 2024

Hodder & Stoughton is delighted to announce the publication in November 2024 of The Hodder Sunday Missal.

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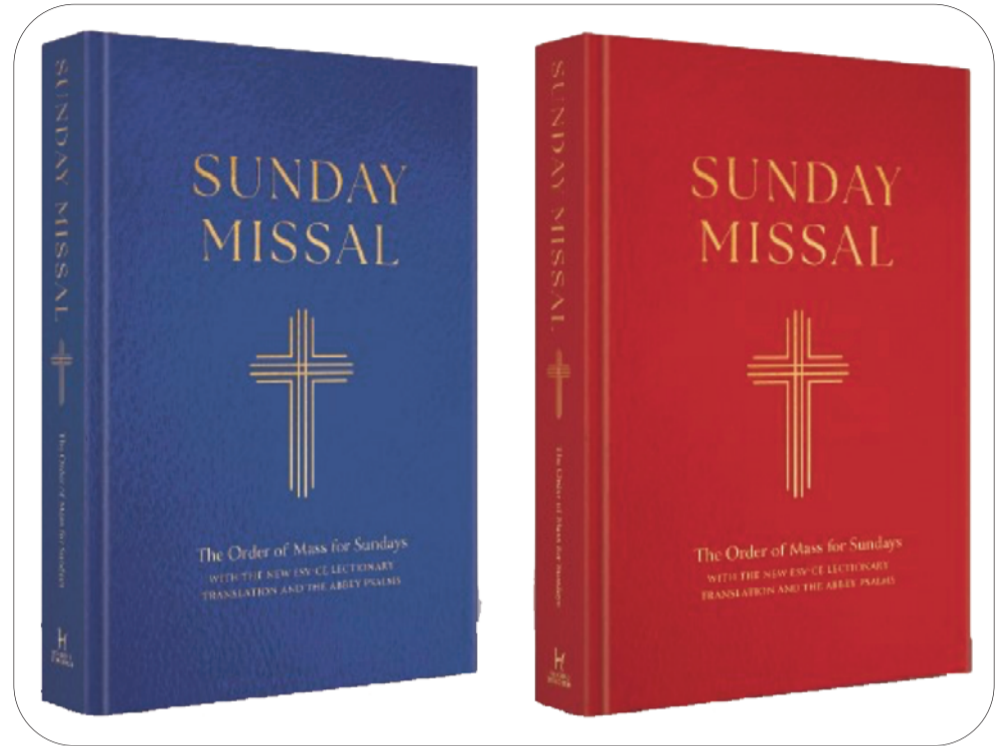
Published by religion and theology imprint Hodder Faith (part of John Murray Press), The Hodder Sunday Missal is a brand-new edition to add to the range of missals currently available, and will provide the proper texts for all Sundays in the three-year liturgical cycle, along with the major feasts and solemnities in the universal calendar. Publication will coincide with the introduction of the new lectionary this Advent which will use the English Standard Version-Catholic Edition (ESV-CE) translation of the Bible and the Abbey Psalter.

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Publishing Director at Hodder Faith Andy Lyon commented: 'We are called to conform our lives to Christ and we respond to this calling in our liturgy, most particularly in the Mass. The Hodder Sunday Missal has been designed to draw

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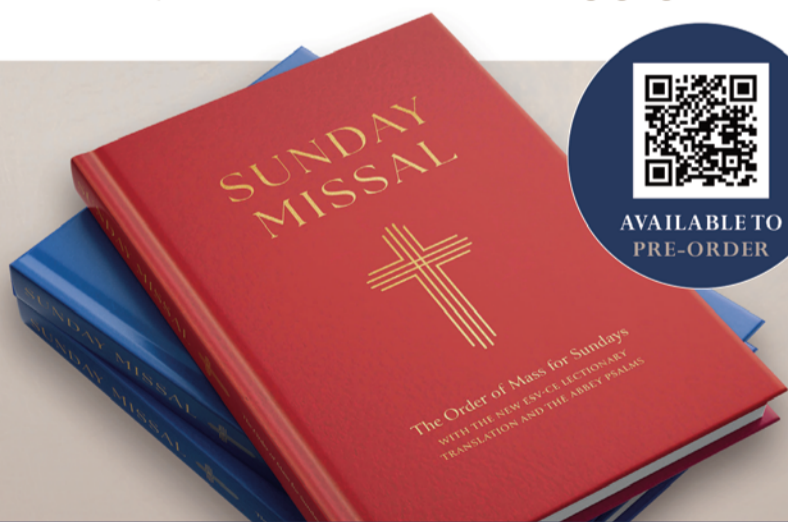
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Christian organisations and churches plan national week of prayer for UK

Christians from around the UK and British Isles are being urged to join church leaders and Christian organisations, NGOs and civil society in a National Week of Prayer from 12-20 October.

The campaign, which has been created from a partnership - including Open Doors UK & Ireland, 24-7 Prayer, CARE, the Evangelical Alliance and other national prayer networks - is hoping to gather Christians from across the four nations to humble ourselves, repent and pray for lives to be transformed by Jesus, and to see a spiritual awakening in the nations.

Organisers are encouraging people across all four nations of the UK and British Isles to organise their own local events or to attend events in their region and focus on prayer for various areas of society, including education, politics and the arts. The week will include an event at the Emmanuel Centre - close to the Houses of Parliament in London - on Wednesday 16 October, where hundreds will gather to remember the good things God has done across the nations and what He continues to do.

Kamesh Flynn, the project co-ordinator, says: "Throughout the past few months, we have been humbled at how open and engaged people across the nations have been in committing to praying for the nation as a Church collectively. No matter the denomination, individual area of influence, or whether you are gathering three people or 3,000 people, we believe this is a moment for the UK to return to God and flourish in the identity found in Him."

Church leaders from across denominations have been quick to throw their support behind the campaign.

Archbishop Angaelos, the Coptic Archbishop of London says: "There is nothing more powerful for us to do, than to pray. Stand together, pray together. When we gather together, the Lord is in our midst. This week of prayer, let us pray for our nation for those deprived the right to believe or have their own faith."

The Lord Bishop of Winchester, the Rt Rev Philip Mountstephen commented: "We are an empowered people and in the Spirit we can pray to the creator of the universe and believe that things can and will change. Let us pray!"



Father Dominic Robinson SJ, from Central London Catholic Churches says: "We want to invite you to gather for the National Week of Prayer as Christians together, remembering our need for God, thanking God for His great gifts, and praying as Christians together for the reawakening of the soul of our nation."

Partners for the National Week of Prayer include Open Doors UK & Ireland, 24-7 Prayer, CARE, the Evangelical Alliance, Christians in Government, the City Prayer Breakfast, Christians in Politics, the National Day of Prayer and Worship, Liberal Democrat Christian Forum, Conservative Christian Fellowship, the Coptic Orthodox Church, Christians on the Left, transformwork, Local Houses of Prayer, Word & Worship, and the Christian Embassy London.

For more details see: www.nationalweekofprayer.uk/

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Book Reviews



At Home in the Mysteries of Christ

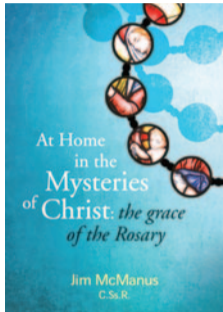
By Fr Jim McManus

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If you have been a life-long devotee of the Rosary, or if you are coming back to the Rosary after a long break, or if you are feeling attracted to the Rosary for the very first time, you will find in this book, *At Home in the Mysteries of Christ*, great encouragement, enlightenment and a new desire for a deeper, personal relationship with Jesus Christ. In the Rosary, we contemplate the love and mercy of God the Father, now made manifest to us in the person of Jesus his son; we ponder too the presence of the Holy Spirit through whose power Jesus was conceived in his mother's womb, performed all his great works of mercy, offered himself for our sake on the cross and rose triumphantly from the dead; we become more aware

that the risen Jesus has given us that same Holy Spirit when he established his Church on earth. We contemplate all these mysteries of Jesus through the eyes of his Mother Mary as we pray the Rosary. All our great saints and mystics tell us that the Rosary is the great Trinitarian and Marian prayer of our Catholic tradition. It is a spiritual treasure. That is why the subtitle of this book is *The Grace of the Rosary*.

Praying the Rosary: A Journey through Scripture & Art

By Fr Denis McBride

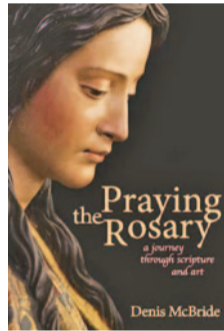
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Fr McBride takes a fresh look at the Rosary in this beautifully illustrated book. Through the four sets of mysteries he takes us on a leisurely journey through twenty



episodes in the lives of Jesus and Mary, offering us prayerful insights on the way. The format for each decade is simple: first there is a reading from scripture, which is followed by a reflection on the passage; a painting is also included which offers its own take on the subject, accompanied by a brief reflection; finally there is a prayer on some aspect of the mystery. Focusing on a scriptural understanding of the mysteries, this prayerful book will prove a sure companion for everyone who loves the Rosary.

Sacred Space – The Prayerbook 2025

The Irish Jesuits

£12.95

ISBN: 9781788126984

www.messenger.ie

'In a stress-filled modern world Sacred Space points to the rich possibilities that each day brings.' Intercom

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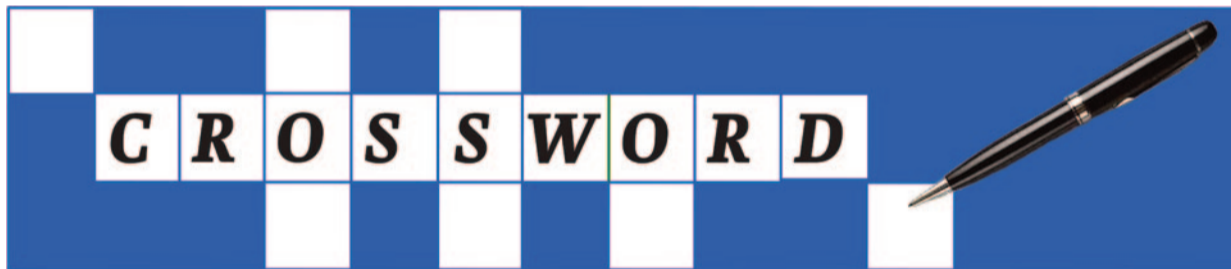
Sacred Space (www.sacredspace.ie) is a kind of 'anam cara' or soul friend. It journeys with us and helps us to slow down, pay attention and find the greatest anam cara of all – God.

Every day is rich with possibilities. Yet modern life is busy and can be stressful. It can be challenging to incorporate a prayerful rhythm into our day, to help us find guidance and insight in everyday life.

Through Sacred Space, the Irish Jesuits have brought the daily practice of prayer in the Ignatian tradition to people all over the world, across twenty different languages. Here, in Sacred Space: The Prayerbook, all the tools of Sacred Space are gathered in one place.

Each day of The Prayerbook includes a Scripture reading with points for reflection, as well as a weekly topic enhanced by six steps of prayer.

The prayers and reflections in Sacred Space: The Prayerbook 2025 are written by members of the Irish Province of the Society of Jesus, the Jesuits.



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

CRYPTIC Across

- 1 Enemy of Gideon's defeated during the witching hour, said one (9)
- 6 Musical about a High Priest (7)
- 7 Riddle to penetrate? (5)
- 9 Change in a little while going back to protect the testament (5)
- 10 Fielder's body parts used to take wickets in the end (3,4)
- 11 Foot part's essential to dancing, they say (6)
- 13 Grand aura about directions for the Holy Roman Emperor (6) 16 Hymn book each sailor kept (7)
- 18 One has a habit of getting into minicab bother (5)
- 20 Harsh being back at sea (5)
- 21 Bigbrewersarenuts,ridiculous(3-4)
- 22 Tyre here company backs after one phone order (9)

CRYPTIC Down

- 1 Recommendation when weather's bad in French wine area? (5)
- 2 Poles follow east Maine river banks to estate (7)
- 3 Saint Poles back from 2, and the Spanish, see in the morning (6)
- 4 One's no good in charge at first, but is very sweet (5)
- 5 Christian Roman's spreading mostly rubbish between Europe and America (7)
- 6 Paul's fellow soldier damaged pup's chair (9)
- 8 It runs in Iraq on Brussels tariffs top two phones supported (9)
- 12 Disturbance with fish supper only half wolfed down (5-2)
- 14 Spooks wreck a comeback, totally, for ancient language (7)

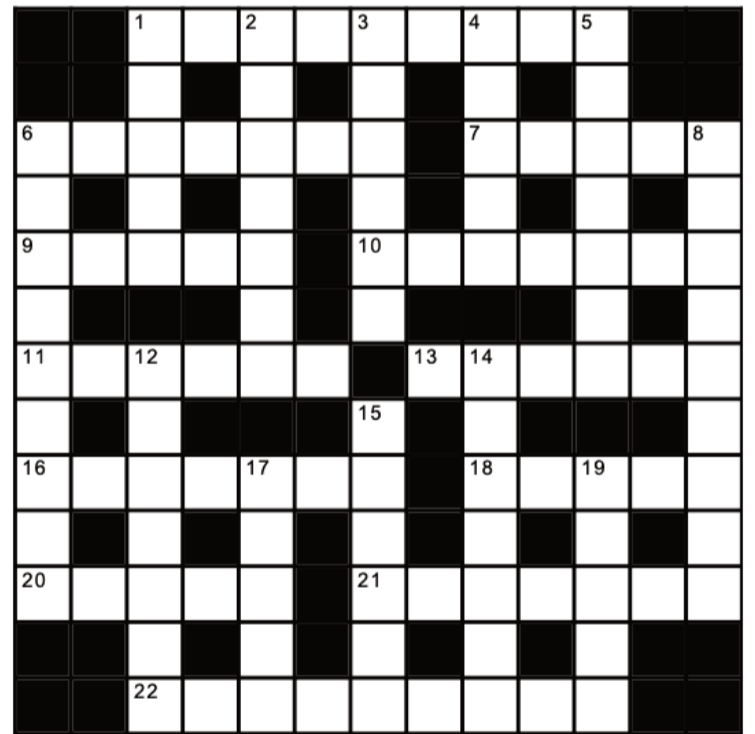
- 15 Frenchman's to the fore in Brexit – real European traditionalist on nationality (6)
- 17 'Beat retreat' code-word (5)
- 19 Gunners in the ascendant during support for Hebridean island (5)

QUICK Across

- 1 One of a tribe from whom Moses took a wife (9)
- 6 High Priest who opposed the Maccabees (7)
- 7 Soak;suffuse(5)
- 9 Eurofractions?(5)
- 10 Close fielding position in cricket (3,4)
- 11 Arch area of the foot (6)
- 13 The -----'s War: alternative, now dated, name for World War I (6) 16 Book of hymns or poems associated with the Old Testament (7)
- 18 Archimandrite;prelate (5)
- 20 Demanding;forbidding (5)
- 21 Large vats for steeping and serving beverages (3-4)
- 22 Ancient Levant maritime country with ports at Tyre and Sidon (9)

QUICK Down

- 1 Town noted for its Chardonnay and Pinot Noir/Gamay Burgundies (5)
- 2 Manorhouse;estate(7)
- 3 Abbot of Bec who became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1093 (6)
- 4 Cupcake topper (5)



- 5 Roman Christian who sent greetings to Timothy via Paul... (7)
- 6 ...and Christian at Colossae cited by Paul (9)
- 8 Western river boundary of Mesopotamia (9)
- 12 Organize a new restructure (5-2)
- 14 Language probably spoken by Christ (7)
- 15 French, previously Armorican (6)
- 17 Staccato, energetic, South American dance (5)
- 19 Outer Hebridean island home of Dad's Army's Private Frazer (5)

SOLUTION

Across: 1 Midianite, 6 Alcinus, 7 Imbue, 9 Cents, 10 Leg slip, 11 Instep, 13 Kaiser, 16 Psalter, 18 Abbot, 20 Stern, 21 Tea-urns, 22 Phoenicia. Down: 1 Maccan, 2 Demene, 3 Anselm, 4 Icing, 5 Eubulus, 6 Archipraps, 8 Euphrates, 12 Shake-up, 14 Aramaic, 15 Breton, 17 Tango, 19 Barra.