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Joy replaces nerves as Father Steven devotes his life to God and to others

At noon on the Feast of St Henry (July 13), I was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Terry at St Mary's Cathedral.

It was such a joyful occasion for me. I was greatly moved to see all the people who had made the journey to be there – family and friends and parishioners from all over the diocese.

They came from the parishes of Our Lady Star of the Sea in Bridlington, Eastfield and Filey, where I served as a pastoral worker and later deacon, and from the cathedral.

There were people from my home parish of St Charles in Tudhoe (in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle), from the Anglican parish of St Paul's in Spennymoor, and from St Margaret Clitherow's in Haxby, where I first began to discern a vocation.

There were also some I'd met during my time on various placements as a seminarian, and people I met as a teacher and deacon while on the diocesan pilgrimage in Lourdes and priests, both from the diocese and those whom I had known during my various times in seminary.

I must admit that in the weeks leading up to my ordination I felt nervous; not because of the organisation required or that I was about to be the focus of attention, but because of the commitment I was making to lifelong priestly ministry and what that meant.

Frequently leading up to ordination parishioners, friends and family asked, "How are you feeling?"

My response was often something like, "If I

could sum it up, I'd say I've got pre-wedding jitters!"

If I reflect on those weeks before ordination, it's clear that's exactly what I had. The fear of taking this life-changing step, although it can be seen as being a very different life from that of marriage, the commitment involved in accepting the vocation is identical. We commit to a life of love and service.

When I entered the cathedral at the beginning of the ordination Mass and saw the people there, these nerves and fears left me. I was overwhelmed by the support and the idea of ministering to others as a priest came to the forefront of my mind. All pre-wedding jitters were gone!

I felt a great love for everyone present, which put everything in perspective and reminded me of the reason I was being ordained.

One of the readings I chose was St Paul's Letter to the Corinthians, which is often read at weddings, where he speaks of love being the highest of the virtues.

"Love is always patient and kind ... love is always ready to trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes. Love does not come to an end."

For me, this is what priesthood should be and indeed what any life lived well is: a life devoted to loving God and loving others.

An incredibly powerful moment in the ordination ceremony was when the Litany of Saints was sung. I was very emotional.

Those present ask numerous saints to pray for the Church, the world and the person



Bishop Terry ordains Father Steven – Photo by Chris Booth

being ordained, and as a sign of humility the person being called to ministry lies prostrate on the floor of the cathedral and makes a total dedication to being the servant of Christ, bringing his love to others, wherever the ministry takes him.

In his homily, Bishop Terry spoke of this when he said, "Fulfil ... the ministry of Christ the priest with abiding joy and genuine love. Seek not your own concerns but those of

Jesus Christ."

One of the best bits of advice I was given by several people, both before the ordination, during the homily at my first Mass preached by Monsignor Gerard Robinson and in the weeks after was, "Be yourself."

That's what we are all called to be – ourselves – or more accurately, to be the best version of ourselves. We are asked to become empty, letting go of all ego.

Paradoxically, in doing this we become the person Christ wants us to be because we make space for him so he can work in us and through us. Hopefully, over my lifetime, I will try to live this out as a priest of the diocese.

I would like to thank everyone involved in organising the day and who made the ordination such a joyful occasion.

I'd also like to thank everyone who journeyed with me from the beginning, 20 years ago, when I first began discerning a call to the priesthood with the diocese and, indeed, at whatever stage of the journey I met them – Bishop Terry, Monsignor Gerard and the vocations directors, my family and friends. Thank you to those people who gave me a nudge in the right direction, who challenged me and inspired me to continue, even though they may not have known it.

God bless +

Father Steven Leightell

You can read Monsignor Gerard's homily from Father Steven's first Mass on the diocesan website. Visit shorturl.at/KJUQs.

To see more photos from the ordination visit [flickr.com/photos/middlesbroughdiocese/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/middlesbroughdiocese/).

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NEWS

Faith leaders call for healing, prayer and action

Faith leaders and organisations that work with people seeking asylum have called for healing, prayer and action after a wave of riots in towns across the country, including Hull and Middlesbrough in our diocese.

The presidents of Churches Together in England, who include Cardinal Vincent Nichols, appealed for an end to racism, division and disorder.

“In the wake of the terrible events in Southport, we acknowledge the anger felt by many at these senseless killings. We also acknowledge deep and troubling anxiety about immigration.

“Regrettably, we have witnessed violent, racist attacks and intimidation on our streets. Mosques have been attacked, hotels housing people seeking asylum set on fire and individuals set upon simply because of the colour of their skin. Racism has no place on our streets or in society and should not be stirred up in communities or online.”

They praised the work of the emergency services who put themselves in danger to protect the public and thanked communities who came together to help with the clear up.

They added: “We are also grateful to the many local churches across the country who provide a place of worship and sanctuary for people and who help build stronger communities through action at the grassroots level. Let us all work together to put an end to this violent disorder, restore peace and heal our nation.”

Cardinal Nichols also joined the chief rabbi, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the chief imam and the chairman of the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board to speak out against the violence.

In a letter to *The Times*, they describe the targeting of mosques, asylum seekers and refugees, as well as violence directed towards the police and private property, as a “stain on our national moral conscience”.

Bishop Paul McAleenan, lead bishop for migrants and refugees at the Catholic Bishops’ Conference, said: “We need to continue to pray, work and stand together for peace in our country. The actions of the few involved in violence stands in stark contrast to the work of charities, church groups and volunteers who tirelessly extend the hand of welcome to migrants in acts of solidarity.

“We hope and pray they will redouble their efforts so that we can rebuild communities.”

Director of the Jesuit Refugee Service UK, Sarah Teather, called for the government to ensure safety for people seeking asylum.

“Communities across the UK are reeling from criminal violence that has threatened people’s lives, injured emergency service workers and



An army of volunteers including Anisia Nestor, 11, pictured here with a dustpan and brush, and her friend Molly O’Neill, nine, gathered at Middlesbrough’s Cenotaph the day after the riot to help clean up – Photo by Rochelle Nestor

destroyed public facilities.

“People of colour, members of the Muslim community and people seeking sanctuary have been deliberately targeted. Many of the refugees we serve and others in our communities are living with deep fear and insecurity.

“It is imperative that the government takes urgent steps to ensure the safety of all those being targeted, including people in the asylum system, who in many cases have already fled violence and experienced profound trauma.

“At the same time, every one of us has a responsibility to challenge the disinformation and racist, divisive rhetoric fuelling this hostility.”

Caritas Social Action Network CEO Raymond Friel called for solidarity and service to triumph over hatred and division.

“We have been shocked and disturbed at the violent scenes of public disorder in many parts of the UK in recent days and the levels of racism, Islamophobia and hatred against

those seeking sanctuary in our country.

“We have often seen good coming out of the most horrific circumstances, as people find in themselves their best instincts to repair and build community and stand against the forces of division and hatred.

“We stand in solidarity with all victims of violence, especially with our brothers and sisters seeking asylum, our Muslim brothers and sisters and indeed with anyone feeling threatened because of who they are or where they are from.

Father Jonathan Stewart, from the Diocese of Plymouth, has written this prayer...

Lord, Prince of Peace,

We appeal to your boundless love and mercy.

In the face of violence and turmoil in our country, 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.

Change the hearts and minds of those who seek to fuel unrest and bring us all to live in your kingdom of justice, peace and love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Bishop announces clergy moves

A number of clergy moves have been announced by Bishop Terry.

Father Michael Sellers will move to St Hilda’s, Whitby, and will also look after English Martyrs, Sleights.

Father Pat Keogh is retiring from pastoral ministry and moving back to live in Middlesbrough.

Canon John Loughlin will move to the Teesville parishes (St Andrew’s, St Anne’s and St Peter’s), and a new Filipino priest, Father Clifford Gavina, will start his new ministry at the Sacred Heart and St Bede’s churches in Hull.

These moves are expected to take place in the last week of September or beginning of October.

The following clergy moves also took place during August.

Father Jose Michael has been appointed as parish administrator to St George’s, York. Canon Jerry Twomey will continue as parish priest until Father Jose returns from his break on October 7.

Father Peter Taylor was appointed as assistant priest to Blessed Nicholas Postgate Parishes in Redcar, Marske and Guisborough.

Father Steven Leightell, who was ordained during the summer, was appointed as assistant priest to St Mary’s Cathedral, Middlesbrough.

Father Reji Devasia has been appointed as temporary parish administrator to All Saints, Thirsk.

This is because Father Anil Kumar Narisetti has left the diocese and returned to India because of family commitments.

Bishop Terry said: “I would like to thank Father Pat Keogh for agreeing to extend his ministry at St Hilda’s during this past year.

“I am sure he will be looking forward to his retirement, and I pray that all our priests enjoy their pastoral ministry in their new parishes.”



Canon Pat passes away peacefully after long illness

Fellow priests and people throughout the diocese were saddened to hear news of the death of Canon Pat Hartnett.

Canon Pat, 70, passed away peacefully on Thursday July 25 at Boarbank Hall Nursing home, Grange-over-Sands, where the sisters had been caring for him during his illness.

Monsignor Gerard Robinson and Canon David Grant both saw Canon Pat in the days before he passed away and he was anointed and received Holy Communion.

Canon Pat was born on May 27 1954 in Middlesbrough, where his Dublin-born father had come to play football for Middlesbrough FC.

He trained for the priesthood at St Patrick's College, Thurles, Tipperary, Ireland, before being ordained at St Joseph's Church, Middlesbrough, on June 15 1979.

He began his ministry as an assistant priest at St Vincent de Paul's Parish, Hull, from 1979 to 1982.

From 1982 to 1993, he served St Charles Parish, Hull, as assistant priest, and from 1993 to 2000 he was parish priest at St Mary and St Joseph in Hedon.

In 2000, Canon Pat moved to St George's Parish in York as parish priest and in 2009 he became parish priest at St Thérèse of Lisieux, Ingleby Barwick, and also had oversight of St Mary and St Romuald, Yarm.

During this time he was instrumental in the building of the new church at Ingleby Barwick.

In 2015, Canon Pat was appointed Episcopal Vicar for Spirituality and Worship, and he also became a member of the Cathedral Chapter and College of Consultors and was made a canon in 2016.

In 2019, Canon Pat moved to All Saints Church, Thirsk, as parish priest, but sadly, in September 2023 he took early retirement because of his cancer treatment and ill health.

Canon Pat was received into All Saints Church on Monday August 19, by Canon David Grant, who also celebrated a Mass that evening.

His Requiem Mass was celebrated at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough, at noon on Tuesday August 20.

In a message that was read out at the funeral, Bishop Terry offered his sympathies to Canon Pat's family.

He said: "In offering sympathy I would also like to express my personal thanks and gratitude on behalf of the Diocese of Middlesbrough for the gift of Canon Pat's years of ministry to the people of this diocese and for the generous commitment he constantly demonstrated in all his offices and roles within the diocese.

"Priests do not appear from nowhere. Generally, they are nurtured and sustained by their family. And Canon Pat was such a priest and you, his family, certainly supported and encouraged him all through his life, not least in these last years.

"Pat fought a hard battle with cancer over these last few years. Despite this, he chose



Canon Pat with his family after his installation to the Cathedral Chapter of Canons

to keep working as best he could while he was able. When I first suggested that perhaps he ought to focus on his personal health, and step down from pastoral responsibilities, he balked at the idea, and was a little irritated that I should suggest such a thing.

"It was only when the doctors told him there was nothing more that could be done that he even began to contemplate retiring. Despite the persistence of the cancer, Pat was always cheerful and upbeat and a real example to us all of peaceful acceptance of God's will for him.

"Once again, I would like to thank Canon Pat's family for supporting him over the years and enabling him to minister and work among the people and parishes of the diocese.

"May the Good Lord grant him the reward of his labours and welcome him into his eternal home with Our Lady, all the saints and his relatives and friends who have gone before him.

"Eternal rest grant to him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen."

Bishop Terry pays warm tribute to Father Dan

Father Dan O'Neill, a much-loved priest who served parishes throughout the diocese for more than half a century, has passed away at the age of 81 after a recent illness.

Father Dan was born on January 29 1943 in Ayle, Cappawhite, County Tipperary, Ireland. He attended St Patrick's Seminary in Thurles, Ireland, and was ordained to the priesthood at Thurles Cathedral on June 10 1967.

After his ordination he came to the Diocese of Middlesbrough, where he served as curate at St Joseph's Church in Middlesbrough before moving in 1968 to St Patrick's, Thornaby. In 1971 he transferred to St Bede's, Hull, returning to Middlesbrough, to St Patrick's Church, the following year.

In 1981 he was appointed parish priest at St Alban's in Redcar. He served as parish priest at the Holy Name of Mary, Middlesbrough, from 1994 to 2004 and moved to St Joseph and St Francis Xavier Church, Richmond, in 2004.

Father Dan retired in 2019 to Ardglass, County Down, Northern Ireland, where he helped with supply work in local parishes. He had been unwell recently and earlier this year he fell and broke his hip. He died in the Ulster Hospital, Belfast, on Monday August 12.

Father Dan was received into Our Lady of Fatima Church, Cappawhite, on Thursday August 15 at 7pm and his Requiem Mass was celebrated by his cousins, Father Tom and Father Pat O'Neill, on Friday August 16 at 11.30am, with burial afterwards in Cappawhite Cemetery.

He is predeceased by his brothers Sean and Paul, sisters Nodie, Lily and Mary and he will be sadly missed by his loving brothers Morgan and Paddy, family, priests and parishioners.

Bishop Terry was away from the diocese but there will be a special Mass of Remembrance for Father Dan when he and Father Tom and



Father Dan processing into church before confirmations at St Joseph and St Francis Xavier, Richmond

Father Pat return.

In a message that was read out at Father Dan's funeral, Bishop Terry said: "On behalf of the diocese, I would like to express to all Dan's family and friends grateful thanks for his ministry among us, and to that I add my own personal thanks.

"My experience of him in his parish and among his people was of a caring, kind pastor who knew his people well and looked after them with a shepherd's heart. He was

full of life, full of fun. You knew Dan was around long before you saw him. His ringing voice always preceded him, normally with a mischievous comment or question.

"Thanks to all his family and friends for the support you have given to him over the years, especially in his time of retirement. I am grateful for the presence of Father Tom and Father Pat O'Neill, who by God's providence were on holiday in Ireland at the time of Father Dan's death. As well as being part of

Dan's family they also represent me, the bishop, and the Diocese of Middlesbrough.

"May the Good Lord grant him the reward of his labours and welcome him into his eternal home with Our Lady, all the saints and his relatives and friends who have gone before him.

"Eternal rest grant to him, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen."

SCHOOLS

A message to schools for Education Sunday

Education Sunday is an opportunity to pray for everyone involved in Catholic education and to ask God to bless the work of the year ahead.

It is also when congregations commemorate their 19th-century predecessors, many of

whom were living in poverty, paying for schools to be built.

This year, on September 8, we will mark the 176th celebration of Education Sunday in England and Wales.

In a special message, Bishop of Leeds and

chair of the Catholic Education Service (CES) Marcus Stock, says: "As we begin a new academic year, let us entrust to Almighty God all who are involved in the provision of Catholic education in our schools, colleges and universities. We pray that Christ the Teacher will strengthen their faith and fill

their hearts with courage and hope."

The CES has produced an Education Sunday guide and prayer booklet to be used this year across schools and parishes.

Visit cbcew.org.uk/education-sunday-prayers-and-resources to find out more.

New top team brings progress at Sacred Heart

The appointment of a new leadership team is helping bring about "rapid improvement" at a North Yorkshire primary school, Ofsted says.

Inspectors judged Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School in Northallerton as good in all areas and gave it a good overall rating.

"Leaders have improved the quality of education for pupils," the report says. "The curriculum is ambitious. The school has identified the important knowledge they want pupils to learn. There is also a strong focus on vocabulary."

"This leadership model has supported rapid improvement. Parents are overwhelmingly positive about the current provision in the school. Staff are proud to work at the school. "They appreciate how leaders listen to feedback. Governors and trustees know the school's strengths and areas for development well."

Ofsted said Sacred Heart pupils enjoy coming to school and are proud to live up to Sacred Heart's vision of "being the best you can be".

Executive headteacher Paul Conway welcomed the report and said the improvements were a real team effort.

"We are so proud of the significant

improvements we are making and continue to make," he said. "It is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our entire team and the tremendous support of the central Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust (NPCAT) team."

"It's great that Ofsted has recognised the ambitious curriculum we have put in place and how prioritising vocabulary and a positive reading culture has truly made a difference in the quality of education for our pupils."

"It is also heartening to see such positive feedback from parents, staff, governors and trustees. We are grateful for their support and commitment to our school community."

"This recognition from Ofsted is a validation of our efforts, but we will continue to strive to make even more progress to ensure we offer the children of Northallerton the very best education possible."

"We would encourage families with young children to visit our thriving early years provision and see for themselves what we have to offer."

Chair of governors Graham McCartney added: "I would like to express my gratitude to



Assistant headteacher and SENDCo Stephen Lawson, executive headteacher Paul Conway and teaching and learning lead Amanda Hick with Year 3 and 4 children

school leaders and the committed and loyal staff for this judgement."

NPCAT CEO Hugh Hegarty said: "Northallerton

children deserve quality education and parents have shared the journey as we continue to grow the very best provision in this wonderful community and parish."

Celebrating a remarkable career in education

Karen Siedle, an influential figure in Catholic education in the diocese, celebrated her retirement with colleagues and family at a Mass at St Charles Borromeo in Hull at the end of the academic year.

Karen's contribution over 33 years has profoundly shaped the educational landscape, particularly within the Hull area and the broader Diocese of Middlesbrough.

Throughout her career, Karen has earned the love, respect and loyalty of her colleagues. Directors speak of her in high regard, emphasising how much they will miss her leadership.

Her colleagues have highlighted not only her recent achievements but also her long-term contribution, noting the lasting positive influence she has had on students in both

primary and secondary schools.

Last September, Karen was asked to step into the role of interim CEO at St Cuthbert's RC Academy Trust (SCRAT), a position she embraced with her unique characteristic determination and drive.

Her time saw accomplishments including the delivery of good and outstanding Ofsted and CSI inspection outcomes across all inspected schools. These achievements underline her commitment to educational excellence and her ability to drive progress, even in

challenging environments.

As Karen steps into retirement, she leaves behind a legacy of an unwavering commitment to education. Her accomplishments, especially in recent years within the trust's schools, stand as a testament to her impact on the lives of countless students and teachers. This influence will continue to inspire and guide future generations in education.

David Laws
SCRAT chair of directors

Caritas trustees and directors gather at Bar Convent in York

The board of trustees and directors of Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) met at the Bar Convent in York.

CSAN is an agency of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales tasked with raising the profile and voice of Catholics involved in social justice. The board gathered

in York to review the charity's strategy in the coming years. Mass was celebrated in the Bar Convent's historic chapel by Malcolm McMahon, Archbishop of Liverpool and Chair of CSAN.

Johan Bergström-Allen



The CSAN board meeting in York – Photo by Johan Bergström-Allen



Karen Siedle and her family at her retirement Mass

School where everyone is made to feel welcome

A Middlesbrough school where “everyone is made to feel welcome” is celebrating an Ofsted inspection that saw it graded outstanding in two areas.

The report rated St Bernadette’s Catholic Primary School in Nunthorpe – part of Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust (NPCAT) – as good overall and outstanding for both Behaviour and Attitudes and Personal Development.

“This is a school where everyone is made to feel welcome,” the inspectors said. “Caring staff ensure pupils feel safe and they are well cared for. A typical comment from parents and carers is that the school ‘is like an extended family.’”

Throughout their visit, inspectors noted the school’s determination for all children to thrive.

“The school is ambitious for all pupils to achieve success, including pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). This is realised in many subjects, particularly in reading, where pupils consistently achieve exceptionally well.

“Teachers make sure learning is enjoyable. Pupils enjoy their lessons and talk knowledgeably about what they have learned.”

The report praised St Bernadette’s “exceptional” enrichment programme, which ensures pupils engage with the community, with events such as growing food for neighbouring residents, litter picking and supporting charities.



“Pupils’ behaviour is exemplary. Pupils treat each other with respect and kindness. They concentrate extremely well in lessons.”

Delighted headteacher Sarah Brady said: “St Bernadette’s is a thriving, joyful school, working within the Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust.

“We are so proud of our school family for all of their hard work and the dedication they show to our remarkable pupils.

“I would like to give special thanks to our wonderful governors, parents, staff and wider trust family for their support and commitment to ensuring our school is always the best it can be.”

NPCAT CEO Hugh Hegarty said: “The supportive parents and governors, along with all the staff, clearly evidence what can be



“This is a school where everyone is made to feel welcome,” said inspectors about St Bernadette’s in Nunthorpe

achieved in our schools when the shared vision and determination to work in partnership is realised at all levels every day.

“I want to thank Ms Brady and all the team

for their unrelenting commitment to all the pupils at St Bernadette’s Catholic Primary School.”

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SCHOOLS

Adoration brings school community together

What a wonderful year this has been for our children here at St Paulinus in Guisborough.

Since September 2023, all the children from Reception to Year Six have been able to come into church with Maggs Harrison, one of our parishioners, to spend time with Jesus before the exposed Blessed Sacrament.

Our school and parish work hard together, and this is just one of the many ways we are trying to make Christ known to the children

and families of our loving community. We are lucky to have the school and church building on the same site but do not take it for granted!

The children have developed their understanding of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and what it means for them. They have sung and prayed, experiencing being still with Our Lord. What a joy it has been!

Maggs has been supported each week by one of our priests – Father Phil, Father Paul or Father Jose – and this has helped to draw us all into the mystery of this most beautiful way of being close to the Lord. We are so grateful for the time given by all involved.

Earlier this year we celebrated a whole-school Adoration, which brought all our children together, and we prayed, sung our hearts out and watched as Jesus moved around the church in the Monstrance. It was a truly

wonderful time with the children, teachers, parents and parishioners.

There was no more beautiful sound that day than the children singing O, Sacrament Most Holy as the Blessed Sacrament was placed back in the tabernacle.

We wait with bated breath for the Holy Spirit to reveal what may be in store for us at St Paulinus in the new school year.

Rachel Bircham, Head of School



Father Phil Cunah leads adoration for St Paulinus pupils

Nicky and Micki say goodbye after 32 years

St Cuthbert's RC Academy Trust chaplains Nicky and Micki Coyle are finally starting a well-earned retirement after a combined 32 years of service to Catholic education.

They have been the very fabric of our Catholic schools and truly embody what it means to "hold Christ at the centre". They will be deeply missed and their legacy to chaplaincy will never be forgotten.

This new chapter will give them more time with their family and to embark on new adventures. God is calling them elsewhere, but they leave an indelible imprint on all our hearts – and especially those of the children.

Those of us lucky enough to have known Nicky and Micki well know them as humble, gentle and selfless people who have borne witness to our faith.

The staff retreats, prayer groups, the SVP, the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes, the organisation of liturgies, masses and celebrations of the word are as a result of their ceaseless hard work, and we thank them for this.

Both Nicky and Micki made it their mission to meet everyone where they were at on their own unique spiritual journey, and it is this that we hold in our hearts.

"May God hold you in the palm of his hand."

Thank you Nicky. Thank you Micki. God Bless.

Maria Stead



Nicky and Micki at their retirement Mass

Summer music spectacular is a resounding success

We marked a significant milestone in the musical journey of the St Cuthbert's RC Academy Trust as the first-ever whole-trust summer music concert took place at the prestigious Hull City Hall.

This event, which brought together talented musicians from across the trust, provided an opportunity for students to showcase their musical achievements and entertain their families with pride.

The concert opened with an array of musical ensembles and featured former alumni singing solo sections. Their repertoire included well-loved classics and self-composed pieces.

More than 40 primary school string players, expertly led by Kate Ghent, set the tone for the evening with their first joint performance.

From violins to cellos, xylophones to djembe drums, each performance highlighted the hard work of the students and their peripatetic teachers.

After the interval, the stage was set for the massed trust choir of more than 300 students and staff.

The songs spanned a diverse selection from musicals such as the Greatest Showman and Frozen, bringing a touch of Broadway to the diocese.

The choirs really shone through as they tackled challenging pieces, including sections of songs in Hebrew and African dialects from the Prince of Egypt and the Lion King respectively. The audience was left in awe of



More than 40 primary school string players set the tone for the evening with their first joint performance

the talent on display and the sense of community spirit that filled the hall.

Mr McIntosh and all the trust music staff put in endless hours and hard work in organising

this event. Their efforts in nurturing and guiding the students were evident in every note played.

The concert not only celebrated the joyful

talents given by God but also reinforced the importance of music in education.

Naomi Bedworth

Civic leaders join clergy for parish centenary

Bishop Terry celebrated Mass to mark the centenary of the Sacred Heart Parish, Middlesbrough.

Many diocesan clergy attended, as did Father Luis Constantino, the superior of the Oblates of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Sister Kathleen, of the Daughters of Charity.

We welcomed the deputy lieutenant of North Yorkshire Peter Scrope, the town's MP Andy McDonald and the Mayor of Middlesbrough Chris Cooke.

Past and present parishioners were also there and a reception was held in the hall and garden after Mass.

A book marking the centenary is available from the church for £5.

Peter Loughlin



Bishop Terry with altar server Rosine Ngabonziza and parish priest Father John Idio OMV

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NEWS

Plastic surgeon Nick leaves legacy of compassion

Tributes have been paid to a major founding force behind the Hesse-based international children's medical charity, the Overseas Plastic Surgery Appeal (OPSA), after his death earlier this year.

Nick Hart, 73, who was an active member of St John of Beverley Parish in Beverley, dedicated much of his professional life to OPSA and the noble cause of improving the lives of children in developing countries through cleft lip palate and facial deformity surgery.

OPSA trustee Rae McGlone said: "It is with profound sadness and heavy hearts that the OPSA team announces the passing of Nick Hart. He leaves behind a legacy of extraordinary and selfless service. Nick's commitment to transforming the lives of Pakistan's children was unwavering.

"His tireless efforts and dedication have touched countless lives and his impact will be felt for generations to come. We are immensely grateful for his remarkable contributions and his relentless pursuit of making a positive difference in the world.

"Nick utilised the best of Britain's medical talent and expertise to uplift the lives of children in Pakistan. While we mourn his loss, let us also celebrate the impact he made during his lifetime. May his memory continue to inspire us as we carry forward his mission and work towards a brighter future for all children."

Nick's expertise included breast surgery, hand surgery, aesthetic surgery, plastic and reconstructive surgery and microvascular surgery, but it was as cleft lip and palate surgeon for the Hull and East Yorkshire region that he touched the hearts of many with his expertise and compassion.

Since 1998, Nick had devoted himself to philanthropic endeavours, attending cleft lip and palate surgery camps in Pakistan once or twice a year, initially serving as the sole UK surgeon at cleft lip and palate surgery camps. Though he retired from surgery in 2015, his passion for serving others remained undiminished.

Nick served as chairman of OPSA, continuing



St John of Beverley parishioner Nick Hart transformed countless lives through the medical charity he helped found

to play a pivotal role in the charity's mission, advocating for the rights of underprivileged children and families and raising awareness of their plight.

As a result of Nick's leadership, OPSA now provides free surgery to children in Pakistan with cleft lip and palate, burns and other deformities and has established partnerships with local organisations.

His commitment to excellence and compassion for those in need earned him widespread recognition, including a British Community Honours Award in 2008.

Rae McGlone said: "Our thoughts and prayers are with Nick's beloved wife, Shirley, and his three children, Tim, Adrian and Stephanie. May they find solace and strength in the memories of his remarkable life and legacy.

"We would also like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the wonderful healthcare staff at Dove House Hospice for their compassionate care and support, ensuring Nick's comfort in his last hours."

This article is reprinted with the kind permission of Hull Live/Hull Daily Mail

Canons celebrate first Mass in 500 years at Blanchard Abbey

Father Thomas Swaffer O Praem celebrated the first Mass at Blanchard Abbey since the dissolution of the monasteries almost 500 years ago.

Premonstratensian Canons left the abbey, near Hexham, at the Reformation. A new foundation was made at Crowle, Lincolnshire, in 1872, from Tongerlo Abbey, Belgium.

The order went on to serve parishes in Spalding and Miles Platting, Manchester. Ten years later a community was formed in Storrington, West Sussex, from Frigolet, Provence, France, after being expelled by an anticlerical government.

After World War 2, ownership of Storrington was transferred to Tongerlo, and it became autonomous in 1962.

Falling numbers caused the community to move north to Filey, where one confrere was already a parish priest. A house was purchased in Muston, near Filey, where the remaining canons of the order now live.

Father Martin Gosling O Praem



Father Thomas Swaffer, coped, and Father Martin Gosling sing the Salve Regina at the tombs of two of the abbots of Blanchard Abbey

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome: Jubilee Year 2025

Bishop Terry invites the people of the diocese to join him in Rome from October 6 to 11 2025.

This special pilgrimage will be one of the major events marking our celebration of the Jubilee Year.

The tradition of jubilee and pilgrimage traces its origins to the medieval Christian practice of seeking forgiveness and renewal.

It holds special significance in the Jubilee Year – a time when the Catholic Church grants plenary indulgences to pilgrims who pass through the Holy Doors of Rome's major basilicas.

The Jubilee Year, proclaimed by Pope Francis, is expected to draw millions of faithful from around the world. Pilgrims will travel to Rome visiting holy sites, including St Peter's Basilica, the Basilica of St John Lateran, the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls and the Basilica of St Mary Major.

Of course, the pilgrimage is not merely a journey to a physical location but a spiritual experience. For many, this pilgrimage is a once-in-a-lifetime event, providing a unique opportunity to deepen their faith while walking in the footsteps of the apostles and martyrs who shaped the early Church.

Our appointed travel agent is Joe Walsh Tours. The cost is £1,495 per person, bed-and-breakfast, based on two people sharing.

We ask those who are thinking of booking to consider their level of fitness and mobility. Rome is an ancient city and represents a significant challenge for the less mobile. Please raise any queries or concerns by calling the travel agent.

For more information call 0808 1890468, visit joewalstours.co.uk or email info@joewalstours.co.uk.

Canon Paul Farrer

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Family Fast Day Appeal: Carving a better future

This harvest season, we will mark CAFOD's Family Fast Day on Friday October 4, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi.

We have a special opportunity to follow the example of St Francis and reach out with love to our sisters and brothers.

One example of the impact our collective generosity makes is the life-changing work in Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Thanks to your support, CAFOD is helping young people overcome poverty and build better futures.

In Goma, young people face enormous challenges because of ongoing conflict, poor infrastructure and few job opportunities. Many families cannot afford food or education for their children.

Thanks to generous donations from the Catholic community in England and Wales, CAFOD partners with local organisations such as CAJED (Concerted Action for Disadvantaged Young People and Children) in the DRC. CAJED operates a vocational training centre in Goma, teaching young people skills to earn a living.

"If God helps and this work expands, I can do greater things," says Daniel, a young man from Goma. His story shows the impact of vocational training. Despite his parents' hard work, Daniel's family often went hungry and there was no money for school.

As soon as he could, Daniel took on labouring jobs to support his family.

Reflecting on his childhood, Daniel said: "I never want anyone to go through the life I had when I was younger."

Determined to change his life, Daniel enrolled in an eight-month carpentry course at the CAJED centre. With the guidance of local experts such as Simon, Daniel learned to make furniture such as doors, chairs and cabinets.

Simon saw Daniel's potential, saying: "Daniel understands things quickly. I am proud when I see the young people I trained becoming independent."

Today, Daniel runs his own workshop, making furniture for customers in Goma. He earns a stable income and is supporting his family. Daniel's work is a sign of hope to others striving for better futures.

The training centre needs ongoing support to provide tools, equipment and teaching materials. Funds raised by our parishes make a significant impact. For example, £998.40 can fully fund a carpenter from training to independent work, including tools and materials.

Simon told us: "I would love for people in the UK to keep helping these young people so those on the streets can find occupations and have better lives."

How you can help

This Family Fast Day, join CAFOD in making a difference. By supporting CAFOD, you



Thanks to CAFOD and your donations, Daniel earns a stable income and is supporting his family – Photo by CAFOD/Thom Flint

contribute to vital projects worldwide that address poverty, conflict and climate change. Your generosity and your prayers enable more people such as Daniel to carve out better futures for themselves and their families.

You can donate during parish collections for CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal this harvest season. Remember to pick up your Family Fast Day envelope and Gift Aid your donation if you can. You can also give online at cafod.org.uk/envelope.

Goodbye – and thank you all for your support

This is my final CAFOD article. I will leave my role as community participation coordinator with CAFOD at the end of September, so I would like to take this opportunity to say a special word of thanks to all the wonderful people I have had the privilege to work alongside in parishes throughout the diocese during the last 18 years.

I am very grateful to Bishop Terry and our diocesan clergy, who have supported our work consistently during this time, for encouraging their congregations to support CAFOD and its work through their promotion of our Fast Day and emergency appeals each year. I am indebted to every one of you and want to thank you for the great help you have been to me personally. I'd also like to thank the staff in our Curial Offices for their warmth and friendship, help and support they have extended.

I want to thank especially the amazingly generous people who have journeyed with me over the years, our parish volunteers and supporters, past and present. You are all such wonderful people who have inspired me so

much and really have made my work a pleasure through your willingness to respond to my many and varied requests.

Thank you for your hospitality and friendship, love and encouragement. I am humbled and blessed to know you. I hope to see as many of you as possible before I leave officially, but if not, I am sure we will meet again in the future. I know you will continue to be as dedicated and supportive of CAFOD and to my replacement in the future.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the role of faith in my work. I remember when I first started working for CAFOD how fortunate I felt to work in a faith-based organisation that enabled me to live out my faith in the work I was employed to do.

What an experience it has been to have encouraged and enabled people to be involved in all the campaigning and fundraising work, visiting schools and parishes and promoting the work of building the kingdom of God on earth, here and now through CAFOD's work, alongside my colleagues in England and Wales and those

who work in our country offices overseas, supporting our partners in and through so many challenging and frightening situations that continue to cause so much suffering, fear and need in our world.

I continually pray for peace and an end to the crushing poverty that blights the lives of so many people around the world.

My faith and belief in God has been a constant source of inspiration and hope that through working together for the good of others, real change is possible, and we can bring about life-changing transformations in people's lives. I know we can and do because I have witnessed it with my own eyes!

I will always be grateful for this opportunity to have been instrumental in this undertaking but more so, for sharing it with others. The adage "What we can't do alone, we can do together" has been proven true so many times. For this and so very much more, Deo gratias!

Carol Cross
Community Participation Coordinator



Carol Cross is leaving CAFOD after 18 years

Katie returns as Father Pat says farewell to Whitby

Award-winning singer-songwriter Katie Doherty will bring her band the Navigators to Whitby for a special Lourdes fundraising concert as the parish says goodbye to Father Pat Keogh.

Teesside-born Katie has been a regular performer for parish events in recent years and will return to the Chapel on the Hill on Saturday September 28.

Katie has toured with Kathryn Tickell, Kate and Anna McGarrigle and Ray Davies, but some of her earliest memories are as part of our Lourdes pilgrimage.

The band has also played live sessions on both BBC Radio 2 and BBC Radio 3, toured nationally and appeared at Cambridge Folk Festival, Cheltenham Festival and Manchester Folk Festival.

Tickets are available priced £10 from the venue or by calling Mark Taylor on 07776 115160.

The evening will also be an opportunity to wish Father Pat well as he retires from pastoral ministry and returns to live in Middlesbrough, where he served for many years of his priesthood.



Katie Doherty will bring her band the Navigators to Whitby for a fundraising concert as the parish says goodbye to Father Pat Keogh

NEWS

Join us to experience the peace of the Blessed Sacrament

“The time you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the best time you will spend on earth. Each moment you spend with Jesus will deepen your union with him and make your soul everlastingly more glorious and beautiful in Heaven, and will help bring about everlasting peace on earth.” (St Teresa of Calcutta)

Benediction with Sung Evening Prayer is sung at St Mary’s Cathedral at 5.30pm every Wednesday during term-time.

The service opens with the Blessed Sacrament being brought from the tabernacle to be placed within the monstrance on the altar, before Evening Prayer is sung.

It concludes with all present being blessed with the Blessed Sacrament, before it is returned to the tabernacle.

Singing is led by one or more cantors, by the

Cathedral Consort or other groups of voices from the cathedral, or sometimes by a visiting choir; members of the congregation are encouraged to join in the singing of the Office.

Evening Prayer itself is part of the Liturgy of the Hours, prayed daily by bishops, priests, deacons and by many in consecrated life.

We are all encouraged to pray the Liturgy of the Hours as well, in particular Morning and Evening Prayer, and this beautiful service presents an opportunity to do so together.

Benediction with Sung Evening Prayer resumes at the cathedral on Wednesday September 11.

All are warmly invited to join the regular congregants for an oasis of calm and reflection in the presence of Our Lord.

With grateful thanks to the Knights of St



Steven Maxson conducting the choir at St Mary’s Cathedral – Photo by Chris Booth

Columba, the service is live-streamed on the diocese YouTube channel each week, where it remains to watch afterwards.

We opened this article with a quotation from St Teresa of Calcutta and conclude with one from St Alphonsus Liguori on one of the Church’s most beautiful and powerful

devotions, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament...

“Of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the sacraments, the one dearest to God and the one most helpful to us.”

A special summer of celebrations at All Saints

We celebrated three special Masses here at All Saints, Thirsk, during the summer months.

We were delighted to host a Catholic Fellowship Mass, giving the bakers of the parish an opportunity to share their skills and provide a vast array of cakes, biscuits,

sandwiches and treats. We must have been successful as they are planning to return.

We’ve been busy with our young people as well, and working with All Saints Primary School in Sowerby and the All Saints Church catechists, we prepared six children for their first Sacrament of the Eucharist. It was a real

international affair, with the children representing Nigeria, India, Poland and Ireland.

The younger children had a special service of their own on the Feast of St Peter and St Paul and the following day four young men were confirmed during Sunday Mass.

Father Anil was given special permission from Bishop Terry to perform this service, and a packed church welcomed these young men we have watched grow from babies to the special people they are today.

Cathryn O’Donovan



Father Anil, who has now left us to return to India, with confirmation candidates



Six children made their First Holy Communion at All Saints

A Letter From Madonna House - A day of triumph and reflection



September 14 is a highlight in our Church year.

In the Eastern Church it is the beginning of the Church year. In the West it is our remembrance, in between the great feasts of Christmas and Easter, of the Triumph of the Cross; lest we forget. And we do tend to forget.

The Triumph of the Cross is one of my favourite feasts. Christmas is filled with tenderness and joy and wonderment; Easter is the pinnacle of our faith and is celebrated with three days leading up to it and then Easter day is eight days, eight days which we call one day. What a mystery. But almost at midpoint is this celebration of something that is central to every day of the Christian life, the cross – the cross of Christ and my cross.

“Take up your cross and follow me,” says the Lord. And again, “Whoever does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.”

Catherine Doherty, the foundress of our

community of Madonna House, said she was born in the shadow of the cross. And this cross, a life of trials and challenges, was part of her Christian life. She often spoke of the cross and her view, sight, understanding, fervour, love and desire for Christ’s cross permeates the mentality of the community. Maybe that is why I love this feast. Because Christ and Catherine talked about it as something indispensable and glorious. Indeed, they are not the only ones. Saints down through the ages talk about the glory of the cross and how it transforms everything.

The greatest transformation we see, of course, is that Jesus went from the cross to resurrection. There is hope in that. Because when he said, “Follow me”, he was not saying, “Join me in a life of suffering and that will be all, thank you very much.” No, he said, “I am going to prepare a place for you that you too can be with me and with my Father.”

I have noticed that life in community has its

share of crosses. But I have learned that when I take up my cross I am not carrying my burdens all alone. I am accompanied by community members. And I am often called, by the Lord, to help carry the cross of another. Our Little Mandate of Madonna House says, “Take up my cross, their cross...”

In all of this weight I am reminded and comforted by St Paul who said, “Christ in you, your hope of glory.”

No matter my burden, it is in union with the Lord, and I think he carries more of it than I do.

“To destroy the power of hell Christ died upon the cross; clothed in strength and glory, he triumphed over death.” (September 14, morning prayer, ant 1; vol 4 of the Breviary)

And so, too, for us when our Cross is lived out in Christ it is truly triumphant.

Father Kieran Kilcommons

A precious lifeline for those who work at sea

Being a seafarer today is an increasingly dangerous occupation.

In the Red Sea, seafarers face the threat of Houthi missiles, drone attacks and raiding parties. Since last November, Houthis have targeted more than 80 merchant ships.

And once vessels enter the Black Sea the danger levels remain high, with the collapse of a "grain corridor" agreement in July 2023 heightening the tension. Russian drone and missile attacks on the strategically vital Ukrainian port of Odesa occur regularly, with devastating consequences.

Stella Maris (formerly known as Apostleship of the Sea) is the maritime agency of the Catholic Church.

"My colleague in Ukraine recently spoke to a seafarer who watched a deadly drone fly right past his ship and felt the aftershocks from a nearby explosion," says Peter Morgan, one of the Stella Maris regional port chaplains.

"When seafarers are so close to war, it's no wonder they feel stressed. I've been a Stella Maris chaplain for eight years and never have I seen so much fear and anxiety among seafarers. It's alarming to think of the danger

seafarers face these days."

Few of us probably ever think about seafarers. Yet it's thanks to them we have so many of the goods we rely on each day. Around 90 per cent of UK imports come by ship. This includes everything from cars and computers to fridges and fuel. And much of the food we buy in our local supermarket has arrived on a ship.

It's not only in the Red Sea or Black Sea where seafarers face danger and violence. According to the International Maritime Bureau, 60 incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships were recorded around the world in the first half of 2024.

Violence towards crew members continues, with 85 taken hostage compared to 36 in the same period last year. Guns and knives were reported in 34 of the 59 incidents, a worrying increase.

Stella Maris port chaplains and volunteer ship

visitors play a vital role in supporting seafarers and fishers when they arrive in a port. This can be anything from providing mobile phone top-up cards, warm clothing in the winter, transport to local shops, or arranging for a priest to celebrate Mass onboard.

But providing emotional, pastoral and spiritual support can be just as important as practical help, points out Peter.

"Anxious seafarers need a friend in port. Someone to listen to their worries, offer practical support, provide reassurance and care. Someone who'll be there, month in, month out. As port chaplains, that's what we try to do."

To find out more about Stella Maris' work, or to make a donation to its Harvest Appeal to support seafarers and fishers working in an increasingly dangerous and hostile world, visit stellamaris.org.uk/harvest.



Stella Maris chaplain Peter Morgan with a seafarer

Martyrs honoured at historic site

Parishioners from English Martyrs in York gathered on the Feast of the English Martyrs at the York Tyburn, the historic site of public executions in the city.

There they honoured the martyrs before returning for benediction in the church, celebrated by parish priest Canon Michael Loughlin. This will become an annual event.

The church has relics of Blessed Nicholas Postgate and other martyrs and other martyrs, and the church is open during the day if people wish to come to venerate them.



Canon Michael Loughlin with English Martyrs parishioners at the York Tyburn

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NEWS

Out & About

2 Monday
9.45am-10.25am Beverley Christian Meditation Group meets online. Further information from christianmeditation.beverley@gmail.com. This takes place every Monday.

3 Tuesday
10am Coffee at the Cathedral. Tea, coffee and treats every Tuesday after 9.30am Mass. A warm welcome and friendly atmosphere. Make new friends and enjoy some fellowship. Those who are alone especially welcome.
10am Christian Meditation Group meets online. Further information from Terry Doyle terry-doyle@live.co.uk. This takes place every Tuesday.

7pm Mass for Knights of St Columba Council 29, followed by a meeting at St Mary's Cathedral.

4 Wednesday
5.30pm Sung Evening Prayer and Benediction. Join us every Wednesday for a time of prayer and quiet reflection before the Blessed Sacrament.

5 Thursday
7.45pm Middlesbrough Catenians meet at Middlesbrough Cricket Club, Green Lane, Middlesbrough TS5 7SL. Call Peter Carey on 01642 317772 or Chris Rhodes 01642 319161.

6 Friday
Events, articles and photographs for the July edition of the *Voice* are due by this day.

7 Saturday
11am Catholic women are invited to share an hour of feminine communion including meditation, via Zoom. Text Barbara on 07796 117704 with your mobile number and email address so she can add you to the WhatsApp group, or email catholicwomenmdl@gmail.com for Zoom link.

8 Sunday
3pm Mass for LGBT+ community, family and friends at the Chapel of the Bar Convent. Doors open from 2.30pm.

9 Monday
2pm Music for the Mind, an hour of fun and music at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough, for people living with dementia, their friends and carers, with Trish McLean. All welcome.

10 Tuesday
12.45pm The Catholic Women's Luncheon Club meets at the Kingston Theatre Hotel, Kingston Square, Hull. Gather at 12.45pm, lunch at 1pm. All ladies in the Hull and East

Riding area welcome. Call 01482 446565 or email jayne.wilson24@gmail.com.

11 Wednesday
7pm Hull Circle of the Catenian Association will hold a meeting at the Lazaat Hotel in Cottingham. Meeting followed by Mass and a buffet-style meal. If interested please email Charles Cseh at hullcirclesecretary@gmail.com.

21 Saturday
The Eddie White, Sacred Heart Irish Dance with Michael Coyne. All dances take place at the Erimus Club, Cumberland Road, Middlesbrough TS5 6JB. Contact John Brown on 07871958412.

25 Wednesday
7.30pm for 7.45pm Cleveland Newman Association meets at St Mary's Cathedral Hall, Middlesbrough. Bishop Terry's talk is entitled "St John of the Cross: A Journey from Darkness into Light, absence to presence, through the Cross to Resurrection."

27 Friday
7pm Plumhall with Pete Davies, St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough. Currently on tour with Fairport Convention, Plumhall bring their unique sound to the cathedral for the first time, supported by Pete, a mainstay of the Teesside folk scene.

28 Saturday
Noon LGBT+ Ministry Social at the Bar Convent café in York. All are welcome for a coffee or a meal and friendship.

7.30pm John Bramwell (I Am Kloot) solo show at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough. Join us for a special night with Mercury Prize-nominated singer-songwriter John Bramwell. Many know John's work with the band I Am Kloot. His solo work, including his latest album, *The Light Fantastic*, continues to prove his talent as both a musician and wordsmith. This is not to be missed.

30 Monday
If you have any events that you would like to include in the *Out and About* section, please email heidi.cummins@rcdmidd.org.uk



St Mary's Cathedral dean Canon Paul Farrer cutting the cake to celebrate the 30th anniversary of his ordination – Photo by Paul Bowen

Copy Deadline

Copy and photographs for inclusion in the *Catholic Voice* should be sent to: The Editor, Middlesbrough Diocesan Catholic Voice, Curial Offices, 50a The Avenue, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, TS5 6QT.

Tel (01642) 850505, email catholicvoice@rcdmidd.org.uk

Deadline Friday September 6 for the October edition.

Where possible please send articles in Word and photographs as jpegs. Please confirm when you send in your photographs that those who appear in them have given their permission for publication.

Faith, fun and friendship at summer residential

The four-day Faith Summertime residential gives young people from the north of England and Scotland the opportunity to come closer to God, as well as making lifelong friendships and taking part in religious workshops.

Inspiring people increased our understanding of the Bible as they gave talks about the Catholic faith.

During our days at Ampleforth Abbey we also took part in prayers, attended Mass daily, went swimming and wandered around the campus during thrilling night walks.

We also took part in outside sport activities, enjoyed a trip to the exhilarating Flamingo Land theme park and visited the monastery to join the monks in their Compline night prayer.

I have been to Ampleforth Faith Summertime three times now, each time longing to go back.

Probably my favourite part was "Ask Father", an evening Q&A with all the priests accompanying the youth throughout the four days, in which the young people can write any questions they wish to ask one of the priests. On the Wednesday night, we all gather to listen to all the intriguing questions and answers we are provided with, as well as getting our own questions answered.

Faith Summertime at Ampleforth is an amazing opportunity to have fun as well as pray in a community, and I 100 per cent recommend it.

Dorota Jabłońska



Young people, clergy and helpers at the Faith Summertime residential at Ampleforth Abbey

I really enjoyed my time at Ampleforth.

I have made friends who I am missing already. It felt more like a pilgrimage than a holiday and I came back with more knowledge than I did beforehand. I am

definitely coming next year and I totally recommend it for you or your child.

Benedict McGeary

Sun shines as priests serve up special feast

More than 80 parishioners from St Paulinus in Guisborough were blessed with fine weather for their parish barbecue.

Chefs Kevin Lane and George Metcalfe produced an endless supply of burgers, sausages and chicken, while the parish ladies produced a banquet of salads, fruit, cakes

and delicacies to satisfy the sweet cravings. A raffle was organised by Emma Harrison.

A welcome visitor was our retired former parish priest, Canon Michael Bayldon, who joined our current clergy to take up a temporary serving role.

Brian Gleeson



Father Phil Cunnah, Father Jose Michael, Canon Michael Bayldon and Father Paul Dowling

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The Diocese of Middlesbrough would like to point out that while every care is taken with advertisements placed in the *Catholic Voice*, publication does not suggest an endorsement of any views expressed.

NEWS

Our Lady of Walsingham raised to rank of feast

The Vatican has granted permission for Our Lady of Walsingham to be celebrated as a new feast in the dioceses of England, starting this year on Tuesday September 24.

Cardinal Arthur Roche, Prefect of the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, wrote to Cardinal Vincent Nichols, president of the Bishops' Conference, in response to his request last year that the Obligatory Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Walsingham be raised to the rank of feast.

He explained that normally it wouldn't be moved but an exception would be made. He said: "Given the historic importance of this shrine for the Church in England and Wales, dating back just over 1,000 years, and given the growing devotion to Our Lady of Walsingham to which you attest, the dicastery has decided that, by way of exception, your request may be granted."

The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham was established in 1061, according to the text of the Pynson Ballad, when devout noblewoman

Richeldis de Faverches asked in prayer for inspiration so she could carry out a special work in honour of Our Lady.

The Pynson Ballad says Our Lady appeared to Richeldis and showed her in spirit the House of the Annunciation where the Angel greeted Mary in Nazareth, and asked her to build a replica in Walsingham as a perpetual memorial of the Annunciation.

Cardinal Roche said he hoped the new feast day would strengthen the faithful.

He added: "May this yearly celebration be a source of renewed grace and evangelical endeavour for the Church in England and Wales, as, imitating Mary, the faithful may ever more become disciples of her Son, receive the message of the Gospel, treasure it in their hearts and reflect on it in their minds."

• Our annual pilgrimage to Walsingham is from Saturday September 21 to Sunday September 22. To book or for more information, email bishopsecretary@rcdmidd.org.uk.

Parishioners celebrate Fr Tim's golden jubilee

Parishioners at St Leonard's, Malton, and St Joseph's, Pickering, have been helping Father Tim Bywater celebrate the golden jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood.

On the Sunday, there was a parish party after 11am Mass at St Joseph's.

Special assemblies followed in our two schools before a jubilee Mass at St Leonard's on Friday, followed by a party in the main hall at St Mary's Primary School.

We were joined at Mass by Canon Patrick Harney, who is the sole survivor of the priests present at Father Tim's ordination at

St Edward's Church, Scarborough, on June 8 1974.

Before moving to Malton 24 years ago, Father Tim served at parishes including Beverley, Howden with Holme-on-Spalding-Moor and St George's, York.

A keen railway enthusiast, Father Tim was secretary to the late Bishop Augustine Harris and for four years was a Royal Air Force chaplain.

He has been priest-in-charge at St Joseph's since 2018.

Johanna Davis



Father Tim with children at a celebration assembly at St Mary's School, Malton



DIOCESE OF MIDDLESBROUGH

**ANNUAL
PILGRIMAGE TO
WALSINGHAM**

Led by Bishop Terry

Saturday September 21 to
Sunday September 22 2024

If you wish to express your interest in booking a place or receive further information about the pilgrimage, email Dawn Cummings at bishopsecretary@rcdmidd.org.uk.

Please advise on your room and travel requirements. As usual, it is anticipated there will be coach pick-ups in Middlesbrough and York (not Hull).

APPLICATION FORM

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM Saturday September 21 to Sunday September 22 2024

Name:

Address:

Tel No:

Email:
Email is our preferred method of communication

Emergency Contact (Name/Tel No etc):

If you are under 16 you must be accompanied by a responsible adult

Any special requirements:

Please circle your preferred choice of room:
Single standard Single ensuite Twin standard Twin ensuite

We have reserved 25 beds with ensuite facilities for which there will be an extra charge and 20 standard beds which have shared facilities. Please advise if you prefer standard or ensuite but please note that whilst we will make every effort to accommodate your needs, allocation of rooms will be at the discretion of the organisers.

Depending on numbers and location of applicants, there will be two potential pick up points:
Middlesbrough Cathedral or York Station – Please circle your preferred pick-up point.

Cost per person: £156 (single standard) or **£175** (single ensuite) or **£156** (twin standard) or **£175** (twin ensuite). Under-16s **£129**. This includes return coach fare, evening meal on Saturday, overnight accommodation with full English breakfast and lunch on Sunday.

Please return to: Walsingham Pilgrimage 2023
 Diocese of Middlesbrough
 50a The Avenue,
 Middlesbrough TS5 6QT

Email: admin@rcdmidd.org.uk

A non-refundable deposit of £30 per person is required with this application, cheques should be made payable to: Diocese of Middlesbrough (Walsingham)

If you have any queries, please call 01642 850505 ext 257

First-time pilgrims share their journey of joy

Two friends from St John the Evangelist Parish in Easingwold joined our Lourdes pilgrimage for the first time this year. This is what they told us about the experience...

We were impressed from the start with the organisation and care for our wellbeing.

From the start we were looked after, with seats on the coach from Hull picking us up in our hometown and taking us to the airport.

We were supplied with a comprehensive brochure for the week, explaining everything

we needed to know about our stay in Lourdes.

We could, of course, be present at all the diocesan events, but we're also free to follow our own personal pilgrimages and enjoy the ambience.

Visiting Lourdes with the diocesan pilgrimage is a joyous, prayerful, caring week. Everyone is made to feel welcome and safe.

Jill Simpson

My friend and I had thought we would go to Lourdes independently in 2023, but this had not materialised.

This year, having seen the advertisement in the *Voice*, we decided to join the 71st Middlesbrough pilgrimage.

We had no idea what joining such a group would entail. It transpired there were three of us travelling from Easingwold, ourselves and a friend who was going as a handmaid, a task she had done many times before. She promised to keep an eye on us in her spare time. We had all booked into the same hotel.

It was arranged for a coach coming from Hull to Teesside Airport to stop in Easingwold and pick us up – a worry taken off our shoulders. From Teesside Airport we would fly direct to Lourdes and then take a coach journey to our hotels. Wheelchairs and walking aids were handled with care by the airport staff who were loading and unloading the planes.

We had been supplied with the itinerary for our six-day stay and been told we did not have to do everything, we just needed to join as and when directed.

We realised we had joined a group who had been doing this trip for years. They were efficient. Of course, not everything went to plan, but hitches were smoothed out when they occurred.

We would recommend anyone thinking of going to Lourdes to consider joining the Middlesbrough Pilgrimage as the organisation is great. You are able when you arrive at Lourdes to do what you want, when you want, but going as a group to Masses and to the processions cements the feeling we are as one worshipping our Lord and doing what Our Lady said to Bernadette, "Ask the people to come in procession."

Susan Harrand

Stunning venue for Lourdes ball

We are pleased to announce we have organised a Lourdes Hospitalité Ball for 2024. After the success of last year's event, we wanted to celebrate in style, so we are returning to the picturesque setting of Gisborough Hall, Guisborough.

The date for our ball is Friday October 25, with reception drinks from 6.45pm, everyone seated for dinner 7.30pm and carriages at midnight.

Tickets, which include a three-course dinner, reception drinks and entertainment, are £49 per person. Tables seat a maximum of 10 people.

If you would like to book, please visit shorturl.at/GoZ3 to download a form, confirm how many seats you would like and insert an X for your menu and reception drink choices below your name (along with any dietary requirements).

Please return the form as soon as possible and no later than September 27 and send

payment to John Brown, 3 Eton Road, Middlesbrough TS5 5ER.

Cheques should be made payable to "Middlesbrough Lourdes Sick Fund". You can also pay by bank transfer to Barclays Bank, sort code 20-56-90, account 80003700, with Lourdes Ball and name as a reference. If paying by bank transfer, please let John know so we can look out for it.

All menus and payments are required by September 27 at the latest to enable us to give details to Gisborough Hall and complete our payment.

If you wish to stay overnight, rooms are available in the hotel at a special rate of £150 per room for two people, including breakfast, by booking directly with Gisborough Hall and quoting Lourdes Ball. We would welcome any donations for our bottle tombola and raffle prizes if you are able.



This year's Lourdes Hospitalité Ball will take place at Gisborough Hall



Handmaid Lizzie Stewart outside the Rosary Basilica with Susan Harrand and Jill Simpson, who travelled with our pilgrimage for the first time

Dates for your diaries

Formation Day Training: Saturday March 22, approx 9am-4pm

Formation Evening Training: Tuesday May 6, approx 5.30pm to 10pm

Both take place at Trinity Catholic College, Middlesbrough. More details will follow nearer the time.

Our expected Lourdes Pilgrimage dates are Friday May 23 to Friday May 30, although there may be a Saturday start subject to tender prices from the tour operator. Full details will be available later this year.

Environment Corner - Hope and Act with Creation

As we read in last month's *Voice*, this year's Season of Creation from Sunday September 1 to Friday October 4 has as its theme: Hope and Act with Creation.

We were encouraged to focus on the climate and care of creation in prayer. One way of praying as a community is through the intercessions at Mass. With this in mind, I am using this month's Environment Corner to share some prayers we could all use during Mass in our parishes during this

month. I hope this is helpful.

- Amid our ecological crisis, we pray that people may learn to love and respect our common home and care for it as a gift of God. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

- We pray for our government and all those involved in political life, that they may grow in the awareness of any behaviour that does not respect the environment, damages human coexistence or undermines the foundations of peace. Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

- We pray for those living in poverty who are the most vulnerable to the impact of the climate, that they may be considered by those societies contributing the most to climate change. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

- Believing in God's saving power, we pray for action to protect and care for all creation and to set our economies on new more life-giving paths. Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

- With a shared sense of responsibility to care for God's beautiful, life-giving creation, we pray that the goals of energy transition, reduced global warming and protection of life for all are attained. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

May we all keep the Season of Creation at the centre of our prayers.

Barbara Hungin

NEWS

Musicians unite to support two special charities

A concert at St Mary's Cathedral will raise funds for local charity Justice First and for the Forever Home for ten street children in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Justice First is a unique charity that has earned respect for its work with asylum seekers and refugees in the North-East.

A former Justice First client who now has refugee status in the UK responded to the request for help for the street children.

He had been so grateful for the support he received from people on Teesside for his own children in DRC when he was in the asylum system and not allowed to work.

He now sends money for food, uniforms, schooling and medical care. Thanks to the generosity of people here, the house has been built and the children live there. It requires ongoing work, such as a surrounding wall for safety and connection to a water supply.

Musicians from UK, the DRC, France and El Salvador and singers from North East Opera will entertain us.

The concert is on Friday October 4 at 7.15 pm and tickets are priced £10 each or £15 for one adult and up to two children or £20 for two adults and up to two children.

They are available by calling 0333 666 3366 or emailing cathedralevents@rcdmidd.org.uk. Tickets can also be donated for refugees.

Catherine Ramos



Some of the funds raised will help street children in the Democratic Republic of Congo

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