



## Bishop's Column

I've always loved October. Generally speaking, it is a month you can rely on for pleasant, gentle weather (I hope that is not tempting fate!). All the unfulfilled expectations of a glorious summer are put behind and the melancholic atmosphere of September gives way to the mellow days of October.

It is also a month packed with wonderful feasts and saints' days. We begin with Thérèse of Lisieux and later in the month the other Teresa, after whom Thérèse was named. I was very privileged to have been asked to lead a retreat for the priests of Hamilton Diocese in Ontario, Canada, during the summer. The place where the retreat was held was Niagara Falls. It was a beautiful Carmelite Retreat House. From the garden there was an awesome view of the Falls themselves. But there was also a little garden walk to a beautiful statue of St Thérèse. As you walked along there were a series of engraved pavements with phrases from her writing and life. For example, 'The world is your ship, not your home'; 'I want to seek a means of going to heaven by a little way, a way that is very straight, very short, and totally new'; 'I want to find an elevator to raise me up to Jesus.'

And the other Teresa, whose feast is October 15, reminds us that God has no feet, nor hands, nor body on this earth but ours! During the month we also celebrate four popes who have been canonised including St Callistus who lived at the beginning of the third century and three from our own times, Pope St John XXIII and Pope St Paul VI and Pope St John Paul II.

Then we have the universally favourite, St Francis of Assisi. Even if someone knows very little of the Catholic Church and its culture, they will certainly have heard of St Francis, who together with St Dominic revitalised the faith of the Church in Europe in the 12th century. Two of our diocesan saints are celebrated on October 10 and 12 – St Paulinus and St Wilfrid. And another English saint is celebrated on October 9, St John Henry Newman.

We must not forget the apostles and evangelists – St Luke on October 18 and SS Simon and Jude on October 28. The Anglo Saxon Church in this part of the world gives us another two saints who lived and ministered in our area in the seventh century – St Chad and St Cedd, actual brothers; Chad was the Abbot of Lastingham and Cedd retired and is buried there. Another one of our home-grown saints is celebrated on October 21, St John of Bridlington. So very many saints from lands far and wide and many also from our home turf.

The heavens are filled with your majesty and glory. The glorious band of apostles, the noble company of prophets, the white-robed army who shed their blood for Christ, all sing your praise. And to the ends of the earth your holy Church proclaims her faith in you. (Te Deum)

In blessed hope,

+ Long

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# Sun shines on Mount Grace as pilgrims honour Our Lady

It was a beautiful day for our annual Pilgrimage to Mount Grace to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady.

The fine weather made the day especially enjoyable for the large numbers who turned out.

Principal celebrant was Dom Robert Igo OSB, Abbot of Ampleforth, who gave an unusual and thought-provoking homily.

This was the first major diocesan event since the new canopy was installed above the outside altar.

Bishop Terry was out of the country and unable to attend but clergy from all over the diocese concelebrated.

Stewarding for the event by the Knights of St Columba was superb, with free coach travel between the car park and the chapel. After Mass, tea, coffee and cakes were served.

Brian Gleeson



Dom Robert preaching under the new canopy – Photo by Joe Harrison



Clergy at Mount Grace – Photo by Brian Gleeson



Pilgrims outside the Lady Chapel – Photo by Brian Gleeson

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**NEWS**

# Honorary degree for campaigning Sister Imelda

**A human rights activist and leading anti-slavery campaigner has been awarded an honorary degree from Liverpool Hope University.**

Sister Imelda Poole IBVM, who is well known within our diocese from her time working in Port Clarence, was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Liverpool Hope University at a graduation ceremony at Liverpool Cathedral.

She received the award in recognition of her internationally recognised work to combat human trafficking and her dedication to ending modern slavery through her roles with the Mary Ward Loreto Foundation and the charity she co-founded, Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation (RENATE).

Sister Imelda is president of the Mary Ward Loreto Foundation, a non-profit organisation aiming to eradicate human trafficking in Albania and the UK.

The foundation provides immediate shelter and care to those rescued, while also running several programmes with highly vulnerable and exploited communities to prevent future trafficking.

Her dedication was recognised when she was awarded an MBE in the Queen's 2018 Birthday Honours List for her achievements

and services to end modern slavery. Further recognition came in 2021 when she received the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Hero Award from the United States' State Department.

Sister Imelda said: "I was astonished to find out I had been recognised with this award. I am deeply honoured.

"This is an honour which I accept on behalf of the dedicated staff of Mary Ward Loreto in Albania and the many female religious and co-workers across Europe in the network RENATE. Together, combatting human trafficking can be made real.

"May this privileged award highlight even further the terrible crime of human trafficking which, as Pope Francis has declared, is a crime against humanity itself."

For more information about the work, visit [marywardloreto.org](http://marywardloreto.org).

- Sister Imelda will give a talk about her work with trafficked women who have returned home to Albania. A network has been created to support them and enable them to work so they can support themselves.

The talk is at Christ the King Church Hall, Trenchard Avenue, Thornaby, on Tuesday October 8 at 7.15pm. Light refreshments will be available afterwards.



Sister Imelda Poole IBVM after receiving her honorary degree from Liverpool Hope University

# Poignant gathering to remember those who served

**Members of the Catholic Women's League (CWL) from all over Britain visited the wayside shrine on a quiet country lane near Ripon.**

This shrine is of huge importance to members of the CWL. During the First World War, countless British, French, Canadian and Australian troops trained at the Northern Command Depot Transit Camp at Studley Roger west of Ripon before sailing from Hull for the trenches of the Western Front.

In 1916, the CWL opened a canteen at Studley, known as the Ripon Hut, where members worked round the clock to provide more than 1,000 meals a day for the troops

camped there. A library and games room were also provided.

There was also a small chapel where Mass and Benediction were celebrated every Sunday by the chaplains and sometimes by the priests from St Wilfred's Church in Ripon.

At the end of the war the Ripon Hut was sold and in 1921, with some of the proceeds, the Wayside Cross at Studley was erected on the site.

From that year, the CWL have made an annual pilgrimage as near the feast of SS Peter and Paul (June 29), the holy day nearest to July 1, the beginning of the Battle of the Somme where so many men from Yorkshire, as well as those from Canada and Australia, died in action after training at Ripon.

In 1923 Rt Rev Dr Joseph Cowgill, Bishop of Leeds, unveiled the cross at the shrine. Addressing a large crowd, he said the bravery of the men who gave their lives would never be forgotten.

Brigadier General Allgood, general officer commanding, said more than four million soldiers passed through the Ripon Camp during the war and many experienced the kindness of the CWL's helpers and the comfort of the hut.

The women who served there had done a very much bigger "bit" in the war than they imagined. The erection of a crucifix was fitting because it was an emblem both of suffering and of victory.

The crucifix is recorded as a war memorial. Until recently members of Leeds Branch maintained the site and crucifix, supported by a kind neighbour.

Benches were added in 2006 to commemorate the CWL's centenary and gardeners have been tasked with helping to maintain the site.

It is a pleasant and moving experience to sit for a moment of contemplation at this peaceful oasis shaded by trees.

Teresa Ulyatt



Cottingham Catholic Women's League members Maureen Parkinson, Barbara Avery, Val Knaggs, Elizabeth Rodgers, Pat Bottomley and Margaret Wilkinson at the wayside shrine near Ripon

**BISHOP TERRY'S OCTOBER ENGAGEMENTS**

- 1 Memorial Mass for Canon Patrick Hartnett at St Thérèse of Lisieux Church, Ingleby Barwick 7pm
- 2 Attends DTEC Meeting, Middlesbrough 10.30am
- 8 Attends Bishop's Council, Middlesbrough 10.30am
- 15 Attends Trustee Board Meeting, Middlesbrough 10.30am
- 16 Attends Meeting of the Northern Province, Leeds 10.30am



# Stronger Together project unites school community

**We're stronger together – that was the message from the children, staff and families of Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School in Middlesbrough on the day artist Mackenzie Thorpe returned to his hometown.**

Since May, Middlesbrough-born Mackenzie has been working with the children on their Stronger Together project to create Teesside-inspired artworks for their outdoor play area.

The 14 images include two donated by Mackenzie, one inside the school railings – “The Boro”, depicting elements of central Middlesbrough – and one outside, facing the world, titled “Stronger Together”.

Created especially for the school, it shows a group of children in red and white football kits and Mackenzie's trademark hearts and Teesside bridges.

On the long-awaited unveiling day, families were invited to enjoy a buffet of food representing the many cultures pupils come from.

The art had all been under wraps since children returned to school but was revealed to gasps of delight from the children, parents and invited guests.

Mackenzie became emotional, telling the children and guests: “You can see through their artwork that the children are so proud of Middlesbrough.

“When this school was built, you also built a community. I'm almost crying because I can just feel the atmosphere and all the hard work you've done. Your artwork comes from this community, which is the strongest thing we have in this town.

“You can't put a person down because if you do, we'll stand up together and be counted. And we'll do it as neighbours.

“One more thing I'd like to say is just work hard every day and you'll achieve all your dreams, just like I did.”

Mackenzie said as soon as he was contacted by Sacred Heart he was determined to do whatever he could to be involved.

He told the children he was born nearby in St Paul's Road before moving to Beechwood and he attended St Joseph's Catholic Primary School.

The children's artwork has titles including I Love My Friends, The Gates of Glory, Love of the Hills and A Fun Day at Home.

Deputy headteacher Kerry Mallam said Mackenzie's infectious passion for Middlesbrough made him the perfect person to be involved in the project.

“This celebration feels even more important given the recent events within our area and as we seek to rebuild relationships within the community.

“We'd already chosen the Stronger Together title before the summer, but now it couldn't be more fitting. This is what we tell our children throughout their school life, that regardless of beliefs, race, religion, where you live, where you come from, we are stronger when we are together.”

Headteacher Vicky White said: “Mackenzie created a series of videos to inspire the children to create their own artwork reflecting what makes them proud about their town.

“He also talked about techniques and how to include themselves in their pictures. The pupils then created their own pictures and Mackenzie chose 12 to be included in the panelling around our play area.”

Miss White said the children's pride in their area shines through in their artwork.

“This celebration is just the start for us because we want to build on this theme of being stronger together throughout this academic year and beyond,” she said.

“We want to make sure everybody can see that at Sacred Heart we are stronger together, Middlesbrough is stronger when we all come together and that we will overcome the issues there have been recently.”

Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust (NPCAT) CEO Hugh Hegarty said all the trust's schools are committed to ensuring bias,



Artist Mackenzie Thorpe points out the love heart above the Sacred Heart Church in one of the children's images – Photos by Chris Booth



Mackenzie with one of the pictures he donated to the school

racism and sectarianism have no place in our society.

“The damage caused by misinformation is so severe,” he said. “We will continue to ensure that the flames of prejudice are never fanned by misinformation, as profiled this summer across our nation.

“I must congratulate Miss White and all the

staff, volunteers and governors who have worked with the NPCAT Estates team to bring this about and most of all to the whole school community of pupils at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary.”

Sacred Heart, which is on Ayresome Street, was rated good in all areas in a recent Ofsted report.

# Mothers step into a ‘flowing river of renewal’

**Filey Foundation of the Union of Catholic Mothers thought spending some time away together in a spiritually uplifting place would be of great benefit.**

We chose Ampleforth Abbey and began with a three-day silent retreat last September. We returned for a one-day retreat in April and plan another visit this year. Some members have also visited independently for guided retreats and quiet time.

The rhythm of life and prayer at the abbey was described by one retreatant as “a flowing river into which we temporarily step and are refreshed, renewed”.

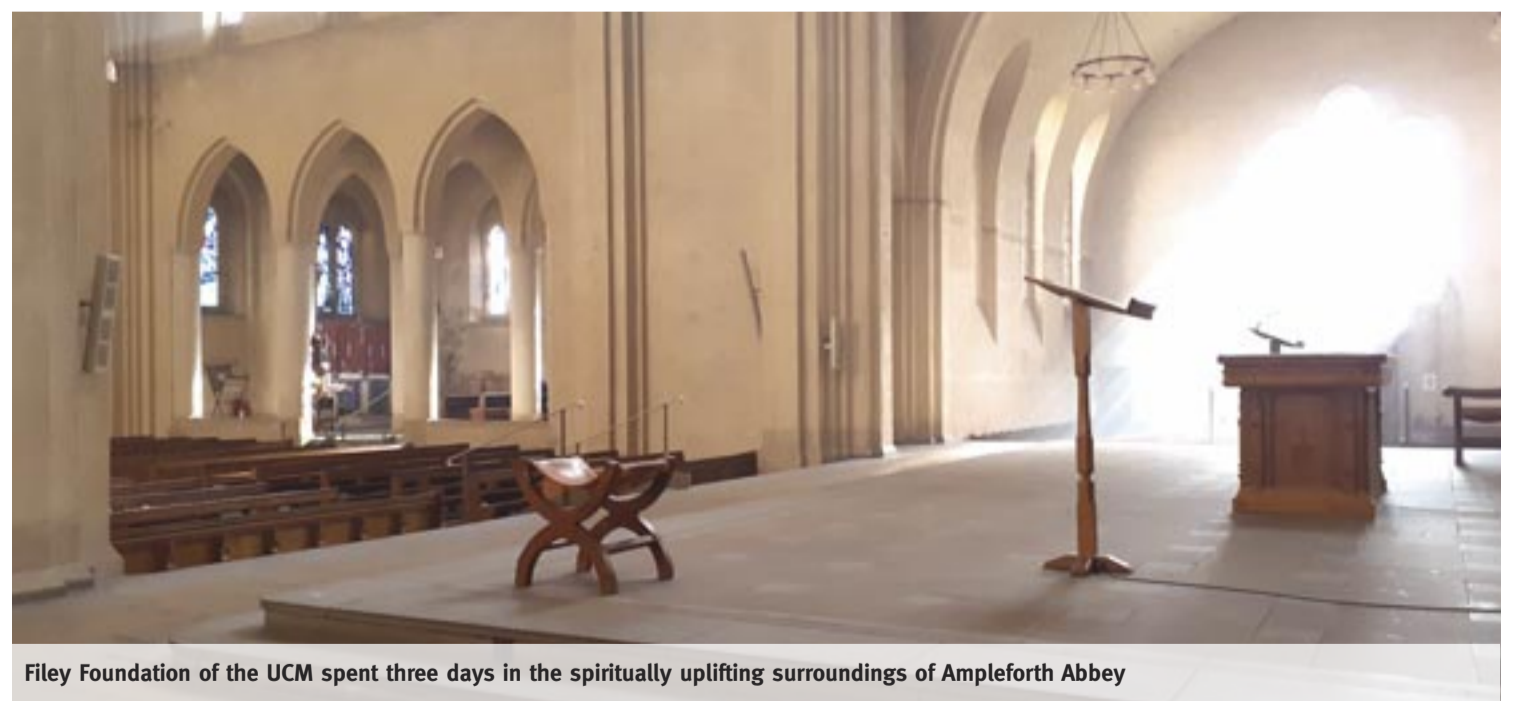
Another member refers to the abbey as “a great magnet, which draws together all the scattered fragments of self”.

There is something powerful at work when we are there. Each visit changes us a little. Members spoke of finding peace, tranquillity and inspiration.

Father Richard ffield OSB has led our retreats with great kindness and insight, offering encouragement and fostering our growth in spirit. We are also growing together as a group through our time there.

Spending time together outside of our parish community, away from our usual tasks and roles, allows relationships to deepen and brings peace where there can sometimes be stress.

A retreat in this beautiful setting, where one



Filey Foundation of the UCM spent three days in the spiritually uplifting surroundings of Ampleforth Abbey

is cared for so very well, brings much needed peace. We step outside of daily routines and can focus on God and on prayer. We can find quietness in the abbey grounds or the library. We have also encountered the Rule of St Benedict and witnessed something of the fruit of its wisdom. That is a gift that will

unfold throughout the years of our lives if we allow it to.

Ampleforth is, to me, a place of rigour and yet of joyfulness, a place where I see love, humility and tenacity. I have learned to better face my own challenges by the example of its community.

Although we return to our daily life and pressures, we take with us memories of a state of mind and of spirit. I think of these as reset points to return to and find a core of great peace and stability.

Petra Micklethwaite



**SCHOOLS**

# Jobs fair urges pupils to reach for the sky

**A Middlesbrough school praised by Ofsted for its commitment to careers teaching is encouraging pupils to dream big by holding a Careers and Jobs Fair.**

Workplaces, colleges and agencies set up stalls at Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School in Thorntree and provided careers advice and experiences.

But the fair wasn't just for the school's 280 pupils – later in the afternoon parents were invited in to see what is available for them in the world of work, training, education and support.

The fair offered opportunities for pupils and parents to talk to employers and learn about the different roles available and the skills needed to be successful in today's economy.

By engaging with a range of workplaces, colleges, agencies and services, children and adults gained advice and experiences related to the world of work, training, education and support.

Executive headteacher Carolyn Baker said: "Children from across the school visited the event class by class and could ask questions about each job, impressing the employers with their wide range of questions.

"Parents took the chance to enquire about college courses and several met the employability team from Thirteen Group, who are now giving them additional support.



Some of the experts at Corpus Christi School's Careers and Jobs Fair

"We hope to build on this event in the future and be able to invite a much larger group of employers."

Children had been learning all about jobs and careers as part of their World of Work topic. Year 6 enjoyed a visit from staff at Teesside Airport, who talked about careers in the aviation industry. And after a visit by Cleveland Police, the school's own Mini Police Cadets learned about the skills and attributes required to be a real police officer.

They are now working hard to help their

classmates solve problems and act as responsible citizens in school and within the local community.

Reiterating its judgement that Corpus Christi is a "good" school, Ofsted inspectors who visited recently emphasised the high expectations and aspirations and the strength of teaching and personal development.

The report says: "Staff encourage pupils to be aspirational for themselves. There are many opportunities for pupils to think about different careers. This gives them a purpose

for their learning.

"Children in early years thrive. Staff have high expectations for all pupils academically and socially. Pupils respond well to these, showing keenness in lessons to succeed. Behaviour in school is calm. Pupils are respectful of one another and of staff."

Teaching of reading and maths both came in for special praise.

Corpus Christi is part of Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust (NPCAT).

# High praise for school with faith 'in its bones'

**St Charles' VC Academy in Hull city centre received a glowing report from the Diocese of Middlesbrough's Catholic Schools Inspectorate (CSI), being judged as "outstanding" after its latest inspection.**

The school is delighted and proud to have been praised for its unwavering commitment to providing an exceptional Catholic education for local children.

Inspectors praised the school's "flourishing partnership" with St Charles' parish priest Canon Stephen Maughan.

They said: "He is a much loved and active participant in school life, along with his dog, Porridge, who awards certificates each week for showing kindness, patience and care towards others."

In their feedback to school leaders, the CSI inspectors highlighted several key areas that contributed to the Outstanding rating,

"From the moment you enter it, this school shouts out its Catholic identity with joy and energy. The welcoming and caring atmosphere, always centred on following the values of the Gospel, ensures that Catholicity is in the bones of the school.

"Teaching across the school is always good and sometimes outstanding, resulting in exemplary pupil behaviour, and good acquisition of knowledge."

Head of school Sarah Woodmansey said: "I am immensely proud to be part of the St Charles' family. As the inspectors recognised, St Charles' is a welcoming and caring community which has God at the heart of all we do.

"We pride ourselves on ensuring we give our children the best possible Catholic education and allow them to know and experience the immeasurable love of God, that there is joy in faith and all the wonders that this brings."



St Charles' VC Academy in Hull, part of the St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Academy Trust, has been judged as outstanding after its latest Catholics schools' inspection

# St John's lift the cup but everyone's a winner

**School from across St Cuthbert's RC Academy Trust gathered as St Mary's College in Hull hosted the inaugural trust football tournament.**

The competition was an exciting display of football talent, with goals aplenty and fierce competition that kept the crowd of families and friends gathered on the pitch side on the edge of their seats, their raucous support adding to the atmosphere.

The day was not only about winning but also about celebrating the spirit of camaraderie

and teamwork.

Pupils from different schools forged new friendships and supported each other, embodying the true essence of the trust's values.

St John of Beverley School emerged as the overall victors, demonstrating exceptional skill and teamwork throughout the matches.

However, the tournament was a win for everyone involved, and other prizes and certificates were awarded to recognise participants' hard work and dedication.



The victorious St John of Beverley School team



# St Gerard's is a 'haven of calm' in community

**A Middlesbrough headteacher has welcomed a report that praises her school as a "haven of calm", in stark contrast to the negative headlines its estate sometimes attracts.**

Joanne Coe, of St Gerard's Catholic Primary School in Hemlington, was delighted with a "good" judgement from Ofsted and especially with the warm words from the inspectors.

"I am absolutely delighted that St Gerard's has been recognised as a haven of calm for our pupils," Joanne said. "Hemlington has been at the forefront of lots of negative press in the last few years, but I can say that it's a genuinely wonderful place to work.

"The children are an absolute delight to be around and the support we receive from our families is truly incredible. To know that the children feel loved and cared for is simply amazing and everything we aim to achieve."

The report highlights reading, maths and help for children with special educational needs and abilities as particular strengths, saying the teaching and learning model put in place by Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust (NPCAT) is implemented consistently across the school.

"Staff make the school a haven of calm for pupils," it says. "The school's Catholic values and clear behaviour policy help to teach pupils about the importance of behaving responsibly.

"Pupils understand the significance of the school's nine virtues, such as respectfulness and decency. These virtues reinforce high expectations and make pupils feel loved and



Children from Middlesbrough's St Gerard's Catholic Primary, which Ofsted praised as an 'Oasis of calm'

cared for at St Gerard's."

NPCAT CEO Hugh Hegarty shared his praise for this school and acknowledged the work undertaken by the leaders and staff.

"It's wonderful to see St Gerard's continue to offer a quality Catholic education and I am sure this will be welcomed by the entire St Mary's Cathedral parish community," he said. "There is a coherence and consistency to their reporting."

Joanne said the inspectors' positive

comments also reflect her experiences of working with families on an estate that has its challenges.

"St Gerard's is a special place to be part of and I feel incredibly lucky to be able to lead a team of dedicated and hardworking staff who go above and beyond for the pupils in our care," she said.

"I would like to say a huge thank you to the team of leaders, teachers, support staff, including lunchtime supervisors, office staff, kitchen staff, cleaners and the site operative,

who all work tirelessly to ensure our children are provided with the best care and education possible every day. Thanks must also go to NPCAT members for their support.

"We could not have achieved what we have without the support of the whole school community – our parents and carers, governors, parish, the diocese, our incredible staff and last but by no means least, our incredible children."

# Inspectors bowled over by cricket-mad school

**Howzat! A Middlesbrough school where pupils excel at cricket has hit the sweet spot with a striking Ofsted report that judged it to be good overall and outstanding in two fields.**

Inspectors said St Alphonus' Catholic Primary School in North Ormesby is outstanding in the areas of Behaviour and Attitudes and Personal Development.

Ofsted said leaders work tirelessly to support families, as well as the pupils, through initiatives including an eco-shop opened during the financial crisis and engaging with a local charity that purchases sportswear for every pupil.

"Pupils at St Alphonus' are exceptionally polite, kind and caring," the report states. "This is a very inclusive school. Pupils are tolerant and accepting of others. They enjoy coming to school and attend well. Pupils are very proud of their school. They are keen to show visitors the work they do and the trophies they have won.

"The school has very high expectations for all pupils. Staff help pupils to be successful in later life.

"Pupils' behaviour is exemplary. Pupils have impeccable manners. The school is calm. There are warm relationships and high levels of respect between pupils and adults."

Headteacher Angela McCann said the glowing report is testament to all the hard work of pupils, staff and governors.

"Our mission of 'Learning, serving, loving with Christ', is at the centre of everything we do," she said. "Our high expectations, relationships and learning are rooted in the teachings of Christ, and we encourage children to be the very best that they can be by learning with each other, serving each other and loving each other.

"In partnership with home, school, parish and community, we are dedicated to working

together to develop children who achieve spiritually, academically, socially and emotionally. We encourage our pupils to try new things, to be creative, resilient and to strive constantly to improve."

St Alphonus' pupils swept the board in competitions run by Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust (NPCAT), winning all four NPCAT Sport cricket competitions for

year 3/4 boys and year 5/6 boys' and girls' teams.

All went on to represent the trust at the North Yorkshire Cricket finals, where two of the teams won silver medals as runners-up.

Both year 5/6 teams then represented both NPCAT Sport and North Yorkshire Cricket at the Yorkshire finals in Leeds, with the girls' team coming third in a competition that

involved around 800 schools.

Every break time and lunchtime the children make for the wicket as soon as they go out onto the yard, with even reception children joining in the fun!

NPCAT CEO Hugh Hegarty said: "A huge congratulations to the pupils and staff of St Alphonus' who continue to demonstrate our trust's values."



St Alphonus' Catholic Primary in Middlesbrough excels at cricket and is also a winner with Ofsted



**SCHOOLS**

# Kind-hearted children show their true colours



Children from St Edward's Catholic Primary in Middlesbrough enjoying their Day of Many Colours for Mission Together

Nursery and reception children at St Edward's Catholic Primary School in Middlesbrough have been raising awareness of their chosen charity Mission Together by hosting their own Day of Many Colours.

Teacher Emma Bell wrote to Mission Together to let them know about their impressive missionary efforts, which will support some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable

children, who are helped by missionaries through the Missio global network.

The Day of Many Colours aimed to develop in children a missionary spirit of attention towards others through prayer, charity and action.

Leading up to their special day, the children had fun with a sponsored colour treasure hunt at home with their families. Their

sponsorship money added to other fundraising efforts, and in total they raised a whopping £877.

Mrs Bell said: "We are extremely proud of our children's efforts and the response from their families. We are so pleased to have raised this amount for our class charity, especially after learning about Mission Together over this academic year.

"The children have learnt they are helping other children around the world who are just like them, but who need extra support and resources so that they can thrive too."

Mission Together wants to say a huge thank you to the children of St Edward's – and all their amazing school supporters across the Diocese of Middlesbrough – for their tireless

fundraising and prayer efforts.

Because of you, more children around the world get the help they need and come to know that they are loved – by God and by us.

Mission Together diocesan director Helena McGouran visited St Edward's and ran an assembly to introduce the children to the charity's work.

If you would like to arrange a visit from a Mission Together diocesan volunteer, email [missiontogether@missio.org.uk](mailto:missiontogether@missio.org.uk).

Mission Together resources are free to download and print (although, of course, we welcome any donations and support you can give!). Visit [missiontogether.org.uk](http://missiontogether.org.uk).

Claire Colleran

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## Celebrations as couple mark 60 happy years of marriage

It's a foggy morning on Saturday September 5 1964.

The Honeycombs are top of the hit parade with their song Have I the Right? and John and Dorothy are on their way to St Patrick's Church, Thornaby.

They have set the day for their wedding, but Canon Breen has decided the time. It's a nuptial Mass at nine o'clock prompt, leaving plenty of time to celebrate after the wedding.

Sixty years later, it was another foggy morning with a bit of drizzle thrown in, but there was still lots of time for the Seamans to celebrate.

"It's hard to believe it's 60 years," said Dorothy. "Very glad we made it!"

A series of celebrations started with dinner with close family at the Bay Horse, Great Broughton, followed by further celebrations with wider family, friends, neighbours and finishing with a party at Yarm Tennis Club.

John has been a member of Middlesbrough Catenian Circle for nearly 40 years.

Chris Rhodes



Middlesbrough Catenians' president Chris Rhodes presented John and Dorothy Seaman with a congratulations card and a bouquet from the circle's brothers and ladies



# Priory offers retreats focused on silent meditation

**More and more people are discovering the Oasis of Silence programme at St Hilda's Priory, Whitby, as a helpful support in their search for more contemplative forms of prayer.**

People of all denominations and none are increasingly seeking a way of prayer that is more rooted in silence than in words.

Our longing for silence nowadays is not surprising considering the barrage of noise with which we are confronted (and voluntarily choose) in our daily lives. On the other hand, if our faith is based on the Word, how can we correlate the two?

St John of the Cross offers us an answer when he writes: "The Father spoke one Word, which was his Son, and this Word he speaks always in eternal silence, and in silence must be heard by the soul." (Maxims on Love).

Scripture and praying with the Bible (Lectio Divina, the Rosary etc) continue to have their central place in our Christian lives, but all such forms of prayer ultimately invite us to silent adoration and contemplation of our ever-loving God.

We do this by listening with the ears of our heart, as the Rule of St Benedict invites us to do. There are many ways to help us learn how to listen in this way to the words and the silence of the Word.

It is only when we try to be silent that we realise that what sounds so simple is no longer easy because of the diverse and persistent invitations to noise and distraction of our daily lives. We are no longer used to silence and often find it threatening when we

are confronted with it.

The Oasis of Silence not only offers time and space to deepen our relationship with God in the silence of the moment, but also offers a gently guided method or pathway of how to do so: the Gries Path.

The gently guided exercises, given as taught by the Jesuit, Franz Jálcs SJ, form the basis of the Oasis of Silence programme and following these simple steps we are invited to move from awareness of the present moment in our bodies (breathing, hands etc) to awareness of the living presence of Jesus Christ, meditating his name.

The Oasis of Silence programme offers a variety of retreats. For some the Tasting the Silence retreat, held over four days from Monday October 21 to Thursday October 24, offers the possibility of starting out on the spiritual journey towards contemplative prayer, as well as being gently introduced to spending an extended period in silence without the distractions of our normal activities.

In many ways this retreat is a "taster" to the classic 10-day retreat held each July. This longer form is a blessed time of inner healing and transformation through the Holy Spirit.

The one-day retreat, held on a Saturday each month (next one on October 19 from 10am to 4pm), is open to everyone who would like to spend a whole day in silence and prayer.

In the morning, gently guided meditations introduce the beginner to contemplative practice, and allow anyone more experienced with this form of prayer to leave their busy

week behind them.

Afternoon meditations are not guided and participants are encouraged to spend time either in the meditation room or outside in nature. The sole invitation is to remain lovingly alert to the silence and to be open to God's presence in each moment.

For more information about the programme, email Sister Helen at [hospitality@ohpwhitby.org.uk](mailto:hospitality@ohpwhitby.org.uk) or call 01947

899600.

For those interested in an online course, the School for Contemplation (based on the Gries Path) will be offered again on seven consecutive Sundays from January 12 to February 23 2025, from 2.30pm until 4.30pm.

For further information contact Sharon at [enquiries@houseofprayer.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@houseofprayer.org.uk).

Angela Simek



The team and retreatants after a 10-day retreat at St Hilda's Priory, Whitby, in July

## Join us to prepare for World Day of Prayer

**All are welcome to a day of preparation in York ahead of next year's World Day of Prayer (WDP).**

This international, ecumenical organisation enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world, including their hopes, concerns and prayers.

Preparing for the day is a huge task, beginning with the writing country and theme being chosen several years earlier.

The programme for the next WDP, on Friday March 7 2025, is being prepared by women from the Cook Islands with the theme "I made you wonderful", taken from Psalm 139.

The Cook Islands, a group of 15 islands in the South Pacific Ocean, has a rich and colourful Maori heritage and a deep connection to nature.

Once written, the programme goes to the International Committee in New York for translation and dissemination to the national committee in each participating country. The service is then discussed and edited before being presented nationally, regionally and then locally for branches to make their plans.

Finally, at a church near you, people will gather to celebrate the service along with worshippers in more than 120 countries.

The wave of prayer begins in Samoa and travels through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

You would be very welcome to join our preparation day for WDP 2025 at English Martyrs, York, open to all parishes and churches.

The ecumenical event is on Saturday

November 9 from 10am to 3pm.

See [wwdp.org.uk](http://wwdp.org.uk) for more information and resources, together with details of services in your area.

Margaret Clarke



ADVENT 2024

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## NEWS

# Tickets on sale for St Mary's new music season

**Thursday October 10 will see the first of an exciting series of concerts at St Mary's Cathedral in Middlesbrough, together with the chance to support the music that enhances its liturgies throughout the year by becoming a patron.**

This first concert of the 2024/5 Cathedral Series season, entitled Relaxing Classics, will include arrangements of Handel's Cuckoo and Nightingale Concerto featuring diocesan director of music Steven Maxson on the organ and Albinoni's famous Adagio played by St Mary's Strings, led by violinist Clare Douglas.

Clare read Music at Keble College, Oxford University, where she was the director of the Oxford Classical Chorus, leader of the Tuckett String Quartet and leader of the Serafin String Ensemble. She has since pursued a varied career in music and now enjoys a thriving teaching practice in her home and online.

St Mary's Singers will perform the beautiful Agnus Dei from Faure's Requiem, as well as arrangements of Ennio Morricone's Nella Fantasia and the popular You Raise Me Up, as

performed at the sell-out The Priests' concert earlier in the year.

Steven said: "I am delighted that our Cathedral Series, so long in the planning, is finally launching and am very much looking forward to this first concert.

"It promises to be an evening filled with beautiful music, much of which will be very familiar, performed by excellent musicians in our beautiful cathedral.

"We hope people from the diocesan community and beyond will join us for individual concerts or take the opportunity to support our wonderful singers and musicians by becoming a patron."

Those wishing to become patrons of the Cathedral Series can subscribe at [goodhub.com/musicpatronscheme](https://www.goodhub.com/musicpatronscheme).

They will receive a host of benefits, while supporting music-making at the cathedral. Subscriptions range from bronze level at £10 per month (£15 per year for students) with benefits such as an annual patrons' reception and a regular e-newsletter.

At silver level, (£20 per month) a free drink and discounted tickets are also available and gold membership (£50 per month) will include opportunities to observe a Cathedral Choir rehearsal and a unique musical experience, such as a guided taster session on the cathedral organ. Corporate sponsorship is available at £100 per month, which also includes acknowledgement of support on the St Mary's Cathedral website.

Looking further ahead, Faure's Requiem will be performed by the St Mary's Cathedral Singers on Saturday November 9. Also featured in this concert will be Mozart's beautiful Laudate Dominum and Ave Verum Corpus, along with other well-loved pieces.

Audiences can enjoy a Valentine's concert of romantic music on Friday February 7 2025, performed by the Choirs of St Mary's Cathedral and friends, and on Saturday April 5, the cathedral will host a special come-and-sing event, featuring Handel's Messiah.

Singers will rehearse from 4pm to 6pm and perform at 7.30pm. All concerts will start at 7.30pm, with doors opening at 6.30pm,



**Violinist Clare Douglas will lead St Mary's Strings as they play Albinoni's famous Adagio**

including licensed bar.

Tickets for all Cathedral Series concerts, priced at £10 (free child's ticket available when booking) are available at [ticketsource.co.uk/middlesbroughcathedral](https://ticketsource.co.uk/middlesbroughcathedral).

# Sessions introduce musicians to new psalter

**Advent Sunday sees the introduction of the new lectionary for Mass, including the introduction of the Abbey Psalter in place of the Grail Psalter, which we have used for many years now.**

In fact, the Abbey Psalter is based upon the Grail Psalter, but with the benefit of newer biblical scholarship.



**A set of responsorial psalms is available online**

Much of the new psalter is very familiar, but there have been some significant changes. There are changes to some of the responses in responsorial settings of the psalm and to verses, including to the length of some verses.

Existing musical settings can be tweaked, subject to copyright permissions, for many of the Abbey Psalter texts, but not for all.

Our diocesan director of music, Steven Maxson, is to hold a series of short sessions around the diocese during October to introduce the new psalter to parish musicians and anyone else who might find this to be of interest.

As well as outlining some of the changes and the reasons behind them, there will also be an opportunity to try out some of the new settings available from several sources, including our own diocesan settings.

As is the case now, there will be a complete set of responsorial psalms for Sundays and Solemnities produced and made freely available online for any parishes in the diocese that wish to use them.

The first tranche of these psalms is currently

going through the process of gaining permission to be shared once checks to ensure the integrity of the text have been completed.

Sessions have been arranged in various locations around the diocese, each venue designed to be relatively easy to get to and with good parking and transport links.

Tuesday October 15, 7pm: St Anthony's Church, 667 Beverley Rd, Hull HU6 7JL

Sunday October 20, 4.30pm: St Margaret Clitherow Church, Holly Tree Lane, Haxby, York, YO32 3YJ

Tuesday October 22, 6pm: St Clare's Church, Low Lane, Middlesbrough, TS5 8EB

Sessions are open to anyone and there is no charge, although donations to support the work of each host church and to defray their costs will be warmly received on the day.

Information is also available on the Music Ministry page on the diocesan website, and this will be regularly updated over time.

On the Diocesan Music YouTube channel ([youtube.com/@MusicDiocese](https://www.youtube.com/@MusicDiocese)), there is a short video introducing the changes to the

psalter and other videos will be added over time.

Book your session at [forms.gle/W9wP4nEtPto2z3wV7](https://forms.gle/W9wP4nEtPto2z3wV7) or via the QR code below.



# Daring Brian's 100-mile per hour charity adventure

**Most 90-year-olds are content to spend that special milestone birthday with a quiet afternoon tea in the garden – but not Brian Lowther!**

Instead Brian, who is diocesan property manager Sharon Westcough's dad, did a sponsored 100-mile-per-hour velocity zip wire at Penrhyn quarry in North Wales to raise funds for Zoe's Place baby hospice.

Eight family members joined Brian for the adventure – Sharon and her partner plus her stepson, sister, brother and her niece and her partner.

"It took 15 minutes by truck to get us all up the mountain and 50 seconds to get back down!" said Sharon.

"It was a fabulous day and we were delighted to raise more than £1,400 for Zoe's Place."

You can add to the tremendous total raised by visiting [justgiving.com](https://www.justgiving.com) and searching for "Sharon Westcough".



**Sharon with her dad Brian, brother Andrew, and sister Mandy**



# Revitalised pilgrims enjoy Walsingham retreat

Easingwold branch of the SVP is a very small affair that until recently was in danger of folding due to a steep decline in the number of members.

Most former members have either died or moved away. It was our resilient current president, Mary Atkin Johnson, who tirelessly recruited for new members and was successful, enabling the branch to continue.

This, of course, meant home, hospital and nursing home visits, fundraising and the transport needs of vulnerable local people could continue, as well as the financial support given to our twin parish, St Antony, Nirmalagiri, Kerala, India.

We meet once a month in the priory of St John the Evangelist Church, Easingwold. It was at one of these meetings that the idea of organising a pilgrimage for the parishioners was born.

Walsingham was unanimously agreed and after a notice was put in the church bulletin to gauge interest, it was clear that the pilgrimage would go ahead.

SVP member Caroline Charters sorted out accommodation and Mary Atkin Johnson arranged transport. Many thanks go to them.

We also decided we should have our own banner with which to process. Kathryn Lynam, our parish administrator, and Mary Atkin Johnson got to work and made a fitting banner depicting the SVP, the Catholic Women's League and St John the Evangelist Church.

Father George Corrie OSB blessed our new banner at the Saturday vigil mass and the following morning our little group of 13 pilgrims met outside the church to board the minibus.

Our driver was George, who was very helpful and caring (thanks go to Pullmans of York).

The original site of the shrine is in Walsingham itself, a village steeped in history with buildings dating back to the 15th and 16th century as well as ruins from the 12th-century priory.

The shrine was founded by Lady Richeldis de Faverches in 1061. It is said she prayed to Our Lady, asking her how she could best honour her. Finally, Our Lady answered in a dream. She led her in spirit to the house of the Annunciation in Nazareth and gave Richeldis the exact dimensions, asked her to replicate it in Walsingham as a perpetual memorial of the Annunciation.

It became a place of pilgrimage, rivalling such places as Rome, Santiago de Compostela and Jerusalem and one of the greatest shrines in



SVP members and parishioners from St John the Evangelist, Easingwold, on their pilgrimage to Walsingham

Medieval Christendom, attracting monarchs, including Henry III, Edward II, Edward III, Henry IV, Edward IV, Henry VII and finally Henry VIII who went on to destroy the shrine in 1538, dissolving the abbey and confiscating its assets.

In 1896, Charlotte Pearson Boyd purchased the 14th-century Slipper Chapel, the last of the wayside chapels en route to Walsingham, and restored it for Catholic use. The first public pilgrimage to Walsingham was in August 1897 and pilgrimages to the Slipper Chapel increased greatly.

In August 1934, Cardinal Bourne of Westminster and Bishop Lawrence Youens of Northampton led the Catholic Bishops of

England and Wales along with 10,000 pilgrims to the Slipper Chapel, declaring it to be the national shrine of Our Lady.

We walked the mile long pilgrims' way to the shrine every day to join in the many services, including Masses, Confessions, Rosary, Benediction, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, as well as quiet prayer and reflection.

Some chose to go to the coast for the day and there was also time to see the beautiful Anglican shrine in Walsingham, which was restored in the 1930s.

During dinner on our second day we discovered the arrival of the York Walsingham Society – a very happy coincidence! They

were processing the following morning and we agreed to join them with our banner.

Rosary was led by Canon Michael Loughlin and we arrived in good time for the noon Mass that was being offered for their pilgrimage.

While processing, I was mindful of the words of Our Blessed Mother, centuries later to St Bernadette at the Grotto in Lourdes: "Go tell the priests that people should come here in procession and to build a chapel here."

We are delighted our first organised pilgrimage was such a success. It will certainly not be our last.

Lizzie Stewart

# St Margaret Clitherow is inspiration for day of reflection

Participants in a moving day of reflection dedicated to St Margaret Clitherow enjoyed spending time together in prayer and friendship.

The day, at St Mary's Parish Church in Filey, was organised and led by members of the Filey Foundation of the Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM), supported by members from the Scarborough foundation and parishioners.

After Holy Mass, our morning included an introduction to St Margaret Clitherow's life story, time for silent prayer and a shared lunch.

In the afternoon there was a talk about the annual pilgrimage in honour of St Margaret Clitherow and the Martyrs of York.

Our UCM foundation president took part in the pilgrimage, which went from the Bar Convent, via the Shrine of St Margaret in The Shambles, to St Wilfrid's Oratory. She found the experience very beautiful and, after hearing about the pilgrimage, more of us resolved to take part in 2025.

Later there was a reflection on how the lives of the martyrs can inspire us to greater faith, hope and love.

The fourth and last session, a contemplation of Mark 13:32-42, brought us to a sharing of our personal responses.

Petra Micklethwaite



The day of prayer and friendship at St Mary's Parish Church in Filey



## NEWS

# Cultivating a culture of peace in Colombia

**In a world torn apart by conflict and war in so many places, it's good to hear good news stories from places where concerted efforts are being made towards building long-term, peaceful solutions.**

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the UN Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace. Peace does not limit to absence of conflict but a participatory process where there is space for dialogue, understanding and cooperation to solve differences.

"Peace not only is the absence of conflict but also requires a positive, dynamic participatory process where dialogue is encouraged, and conflicts are solved in a spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation." United Nations.

Building and cultivating a culture of peace is a collaborative task and requires local, national and global actions that offer a space for tolerance, solidarity, pluralism, cultural diversity, dialogue and understanding at all levels of society.

The Catholic Church has played a key role in supporting the path of peace and process of reconciliation in Colombia in a conflict that has affected the lives and integrity of the most vulnerable, such as young people, women and ethnic communities, as well as the environment for over six decades.

Under the proposal of Paz Total – "Total Peace" – from Colombian president Gustavo Petro, the Catholic Church has been part of the peace negotiation with the National Liberation Army (Ejército de Liberación Nacional or ELN) and the subsequent bilateral ceasefire since last December.

This September, delegates of the Episcopal Conference in Colombia got together to assess the territorial impact of the ceasefire in the communities. The three-day meeting concluded that the ceasefire has represented a relief to the suffering faced by many territories immersed in the conflict, achieving a significant decrease in armed confrontations that made it possible to safeguard human lives.

In a public statement they call all parties to continue finding committed ways away from violence and persist in opening routes for reconciliation and long-lasting peace alongside communities to resume dialogues and move firmly towards solutions to end the humanitarian crises.

"We should embrace the possibilities and capacities for dialogue in society and uphold the dignity of each person in the midst of confrontations, tensions and painful events that hit these same communities in daily life."

The UK government continues to support



**Participants of the Peace Talks between the Colombian government and the ELN guerrilla which are accompanied by the UN and the Catholic Church – Photo courtesy of Associated Press/Ivan Valencia**

broad and lasting peace in Colombia, as penholder for UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution establishing the UN Mission of Verification.

A penholder is a member of the council who takes the lead in negotiating and drafting resolutions on a specific agenda item and chairing subsequent negotiations.

The function of the penholder also extends to taking initiatives on all Security Council activities concerning that situation or country such as holding emergency meetings, organising open debates, and leading visiting

missions. The penholder speaks first whenever the council discusses the issues.

If you're curious about the specifics, each year, the Council assigns penholders for various topics. For instance, Japan is a penholder to Afghanistan, Norway is penholder on humanitarian issues related to Syria, while the UK takes the lead on Colombia.

So behind every powerful statement is a determined penholder!

**Dadirai Chikwengo,**  
lead governance advisor at CAFOD

# Unite to oppose assisted suicide, says Bishop

**Bishop John Sherrington, lead bishop for life issues for the Bishops' Conference, is encouraging Catholics to unite in prayer and compassionate action as Parliament prepares to renew the debate around assisted suicide...**

The second reading of Lord Falconer's 'Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults Bill', which seeks to legalise assisted suicide, will take place in the House of Lords.

There will be an attempt to introduce a similar bill to the House of Commons.

I wish to reaffirm that the Catholic Church has

always been opposed to assisted suicide in every circumstance. The legalisation of assisted suicide undermines the sanctity and dignity of human life. There is also now ample evidence across the world that the legalisation of assisted suicide puts the most vulnerable members of society at risk.

The Catholic Church accompanies those suffering and nearing the end of their lives with hope and affection, but also reminds them that their life is precious until the very last breath.

This is the work that hospices and other

healthcare institutions and hundreds of thousands of individual carers undertake every day, helping the terminally ill and dying to leave this world whilst preserving their dignity. They truly provide assistance to those who are dying.

In preparation for these challenging debates, let us offer our prayers for those facing the end of their lives, that they may receive the care and support they need to live their final days with respect for their dignity. Let us also pray for our politicians and our country that wisdom and compassion may guide their decisions. I also urge all Catholics to become

better informed about the serious problems associated with the legalisation of assisted suicide.

We encourage everyone to use resources on the end of life that can be found on the Life Issues pages of the Bishops' Conference website to better understand the implications of assisted suicide. It is also possible to contact your Member of Parliament to ask their views on a number of life issues.

Let us unite in prayer and compassionate action as Parliament prepares to consider these issues.

## A Letter From Madonna House – Inspired by life of St Francis

**On October 4 we celebrate the feast day of St Francis of Assisi. A good friend of Madonna House recently offered us a beautiful wood-carved statue of St Francis for our garden.**

As we discussed what place to give him in our garden, I thought about the special place that this Poverello of Assisi has in the



heart of Madonna House and in so many hearts over the centuries.

When our founder, Catherine Doherty, was a little girl, her Russian father Theodore, a diplomatic official of the Tzar, took the family to live in Ramleh, Egypt. Catherine was sent to a school run by the Sisters of Zion. One day a young sister, standing before a statue of St Francis, told the children his story. Little Catherine, deeply impressed, clapped her hands and cried out: "One day I will be just like you!"

This was the beginning of a lifelong friendship.

Catherine grew up in a well-to-do family. They owned a large estate in Russia with all the benefits of their social status. Catherine received an excellent education, travelled much, learned several languages and lived a life of relative ease. But the Russian Revolution and World War I shattered all this. Catherine and her husband Boris fled for their lives, barely escaping death in Finland.

The couple emigrated to North America where Catherine struggled to find employment, doing menial jobs to provide for her ailing husband and a young son.

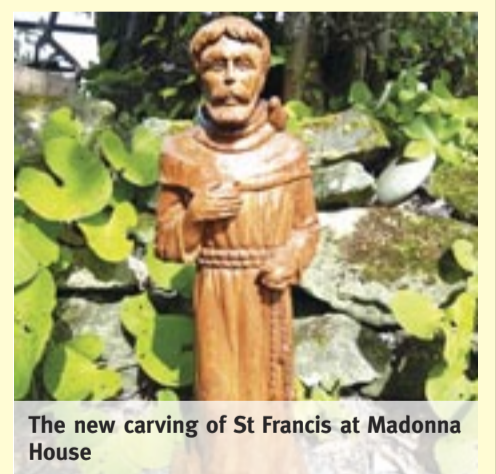
She knew what it was to be poor. Eventually, she was discovered by a talent scout and hired by a lecture bureau. Her ability to captivate crowds with stories of Russia fascinated her audiences. She became affluent again.

But a memory haunted her. When she was near death in Finland, she had promised God that if he saved her she would dedicate her life to him in some way. This eventually led her to embrace a life of voluntary poverty to serve God in the poor.

She had much in common with St Francis. Both grew up with riches and gave them away to live a life of radical Gospel poverty. Both shared a deep love and reverence for God's creation. Both initially experienced their call as personal but attracted people by the evangelical simplicity of their lives and their passionate love of God. As a result of this, both founded communities.

Before discovering that Madonna House had its own unique spirituality, many of our early members chose to join third orders of established communities.

Catherine became a Third Order Franciscan. (In her will, Catherine asked to be buried in her Franciscan habit.)



**The new carving of St Francis at Madonna House**

As Madonna House grew and developed, Catherine drew inspiration from many sources. But St Francis continued to hold a special place in her heart. Our Little Mandate, which sums up the essence of our spirituality, reflects that influence.

The appeal of St Francis's life is universal. He continues to speak to our modern world. Let us ask him to intercede for us, especially for peace in the world.

**Jeanne Guillemette**



# Valuable lessons learned at fire safety talk

The Union of Catholic Mothers at the Holy Name of Mary Parish in Middlesbrough enjoyed a talk about fire safety in the home given by Russell and Gary from Cleveland Fire Brigade.

They will visit groups in the community and will visit your home for a safety check and supply smoke alarms and extension leads as required.

We learned that the groups most at risk of a fire in the home are the elderly, young people, drug users and alcoholics, and that appliances should be switched off at night, particularly toasters, kettles and microwaves.

They gave advice on establishing a safety routine at bedtime and an escape route should a fire start and said the fire service operates a winter warmth service to help you if your heating system breaks down.

The talk was very useful, informative and interesting.

Jean Rigg



Members of the Holy Name UCM with experts from Cleveland Fire Brigade

# Be a beacon of light as the dark months arrive

As the darker months approach and with some winter fuel payments being withdrawn, please be mindful of the elderly and isolated in your community and the homeless on the street.

A visit or a cup of tea with a piece of cake can make all the difference.

Prisons have been releasing prisoners early, as they are full to capacity and some ex-offenders are leaving with prison-issue clothes only.

You could donate to your local SVP conference and we can distribute these. Please let me know if you have anything to donate.

As we approach the season of Advent, I am sure there will be lots of interesting and exciting events to attend involving Mini-Vinnies in schools and youth groups. If you have any interest in helping them, this is

something the SVP can also signpost.

The SVP has a small army of volunteers quietly supporting those in need. If you would like to join us, please email me at [teresao@svp.org.uk](mailto:teresao@svp.org.uk) and I will answer any questions you have about becoming a member.

We have conferences all over the Diocese of Middlesbrough that would be grateful for any time you can spare.

Pope Francis wants us all to prepare a path to peace in our world by remedying the remote causes of injustice, settling unfair debts and feeding the hungry.

We can pray for world peace and in some small ways we can take action and transform a life for the better.

God Bless

Teresa O'Hagan

Membership Support Officer (Middlesbrough)



A friendly visit can make all the difference

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**NEWS**

**Out & About**

**1 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 at St Mary's Cathedral, followed by meeting.

**2 Wednesday**

**5.30pm** Sung Evening Prayer and Benediction. Every Wednesday. A time of prayer and quiet reflection before the Blessed Sacrament.

**3 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.

**4 Friday**

Events, articles and photographs for the October edition of the Voice are due by this day.

**7.15pm** Singing for Justice fundraising concert at St Mary's Cathedral, Coulby Newham. An evening of music as we come together to make a difference and spread love in our community. Music by artists from Europe, Africa and Central America as well as North East Opera.

**5 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.

**6 Sunday**

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

**7 Monday**

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

**8 Tuesday**

**12.45pm** The Catholic Women's Luncheon Club meets every second Tuesday of the month 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.

**7.15pm** Sister Imelda Poole gives a talk about her work with trafficked women who have returned home to Albania at Christ the King Church Hall, Trenchard Avenue, Thornaby. Light refreshments served afterwards.

**9 Wednesday**

**7pm** Hull Circle of the Catenian Association meets at the Lazaat Hotel in Cottingham, followed by Mass and a buffet-style meal. Email Charles Cseh at hullcirclesecretary@gmail.com.

**10 Thursday**

**7.30pm** The Cathedral Series: Relaxing Classics at St Mary's Cathedral, Coulby Newham with St Mary's Strings. Arrangements include Albinoni's Adagio and Handel's Cuckoo and Nightingale Concerto.

**14 Monday**

**2pm** Dementia-friendly communal singing Music for the Mind, an hour of fun and music for people living with dementia, their friends and carers, with Trish McLean. All welcome.

**19 Saturday**

**All Day** Inspirational Day at the Spa, Scarborough

**10am to 4pm** Oasis of Silence, a one-day retreat for everyone interested in contemplative prayer, at St Hilda's Priory, Whitby. Contact Sister Helen at hospitality@ohpwhitby.org.uk.

**7.30pm** The Eddie White, Sacred Heart Irish Dance with Pat Jordan. All dances take place at the Erimus Club, Cumberland Road, Middlesbrough TS5 6JB. Contact John Brown on 07871958412.

**20 Sunday**

**3pm** Catholic Fellowship Mass, St Thérèse of Lisieux, Ingleby Barwick. All welcome.

**21 Monday**

**Starting today until Thursday October 24,** Tasting the Silence, a contemplative retreat leading to meditating on the name of Jesus Christ (based on the Gries Path). Contact Sister Helen at hospitality@ohpwhitby.org.uk.

**23 Wednesday**

**7.30pm** Cleveland Newman Circle meets at St Mary's Cathedral Hall, with light refreshments from 7.30pm for 7.45pm start. Father Tony Currer's talk is titled The New Translation of Scripture.

**26 Saturday**

**Noon** LGBT+ Ministry Social at the Bar Convent café in York. All are welcome to come along for a coffee or a meal and friendship.

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

**Forthcoming Events at St Mary's Cathedral**

**Saturday November 9, 7.30pm:** The Cathedral Series: Fauré Requiem

**Sunday December 1, 3pm:** Advent Carol Service

**Tuesday December 3, 6pm:** Christmas Wreath-Making Workshop

**Saturday December 14, 7.30pm:** Christmas at the Cathedral with Cantabile

**December 17 & 18, various times:** Santa and the Race to Save Christmas

**'Church continues to serve' struggling families**

**As the war in Gaza shows no sign of stopping, the Church in the Holy Land is increasing help to preserve the region's Christian presence, supporting hundreds of families who have lost their livelihoods.**

Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) has stepped up support for the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem – which includes the Palestinian territories – providing emergency help, food, housing, school fees and medical assistance to more than 600 Christian families.

Most Holy Land Christians work in tourism and have lost their income because almost all pilgrimages have been cancelled since the war in Gaza started last October.

ACN has also supported job creation programmes and helped Christian-run organisations survive.

Dima Khoury, head of the patriarchate's Social Services Department, said Christians in the region thought the war would stop after five months.

"Many Christians lost their jobs, or had their salaries reduced, or live with no income at all," she said. "But life continues, they need to feed their families and pay tuition and rent. Life for them is terrible."

She estimated that only 10,000 West Bank Christians receive permits to enter Israel for work, whereas authorities used to issue as many as 160,000.

Ms Khoury added: "As the war continues, we begin to worry that the Holy Land will become the next Syria, a never-ending war."

**Amy Balog, Aid to the Church in Need**



**A Christian site in the West Bank – Photo © ACN**



# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Residential retreat promises rest, renewal and reflection

A week of rest, renewal, and reflection is promised at a residential retreat amid the beautiful landscapes of Boarbank Hall, Cumbria.

Participants will delve into the teachings of Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'* and discover how to embody its principles of stewardship and service within our parishes and communities. Living *Laudato Si'*, Your Parish and Your Planet is from October 5 to 12 and the cost is £630 for an individual room and £980 for a twin or double. For more information, or to book, email [margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk](mailto:margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk).

## Christian film inspires teenagers

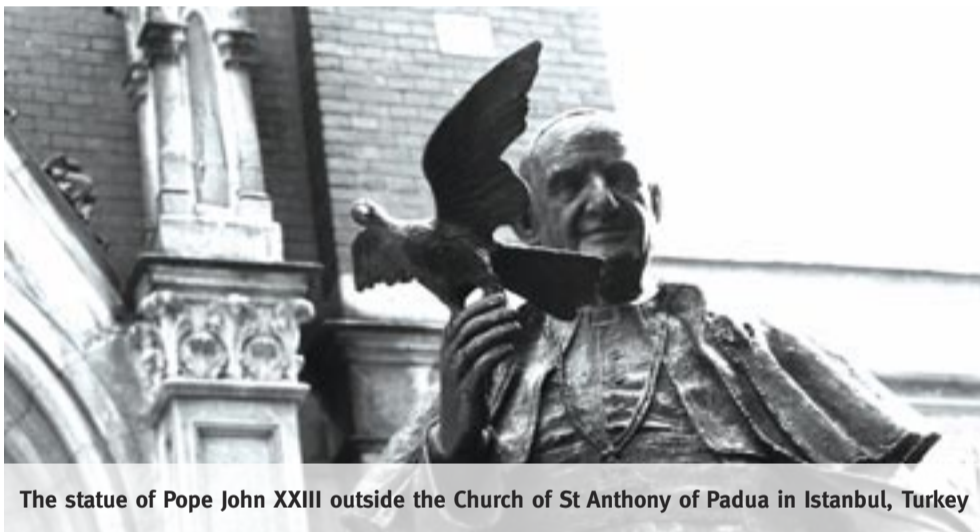
The makers of a new animated film depicting the life of Christ say it is captivating the hearts and minds of thousands of teenagers.

They hope to translate the film, *Jesus*, into more than 2,100 languages. For more information, visit [jesusfilm.org](http://jesusfilm.org).

## Vatican reveals World Day of Peace theme

The World Day of Peace is observed each year on January 1, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

Since its establishment in 1967 by Pope St Paul VI, popes have taken the occasion to offer magisterial reflections in messages for the day, dealing with topics such as the United Nations, human rights, diplomacy and economic development. The theme chosen by the Holy Father for the World Day of Peace for 2025 is, "Forgive us our trespasses: grant us your peace".



The statue of Pope John XXIII outside the Church of St Anthony of Padua in Istanbul, Turkey

## Resources point the way for Jubilee year

The Holy Father has decided 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, something that happens every 25 years. The theme is Pilgrims of Hope as we look to heal a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of the pandemic and a climate crisis. The Catholic Bishops' Conference has produced resources for the preparatory year of prayer, focusing on the Our Father, as well as resources about Jubilee in the Catholic Church, all for use by parishes, priests, religious, laypeople and more. Visit [cbcew.org.uk/jubilee-2025](http://cbcew.org.uk/jubilee-2025).



Cardinal Vincent Nicholas with Pope Francis – Photo © Mazur/catholicnews.org.uk

## Charities and churches unite in prayer

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

The campaign hopes to gather Christians to repent and pray for lives to be transformed by Jesus and to see a spiritual awakening. For more details visit [nationalweekofprayer.uk](http://nationalweekofprayer.uk).

## Book examines faith within nature

*Through the Gateways of a Garden: Exploring Faith and the Environment* is a new book written by Chris Polhill and published by Wild Goose Publications.

The book takes readers on an exploration of faith and nature, set within Beadesert Park in Staffordshire. Each section of the garden reflects a spiritual theme, from the Loving Creator to the Resurrection. Its centrepiece is a pilgrimage garden designed to mirror the Christian life and its connection to the environment. For more information about the garden visit [reflectiongardens.org.uk/about](http://reflectiongardens.org.uk/about). To buy the book, visit [ionabooks.com](http://ionabooks.com).

## New funding for church restoration unveiled

The Church has welcomed a new multi-million-pound initiative that could see significant sums of money earmarked for urgent repairs and restoration projects for historic places of worship, including Catholic church buildings.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund has announced a three-year strategic initiative to invest £100m to help UK places of worship meet long-standing repair and conservation challenges. Part of the National Lottery Heritage Fund's ten-year strategy, Heritage 2033, the initiative is designed to ensure that the UK's much-loved places of worship can enjoy a long and sustainable future.

## New weekly bidding prayer service launched

The Catholic Union is providing a selection of thoughtful and topical bidding prayers for Mass each Sunday.

This service is available at no cost to all parish clergy and lay readers in parishes. If you would like to be added to our distribution list, email [louisa@catholicunion.org.uk](mailto:louisa@catholicunion.org.uk). Founded in 1870, The Catholic Union was established to convene lay Catholics to work with people of goodwill to address the pressing policy challenges of the day.

There are members and supporters in every part of the country. To find out more, visit [catholicunion.org.uk](http://catholicunion.org.uk).

## Follow the Diocese of Middlesbrough on social media



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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**

# Student Dercio welcomed into St Aelred's family

**A young African student who became a valued part of the community at St Aelred's in York has been confirmed by Bishop Terry.**

Dercio Macondzo from Mozambique began attending midweek services a year ago and wanted to see what a Catholic parish in the UK is like.

He was warmly welcomed and began attending Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) meetings and heard a variety of speakers, even accompanying members on outings to the Bar Convent on St Joseph's Day, to visit Bishopthorpe Palace, home of the Archbishop of York, and to Mass at St Margaret Clitherow's shrine in The Shambles.

At our summer Strawberry Party he plucked up courage to entertain us with his guitar and singing.

I was honoured when Dercio asked me to be his sponsor after he joined our parish confirmation preparation course and he was confirmed at Our Lady's Church in Acomb.

Dercio was selected to come to study as a Chevening Scholar in York. These are scholarships for young people from all over the world to come to the UK to study for a master's degree for one year, funded by the British government.

Candidates are "the kind of people who have the passion, ideas and influence to provide the solutions and leadership needed to create a better future".

They are expected to experience UK culture, network and build lasting positive relationships with the UK.

It has been a great pleasure to meet him and to get to know a little more about his home and family.

He has now returned home and we wish him all the best for the future and we do hope he will stay in touch with us. He has been a delightful visitor to our parish and our UCM.

**Sarah Sheils, Secretary, St Aelred's UCM**



Dercio Macondzo, from Mozambique, after being confirmed by Bishop Terry in York

# Clergy begin new roles

**Father Peter Taylor said his first Mass at St Paulinus Church in Guisborough after moving to Blessed Nicholas Postgate Parish, Redcar.**

He introduced himself to parishioners and met many of them after Mass. We also have Father Paul Dowling on the team

here, so now we have our own Peter and Paul!

Meanwhile, Father Jose Michael is pictured as he begins his service at St George's in York, having moved from Blessed Nicholas Postgate.

**Brian Gleeson**



Father Peter Taylor has joined the team at Blessed Nicholas Postgate Parish, Redcar – Photo by Brian Gleeson



Father Jose Michael has begun his new service at St George's in York – Photo by Lars Karlsson

## Environment Corner - Replenishing the Earth

**For this month's column I am sharing with you a passage from Revelation followed by words from the Kenyan environmental activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai (1940-2011).**

These sentiments seem to resemble closely those of St Francis of Assisi, whose feast falls on Friday October 4 – the closing day of this year's Season of Creation.

"Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its 12 kinds of fruit, producing its fruit

each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations."—Revelation [22:1-2]

Maathai wrote: "This is what ... prophets dreamed the world might become upon the arrival of the Messiah. The argument is not to reject the world we have now in the hopeful expectation that it will be destroyed and replaced by something better.

"Instead, I see them depicting an alternative to the degradation of the environment that has turned waters of life here on earth that were 'bright as crystal' into mud and silt, and the 'tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit' into stumps and charcoal, and has led

to nations not being healed, but rather fighting one another for access to remaining clean water and food supplies.... Prophets are asking why we do this to the earth, and they are commanding us to heal and replenish it now....

"We need to rediscover our common experience with other creatures on Earth and recognise that we have gone through an evolutionary process with them. They may not look like us, with their wings and scales and fur. We may not like some; others like mosquitoes we may detest. But they are part of the process of life beginning and being sustained on this

planet.

"An apt analogy is Noah in Genesis [6:19-20], who found a pair of each species and two by two placed them into his ark, mosquitoes and reptiles among them. Noah was not commanded to pick only those that were useful to him; he sheltered them all.

"God recognised that they are part of us; they needed the chance to survive as well. And in giving them this chance, God gave us a chance too. Now we must give that chance back to ourselves and replenish the earth."

**Barbara Hungin**



# York pilgrims come together for social gathering

York Lourdes pilgrims enjoyed a lovely social afternoon together spent chatting about past pilgrimages and future plans.

We were especially delighted Canon Michael Loughlin could join us.

We're already looking forward to next year and building our numbers!

**Barbara McGeary**



# Fit fundraisers go the distance for Lourdes

**Two fit fundraisers have smashed their targets after being sponsored by well-wishers to take part in gruelling sporting events.**

Liz King, a Lourdes handmaid and executive headteacher of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School and St Thomas More Catholic Primary School in Middlesbrough, completed the Great North Run in testing wet conditions.

And Angela O'Brien, lay lead chaplain at Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust, cycled 55 miles from London to Brighton after she was also inspired to support the Lourdes Fund.

Liz has so far raised a stunning £1,550 – more than five times her target – after her appeal for sponsorship was widely supported on social media.

"Lourdes is a very special place," said Liz. "My grandma was on the first pilgrimage 71 years ago and I was able to share the 70th pilgrimage with my mum, daughter, sister and nieces.

"Every year the Diocese of Middlesbrough take sick and elderly pilgrims to Lourdes. I have had the privilege to volunteer at Lourdes, giving up my half-term break to experience first-hand the happiness, laughter and peace shown by the pilgrims.

"I have also seen the hard work that is involved throughout the year to ensure that the pilgrimage takes place. The pain I endured during the 13.1 miles is nothing in comparison to the pain many of the pilgrims experience daily. One week in Lourdes means so much to them."

Angela has so far raised £600 after setting an initial target of £300.

"Each year I get to accompany pupils from our schools to take part in the pilgrimage,"



**Liz King completed the Great North Run for the Lourdes Fund**

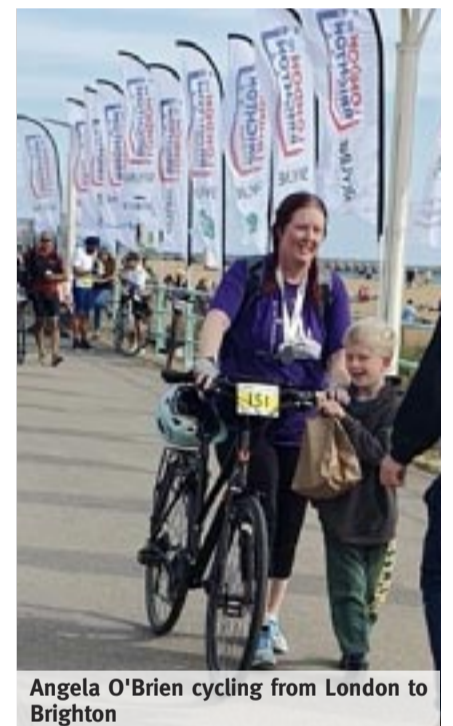
she said. "It's a fantastic experience for all our young people who go.

"Over the week, we see them growing in confidence and faith through the friendships they form with the supported pilgrims.

"It can be a large financial commitment for a family to send a young person to Lourdes, so I'm trying to raise money so we can support more young people to go to Lourdes."

"I'd like to congratulate Liz and Angela for their outstanding achievements," said pilgrimage director Mark Taylor.

"Your dedication to supporting the Lourdes



**Angela O'Brien cycling from London to Brighton**

Sick Fund is truly remarkable. I would also like to extend my thanks to Dan Woodgate from the Diocese of Middlesbrough for creating the fundraising page that has made this all possible."

More than £300 has also been donated to the fund in memory of Canon Pat Hartnett, who died in July at the age of 70.

A link to the online fundraising page was shared by Canon Pat's brother on Facebook and a QR code linked to the page was included in the order of service at his funeral.

You can donate to the Lourdes Fund or set up your own Lourdes fundraising challenge at [app.goodhub.com/Lourdes](http://app.goodhub.com/Lourdes).

Alternatively, you can scan the QR code below.



## Dates for your diaries

**Lourdes Hospitalité Ball:** Friday October 25 at Gisborough Hall, Guisborough, with reception drinks from 6.45pm

**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 to the time.

Our confirmed Lourdes dates are Saturday May 24 to Friday May 30. Full details are on the back page of this edition.

## An introduction to the new translation

**The guest at the next meeting of the Cleveland Newman Circle, Father Tony Currer, will speak about the new translation for the readings at Mass that come in this December.**

The meeting is at St Mary's Cathedral hall on Wednesday October 23 at 7.45pm, with coffee and tea from 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

For more details call 01642 645732 or email [p.egerton123@gmail.com](mailto:p.egerton123@gmail.com).



**NEWS**

# Booking forms are now available for Lourdes 72

Booking forms are now available for the 72nd Diocese of Middlesbrough Pilgrimage to Lourdes, under the leadership of Bishop Terry.

Once again, our travel agent is Joe Walsh Tours, with all flights arranged by Northern Star Travel and flight-inclusive holidays financially protected by the ATOL scheme.

The pilgrimage is for six nights from Saturday May 24 to Friday May 30.

Prices per person are...

Mediterranee £875

Agona £875

Roissy £939

Solitude £989

Padoue £939

Eliseo £939

St Sauveur £919

Flight only £595

Package costs include direct return flight from Teesside Airport to Lourdes, airport transfers and assistance between Lourdes Airport and your accommodation, six nights' accommodation, full board (breakfast, lunch and dinner each day), airport taxes, UK Government Levy and Lourdes city tax.

Passengers can take one standard piece of check-in luggage up to 20kg plus one small personal item in the cabin.

You will also have the full services of Joe Walsh Tours'

guides and representatives throughout and there will be a full programme of services.

Options include an additional single-room occupancy charge of £39 per night in the Mediterranean and Agona and £42 per night for all other hotels.

Travel insurance is £59 per person up to 79 years and £98 per person for those aged 80 to 94.

All bookings should be made through Joe Walsh Tours at 46-48 Long Street, Middleton, Manchester, M24 6UQ. Bookings are also accepted over the telephone 0808 1890468. No booking is definite until a non-refundable deposit payment of £350 per person has been received by Joe Walsh Tours.

Each year a Hospitalité team made up of doctors, nurses, handmaids, brancardiers and young people go to Lourdes specifically to assist those pilgrims who suffer from poor health or have mobility problems.

While in Lourdes the doctors and nurses on the pilgrimage can only help those pilgrims who are registered.

Any pilgrim with a medical condition who wishes to travel as a supported pilgrim should contact the pilgrimage secretary for a separate form on 01642 760105 or email [lourdessecretary@rcdmidd.org.uk](mailto:lourdessecretary@rcdmidd.org.uk).

The closing date for supported pilgrim applications is January 31 2025. If you wish to volunteer to help in the Hospitalité team, please email [pilgrimage@rcdmidd.org.uk](mailto:pilgrimage@rcdmidd.org.uk) or call 07776 115160.



Young pilgrims visiting the Grotto at night



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