



Bishop's Column

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, in accordance with a tradition which goes back 1,300 years, has declared an Ordinary Jubilee Year in 2025. The theme of the year is SPES NON CONFUNDIT – “Hope does not disappoint” (Rom 5:5). I take this opportunity to give the bare bones of what the Holy Father has said about the Holy Year quoting his own words.

Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring. Christian hope does not deceive or disappoint because it is grounded in the certainty that nothing and no one may ever separate us from God's love: "Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril or the sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom 8:35.37-39).

Sustained by this great tradition, and certain that the Jubilee Year will be for the entire Church a lively experience of grace and hope, I hereby decree that the Holy Door of the Basilica of Saint Peter in the Vatican will be opened on 24 December 2024, thus inaugurating the Ordinary Jubilee. On the following Sunday 29 December 2024, I will open the Holy Door of my cathedral, Saint John Lateran, which on 9 November this year will celebrate the 1700th anniversary of its dedication. Then, on 1 January 2025, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, the Holy Door of the Papal Basilica of Saint Mary Major will be opened. Finally, Sunday 5 January 2025 will mark the opening of the Holy Door of the Papal Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls. These last three Holy Doors will be closed on Sunday 28 December 2025.

I further decree that on Sunday 29 December 2024, in every cathedral and co-cathedral, diocesan bishops are to celebrate Holy Mass as the solemn opening of the Jubilee Year, using the ritual indications that will be provided for that occasion.

The Holy Year will conclude in the particular Churches on Sunday 28 December 2025; in the course of the year, every effort should be made to enable the People of God to participate fully in its proclamation of hope in God's grace and in the signs that attest to its efficacy. The Ordinary Jubilee will conclude with the closing of the Holy Door in the Papal Basilica of Saint Peter in the Vatican on 6 January 2026, the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. During the Holy year, may the light of Christian hope illumine every man and woman, as a message of God's love addressed to all! And may the Church bear faithful witness to this message in every part of the world!

More information will follow as to how we will attempt to celebrate the Holy Year both here in the diocese and in Rome.

H Long

In blessed hope,

What's Inside

**Processions
follows centuries
old tradition**
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**Historic crucifix
on display**
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Padre Neil to head international Catholic military organisation

Catholic military lay organisation Apostolat Militaire International (AMI) has elected Diocese of Middlesbrough deacon the Reverend (Squadron Leader) Neil Galloway as its new secretary general.

A Vatican-sponsored non-governmental organisation of 40 full and associate member nations, AMI announced the news after its general assembly and conference in Mombasa, Kenya.

Padre Galloway served in the RAF before his ordination by Bishop of the Forces Richard Moth at St Mary's Cathedral in 2012.

His military career included two tours of Afghanistan and one of Iraq as a combat engineer with the RAF's elite Tactical Communications Wing, opening up airstrips and setting up radar, radio and communications systems.

After a two-year formation as a deacon in Stokesley and Osmotherley and as chaplain to Kirkclevington Grange Prison, near Yarm, he became an RAF chaplain and now works in Strategic Command.

Bishop Terry said: "It is a great honour for the military vicariate but also for the Diocese of Middlesbrough. I am sure we all send our best wishes to Deacon Neil and assure him of our prayers for this ministry."

Padre Galloway, who has a long association with the AMI, said he was honoured to accept the new role.

"I pray that my service can further support and enhance the magnificent work of the AMI as it continues to strengthen Christian values within Armed Forces worldwide," he said.



Reverend (Squadron Leader) Neil Galloway with the president of the AMI, Vice Admiral Matthieu Borsbloom of the Royal Netherlands Navy – Photo MOD Crown copyright

This is the first time the UK Catholic Bishopric of the Forces has been asked to take on this key role.

Catholic Bishop of the Forces Paul Mason said: "Padre Neil Galloway's election enables him to represent the bishopric, HM Forces and the RAF at the highest international levels.

"As an adviser to the Holy See on military issues it will also give the UK an influential voice in shaping and informing moral debate on armed conflict.

"In recent years, it has been pivotal in informing and shaping the Vatican's thinking

on nuclear deterrence, the use of sexual violence in conflict and moral injury. I wish Padre Neil every success as he takes on this significant role."

At the time of his ordination, Padre Galloway wrote: "I am on my terminal leave from the service and my life is about to change out of all recognition.

"How did I get here? What brought me to this point in my life? I was brought up in a Catholic school in Dundee. My family were

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NEWS

Padre Neil to head international Catholic military organisation

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never churchgoers, but I was lucky to always have faith.

“I thought of going to junior seminary. However, with the breakup of my family while I was still young, my focus changed. I was, to be honest, no saint, and was recently reminded by my best friend’s father of how much a ‘wee toe rag’ I could be.

“I joined the Royal Air Force at 17 as my best chance of a career, adventure and escape. Even then, going through basic training I was the odd one who went to Mass on a Sunday

morning. I grew up in the service and had the adventures I sought.

“I met and married my wife and we have travelled the world together with our daughters, living in Cyprus, Germany and all over the UK.

“We have always been deeply involved in our small service church communities and have been very blessed in the chaplains who have served us over the years.

“Many became very close family friends and it is they who have helped me recognise and accept the calling I have.

“I served several operational tours in both Iraq and Afghanistan and the experiences I

had brought me even more firmly to the belief that my calling was real and it was time to accept it.

“It’s not been easy – there is no sure certainty, no blinding light, no booming voice from the clouds. In truth, it’s that wee small voice, the niggle, the itch that won’t go away no matter what you do.

“I have tried to ignore it. I have hidden from it, enveloping myself in my career and service life. I have tried to fill the hole where it was with excitement, adventure, even charity work. But in the end I faced it, I turned to it, listened to it, I let it in and asked the questions I think we all have.

“‘What do you want from me?’ and ‘Why me?’ I tried the ‘It can’t be me’ and the ‘I’m not good enough’ excuse, but when you do finally stop, the only question left really is, ‘Who am I to say no to you?’

“With the help of chaplains and friends, I came to a decision. It was very scary, but once you just learn to accept and let go of the fears, it all seems so natural, seems to make so much sense and you end up asking why you avoided it for so long.”

The UK has been a member of the AMI since its founding in 1965. Padre Galloway will help the UK armed forces community strengthen existing links and build new relationships.

Join Bishop Terry to celebrate Jubilee Year in Rome

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 just 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 joewalshstours.co.uk or email info@joewalshstours.co.uk.

Canon Paul Farrer



BISHOP TERRY'S NOVEMBER ENGAGEMENTS

- 1 Celebrates Mass for Golden Jubilee Mass of Sister Christa's Profession at Thicket Priory, 11am
- 4 Attends Northern Church Leaders meeting via Zoom, 4pm
- 5 Celebrates Mass on the Feast of All Saints with All Saints School at York Minster, 9.30am
- 6 Celebrates Chapter Mass for Deceased Clergy at St Mary's Cathedral, Noon
Attends Council of Priests meeting at St Mary's Cathedral.
- 9 Celebrates the Priestly Ordination of Brother David Chadwick Cong Orat at the York Oratory, Noon
- 10 Attends Remembrance Sunday Service at the Middlesbrough Cenotaph, Noon
- 10-14 Attends Bishop's Plenary Meeting at Hinsley Hall, Leeds, 11am
- 17 Instals to Ministry of Acolyte candidates for Permanent Diaconate at St Bede Church, Marske, 11.30am
- 21-22 Attends Ampleforth Covenant at Ampleforth Abbey.



Bishop Terry leading prayers during our annual pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham

Jubilee 2025 – Called to be Pilgrims of Hope

Pope Francis has declared 2025 a Jubilee Year, which in the Church is historically a time for cancelling debt and restoring equality.

In the Book of Leviticus, people who are enslaved because of debt are freed, land lost because of debt is returned, and communities torn shattered by inequality are restored.

Pope Francis has called this Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope. It will officially begin on Christmas Eve, with the opening of the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica, followed by the opening of Cathedral Holy Doors on December 29.

It's an invitation to renew our hope, a hope which comes from knowing God loves each one of us, whoever we are.

Jubilee has strong scriptural roots as the people of God recognised inequality and the tendency to misuse. We are called to reset, renew and recommit to a more just world as God intends.

The word "jubilee" comes from the Hebrew word for a ram's horn, which was blown to announce the start of a Jubilee Year in the Bible.

In the Old Testament, the Jubilee Year was a time of renewal and celebration every 50 years. Debts were cancelled, people could rest and because crops weren't planted, even the land could rest.

It was also a time of freedom: prisoners and slaves were freed and land was given to those who didn't have any. It was known as the year of the Lord's favour.

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus read from the prophet Isaiah, where Jesus makes it clear that his mission is to bring the justice and freedom of the jubilee. Inspired by his example, we can share in his mission to create a world of justice, peace and love.

We can all be Pilgrims of Hope in 2025, so let's start our journey right now!

Pope Francis says: "By our actions, our words, the decisions we make each day, our patient efforts to sow seeds of beauty and kindness wherever we find ourselves, we want to sing of hope and reawaken in every heart the joy and the courage to embrace life to the full."

Today, news reports tell us of lives in the global south limited by needless hunger,

poverty, conflict and war, injustice and the climate crisis.

During this Jubilee Year we can offer our gifts, our energy, our voices and our prayers with our families, friends and local partners in the global south calling for justice and equality.

In a world that is growing more unjust and unequal, we invite individuals, schools and communities to experience the joy and strength in coming together as we respond to God's call for a reset, a renewal of faith and a recommitment to a just world.

We can use our voices to call for justice in an unequal world by being advocates for the voiceless and taking action to bring about the changes that are needed.

We will be sustained by our prayers and in our unwavering faith and hope in God, who wants all people to live lives to the full and we will be strengthened by uniting in our efforts and actions to bring about a better world for everyone. A better world needs all of us.

CAFOD has been working with the Catholic Bishops' Conference on a companion booklet to be distributed to all parishes and schools in England and Wales in November or December.

They have also commissioned an icon for the Jubilee by an Ethiopian artist, Mulugeta Araya, who is a student at St Mary's College in Adigrat. Ethiopia has a proud tradition of iconography.

CAFOD has been working in the area for many years, particularly with Abba Gebre, a Catholic priest in the diocese and the executive officer of St Mary's College, a not-for-profit technical and vocational college set up in 1995 to address unemployment and under employment.

Caritas in Middlesbrough is also putting together some resources for parishes to use throughout the year to help to focus on the six themes of the Jubilee listed by the Catholic Bishops' Conference – Care for Creation, Food Poverty, Modern Slavery, Managing Debt, Forgiveness, Rest and Worship.

More resources can be found at cbcew.org.uk/parish-resources-for-the-jubilee/

Carol Cross



The icon CAFOD commissioned for the Jubilee by an Ethiopian artist

Jubilee Prayer

*Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.
May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the
Gospel.*

*May those seeds transform from within both
humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.*

*May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever. Amen*

Generous families support harvest food project

Junior chaplains at St Mary and St Joseph VC Academy, Pocklington, sent out a letter asking for donations of fresh produce to distribute in our parish community.

Our families were very generous with the donations and the junior chaplains used this kind-heartedness as part of our prayer and praise gatherings.

They arranged to attend the parish SVP afternoon teas to help serve refreshments and to talk to parishioners about their harvest project.

They spent a lovely couple of hours chatting and supporting the raffle and quiz.

The children then left the produce donated to be distributed among people in need in our parish.

Sarah O'Donnell



St Mary and St Joseph children with the fresh produce donated by families

SCHOOLS

Children cut ribbon as new nursery opens its doors

Pupils came to school dressed in yellow and white and enjoyed an ice cream treat to help celebrate the opening of a brand new school nursery in York.

St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School in Monkgate, York, held a "Come and See" celebration day, opening its doors to current and prospective parents and members of the local community.

The visitors enjoyed guided tours of the nursery and the school, which dates back to Victorian times but has undergone substantial improvements in recent years.

St Wilfrid's originally opened in 1875 and is also organising some exciting ways to celebrate its 150th anniversary next year.

The special day also included raffles and a celebratory lunchtime menu, goodie bags and a spectacular balloon arch in the school colours.

Headteacher Helen Keith, who was once a pupil at St Wilfrid's, said opening the 23-place nursery is an important milestone and historic moment for the school.

"I wanted the whole school community to be involved because our nursery children all belong to the St Wilfrid's family now," she said.

"We had an excellent response to our invitation, with current parents and grandparents and mums and dads of pre-school-age children all coming to have a look around."

Staff also joined in the spirit of the occasion

by dressing in yellow and white and the ribbon was cut by the two youngest nursery children and the two oldest pupils in Year 6.

"The children are always at the centre of our school and it only seemed right that they should officially open our new nursery," said Miss Keith.

"All our children are excellent ambassadors for our school and feel very proud to come to St Wilfrid's.

"It was a really wonderful day for everyone and reminded us all of why this is such a special community."

Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust CEO Hugh Hegarty said: "St Wilfrid's has a rich history and this latest chapter builds on the generations of contributions by staff, governors and parishioners in York.

"The significant investment in resourcing and staffing and this excellent provision signals the strength of Catholic education in York.

"It is also further evidence of the positive impact Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust continues to have on the learning environments of our schools."

St Wilfrid's, which is rated good in all areas by Ofsted, already taught children aged four-to-11 but now has provision for three-year-olds.

A limited number of places at the new nursery are available now. Contact the school office on 01904 659726 for more information or to book a guided tour.



St Wilfrid's children with headteacher Helen Keith and Nicola Lewis, Laura Bailey, Sue Magson, Jessica Chelin and Jennifer Payne from the Early Years Team – Photo by Chris Booth


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Junior chaplains lead weekly prayer sessions

Key Stage 2 pupils at St Thomas More VC Academy in Hull took part in the Daily Rosary Challenge through Mark 10 Mission throughout October.

The school's junior chaplains also made an important contribution to our Celebrating the Word each week, supporting children in their prayer and ensuring they all knew about October being the month of the Rosary.

Pupils throughout the school enjoyed working with their lay chaplain Mrs Collinge to develop their own prayer and liturgy in class.

Martin Ward, Head of School



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Children from St Thomas More VC Academy in Hull prayed the Rosary every weekday in October

Glowing report praises ‘proud’ school family

The new acting head of a York school where high-quality learning begins right from the start of pupils’ educational journey has welcomed a highly positive Ofsted report.

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic Primary School, which serves the Holgate and Acomb communities, was rated good overall with outstanding behaviour and attitudes and personal development.

Sophie Adams, who was appointed acting head after three years as deputy head, said the whole school community is delighted with the report.

Management, staff and pupils at the school, which is part of Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust (NPCAT), all came in for praise from the inspectors.

“This school is at the heart of the local community,” the report says. “It is a place where pupils thrive. Parents talk about their children flourishing in this nurturing environment. Pupils and parents are proud to be part of this school family.”

Inspectors observed a “sense of calm which resonates throughout the school” and said pupils work with “sustained focus”.

“Pupils are considerate and rise to meet the high expectations set by the school,” it adds. “All pupils have access to a wide range of rich experiences. These include educational visits that the school maps out across the year groups.”

Early years provision was recognised as an “engaging environment” where children grow in independence.

The report says learning to read is a priority and starts at the beginning of reception, with the school’s youngest pupils learning to read words before moving on to develop fluency and comprehension.

“Carefully chosen books are an essential part of the school’s curriculum. Teachers explain how pupils enjoy being left on a ‘cliffhanger’

when sharing stories for pleasure.”

Commenting on the school’s “ambitious” curriculum, inspectors say: “It is designed to support the school mission, ‘Living, Loving, Learning – Christ at the centre’.

“It goes beyond academic knowledge and incorporates pupils’ excellent personal development.”

The school offers a wide range of rich experiences, including educational visits and pupils take on positions of responsibility such as being class monitors, school councillors and worship buddies during Mass.

“Year 5 pupils are part of the Mini Vinnies. They work within the local community, for example, reaching out to the housebound. These opportunities build pupils’ character.

“Senior leaders, the diocese and those responsible for governance know the school well. They provide appropriate support and challenge.”

Mrs Adams said the report comes at an exciting time for the school as they work hard to build on the firm foundations laid down by previous head Emma Barr, who was in charge at the time of the inspection.

She said: “The report reflects what makes Our Lady Queen of Martyrs such a special school and is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the staff, the wonderful children who come here, our supportive families and governors and the community as a whole.

“At Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, we prioritise not only academic achievement but also the holistic development of each child.

“We work every day to create the best possible educational experience for our pupils and we will continue to build on this success and give them everything they need to have a happy and successful future.”

NPCAT CEO Hugh Hegarty said: “This report profiles the significant impact the school



Headteacher Sophie Adams and deputy headteacher Hannah Elsworth with pupils

provision has on our wonderful pupils. Staff work tirelessly to ensure all children are afforded a rich, nurturing education in such a rich, loving environment.

“I appreciate the journey the school has been on over recent years and want to thank all those staff, leaders and governors who work in support of the school and also the wider Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust, which continues to have such a positive impact on all our primary schools.

“We will continue working collectively and

collaboratively in the interests of every pupil having a safe and secure environment within a culture of vigilance.”

The school opened in January 2012, bringing together the former schools of English Martyrs Catholic Primary and Our Lady’s Catholic Primary.

Parents interested in securing a nursery or reception place at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs can call 01904 806093 or visit olqm.npcat.org.uk.

Travelling Rosaries inspire St Richard’s

St Richard’s Primary School in Hull responded to the Mark 10 Mission Rosary Challenge as Key Stage 2 children prayed a decade of the Rosary every weekday.

The challenge was launched with an inspirational video filmed by the Mark 10 Mission team in Lourdes.

The children then contemplated a different mystery each day as they prayed a decade together in class.

Members of our junior chaplaincy team created Travelling Rosaries so their prayers could continue at home.

Every night a different child was invited to take the Rosary home and pray a decade with their family. The children were encouraged to draw or write their response to this time of prayer and staff were genuinely moved by their responses.

The East Hull school is also fortunate to have weekly Rosary Club prayer sessions with Sister Josephine where, once again, young pupils can listen to and reflect upon the mysteries and embrace this traditional, meditative form of prayer.

Emma Cook, Head of School



Sister Josephine helping St Richard’s children learn about the Rosary

Pupils gather for World Rosary Day

A group of pupils from All Saints Catholic School in York came together to pray five decades of the Rosary in the lower playground at lunchtime.

They were joined by Canon Michael Loughlin and chaplaincy coordinators Elaine Wright and Rebecca Kramm as the school marked the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary and World Rosary Day on October 7.

All staff and pupils have been given a card asking if they wish to put the name of a deceased family member, loved one or friend on the school’s Remembrance List, which will be used in year group collective worship assemblies during November. The staff list is remembered throughout the month at staff morning prayer.



Canon Michael Loughlin with All Saints pupils and staff

NEWS

St Michael's Day Procession honours 300-year-old tradition

Pupils from Year 7 Bosco form at All Saints School in York took part in the annual St Michael's Day Procession at the Bar Convent, a tradition that has spanned more than 300 years.

In around 1696 an attempt was made by a mob to destroy the Bar Convent and most of the children were sent away for safety.

The relics were hidden while the community waited for whatever might happen that night. Reverend Mother Bedingfield took the picture of St Michael that hung above the convent door and placed the convent under his protection.

Those in the house opposite described how they saw a tall person on a white horse brandishing a sword above the convent. The mob had retreated back down Micklegate, leaving the convent and its occupants unharmed.

In keeping with tradition, the youngest pupil in Year 7, along with a number of other Year 7 pupils, attended the procession, which began in the Bar Convent hall with the retelling of the story.

As we sang the first hymn, Kobe C, the school's youngest pupil, upheld tradition by leading the procession while carrying the picture of St Michael to the chapel.



All Saints pupils with the picture of St Michael

Francesca E-C and Santiago B-B carried candles behind him. The rest of the pupils followed the procession to the chapel, where

they sang and led the prayers of intercession. Convent by taking part in this great tradition. It is wonderful that the school is able to continue to support its links to the Bar

Rebecca Kramm

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Pupils clean up while caring for creation

Pupils at St Mary Queen of Martyrs VC Academy in Hull are working to achieve CAFOD's LiveSimply Award, national recognition for communities that embrace sustainable living and nurture global solidarity and care for creation.

As part of their ongoing efforts, children, staff and families came together for a community litter-picking event.

Demonstrating the virtue of solidarity, many volunteers stayed after school to take care of our environment, working as true stewards of God's creation.

The initiative not only helps clean up the surrounding area but also fosters a deeper connection between the school and the wider community, aligning with the ethos of caring for our planet and one another.

This act of service is one of many we hope will bring us closer to achieving the award.

By working together, students, families, and staff are also showing how small actions can make big changes in caring for God's creation.

Pupils enjoyed a half-termly lunch with parishioners at our local church.

After serving delicious homemade soup made by Mrs Coldham, Mrs Duncan and Miss Uney, the school's Mini-Vinnies SVP group gave out some lovely treats to enjoy together.

Cate Coldham, Head of School



The community litter-picking event at St Mary Queen of Martyrs VC Academy in Hull

Searching for our God of 'hide-and-seek'

Soon after he came to our diocese, Bishop Terry spoke to the Cleveland Newman Circle about St Teresa of Avila.

Recently he shared with us his enthusiasm for her Spanish co-worker St John of the Cross. His admiration for both grew from his time at the English College in Valladolid.

John lived in the turbulent 16th century and is chiefly remembered as a mystic and poet. His writings include The Dark Night (of the Soul), The Ascent of Mount Carmel, The Spiritual Canticle and The Living Flame of Love.

Bishop Terry called him a "spiritual prophet", who he said was passionately certain that the only necessity is seeking God and being filled with his love.

St John emphasised that there is no Easter Sunday without Good Friday. Pope John Paul II thought the Dark Night of the Church is now, so we are called to conversion – not by restructuring, but by continually seeking God.

This search is unending and even having found God we cannot hold him. Moses wanted to see God but saw only his back. Jesus showed himself to Mary Magdalene after the Resurrection, but then withdrew. Paul recognised that "creation is waiting with eager longing".

Bishop Terry acknowledged that unfulfilled yearning is painful. Will God always seem absent? Why is God a God of hide-and-seek? John's answer: if we embrace the dark night, then God can speak; if we wait, then God may come.

Born in 1542 into a loving family, John was brought up by his mother after his father died. Having been educated locally, John joined the Carmelite order as Brother John of St Matthias and was ordained in 1567.

Soon afterwards he met Teresa and became



Bishop Terry spoke about St John of the Cross on his visit to the Cleveland Newman Circle

totally convinced by her vision of reforming the order, where practice had become lax. Renamed John of the Cross, in 1569 he became spiritual director at the (reformed) Incarnation Convent in Avila. The reform met considerable opposition and John was persecuted for his work.

Imprisoned in Toledo, half-starved and beaten regularly, there John wrote The Spiritual

Canticle. Eventually he escaped, taking these paper scraps. He was given responsibility, deposed, excommunicated then reinstated, finally being persecuted by his own, living under suspicion until dying in 1591.

John was short in stature, needing only a tiny grave, but St John of the Cross has had towering influence: canonised in 1726 and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1877.

For information about the Cleveland Newman Circle, email p.egerton123@gmail.com or call 01642 645732.

Deacon Paul Hargreaves will speak about the Permanent Diaconate: Ordained to Serve at our next talk, in St Mary's Cathedral hall, Middlesbrough, on Wednesday November 27 at 7.45pm.

Patricia Egerton

Hull's Catholic bowling club needs new members

Founded in 1979 from parishes in East Hull, St Catherine's Bowling Club has been a powerful force in Hull and East Riding circles for almost half a century.

Having moved from a public park bowling green in the east side of Hull, the club now play at a private club in the north side, sharing the bowling green of Kingston Bowling Club, one of the city's oldest clubs. The ground is located off Ash Grove, Beverley Road, Hull.

St Catherine's Bowling Club has never had a huge membership. The current total is 14 players, including five who have played together since day one – that's 46 years!

However, fresh blood is urgently required, or the club will cease to function. We are looking for new members for the coming season, which starts at the beginning of May. We play league matches on evenings (usually Tuesdays), Wednesday afternoons and Saturday afternoons. Members also play socially at the Kingston Club.

No experience or equipment is required and a taster day will be available for anyone interested in giving it a try.

The club is open to all, with no age restrictions – our youngest player is 24 years old and the oldest is 80.

For further information please contact honorary secretary Jim Nicholson on 01482 375578.

Bernard France



St Catherine's Bowling Club in Hull is looking for new members

NEWS

Historic crucifix takes centre stage at exhibition

The Oldcorne Cross is on display in an exhibition that continues at the Bar Convent in York.

The crucifix is the only item known to have survived raids on Catholic properties conducted in 1606 after the discovery of the Gunpowder Plot in November 1605.

During the reformation, mistrust and double agents were a part of everyday life.

In Elizabethan England the practice of the Catholic faith was banned for political reasons.

Elizabeth and her government were antagonistic towards Catholics because of their loyalty to the Pope. Pope Pius V's excommunication of Elizabeth in 1570 made all Catholics a threat to her claim to the throne.

There were harsh punishments for Catholics who failed to attend Sunday services in the Anglican church.

As heavy fines were imposed, land and property confiscated, and priests suffered horrific torture and death, Catholics resorted to secrecy and disguise.

English priests who trained on the continent and re-entered England would be "disguised in both names and in persons; some in apparel as soldiers, mariners or merchants... and many as gallants, yea in all colours, and with feathers and such like, disguising themselves; and many of them in behaviour as ruffians."

Once in the country, priests had to take on an inconspicuous disguise that would explain their presence at a household if questioned.

On display in the Bar Convent is a set of silk vestments that were carried by a priest disguised as a pedlar (door-to-door salesman). If challenged, the colourful vestments would appear to be an innocent bundle of ribbons.

Priests would hide objects used for Mass in plain sight, such as using a carved oak Tudor 16th-century bedhead as an altar for celebrating Mass in secret. When discovery was threatened, the altar could be quickly replaced by the bed and appear completely innocent.

All communications had to be in code or would be in invisible ink. Mary Ward sent secret letters and to reveal the hidden text, the recipient would have to heat the paper over a flame or a candle. She would write her messages with lemon juice, which would



The crucifix was found in a priest hole where Father Edward Oldcorne was hiding after the Gunpowder Plot in 1605

become invisible when dried.

They made use of the architecture and created hiding places and would always have an escape route.

Jesuit lay brother Nicholas Owen (c 1562-1606) devoted his life to the construction of priest's hiding holes, to protect the lives of persecuted priests. He also had the ingenious idea of creating a double hiding hole, one inside the other.

When the soldiers found the first one, it wouldn't occur to them to look further. He was eventually captured at Hindlip Hall in the aftermath of the Gunpowder Plot, tortured and killed. A hiding hole can be found in the Bar Convent chapel.

The sisters of the Bar Convent also took on disguises, as it was unusual for women to own property. They pretended to be widows

and dressed as such in public.

Sister Frances Bedingfield, who founded the house, was from a well-known Catholic family, and wisely took on the alias Mrs Long. The sisters formed a group of fellow Catholics who they could rely on to keep a secret.

The location of the convent was key, by staying outside of any jurisdiction, the position of the house just outside of the Bar Walls, with Catholic houses nearby and a view of the walls. This enabled them to see approaching authorities, giving them the time to escape.

Special collections manager Dr Hannah Thomas said: "The Oldcorne Cross is one of the most remarkable items in our possession and on display in the Bar Convent's exhibition.

"We have been working closely with experts

such as Michael Hodgetts, who has painstakingly researched the history of all known priest's hiding holes in England and Wales, and we are now confident in believing that this is the only item surviving from a series of raids which took place at the houses of known Catholic associates across the midlands in 1606, following the discovery of the plot in November 1605."

The exhibition continues until Saturday November 9.

Admission is £7 adults, £5 concessions, £2 children (6-15) and under-6s free. A family ticket (two adults and two children) is £14. Groups of eight or more must book, email tours@barconvent.co.uk for details. Opening times are Monday to Saturday, 10am-5pm (last entry 4pm). Closed Sundays and bank holidays.

Canon Jerry visits city's mosque to meet imam

Canon Jerry Twomey visited York Mosque & Islamic Centre to share news of his retirement with Imam Ammar.

A lovely and very busy community lunch allowed us to share a meal together and it was good to connect again with Helping Other People in Need Group (Hoping) Street Kitchen, who do some excellent work in York feeding those in need every single week of the year.

It was also the one-year anniversary of the Mosque's fortnightly community lunch, set up initially to support and welcome migrants housed in nearby accommodation.

The lunch now attracts many faith and non-faith-based groups who come together to eat, chat and befriend.

Food is always a common factor for people of all religions and backgrounds. As God once said to Noah, "If you build it, they will come".

It also reminds us in these troubled times to look for what unites us, rather than what divides us.

Remembering that, as Jesus told his disciples, "Whoever is not against us is for us".

David Harper



Canon Jerry Twomey with Imam Ammar at York Mosque & Islamic Centre

A journey of joy for eager Camino pilgrims

Seven ladies from Middlesbrough took part in a 120-kilometre walk from Valença to Santiago de Compostela, the last leg of the Portuguese Camino.

The walk was organised by Claire Gregory and we were all eager to complete it, as it was on our bucket list.

It was an exhausting but totally rewarding

experience, meeting so many pilgrims from all over the world.

Arriving in Santiago and receiving our certificate after completing 118 miles over six days was exhilarating, and we shared our joy with hundreds of other pilgrims of varying ages.

Morita Metcalfe



Middlesbrough pilgrims who took part in a 120-kilometre walk from Valença to Santiago de Compostela, the last leg of the Portuguese Camino

This poem tells the story of the ladies' walk...

*Seven brave women on the Camino we roam,
From Valença to Santiago, far from home.
120 kilometres, each step a test,
But we've kept going, giving it our best!*

*Bernie was leaning, her posture askew,
Blisters on Claire, but she's pushing through.
Marie's poor knee? It's been better, we'll say,
Yet we're all still walking, come what may!*

*Claire and Maria, they're still walking strong,
While Morita hums a tune to cheer us along.*

*Nat's feet cramped, she needed a sign—
Turns out the cure was an Albariño wine.*

*Though feet may ache and spirits might dip,
We've had wine and laughter to steady the trip!*

*So here's to the seven, the journey, the pain—
In Santiago, we'll dance in the rain!*

Anonymous

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Pope's Youth Day message: Hope in the Lord

Pope Francis has addressed a message to young people around the world for the 39th World Youth Day on Sunday November 24.

The message, entitled "Those who hope in the Lord will run and not be weary," centres on the theme of hope and endurance, drawing inspiration from the words of the prophet Isaiah.

In his message, Pope Francis encouraged young people to see life as a pilgrimage, a quest for happiness that is admittedly also tiring. It is precisely in this journey that hope must shine brightest, he said.

Those who hope in the Lord do not tire

Considering the difficulties young people face, Pope Francis encouraged them to persevere. He emphasised that hope is not simply a passive feeling but an active force, one that allows us to "press forward, for it is a gift received from God himself".

Pope Francis also addressed the fatigue that can come with life's struggles. He noted that this weariness is common to all who embark on meaningful journeys and that the solution to such tiredness is not found in resting but in "becoming pilgrims of hope".

In his message, the Pope invited the young people to embrace life fully, warning against the stagnation, where people "stand still with no desire to move".

He emphasised how this apathy can often lead to a paralysing sense of futility.

"I prefer the tiredness of those who are moving forward, not the ennui of those who stand still," the Pope said.



Eucharist is the highway to Heaven

The Pope compared young people's journey to the biblical story of Israel's journey through the desert.

He reassured them that even in moments of crisis and despair, God does not abandon his people. Instead, like a loving Father, he nourishes them with his presence, just as he provided manna to the Israelites in the desert.

The Pope urged the young people to rediscover the profound gift of the sacrament

of the Eucharist, by reminding them that "the Eucharist is the highway to heaven".

Not tourists but pilgrims

Looking towards the Jubilee of 2025, Pope Francis expressed his hope that the upcoming celebration would be an opportunity for young people to deepen their relationship with God and to experience His mercy and love.

He extended an invitation to all, saying: "Do not set out as mere tourists, but as true

pilgrims," reminding them that the journey towards the Jubilee is not only a physical one but also a spiritual one.

Bringing his message to a close, Pope Francis encouraged the young people to be brave.

"Take courage," he said, before assuring them of his prayers and entrusting their journey to the Blessed Virgin Mary. With her example, he concluded, young people can "persevere in their journey as pilgrims of hope and love."

Women's group reaches out for younger members

The National Board of Catholic Women (NBCW) is reviewing its constitution as it tries to encourage younger women and create a more intergenerational environment.

We aim to follow the synodal path of communion, mission and participation as we continue our work to challenge discrimination and promote the right of women to gender justice.

We promote the presence, participation and responsibilities of Catholic women in the

Church and society, working ecumenically and with women of other faiths and secular groups.

The main women's organisations in our diocese are the Catholic Women's League and Union of Catholic Mothers, but there are many other women's groups, such as Catholic ladies' luncheon and craft groups, parish ladies' groups and young mothers.

Zoom events started during the pandemic have continued and resources have been

shared to assist with funding.

We reach out to other diocesan organisations to provide connectedness and feminine input, highlighting and including women who might otherwise never be noticed.

Upcoming events include a World Day of Prayer preparation day at English Martyrs, York, on Saturday November 9 from 10am to 3pm.

You're also welcome to join us for an Ampleforth weekend with the theme of the

Greatness of the Ordinary from January 31 to February 2 2025.

Speakers include Kevin Hyland on modern day slavery and Dr Mary McHugh on the Venerable Mary Ward.

Accommodation is available. For more information and to book, please email margaretclark123@gmail.com.

For more information about the NBCW, visit nbcw.org.uk.

Margaret Clark

A Letter From Madonna House – Finding Christ in the saints

November often feels to me like the beginning of the end of the year. Trees lose their leaves, the garden dies back and the fruits of the land are harvested and stored for the winter to come.



Liturgically, this feeling is taken up in both the feasts and readings that begin to look ahead to the end of all things when Christ will come again.

This month begins with the solemnity of All Saints, when we celebrate those who have made it to heaven, those known and recognised by the Church and those we don't know.

All these saints have in common a deep desire to know, love and serve God, and their lives become examples for us to follow.

The feast of Christ the King, the last Sunday of the year, ends the liturgical year before the season of Advent begins the new one. It celebrates the reign of Christ in our world and looks forward to His second and glorious coming at the end of times. These two feasts represent our call as Christians to bear Christ in our hearts, allowing him to transform us and enabling us to bring him into the lives of those around us. The saints give endless examples of this in their lives,

and we can be inspired through their unique experiences to become the saints that God desires us to be.

I'll bring up some lives of saints who have inspired me. Blessed Nicolas Postgate is a great example of someone whose life was dedicated to bringing Christ to the Church here in North Yorkshire. He ministered to the Catholics of the area, despite the risk of persecution and execution, in bringing the sacraments to them.

Blessed Nicholas was captured while baptising a baby and accepted his fate with peace. At an advanced age he accomplished his calling through martyrdom.

Another example is Marie Marguerite d'Youville from my native Canada. She was a widow who founded the Sisters of Charity of Montreal, commonly known as "the Grey Nuns", to serve the poor and the sick.

She faced the derision and suspicion of those around her because her deceased husband had been a bootlegger and also

because it wasn't common for religious sisters to engage in charitable activities at that time (the end of the 18th century). But she persevered, finding Christ in the poor and the sick and bringing them all her loving concern and care.

Lastly, I would like to tell you about St Anthony of the Desert. He was an Egyptian in the third and fourth centuries who heard Christ calling him to live in poverty and contemplative prayer.

He sought the silence and isolation of the desert to deepen his connection with God. Eventually, others were drawn to follow him and they lived in separate huts and came together on Sundays for communal prayers. He led the early monks through his many teachings on prayer.

These are just some of the saints who have inspired me. Who are yours?

Mathieu Dacquay

Catenians bid farewell to longtime brother Bernard

Brothers of Hull Catenians Circle have said goodbye to one of their longest serving members as he moves away from the area.

Bernard Swift has been a member of Hull Circle for 46 years but can no longer attend events regularly as he and his wife Sheila are moving back to Lancashire to live closer to their family for health reasons.

Bernard, a retired veterinary surgeon, was Hull Circle secretary for many years and only resigned because of ill health.

Brothers could not let them depart without showing its appreciation for their dedication. A special lunch in his honour was attended by 46, including brothers, their wives and

local clergy.

Bernard and Sheila were presented with engraved crystal wine glasses and rose bowl to take with them over the Pennines as a timeless reminder of their friends in the Hull Circle.

Malcolm Bellamy

- Bernard has also been a valued contributor to the *Catholic Voice* for many years and has played an important part in communications for the diocese, regularly attending our meetings in York. We wish him every blessing for the future.



Sheila and Bernard Swift with the crystal glasses and rose bowl presented by Hull Catenians Circle

'We need to speak out and defend persecuted brothers and sisters'

Persecution of Christians is widely ignored, according to a Catholic archbishop, who said it is the duty of all followers of Christ to stand in solidarity with those suffering for their faith.

Speaking to Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) as part of its Break the Silence podcast series, Archbishop John Wilson of Southwark said: "It is a sadness that the persecution of Christians around the world is a subject that rarely gets the attention it needs.

"I think it is the business of every Christian to look to the support and the defence of a brother or sister – a Christian whatever their circumstances – but especially in the context when they are suffering for their faith.

"As followers of Christ and members of the Church, we have a duty to each other.

"The need to speak out and defend our persecuted brothers and sisters is not just a matter of justice – it is about standing in spiritual and practical solidarity with our fellow disciples in the suffering Church as members of the one body of Christ."

Archbishop Wilson said that on his summer visit to Nigeria he "was moved by the people" he met and continues "to be moved by people who, regardless of their circumstances, remain faithful".

He added: "Sometimes people who face the greatest hardship have the most impressive and beautiful faith..."

"There is something about the power of the Cross and the Resurrection that they are in touch with, in a way that those of us who are not challenged in that way are not."

He said persecution has tragically peppered the history of the Church for as long as there have been followers of Christ.

"Despite that persecution, despite those martyrdoms, the Church flourishes because

Christ is alive.

"Christ cannot be martyred – he is risen and, therefore, we are people of intrinsic, indefatigable and inextinguishable hope."

He said Christians in the UK can learn a lot from people persecuted for their faith – and it is important "never to take for granted the freedoms we have".

"ACN's advocacy work is so important," he said. "[We must] unite spiritually in solidarity to defend religious freedom as a fundamental expression of human dignity, which is at the heart of the Church's teaching."

ACN's Break the Silence podcast is available on YouTube and across all popular podcast platforms.

Amy Balog



Archbishop John Wilson – Photo © Marcin Mazur/CBCEW

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NEWS

Out & About

1 Friday

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

2 Saturday

11am Catholic women are invited to share an hour of feminine communion including meditation, via Zoom. Text Barbara on 07796 117 704 with your mobile number and email address so she can add you to the WhatsApp group, or email catholicwomenmdl@gmail.com for Zoom link.

4 Monday

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

5 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 at 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.

6 Wednesday

Noon Mass for Deceased Clergy at St Mary's Cathedral. All are welcome as we pray for the repose of the souls of all deceased diocesan clergy.

5.30pm Sung Evening Prayer and Benediction at St Mary's Cathedral. Join us every Wednesday for a time of prayer and quiet reflection before the Blessed Sacrament.

9 Saturday

7.30pm The Cathedral Series: Fauré Requiem with St Mary's Cathedral Singers, St Mary's Cathedral.

10 Sunday

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

11 Monday

2pm Dementia Friendly Communal Singing at St Mary's Cathedral, a Dementia Friendly venue. Music for the Mind is an hour of fun and music with Trish McLean for people living with dementia, their friends and carers, every second Monday of the month. All welcome.

12 Tuesday

12.45pm 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@ymail.com.

13 Wednesday

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

14 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.

16 Saturday

6pm Candlelight: A Tribute to Coldplay at St Mary's Cathedral. For tickets visit ticketsource.co.uk/middlesbroughcathedral.

7.30pm The Eddie White Sacred Heart Irish Dance with Peter Mylett. All dances take place at the Erimus Club, Cumberland Road, Middlesbrough TS5 6JB. Contact John Brown on 07871 958 412.

8.30pm Candlelight: Hans Zimmer's Best Works. For tickets visit ticketsource.co.uk/middlesbroughcathedral.

24 Sunday

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.

27 Wednesday

7.30pm The Newman Association meets at St Mary's Cathedral Hall for a talk on the Permanent Diaconate: Ordained to Serve, with Deacon Paul Hargreaves. Free admission, all welcome.

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

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

Deadline Friday November 1 for December 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.

The Diocese of Middlesbrough has an amazing range of historic churches, which are entrusted to local clergy and parish communities.

To help them in this role, the Diocesan Historic Churches Committee (the legal planning body) has organised a study day at Ampleforth on Thursday November 14, with speakers drawn from all over the diocese, covering care for listed buildings, grant applications and much more.

Parish clergy and at least one involved parishioner have been invited to attend.

It is very much hoped we will have a generous response as we seek to help one another in such a worthwhile endeavour.

Monsignor David Hogan
Chair, Diocesan Historic Churches Committee



The Grade II* listed St Mary's Church at Crathorne, North Yorkshire

Buffer zone law ‘discriminates against people of faith’

Legislation to enact so-called “safe access” or “buffer” zones outside abortion facilities in England and Wales was due to come into force at the end of October.

This legislation, contained in section 9 of the Public Order Act 2023, criminalises a range of activities within a 150-metre perimeter of an abortion facility.

Such activities could include prayer, thought, peaceful presence, consensual communication and offers of practical support to women in vulnerable situations, should any of these be deemed to influence or interfere with access to the clinic.

Catholic bishops believe the legislation is “deeply concerning” and poses a threat to freedom of speech, thought, conscience and religion for people of all faiths and none.

Bishop John Sherrington said: “As the Catholic Bishops’ Conference repeatedly stated during the passage of the Public Order Bill last year, ‘safe access zone’ legislation is unnecessary and disproportionate.

“In practice, and despite any other intention, this legislation constitutes discrimination and disproportionately affects people of faith.

“Religious freedom is the foundational freedom of any free and democratic society,

essential for the flourishing and realisation of dignity of every human person.

“Religious freedom includes the right to manifest one’s private beliefs in public through witness, prayer and charitable outreach, including outside abortion facilities.

“As well as being unnecessary and disproportionate, we have deep concerns around the practical effectiveness of this legislation, particularly given the lack of clarity in relation to the practice of private prayer and offers of help within ‘safe access zones’.

“As Pope Francis has reminded us, ‘A healthy religious pluralism, one which genuinely respects differences and values them as such, does not entail privatising religions in an attempt to reduce them to the quiet obscurity of the individual’s conscience or to relegate them to the enclosed precincts of churches, synagogues or mosques.’

“This would represent, in effect, a new form of discrimination and authoritarianism’. By legislating for and implementing so-called ‘safe access zones’, the government has taken an unnecessary and disproportionate step backwards in the protection of religious and civic freedoms in England and Wales.”

Nostalgic trip for York parishioners

Parishioners were blessed with perfect weather for a parish trip organised by St George’s, York, SVP to the Ryedale Folk Museum at Hutton-le-Hole.

Around 45 parishioners travelled by coach for a fish and chip lunch followed by a leisurely stroll around the museum and an ice cream on the village green.

Parishioners young and old found it a real education and for some it was a trip down memory lane, reliving how our farming ancestors lived and worked in North Yorkshire’s villages.

Lots of happy smiling faces, and the fish and chip lunch and ice creams went down well too!

David Harper



Some of the St George’s parishioners on the trip to Ryedale Folk Museum – Photo by Ines Gracias

Apply now for parish evangelisation grants

The Ransom Grant provides funding for formational and mission projects in Catholic parishes with an annual income under £30,000.

It is run by the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom, which exists to enable parishes, ministries and individuals to promote the Catholic faith in England and Wales, with an emphasis on evangelisation.

“It’s no secret that while some parishes have mission-focused dreams – whether that’s training new catechists for First Holy Communion or Confirmation programmes or investing in resources to help their congregation in some way – funding is often the biggest obstacle,” said a spokesperson.

“Fortunately, in this case, it might be the most easily removed obstacle.”

The closing date for applications is Friday November 8 and parishes will find out if they have been successful in early December, with funds being distributed early in the New Year.

Parishes are eligible if their annual Sunday collection is under £30,000 per annum.

Funds must be used for evangelisation (training, parish mission or resources) or general parish development that supports evangelisation.

You should not have received funding from the guild in the last 24 months and the grant cannot be used for salaries.

For more information visit guild-ransom.co.uk/ransom-grants.

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NEWS

‘I am close to you,’ Pope tells Holy Land flock

Pope Francis reached out to the Catholics of the Holy Land “as blood and tears are still being shed” one year from the day when the “fuse of hatred” was lit.

“I am thinking of you and praying for you,” the Pope wrote in a letter that decried “the shameful inability of the international community and the most powerful countries to silence the weapons and put an end to the tragedy of war”.

He said: “Anger is growing, along with the desire for revenge, while it seems that few people care about what is most needed and what is most desired: dialogue and peace.

“War is a defeat. Weapons do not build the future but destroy it, violence never brings peace. History proves this, yet years and years of conflict seem to have taught us nothing.”

Thanking the “small, defenceless flock” who dwell in the Holy Land “thirsting for peace”, praying and loving despite everything, he describes Holy Land Catholics as “a seed

loved by God”.

He encouraged them to find a way to bear fruit and give life, without letting themselves be engulfed by the darkness that surrounds them.

“Planted in your sacred lands, become sprouts of hope, because the light of faith leads you to testify to love amid words of hatred, to encounter amid growing confrontation, to unity amid increasing hostility,” he wrote.

Writing “with the heart of a father” to his children, who are “today experiencing a real martyrdom, the Pope asks them to sow “seeds of peace amid the winter of war,” and be “witnesses to the power of a non-violent peace”.

He said: “Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, I bless you and embrace you with heartfelt affection. May Our Lady, Queen of Peace, watch over you. May St Joseph, Patron of the Church, protect you.”



Missile kills eight sheltering in church

A church sheltering displaced people in southern Lebanon was hit in a missile attack, killing at least eight people, according to local Church sources.

The sources told Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) that the church and two of its adjoining halls used as a refuge in the Melkite Greek Catholic Eparchy of Tyre collapsed in the airstrike.

They added that another missile hit a priest's house and a three-storey building housing parish offices, destroying them.

ACN has been funding around 200 projects in the country and is in close contact with dioceses and religious congregations to assess what more help is needed.

In the past months, ACN aid has included food parcels for thousands of families and medical help for 1,200 people who have stayed in southern Lebanon despite the dangers.



The destroyed church where at least eight people were killed in an airstrike – Photo © ACN

Environment Corner - Our wardrobes' impact on the planet

This month's article comes with thanks to the Justice and Peace Group at Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, Bridlington.

They recently focused on the fashion industry and its responsibility for ten per cent of the world's carbon emissions – a proportion that's rising.

This includes emissions from the manufacturing process and transportation along with discarded clothing going to landfill.

The average consumer now buys 60 per cent more clothing than they did 15 years ago. With constant new trends at affordable prices, the temptation to buy the latest fashion is strong.

However, clothing produced cheaply often involves exploitation, including low wages and poor working conditions for garment workers in countries where labour costs are low and there is less regulation around pollution.

When synthetic textiles are disposed of in landfill or incinerated, they can leach harmful micro-fibres into the atmosphere. Around 20-35 per cent of all primary source microplastics in the environment are from clothing made from synthetic materials.

What can we all do to reduce our wardrobes' impact on the planet?

- Use the available research – Apps such as Good for You provide sustainable and ethical ratings for top fashion brands as well as providing alternative options.
- Set a limit for how many new clothing items you buy. A suggested number is eight items per year. Look at what is available second-hand.
- Choose natural materials. Higher quality materials extend the lifecycle of garments.
- Have some fun using sewing and repair skills and being creative with what you have.
- Think before discarding – Can I reuse, repurpose, swap, donate?

Change of this sort can be fun and rewarding!

Information supplied by Winnie Foxton



Buying from charity shops is one way to avoid adding to the mountain of clothes being thrown away every year

Charity concert and fond farewell to Father Pat

St Hilda's Parish in Whitby said farewell to Father Pat Keogh in style with a concert in aid of our Lourdes Sick Fund.

The main performer was Katie Doherty & The Navigators, but the event also served as a send-off for Father Pat, as he is fondly known, who was retiring as parish priest after 12 years in the town and more than 50 years in the Diocese of Middlesbrough.

Katie performed a range of folk songs from her latest albums, which cover the current state of the world, plus more local themes from her family and the North-East.

Father Pat was the priest who officiated at Kate's wedding at Mount Grace Priory in 2014, and their friendship goes way back to when she was a young girl. It was fitting that she dedicated the song Bridges and other favourites to him. She called him a "shining light and inspiration in her life", and wished him well in his retirement.

Another highlight of the evening was the last performance from the Chancy Brothers, which included Canon Eddie Gubbins from Scarborough and Father Kieran Kilcommons from Robin Hood's Bay, as well as Father Pat. The three priests performed Irish folk songs including the Wild Rover, which had the audience singing and clapping along.

Father Pat was born in Limerick and after completing his studies was ordained in Tipperary in 1973. Since 2012 he has been the charismatic parish priest of both St Hilda's and English Martyrs Church in Sleights.

As well as his pastoral duties, he has been active in his support for asylum seekers, the sick and unfortunate throughout the diocese.

His roles have included chaplain of both Tees Port and James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough, where he worked as a volunteer during the pandemic.

At his last Sunday Mass the day after the concert, Father Pat received a standing



The last ever performance by the famous Chancy Brothers

ovation from the congregation.

His parishioners will miss his services and sense of humour, but warmly welcome our new parish priest, Father Michael Sellers.

John Moran

• **Father Pat Keogh will continue in his role as chaplain to the sick for our Lourdes pilgrimage after his recent retirement from parish duties. We wish him a happy retirement and look forward to seeing him in Lourdes with us next year.**

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 to the time.

Lourdes Pilgrimage: Saturday May 24 to Friday May 30

Christians open their doors to thousands fleeing bombardment

Christian families in the Beqaa Valley, eastern Lebanon, have welcomed thousands of displaced people into their homes.

Maronite Archbishop Hanna Rahmé of Baalbek-Deir El-Ahmar told Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) that parts of his archdiocese have been under daily bombardment, forcing about 13,000 people to flee to predominantly Catholic areas.

Archbishop Rahmé said: "Each of the Christian families in the villages around Deir El-Ahmar has welcomed three or four displaced families – that is, between 30 and 60 people..."

"We are choked by the number of internally displaced people, but we can't leave them to their fate – we are not Christians just for ourselves, but for everyone."

He added that the homes of Christian families are open to "people in the zones under bombardment – Christians and Muslims alike", and Muslims seeking shelter "are enormously touched by this Christian solidarity".

The archbishop explained that around 5,000 of those fleeing have been taken in by families, while thousands more have found temporary accommodation in schools and Church-owned buildings – but others have nowhere to go and have been sleeping rough.

He said the Israeli military has targeted Hezbollah bases around the city of Baalbek, but villages where Christians and Muslims live peacefully side-by-side have also been hit.

The archbishop added that his top priority was providing support for displaced people and the families hosting them – most of whom are impoverished and struggling themselves.

"The NGOs on the scene are helping the displaced people in the schools, but not those welcomed by families or the families themselves," he said. "Nobody is helping them. This is why the archdiocese is taking care of them."

"The situation is critical. We urgently need food aid, mattresses and blankets – and we are very grateful that ACN immediately offered vital aid."

"Please stay at our side. If we carry this together, we will be able to do great things. May the Lord bless you."

ACN aid has given out food parcels for thousands of families and medical help for 1,200 people.

The charity is accepting donations for more emergency projects in Lebanon in response to the escalating armed conflict and the resulting mass displacement.

Amy Balog



The aftermath of a missile attack in southern Lebanon in June – Photo © ACN

NEWS

Young adults join Bishop Terry in Adoration

Young adults from around the diocese travelled to St Mary's College Seminary in Oscott, Birmingham, to join others from throughout England and Wales for this year's Adoremus event.

The day focused on Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and also included presentations on the Eucharist, Blessed Carol Acutis (with an opportunity to venerate his relic), confession and Mass, which was presided

over by Cardinal Vincent Nichols. After Mass, guests were invited to look around the chapel and college grounds before the day ended appropriately with a procession and benediction of the Blessed

Sacrament. It was a great gathering as a Christian community centred on prayer in the presence of our Lord.

Tom Rolfe



Father Phil Cunah, Bishop Terry, Tom Rolfe and Emma Morrison



Bishop Terry, second from right, with his brother bishops at Adoremus – Photo © Marcin Mazur/CBCEW

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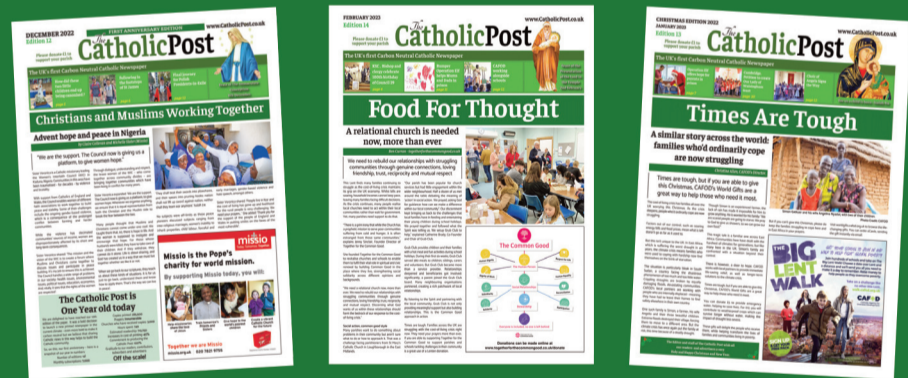
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