



MORE THAN 25 YEARS OF BRINGING THE NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER

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Songs of Praise and Raising funds for MacMillan Cancer Support



Parishioners from St Mary's Marple Bridge and the Annunciation Church, in New Mills, were in good voice when they all came together on Sunday afternoon for a 'Songs of Praise' service. The service took place in the beautiful church of the Annunciation where the choir led the congregation in both old and new hymns which included, I am the Bread of Life, The Old Rugged Cross, and O let all who thirst (Come to the Water). The musicians included, violin, guitar and piano.

This was the second, 'Songs of Praise' event to be held in the church. The first one took place a year ago, to dedicate hymn books donated, by the widow of the late Mark Whelan. The service began with an

introduction from Norman Harrison who said, "We have come here today to express our joy of singing and to add to our repertoire. Also to remember Mark Whelan and all who have died during the last year in our Parish".

The final hymn was, He Who Would Valiant Be. A fitting choice and a favourite of Mark Whelan's.

Thanks was given to Fionuala Boucher and Anne Winders who organised the event and who then invited everyone to join them for tea and cake in the Parish Hall.

A total of £220.00 was raised for MacMillan Cancer Support.

Denise Ead



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The monthly paper for the
Diocese of Nottingham

Catholic News 

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Wanted Parish Correspondents

The Catholic News is looking for a
Parish Correspondent in your parish
to send in local news for publication in
this newspaper.

All items to be emailed to
cn@cathcom.org
before 10th of the month



An SVP Focus on Who to help

Since its founding in 1833 the SVP has remained true to its origins, charism and mission. Indeed, the inspirational purpose that drives the work of the SVP is its mission:

SVP Mission

To actively seek out those in need to help them in a spirit of social justice and to tackle the causes of poverty where we can.

As a Catholic lay organisation its spiritual foundations are paramount in motivating its members to fulfil the mission. At every conference meeting - conference referring to the group Blessed Frederic was part of at the Sorbonne university: 'le conference d'histoire' (where conference means confraternity) - the members will discuss who they have been helping and who they will be helping. They will also discuss where to source future referrals. This is a direct response to the mission - to actively seek out those in need.

Matthew 25:35-40 explains the SVP's approach to its mission when he sets out Christ's teaching from the parable of the sheep and goats.

I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me; sick and you visited me; in prison and you came to see me. Then the virtuous will say to him in reply "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink?"

When did we see you as a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and visit you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me".

The sheep and the goats

The essence of the Vincentian approach is that Christ works through us and we see Christ in the poor. This parable from Matthew is easily translated to our own context today.

I was marginalised, isolated and lonely in the community, did you befriend me? I was suffering from poor mental health, did you support me? I had never been on holiday my whole life, did you provide for me? I was an overworked parish priest, struggling with a growing need for my services, did you support me?

The Vincentian vocation, its ministry, is to love; that means not just challenging the need we see but also what we see as need. The members may experience things they never thought were possible such as harrowing poverty, but the commitment to the mission and a firm belief in Providence and the guidance of the Holy Spirit enable the members to tackle the causes of the poverty they encounter with resolve, compassion and love.

If you are interested in learning more about the SVP please contact Joe Gasan,

Nottingham diocese Membership Support Officer, for more information - joeg@svp.org.uk

"This beautiful work": Derby Deanery welcomes the stranger

In 2019 a group of volunteers from parishes in Derby Deanery came together to offer a welcome to a refugee family.

Derby CaReS, as the group became known, took up the invitation of the Home Office's Community Sponsorship Scheme, requiring them to find rented accommodation and provide two years of support for a refugee family from a war-torn country. They put out an appeal to parishes across the Deanery for financial and practical support to bring a vulnerable refugee family to settle in Derby.

The response was immediate and overwhelmingly generous. The family have settled into the comfortable home which many donors from around the Deanery helped finance and furnish. The children (who spoke no English when they arrived) are now both fluent English speakers and doing well at school. They made a successful application for the father to join them in Derby and are now finally able to live as a family again.

None of this would have been possible without the support of parishes and individual members of the Catholic community across Derby. Of the £15,000 pounds they raised, £1,208 is left, which has been donated to UpBeat Communities who have supported the family since they arrived and will continue to do so as they integrate further into the local community. The family sends this message to everyone who has helped them build a new life here in Derby: "I thank every team that helped us to do this beautiful work. My love and appreciation to you."

If you'd like to explore this with your own parish or others locally, with support from Citizens UK and the Diocese, contact Paul Bodenham at Caritas Diocese of Nottingham, who can help you find others in your area: email paul.bodenham@dioceseofnottingham.uk

FRANKLY SPEAKING



Writing this article on 7 October I am aware of the significance of the plea Pope Francis has made after the one-year anniversary relating to the Israel-Hamas war. If you did find the capability to participate in an extra day of prayer and/or fasting on this or any other day you are participating with the Pope's call for the Christian community "to put itself at the service of humanity."

Pope Francis was speaking after Mass in St Peter's Square on the opening of the second session of the General Assembly of the Synod. We are likely to hear much more of this around the time of the publication of this newspaper. A number of national and international events are also going to draw to a conclusion at this time. In a year of many elections, the American President for the next 4 years is scheduled and it is so difficult to predict the outcome. When I

visited this vast country back in 1989 the pro-life and pregnancy termination issues were a major area of disagreement and it seems to be no different today.

In England and Wales we now know that so called 'buffer zones' outside clinics will come into effect from October 31. The media have reported that this could include prohibiting silent prayer. If this is still a non-party issue surely the pro-life activists should get a bigger voice in the media?

In an earlier article I contrasted the likely acceleration of assisted dying in the new Parliament with the plight of some of our hospices. We need to further update just how difficult end of life care may become and how compassion will be affected. Like many issues relying on charitable donations the generosity of fund raising can be taken for granted. The October 30th Budget is going to be bleak news on the

economy, will this include hospices which are in poorer areas? In the East Midlands the Trussel Trust reports an increase of 113% in emergency food parcels in the last 5 years.

Any vote in Parliament on assisted suicide will be on a non-party basis so those who are able should contact their local MP from mid-October we need to show our strong feelings particularly when the full details are known. It is happening when the crisis in social care like the hospice movement is much more acute in some areas. Yes public finances are under pressure but let us never forget there is a whole army of unpaid carers who look with compassion after loved one. They really do know that life is precious until the very last breath.

Frank Goulding,
Holy Trinity Parish, Newark

Ten reasons to oppose assisted suicide and euthanasia

Written evidence provided by the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales to the Health and Social Care Select Committee Inquiry into Assisted Suicide, submitted in January 2023, offers ten clear reasons to oppose assisted suicide and euthanasia.

1/ Life is a gift and equally valuable even in times of suffering

The Catholic Church teaches that life is a gift to be cherished and cared for at all stages until natural death and that it is morally wrong to intentionally end one's own life or that of another person, including at their request.

2/ Assisted suicide is based on a flawed idea of autonomy

Assisted suicide can never be an isolated act but is always deeply relational, involving many beyond the dying person such as family, friends, and healthcare professionals.

3/ Assisted suicide is based on a misleading view of compassion

Appeals for assisted suicide are often based on a false view of 'compassion' which fails to address the reality of suffering that is part of being human. The Catholic Church consistently teaches that 'human compassion consists not in causing death, but in embracing the sick, in supporting them in their difficulties, in offering them affection, attention, and the means to alleviate suffering,' such as through nursing homes, hospices, and chaplaincy work in hospitals.

4/ Calling assisted suicide 'dignity in dying' ultimately passes judgement on the value of human life

Those who propose assisted suicide are, implicitly, denying that life has an inherent value beyond its abilities and capacities. Deliberately bringing about death in the name of 'dignity' denies the innate dignity of every human life which, in turn, has damaging consequences for how society views those with severe disabilities, those who are dying and those in great discomfort.

5/ Assisted suicide undermines the medical duty to care for patients

Legalising the intentional killing of patients would gravely undermine the vocation of healthcare professionals to care for life until its natural end. Trust between doctor and patient would be undermined by the difficulty in accurately predicting the outcome of terminal illness. No doctors' groups in the UK support assisted suicide, including the British Medical Association, the Royal College of General Practitioners, and the Association for Palliative Medicine.

6/ Assisted suicide undervalues the lives of people with disabilities

The legalisation of assisted suicide would be likely to result in a change in the way society views those with disabilities by effectively reducing the value of life to its physical or psychological capabilities such that those living with disabling, terminal, or progressive conditions could easily become disillusioned with their lives to the extent that they see death as preferable. The dehumanising effect of assisted suicide legislation on people living with disabilities has been highlighted by the United Nations which has expressed serious concern at a growing international trend in providing access to assisted suicide largely based on whether people have a disability. All major disability rights groups in the UK have opposed any change in the law on assisted suicide, including Disability Rights UK, Scope, and Not Dead Yet UK.

7/ People may choose assisted suicide because they feel a burden

Evidence from countries where assisted suicide has been legalised demonstrates that those who seek it often report a fear of burdening their loved ones with their suffering, which is particularly concerning for those who are elderly and infirm. The fear of being burdensome would be amplified by the current health and social care crises and cost-of-living crisis.

8/ We cannot know for sure if people seeking assisted suicide have full mental capacity

Prescribing lethal medication for individuals suffering from suicidal ideation would be a grave betrayal of the public health duty to save life. Expressions of suicidal ideation by any other group, such as young women suffering from eating disorders, would be treated as psychological distress requiring compassionate care rather than as cause for lethal medication. International experience suggests that there are serious dangers to those who have mental health conditions from the gradual extension of assisted suicide legislation.

9/ Legalising assisted suicide is likely to lead to a slippery slope

The experience of other jurisdictions illustrates the slippery slope of assisted suicide legislation from hard cases to more comprehensive provision. Oregon, often referenced as a model template for mild assisted suicide legislation, now allows assisted suicide for non-terminal conditions including anorexia, arthritis, and



kidney failure. Canada, legally and culturally very similar to England and Wales, now offers assisted suicide when death is not 'reasonably foreseeable'.

Belgium has expanded their provision of assisted suicide to include children. Any legalisation of assisted suicide for terminal illnesses in England and Wales would be likely to be challenged in court on discrimination grounds and extended to allow for cases of non-terminal illnesses and euthanasia in cases of difficulties in self-administering lethal medication.

10/ Investing in palliative care is a better way to support people suffering at the end of life

Rather than legalising assisted suicide, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales strongly supports greater Government investment in the availability and accessibility of specialist palliative care across the country. We reiterate the Catholic Church's commitment to protecting and valuing life at all stages, no matter how physically or psychologically limited, and our opposition to assisted suicide as an attack on the inherent dignity of human life.

How to oppose the Assisted Dying Bill

Parliament may be rushing a Bill into law to legalise assisted dying – here's how you can oppose it

This Bill will be voted on before Christmas. It has had its first reading in the House of Commons and will return for a second reading on 29 November 2024.

This threat to the sanctity of life requires action on our part to show we will not stand by as such an extreme law is rushed through.

Archbishop John Wilson said in a Pastoral Letter on the subject in March 2024, that as "baptised followers of the Lord Jesus we must do all within our power to support the most vulnerable in our society, especially those who have no voice to speak for themselves."

In the letter, the Archbishop reminds us that "the Catholic Church believes and teaches that every life is valuable, regardless of one's physical or mental state or ability. We are called to care for those who are suffering, not to bring



about their death. We cannot approve of any form of euthanasia and assisted suicide."

To help you lodge your opposition to the Bill, the charity Right to Life has set up a simple action on their website which enables you to write to your MP and urge them to oppose this extreme Bill.

The more people who show their opposition to this Bill, the more chance we have in stopping the ending of many lives through assisted dying. So please take action to support this campaign and urge your friends and family to join you.

Use this QR code to register your opposition to the Assisted Dying bill.



SVP Festival Celebration



The two photos show the Good Shepherd group enjoying the shared table and Bishop Patrick celebrating the Mass.

Seven members of the Good Shepherd St Vincent de Paul Society attended the annual Nottingham SVP Festival to celebrate the Feast of St Vincent de Paul at Sacred Heart in Carlton. The Festival was joined by Bishop Patrick McKinney for a wonderful talk given by Sister Maria Parcher on Vincentian Charism. The group also attended the Mass of St Vincent de Paul celebrated by the Bishop, enjoyed a shared table for lunch and went on their way inspired by the work going on across the Society.

Cheryl Broodryk

From: Elston Hermitage.....



As I write this at the beginning of October it seems that we have already moved into what I call the dark hours, it's getting dusk late afternoon and when we arise for prayer here at 4 a.m. it is pitch black.

However, at the start of November we are able to be cheered by celebrating All Saints Tide, when we celebrate with joy the saints throughout the centuries and those of more recent times.

How many of us are saints in our own times? Pope Francis in 2020 reminded us "To be saints is not a privilege for a few, but a vocation for" everyone.

Those who we commemorate on this Feast of All Saints are men and women who walked this earth were just like us, sinners who strived for holiness, they lived out their vocation.

We are told they are "those countless men and women from every nation, people and language" who have lived a life of heroic virtue and now live in the presence of the Lamb. These countless men and women and children known and unknown have lived out their call to

holiness - this was their mission. But it is also our mission too !

Each and everyone of us are part of All Saints.

By our Baptism we have been sanctified, made holy, deep down, in grace. We are in God, because we are in Christ Jesus.

If we really think about it, these saints we commemorate were really no different to us. They had no advantages to saintliness different than we have. They were ordinary people with jobs just like us, with families just like us, with struggles just like us. The world in which they lived was just as chaotic and messed up as our present day world, yet they constantly struggled and persevered to live lives of virtue and humility. What sets them apart perhaps is that they realized that the Christian message was in direct contrast with that of the world. They knew that they did not belong to the world, but they accepted the challenge to try and make the world holy through their lifestyles and their commitment to their faith and to Jesus Christ. We may think that we could never live lives like the saints, because we are not

holy enough. The great saints made their share of mistakes, giving in to impatience, to pride and greed and laziness. (Read the Confessions of St Augustine, one of the greatest saints in the history of the Church). However they recognised their sinfulness, repented and received the Lord's forgiveness through Confession. In the words of Oscar Wilde, "Every saint has a past, and every sinner a future".

St Mother Teresa of Calcutta realized this, she said " Yes, I have many human faults and failures...but God bends down and uses us, you and me, to be his love and his compassion in the world, he bears our sins, our troubles our faults. He depends on us to love the world and to show how much he loves it".

Growth in holiness is a journey, living in community, living side by side with others, caring for one another. It is in this situation, in which we find ourselves, that becomes a place where the risen Lord Jesus becomes present.

As children of God we are led to holiness and saintliness, as we respond to the grace of God, the love of God offered to us through the sacramental life of the Church, and through reflecting on the Beatitudes in our lives. We are led to holiness as Christ becomes more the centre of our daily lives in all that we do.



The feast of All Saints should inspire us with tremendous hope, and these darker days may be brighter. All the saints of yesterday and today challenge us to take notice of our own lives in these times and reflect upon our own call to saintliness. As we attend Mass and approach the altar of sacrifice, may we be united within the saints in the Mystical Body of Christ, we ask the intercession of all the saints to give us the desire to live and walk more and more each day in union with Jesus, so that we will become saints in our own time.

Happy All Saints !

Fr David + h.d.n. Priest and Hermit

A very special occasion

On the evening of Friday 27th September, the parish of St Mary's the Immaculate in Grantham received a visit from Bishop Patrick, who administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 31 young people of the parish.

Following many months of preparation, it was a very special occasion, full of joy and reverence, especially since it was three years since the Bishop's last visit, which happened just at the end of the pandemic; this gave it a particular significance. As well as the candidates' families and friends, many regular parishioners were there to support the young people in this important step in their faith journey.

Bishop Patrick in his homily addressed the candidates directly, telling them they should never think they are too young to contribute to the life of the church, and taught them a special prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Each candidate then received a certificate and a small gift from the parish.

At the end of the celebration Mrs Mary Peeling, for many years St Mary's lead catechist, was awarded the St Hugh of Lincoln Medal, a special award given by the Bishop on behalf of the Diocese of Nottingham to recognise an individual's long-standing commitment to serving the people of God and His Church.

Mary has been serving the parish in various capacities under five different parish priests, so it was a well deserved acknowledgment of her faithful service.

The ceremony was followed by a convivial moment in the church hall with refreshments and cakes, an occasion for all to celebrate together.

Anna Mauro-Pearce
on behalf of the Catechists Team
Photograph V Wakley



Number one primary school in New Mills

St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy has been named the number one primary school in New Mills, according to School Guide.

School Guide is a website that ranks schools according to the latest exam data, Ofsted reports and parent reviews.

The latest information from School Guide states that St Mary's, in Longlands Road, is top in New Mills with a five star rating.

The report highlights St Mary's Good Ofsted rating and that 82 per cent of pupils met the expected standard in reading, writing and maths, compared to the national average of 60 per cent.

St Mary's most recent Ofsted report, from 2023, is highlighted by School Guide.

"Pupils enjoy attending this small, calm and productive school. They say that they feel safe and happy because everyone looks after each other. They try to follow the school's 'gospel values'. These values help pupils care for and respect each other. Pupils are polite and friendly towards staff and visitors. Parents and carers are supportive of the school. One parent expressed the view of others when they said, 'We love St Mary's! It is a very



welcoming, nurturing, family environment'," the Ofsted report said.

Patricia Chapman, Headteacher at St Mary's, said: "We are delighted to hear the news that we have been ranked the number one primary school in New Mills. How lovely it is to receive recognition for all the hard work and effort that we have put in developing a rich curriculum and a nurturing school environment for all of our pupils.

"We have taken the time to ensure the personal development and emotional needs of all our children are well met,

which allows them the opportunity to better access our broad and diverse curriculum. Pupils have the opportunity to learn about world events through our unique teaching in Global Learning and how these events impact on their experiences.

"The most important focus as a headteacher at St Mary's is to ensure all pupils and staff have the skills and opportunities to become leaders. I would like them to go out into this world and use their God given potential to do something good."

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Raising money for charity and promote a cleaner environment



Pupils from St Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy took part in a sponsored community litter pick to raise money for charity and promote a cleaner environment.

All Year 8 pupils helped to clean up parts of Buxton on the celebration of the feast of St Francis of Assisi.

Pupils were raising money for the RSPCA, which is Year 8's chosen charity of the year. So far they have raised over £200 and donations are still coming in.

Other celebrations for the Year 8s included non-uniform, no homework for the day and a special party at the end of the day to recognise their hard work in cleaning up our community.

Pupil Isabella said: "We had an amazing day. I really enjoyed the litter pick because we got to be active outside while also helping the community. My form went to Ashwood Park. You would never think of picking up litter being fun, but it really was. Teachers let us go round in groups with our friends and we had a litter grabber and a bin, provided by the Buxton Town Team. It was very nice how we got to have fun whilst also helping the environment and raising money at the same time. We found a lot of litter such as empty bottles and crisp packets. When we got back to school, we got a nice reward of STM cake!"

Pupil Freddie: "On Friday Year 8 celebrated our St Francis of Assisi's feast day by cleaning up our community with a litter pick around Buxton. This helped us raise money for the RSPCA. We also celebrated this special day with Mass in church and a tasty cake! We acted out our Catholic values in a fun and worthwhile day."

Kerry Taylor, Head of Year 8, said: "The sponsored litter pick was a fantastic way for our pupils to raise money for their chosen charity, the RSPCA, whilst simultaneously giving back to our community. It is always a pleasure getting to work with pupils outside the classroom too, especially when working together for the greater good. Together they have raised over £300 with donations still coming in. This is a huge achievement for 90 pupils and they should be really proud."

Sarah Lancett, Deputy Headteacher, said: "Here at STM we are exceptionally proud of our pupils. I am delighted to see our pupils making an impact in our local area. A key focus of our curriculum and mission is to prepare our young people to be good citizens who have a positive impact on our world."

To make donation to the Year 8 STM - sponsored Litter Pick for the RSPCA scan the QR code



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Pope Francis appoints Bishop Philip Moger as the new Bishop of Plymouth
plymouth-diocese.org.uk

Bishop-elect Philip, you have our full support... a warm welcome and our prayers await you as you take up your new role among God's people

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

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

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

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

"At the same time, I shall very much miss the Archdiocese of Southwark, where I've been privileged to minister for the last 18 months. The Archbishop, my fellow Auxiliary Bishops,

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

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

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

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

"Bishop-elect Philip, you have our full support as you prepare to join us here. We pray that all the saints of the Diocese of Plymouth walk with you each step of the way. Know that a warm welcome and our prayers await you as you take up your new role among God's people. We look forward to your arrival."

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

Canon Paul congratulates Bishop-Elect Philip

Photograph courtesy of Diocese of Plymouth

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

PLEASE would you be able to donate £1 to your parish for it, or even £10 per year!

Scripture Focus

By Fr Jeremy Corley



Jesus our Hope

During the month of November, when we remember our departed loved ones, the Sunday gospels show us the way to eternal life.

In the gospel for the 31st Sunday (3rd November), a scribe asks: "Which is the first of all the commandments?" Sometimes it is hard to recognise priorities. The Jewish scribe had to teach 613 commands from the Law of Moses, so his question is understandable.

Jesus' response goes to the heart of our relationship with God, which is based on love. He quotes from the Jewish daily prayer (Shema) from Deuteronomy: "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart."

But Jesus adds a verse buried amongst the legal regulations in Leviticus, also speaking about love: "You must love your neighbour as

yourself." The vertical response of love towards God is incomplete if we do not share love with those around us.

During his ministry, Jesus showed such love by curing the sick, feeding the hungry, and welcoming sinners. It was his mercy that attracted so many people to come to him for consolation.

This love continued right to the end. At the Last Supper, Jesus washed the disciples' feet. Finally, by submitting to death on the cross, Jesus showed his loving obedience to his heavenly Father and his love for all his human neighbours, sacrificing his life for them.

In the gospel for the 32nd Sunday (10th November), we see a sharp contrast between the well-clothed scribes and the impoverished widow. Jesus does not wish his followers to copy those scribes who make a show of their prayers while devouring widows' houses.

Instead, he highlights a needy widow making her simple donation of two copper coins to the temple. Her self-sacrifice is an example: "She from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on."

Not long afterwards, Jesus himself would offer up his entire life to God. In the crucifixion he would give his whole life to his heavenly Father, to save the world. Thus, the story of the widow's mite points ahead to Jesus' generous love, shown in his death for us.

In the gospel for the 33rd Sunday (17th November), Jesus looks ahead to the end of the world. The reading gives us the conclusion of the Little Apocalypse (Mark 13), which tells of the destruction of the temple, the trials of believers, and the end of this world.

Using Daniel's imagery of the Son of Man, Jesus promises his glorious return after all the disasters: "They will see the Son of Man

coming in the clouds with great power and glory." His purpose will be to gather his chosen into eternal life.

We are reminded of this in the creed: "He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end." This is a glorious promise of salvation, encouraging us to have hope.

Sometimes people are alarmed by the apocalyptic imagery of disasters before the end of the world. The gospel is being realistic, by warning that the pathway will not always be easy. But we trust in God to give us the strength that we need to face difficulties.

During November, when we recall the dead, the scriptures remind us of our heavenly calling. Let us follow those who have gone before us on the way of faith, in the sure hope of ultimately meeting the Lord in heaven through his mercy.

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View from the Pew

By Dr Jay Kettle-Williams



Windows and Mirrors

It was some time ago, I freely admit, that I was living on the coast in Catalonia (NE Spain) in what was then nothing but an overgrown village. One day I was asked to find a fellow Brit, who'd gone to the beach which was popular with the locals, and to pass him a message about something or other, nothing of any great consequence.

'How will I recognise him?' I asked.

'He's on the beach,' I was told. 'He's a Brit.'

I set off wondering how on earth I was going to find a fellow Brit among that scantily clad, nubile and seriously tanned multitude frolicking on the beach or hurdling the waves which constantly crashed onto the shore.

I needn't have worried. The straw trilby, let alone the short-sleeved multi-coloured shirt and matching shorts from M&S, was a dead give-away. He was sitting alone on a colourful beach towel with a large bottle of Nivea sun cream by his side. What hair he had protruding from under his headgear was a pale match for the sand from which his feet were protected by socks and sandals. He sat gazing out to sea, listening to the shingle rolling back and forth along the shoreline.

He looked up at me, his face already turning a pale but fast-developing puce in the sun: 'How did you find me?' he asked. 'That was very clever!'

'Intuition!' I replied. I don't suppose, in such a situation these days, that it would be quite as easy to recognise one's fellow Brit. Stereotypes, much maligned by many for being fixed and oversimplified portrayals (Image v. Reality), can have some merit. My own experience that day on the beach is a veritable case in point.



The idea of stereotyping leads me to wonder what others deem to be stereotypical when they come to think about us Christians, and about us Catholics in particular.

Hm! That's a difficult one. For a start, we can't be classified ethnically (our faith is not restricted to any one of the four major recognised races of humankind), we can't be categorised linguistically (Catholics could be native speakers of any one of the many known languages - some 7,164 at the time of writing - spoken around the globe), we can't be identified geographically (baptized Catholics -1.3 billion or so as currently estimated - are to be found anywhere and everywhere in the world), we can't be recognised culturally other than by our faith. So, collectively, how do we see ourselves and how are we seen by others?

There is a useful exercise which we could perhaps call upon at this juncture. It's used in corporate training and development to identify, compare and contrast viewpoints across factions: one team with a specific commonality (e.g. nationality) identifies in forum what members consider to be their own five salient characteristics and what they consider to be the five corresponding

salient characteristics held in common by members of another team or other teams. Each team in turn then presents the compendia of their respective viewpoints, this is all by way of challenging barriers and increasing cross-faction understanding, fellowship and cohesion. That sets me thinking.

Thought for the day:

What do we think are the five main traits that we practising Catholics have in common?

What could onlookers think are the five main traits that we practising Catholics have in common?

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

St Mary's Derby Celebrates 185th Anniversary

On Wednesday 9th October, St Mary's Church in Derby celebrated the 185th anniversary of its dedication. The building was AWN Pugin's first significant work as an architect of Catholic places of worship. Pugin was at the opening of the Church in 1839 but left in disgust over the choice of 'modern' music - a Beethoven Mass setting, and the inclusion of women in the choir!

The 185th celebrations included a tour of the Church led by Jon Grattidge the weekend before; a Mass on the anniversary day itself, with music led by musicians from all the St Mary's choirs; followed by a Beetle Drive. A special cake was donated for the occasion by 'Haizelnuts Bakery.' It was a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together to celebrate the legacy of St Mary's and its continued presence as the heart of Catholic worship in Derby city.

Fran Hazel, Parish Catechetical Coordinator
St Ralph Sherwin Parish, Derby



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Food4Thought - Nottingham Catenians Support Local Families

In response to the ongoing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, in early 2021 Nottingham Catenians launched an ambitious initiative to support local families in need. Known as Food4Thought, the programme has already provided £16,000 of much needed financial assistance to families through four inner-city Catholic primary schools in Nottingham.

The initiative was proposed by Nottingham Catenian Gerard Whittle during a time when communities were facing unprecedented hardships. At a monthly Zoom meeting, members of the Nottingham Catenians discussed ways to make a meaningful impact on their local

community. Recognising the acute needs of children and families during the pandemic, they decided to focus their efforts on local support rather than international charity work.

After consulting with Mr. James McGeachie, CEO of the Our Lady of Lourdes Academy Trust, Nottingham Catenians chose to support families through monthly allowances. These funds are distributed to four of the Academy's Catholic primary schools in inner-city Nottingham, with headteachers identifying families in need. To ensure privacy, the identities of the recipients remain confidential, known only to key school personnel.

On March 8, 2021, Nottingham Catenians announced the first deposit of £640 into the Our Lady of Lourdes Trust central budget, with each school receiving £160. The first donation was made on April 1, 2021, and since then, Nottingham Catenians, their wives and widows have rallied together to raise over £16,000 by the end of the 2024 financial year.

The schools benefiting from this initiative are:

- St. Augustine's School, St Anne's
 - St. Mary's, Hyson Green
 - Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Bulwell
 - Our Lady and St. Edward's, Thorneywood
- Each school has used the funds in unique ways, either by supporting different families each month or providing ongoing assistance to a single family. One school representative said, "The family are very appreciative of the money. I know that they would be requiring support from the local food bank without this extra money. It is being spent on very basics to ensure the children are well and provided for."

One of the head teachers told us "The Catenians are unsung heroes in our school community. Their generosity means that those most vulnerable to food poverty in our community are supported. We are so thankful for their ongoing support."

Another head teacher said "The families have been overwhelmed and so appreciative of the financial support they have received. Regularly the money has been used to put food on the table, in another case the money has contributed to bus travel costs, which increased a child's attendance at school, and the money has also been used to purchase school uniform from the local supermarket. As a school, we are extremely grateful to be able to give this money to our families, without expecting them to prove their level of need or justify the expense they face. Thank you."



Nottingham Catenians are committed to continuing their support and making a difference in the lives of local families. As they enter the fourth year of the Food4Thought initiative, the Nottingham Catenians remain dedicated to helping their community navigate these challenging times.



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The Nottingham Cathedral Gift Shop is delighted to announce the arrival of our new Christmas stock, offering a wide range of items to help you celebrate this holy season with joy and devotion. Whether you are preparing your home or looking for the perfect religious gift, we have something for everyone this Christmas. From traditional devotional items to unique handmade treasures, our store is brimming with festive joy!



Our Christmas collection features beautifully crafted nativity sets, religious decorations, and Christmas cards—all designed to remind us of the true meaning of the season. For those celebrating Gaudete Sunday, we have special Baby Jesus figures and nativity candles to enhance your blessings. You'll also find charming nativity globes, crucifixes, rosary beads, and stunning religious statues to make this Christmas even more special.

But the celebrations don't end there. In November, we honour the Holy Month of Souls with a selection of memorial vases and candles to remember loved ones. Our Advent section is also fully stocked with Advent candles, calendars, and Advent stands to help guide your spiritual preparation for the birth of Christ. One of the highlights of our shop is our range of handmade items, all lovingly crafted in

England by local artisans. This includes Memory Bears and limited-edition religious bears made by Alves, whose exquisite handmade clothing is also available in-store.

We are excited to introduce a new nativity range in our limited-edition bears, available in small, medium, and large. Each bear is crafted in a unique, exclusive style, making them truly one-of-a-kind. These special bears come beautifully gift-wrapped and include a birth certificate, making them perfect for collectors or as treasured gifts. Alongside these, we offer a unique selection of cards for all seasons by Eagle Cards, handmade tote bags, delicate angel charms, and thoughtfully designed key rings and magnets. You'll also find

devotional candles, newborn baby wear, and cosy handmade blankets, making them perfect for personal use or as meaningful gifts.

We are also proud to support Mary's Meals through the sale of locally produced Woodthorpe Honey, available in various sizes. Every jar sold helps this vital charity continue its mission of providing "a simple solution to world hunger". By purchasing this honey, you are directly contributing to feeding disadvantaged children around the world—truly spreading the spirit of Christmas beyond our own community. We warmly invite you to visit the Nottingham Cathedral Gift Shop and explore this beautiful collection for yourself. Whether you are a long-time supporter or visiting us

for the first time, we would love to meet you and share in the festive joy of the season.

Thank you for your ongoing support, which has allowed us to grow. Pop into the shop and start your Christmas preparations today!

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Over £1000 was raised for the Cathedral Restoration fund



A Craft Fair was held in the Cathedral Hall over the weekend of 12 and 13 September, organised by Nottingham Cathedral Arts and Crafts group. They were joined by local invited crafters and creatives who brought their work for sale. There was a bag maker, a leather worker, a taxidermist, a writer and publisher of childrens' books, a jewellery

worker, crochet workers and knitters, a painter, a cookie maker and many more. Over £1000 was raised for the Cathedral Restoration fund.

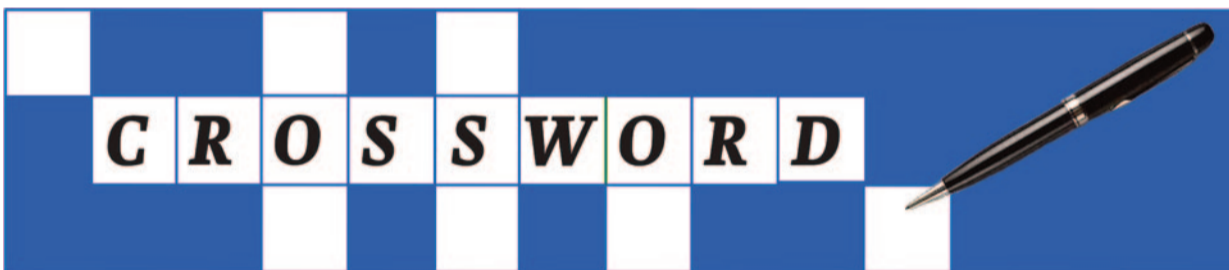
Special thanks go to Eva and Beth who had the initial vision for the Craft Fair and made it happen. It would be true to say that a lot of unseen work and planning went on

behind the scenes which caused Eva some sleepless nights! It was wonderful to welcome sellers and buyers into the Cathedral and many new friends were made over the course of the weekend. Some of the sellers are already looking forward to returning for the next Craft Fair. The Arts and Crafts group are grateful for all those who have supported them,

including Julie, Cheryl, Alison and Canon Malachy, who are always there to help and advise.

May the work we have done be sown for an eternal harvest, through Christ our Lord.

Cheryl Brodryk



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

CRYPTIC Across

- 5 Achan – he in trouble, being David's musicians' roadie (9)
- 8 Grill fish? (4)
- 9 Live with Gran when occupied by Chinese family's clan leader (3-5)
- 10 God, about Thursday, and late, finally gets to Rebecca's dad (7)
- 11 China setting is quasi-American in part (4)
- 13 Father of the first Israelite king and the first king in south Haran (4)
- 15 Tabernacle he designed out of misplaced zeal, being consumed by 10's god (7)
- 18 False claims queen is involved in Bible's supernatural bits (8)
- 19 Articles going back and forth citing Tobit's wife (4)
- 20 Is a Scottish policeman last month, first to put ten cities in the Book? (9)

CRYPTIC Down

- 1 Chaldean place found among the chapters is a place to worship (6)
- 2 Given the chance to become talented in goal (7)
- 3 Upright individual with a North Dakota base (2,3)
- 4 20 city of silver toppled by revolutionary modern-day artillery (6)
- 6 Epic Hanoi struggle made the old country (9)
- 7 No point in Ealing lass working for these Jesus People (9)

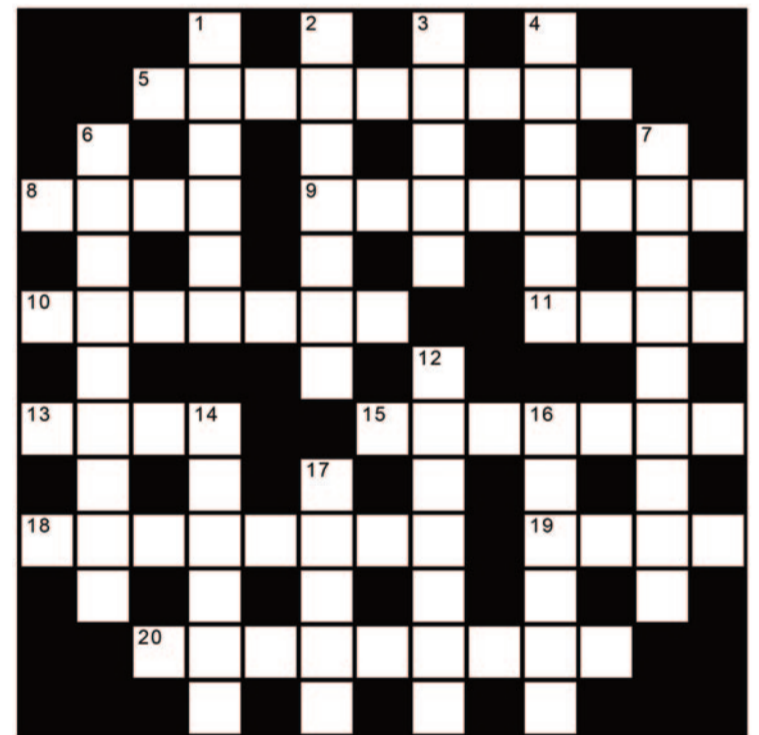
- 12 Moses' boy is found in stranger's home (7)
- 14 Lift needed to the north – that's the place to get to! (6)
- 16 Goth in the French style, endlessly wealthy (6)
- 17 Bathsheba's dad, one investing in land bordering on Persia (5)

QUICK Across

- 5 One of David's leading musicians, in charge of transport (9)
- 8 Partially burn; domestic cleaner (4)
- 9 Clan leader in Judah (3-5)
- 10 Father of Rebecca, nephew of Abraham (7)
- 11 Roman province of W Turkey, which included Ephesus (4)
- 13 Mordecai's great-grandfather (4)
- 15 Exodus craftsman and designer (7)
- 18 Spectacular unexplained events, particularly in the NT (8)
- 19 Temple prophet who saw the infant Jesus (4)
- 20 Series of Greek, non-Jewish, towns to the south of the Sea of Galilee (9)

QUICK Down

- 1 Holy site, from the Greek 'kuriakon (doma)' (6)
- 2 Authorized; facilitated (7)
- 3 Without pause or interruption over a considerable period of time (2,3)



- 4 One of the 20, locale of the miracle of Legion and the swine (6)
- 6 Maritime country of ancient times, chief ports Tyre and Sidon (9)
- 7 Compatriots of Jesus (9)
- 12 Son of Moses and Zipporah (7)
- 14 Dwelling place of the blessed; Nirvana equivalent (6)
- 16 Barbaric Visigoth whose army sacked Rome in 410 AD (6)
- 17 Warrior of David and father of Bathsheba (5)

SOLUTION

Across: 5 Chenaniah, 8 Char, 9 Ben-Hanan, 10 Bethuel, 11 Asia, 13 Kish, 15 Bezal, 18 Miracles, 19 Anna, 20 Decapolis. Down: 1 Church, 2 Enabled, 3 On end, 4 Gadara, 6 Phoenicia, 7 Gallians, 12 Gershom, 14 Heaven, 16 Alaric, 17 Eliam