As we leave the Easter Season behind us, with all its joys, celebrations and rich liturgy, we enter into the month of June. From a very natural point of view we hope that June will be a month of warmth and sunshine – sadly, this is not always the case! However, the Church likes to ensure that the month is filled with light and joy by spreading a carpet of feasts before us.

The first Sunday of the month, June 3, is the beautiful Feast of Corpus Christi when we have the opportunity to give thanks and praise for the wonderful gift of the Christ’s abiding presence in the Eucharist. That same week closes with yet another wonderful celebration, the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 9. Here we are reminded of the incredible love that God has for each of us in sending his only Son, Jesus, to give himself up for us. The following day is the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Many united her heart to the heart of Jesus and, in pondering all the mystery of Christ’s death and resurrection, shows us how to be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

For all those of us who are constantly losing and misplacing things, we can turn to St Anthony of Padua and celebrate his feast on June 13. Then comes the lovely Feast of SS John Fisher and Thomas More, two saints who most of us feel especially close to and who fill us with inspiration for their strong faith in the face of difficult decisions.

As we near the end of the month, halfway between last Advent and next Advent, we remember the birth of St John the Baptist (June 24), the precursor of Jesus. On June 27 we have the feast of the patron of the Diocese of Middlesbrough, Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Remember to pray for the good state of all within the diocese and God’s blessing on us all through Mary’s intercession. And finally, we end the month with the ancient feast and holyday of SS Peter and Paul on June 29. Peter is the “Rock” on which Christ founded his Church and Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles.

Caritas from our diocese are invited to attend the National Eucharistic Congress and hear an inspirational speaker who has been described as “one of the Church’s best messengers”.

Bishop Robert Barron is the keynote speaker at the all-day event at the Liverpool Echo Arena on Saturday September 8 as part of Adoremus.

The founder of the “Word on Fire” Catholic evangelisation ministry, Bishop Barron is a world-renowned theologian and writer and is based in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. His weekly half-hour TV show is broadcast across the United States every Sunday evening.

Father William Massie, chaplain at Hull University, has been using Bishop Barron’s ground-breaking ten-part Catholicism DVD series with students throughout Lent and Eastertide. He explains: “They really like Robert Barron – for the clarity and beauty of the teaching – he never speaks down to his audience – and for the simple, down-to-earth manner and stories he employs. Six of them have signed up to attend the congress!”

Tickets are now available for anyone from our diocese who would like to attend. They cost £40 and can be booked by emailing sharrondriver@dioceseofmiddlesbrough.co.uk.

The absolute deadline to book through the diocese is Thursday May 31. After this deadline they can be booked online at the Catholic Bishops’ Conference website, catholic-ew.org.uk, until July 31.

A limited number of tickets are also available for Day One of the congress, Sunday September 9. This is open to all but a limited number of hotel rooms are available in the city over the weekend of the congress but clearly these are in high demand. Catholic author Katie Prejean is the keynote speaker at a Youth Congress aimed at those aged 13-20, which takes place in Liverpool on Saturday September. Tickets for this event are £10.

From a very natural point of view we enter into the month of June.
Inspired by Pope Francis’ encyclical Laudato Si’, the Diocese of Middlesbrough Justice and Peace Commission officially launched its environment policy at All Saints’ School in York.

The event contributed to activities around the globe for Earth Day on April 22 and the speakers were Ellen Teague of the Columbans and York Central MP Rachael Maskell, a former Shadow Minister For The Environment.

Chair Barbara Hungin said the policy in its colourful, illustrated format would be distributed to schools and parishes throughout the diocese and contains suggestions for action on an individual, parish and group basis.

Stalls at the launch included alternatives to plastic, green energy, protection of bees, Fair Trade, Eat less Meat, CAFOD and Live Simply.

Four refugee children from the Democratic Republic of Congo, now living in Middlesbrough, brought to our attention the crisis in their homeland where the tourbières, huge areas of peatland, are threatened with exploitation and deforestation by Chinese companies.

Ellen Teague took us on a journey around the world, highlighting the fragility and vulnerability of the planet and evidence of the effects of climate change on the very poorest communities. She emphasised the need to make the connections between poverty and the environment. We must, “hear both the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor” (Laudato Si’ 49).

Our popes have long been leading on this issue of overarching importance. From Pope St John Paul II, who called us to “an ecological conversion”, to Pope Benedict, who installed 3,600 solar panels at the Vatican, and now Pope Francis, who has made it the theme of his papacy.

On the day of his inauguration he made this plea: “I would like to ask all those who have positions of responsibility in economic, political and social life, and all men and women of goodwill: let us be “protectors” of creation, protectors of God’s plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment.”

Ellen countered any inclination to despair with many examples of individuals, schools and parishes where the challenge to take action rooted in faith is bearing fruit, including Live Simply status, recycling, solar panels on church properties, community gardens and tree growing.

She said our liturgies should alert us to the care of God’s creation and that our clergy should be trained in creation-centred theology.

Rachael Maskell spoke of our “precious and fragile planet in trouble” and praised the accessibility and wisdom contained in the environment policy. The silence among politicians on the subject is of concern and the churches have a role in provoking them to urgent action.

“Our greed has broken our planet and our need will persuade us to restore it,” she said. A change in our unsustainable consumer lifestyle is urgently needed to ensure this happens.

*September 1 has been designated by Pope Francis as World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, initiating “Creation Time”, running until the feast of St Francis on October 4. All parishes are urged to participate.

Margaret Blatchford

Hearing The Cries Of The Earth And The Poor

Stunning Gardens Open For Lourdes Funds

Nature lovers are in for a treat when one of Teesside's most spectacular gardens opens to the public to raise funds for the Diocese of Middlesbrough Lourdes Fund.

Covering five acres, Tudor Croft in Guisborough is a delightful Arts and Crafts garden created in 1934. The Heagney family moved there in 1952 and have gardened it lovingly ever since.

There are flower borders, a long rose pergola, a walled garden, a stream, summerhouses, a fernery and even a secret garden. It has featured on BBC’s Gardeners’ World twice and in many magazines.

There will be plant sales, craft and bird box sales and homemade afternoon teas accompanied by live music. Admission is £5, with children free. Wheelchairs are most welcome and can access most areas. Parking is on adjacent roads and there will be direction signs on all approaches to Guisborough.

The open weekend is on Saturday June 16 and Sunday June 17 from 11am to 4pm. Tudor Croft can be found on Stokesley Road, Guisborough TS14 8DL.

Left: Lourdes brancardier Mike Heagney in the gardens at Tudor Croft – Photo by Martin Walker
Bishop Joins Rosary On The Coast Prayers

Bishop Terry joined hundreds from our diocese and Catholics from around the British Isles as he took part in the Rosary on the Coast day of prayer for faith, life and peace.

Gatherings were held in Hornsea, Scarborough, Redcar and Saltburn, where the bishop joined prayers in front of the parish’s Lourdes grotto in an event organised by Council 29 of the Knights of St Columba.

“The sun shone, parishioners prayed and it was a special service,” said parishioner Sheila Collins. “Afterwards we enjoyed talking over a cup of tea to people who attended from other churches, including a priest who had come from Norton.”

Parish priest Canon Eddie Gubbins led a service by Scarborough’s lifeboat station attended by 124 people, including pilgrims from Leeds, Doncaster, Huddersfield, Ampleforth and York.

Father Albert Schembri and parishioners from the three Scarborough parishes took part, as well as visiting Columban Missionary Father John Cullen and York Oratory priest Father Richard Duffield.

“A blustery day and the encroaching tide didn’t dampen such a glorious grace-filled day,” said St Peter’s parish secretary Elizabeth White. “At the end, Canon Gubbins symbolically buried a miraculous medal in the sand.”

Around 30 also attended a service at St Peter's Church for those unable to get to the beach.

Father James Benfield, of the Sacred Heart Church, Hornsea, led the service attended by around 60 people in bright sunshine on Hornsea promenade.

Colin Taylor, from Hornsea, said: “It was a great day for all involved and thanks to the grassroots people who instigated it.”

Around 60 people from the parish of Blessed Nicholas Postgate, Redcar, and surrounding parishes attended the Redcar beach service, which was organised by the Legion of Mary and led by Canon Michael Loughlin, with Canon Derek Turnham and Father Philip Cunnah also taking part.

Rosary on the Coast services were held at more than 340 locations from the Orkney Islands to the Channel Islands. The event was organised to pray for the revival of Christianity in the British Isles and was inspired by similar events in Poland and Ireland.

“It was good to see so many people from this Diocese of Middlesbrough join their brothers and sisters throughout the British Isles in asking the intercession of our Blessed Lady for the grace to become once again her dowry, for the peace of our country and respect for life,” said Bishop Terry.

“The Rosary is such a rich prayer, so full of meaning and variety. In the mysteries themselves we can recall to mind the great events of salvation.

“In the Hail Mary we are reminded of the moment the Word became flesh. We can also commend ourselves in our weakness and vulnerability to the intercession of our Blessed Lady. In the Glory Be we praise the Blessed Trinity and in the Our Father we say the prayer that Our Saviour taught us himself.”

A Day of Prayer and Pilgrimage in Honour of Our Blessed Mother

SATURDAY 14th JULY 2018

Pilgrims should assemble at 11.30am in St Peter’s Anglican church, Osmotherley Village followed by a walk to the Shrine. To finish at 6pm approximately. Led by Fr Stephen Maughan

For further details, please contact:
Mrs Marie Bedingfield
01642 530739 or 07544 540464
Trinity Catholic College is a school that puts itself at the heart of the Catholic community, proud of its culture, people and rigorous Child Protection Procedures are in place. Appointments will be subject to an Enhanced DBS check.

The College is looking to appoint a School Chaplain who feels called to make a significant and exciting contribution to the faith journey of every member of our community.

Any queries please contact Anne Graham on 01642 298100 or via email graham.a@trinitycatholiccollege.org.uk

Interviews will be held week commencing Monday 11th June 2018.

An inclusive, learning community living out Gospel values

Post: School Chaplain

Required from: September 2018 or as soon as possible

Location: Middlesbrough

Contract Type: Full Time post with Chaplain (0.5) combined with a professional counselling role (0.5)

Salary Scale: G.22 to G.24 (£21,074 to £22,401 Pro Rata to hours worked)

Contract Term: Permanent

Visitors to the school will find it welcoming, friendly and purposeful.

The successful candidate will be a practising Catholic with a strong personal faith and passion for encouraging young people in their faith. You will be able to develop a strategic, systematic and inspiring plan for the students' spiritual development.

Trinity Catholic College is a highly popular, oversubscribed 11 – 19 mixed school with over 1400 pupils on roll including 200 sixth form students. The school has excellent accommodation and is very well resourced.

The College is in the process of merging and will join St Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust. It is at the leading edge of educational development and relentless in its pursuit of excellence. Students will find their experience at school exciting, demanding and enjoyable.

Trinity Catholic College is a Catholic Voluntary Academy (St Hilda's Multi Academy Trust).

Salary Scale:

Contract Term:

Post:

Required from:

Contract Term:

Location:

Contract Type:

Required from:

Salary Scale:

Contract Type:

Location:

Contract Term:

Springing into action at Snatches Academy

Race Night For Harry's Africa Trip

The right to an education is something most of us take for granted. However, young people in many parts of the developing world simply don’t have the opportunities they deserve. That’s why the Meserani Project was established. This project helps young people in the Meserani region of Tanzania access education, giving them the opportunity to build a better future for themselves and their families.

In July 2019, I will visit some of the schools sponsored by the project to take out supplies and try to bring happiness to the children we meet as part of a group of Nunthorpe Academy sixth-form students.

I am currently raising funds for this visit with a race night in St Andrew’s Parish Hall, Teesville, on Saturday June 16 and tickets are on sale priced £2.

If you would like to buy tickets or find out more about the project, or are interested in supporting my fundraising efforts in any way, please email harry.twohig@outlook.com or call me 07887 295 508. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Harry Twohig, St Andrew’s Parishioner

Sixth Form Heroes Sign Up To Save Lives

Sixth formers from Middlesbrough’s Trinity College signed up to be potential life-savers as part of the Anthony Nolan charity’s Hero Project, which educates 16-18-year-olds about blood, organ and stem cell donation.

Twenty-seven students joined the stem cell donor register at a recruitment event led by the charity with the assistance of year 13 students. Anthony Nolan uses its register to match potential donors to blood cancer patients in desperate need of lifesaving stem cell transplants.

Several members of the college community who have been affected by serious blood disorders shared their experiences as part of the initial presentation, which prompted the students to sign up.

A total of 94 students have signed up to the Anthony Nolan stem cell donor register in the last year. For more details of the charity’s work, visit anthony Nolan.org.
Members of All Saints chaplaincy group in York learned about the environmental problems being suffered by the people of Suriname at a Women’s World Day of Prayer event.

This year’s theme was “All God’s Creation is Very Good” and the focus was on Suriname, with worshippers singing both familiar hymns and some in the Sranan tongue. Women dressed in the traditional clothing of the South American nation welcomed those attending the service, thanking God for a “beautiful country with incredible flora and fauna, where people from different ethnicities and faiths live in peace together.”

As Genesis 1:27-31 was read, objects including a candle, bottles of water, packaged fruit, decorative animals and a family photo were carried up. Students placed the items on the table, throwing the rubbish on the ground after unwrapping them to symbolise the mercury-contaminated rivers, destroyed forests and the people and animals uprooted from their habitats because of greed for gold and other riches in Suriname.

As each item was placed on the table, they asked God’s forgiveness for our disrespect for the environment, saying “Masra wi e begi fi gi wi pardon”, which means “Lord, we ask you to forgive us.”

Participants then put the rubbish into recycling bins before writing personal pledges of what they will do to help the environment. All Saints students read and took a collection.

One of the group said: “This year’s WWDP was a beautiful celebration of the women of Suriname, accompanied with much music and singing, and also including poignant performances on the hardships the Surinamese people face as well as the effect of plastic pollution on the environment.”

The event, which was rescheduled because of bad weather earlier in the year, was held in Southlands Methodist Church.

Mary Betteridge, year nine student

Suriname Focus For Women’s Prayer Day

Whitby Children Are All At Sea

Foundation and key stage one pupils from St Hilda’s School in Whitby experienced a thrilling visit to the town’s RNLI station as part of their Land Ahoy project.

Highlights included watching a film about sea rescues, trying on the jackets and helmets crews wear and even seeing a lifeboat being launched.

Afterwards, the children enjoyed a walk alongside the harbour and saw a wide variety of fishing and leisure craft. They also visited the Captain Cook Memorial Museum in Grape Lane.

Older pupils will visit the RNLI later in the year and the whole school will join townsfolk to welcome two tall ships into Whitby as part of the Captain Cook Festival in July.

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Mary Betteridge, year nine student
Fond Memories Of Sister Aidan

A much-loved member of the Sister of Mercy community in Hull has died at the age of 92. Sister Mary Aidan O’Sullivan RSM was born in Gilsigham, County Cork, and taught for 34 years at Our Lady’s Convent school in Altrwick, before retiring in 1987. She is remembered as a gifted Domestic Science teacher and also ran catechism classes for children not in Catholic schools.

She had a lively and intelligent mind and enjoyed Shakespeare and poetry and had a great love for the natural world, especially the wonders of the night sky. In later years she was never happier than when contemplating the beauty of the moon and a starlit night.

After retirement, Sister Aidan led several Mercy communities including Hull, where she returned to spend the last three years. Sister Aidan’s requiem Mass was held at Sacred Heart Church in Hull, followed by burial in the grave of the Sisters of Mercy in Northern Cemetery.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam – May she sit at God’s right hand.

Sister Bernie Roache RSM

Calling All Parish Musicians!

Middlesbrough Cathedral is delighted to welcome renowned composer, organist and choral director Malcolm Archer to lead a singing workshop on Sunday July 8.

Malcolm is one of the world’s leading church musicians and has enjoyed a distinguished career as Director of Music at St Paul’s Cathedral, from where his many broadcasts and recordings have received critical acclaim.

The workshop begins at 2pm and is open to all parish musicians. Advance booking is essential. To reserve your place, email the assistant director of music at craig.cartwright@outlook.com.

This Month’s Choral Services At The Cathedral

This Month’s Choral Services At The Cathedral

Sunday June 3 at 10am: Solemn Mass for Corpus Christi (Cathedral Choir)
Wednesday June 6 at 6pm: Sung Benediction with Vespers (Ladies Schola)
Sunday June 10 at 10am: Solemn Mass (Cathedral Choir)
Sunday June 10 at 4pm: Sung Benediction with Vespers in preparation for the Eucharistic Congress (Cathedral Consort)
Wednesday June 13 at 6pm: Sung Benediction with Vespers (Cantor)
Thursday June 14 at 6.30pm: Sung Mass (Cathedral Choir)
Sunday June 17 at 10am: Solemn Mass (Cathedral Choir)
Wednesday June 20 at 6:00pm: Sung Benediction with Vespers (Low voices Schola)
Sunday June 24 at 10am: Solemn Mass (Cathedral Choir)
Sunday June 24 at 4pm: Sung Benediction with Solemn Vespers in preparation for the Eucharistic Congress (Senior Girls Choir)
Wednesday June 27 at 6pm: Sung Benediction with Vespers (Full Schola)
Friday June 29 at 7pm: Solemn Mass for Sr Peter and Paul (Cathedral Choir)

Masses For Seafarers At Teesport

The visit of the MV Glorioso to Teesport was not intended to be a long one. However, the ship’s cargo of grain could not be discharged because of bad weather, giving the crew an extended stay in port.

The Apostleship of the Sea (AoS) chaplains team ensured they were well looked after, providing free transport to town and other attractions.

After requests for Mass to be celebrated on board, AoS port chaplain Deacon Peter Barrigan approached Canon Derek Turnham, of the parish of Blessed Nicholas Postgate in Redcar, who readily agreed to visit the ship despite the short notice.

Deacon Peter was supported by AoS volunteers Hugh and Mary Ward, Tony Neylan, who wished it to go to a good home following the death of his mother, to whom it belonged.

One of the hymns at Mass was Hail Queen of Heaven. Canon John doubted the crew would know this, saying, “If they know this hymn, I’ll eat my hat!” as it’s a local hymn, written by John Lingard (1771-1851), a professor at Ushaw College, where Canon John trained for the priesthood.

However, the crew sang it heartily and in great voice after which Canon John commented, “I’m pleased I didn’t bring my hat!”

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Seafarers

Separately, Mass was also said for the crew of the MV Swiftness, a general cargo ship with a crew of 19 Filipinos and two Vietnamese. The crew were keen to attend Mass before leaving for Singapore on a 42-day voyage.

Canon John Lumley celebrated and offered prayers for the crew and their families back home. He also blessed religious items.

Hugh and Mary Ward brought along a statue of Santa Nino, which had been presented to them on a recent private visit to the Philippines. They also distributed Rosary beads from Rome. Much to the crew’s delight, Deacon Peter presented them a tapestry of the Sacred Heart, donated by Peter’s own parish priest, Father Sean

Sister Mary Aidan

Canon Turnham with the crew of the MV Glorioso
The Centre Of My Spiritual Life

The Eucharist has always been at the centre of my spiritual life since my childhood. First Holy Communion was such a big event that I still remember it vividly today and it has hooked me ever since.

Going to Mass and receiving Holy Communion, especially on a Sunday, are very much part of who I am, like breathing, or eating, and I cannot imagine my life without them. The social side of attending Mass in a parish community is very important as well. Life inevitably has its ups and downs and there have been times when my faith has not been very strong, yet the Sacrament of the Eucharist always seems to draw me back, almost like a magnet. Sometimes, I get frustrated with the institution of the Church, but this does not weaken my faith in the Eucharist.

It transcends everything and draws me into an intimate relationship with Christ that is beyond everything else. It is something intensely personal and there is nothing that compares to sitting quietly in church with the sanctuary lamp glowing, knowing that Jesus is there beside me.

The Sacrament That Makes Lourdes So Special

The Lourdes pilgrimage is a very important part of my life. As a supported pilgrim, I am given an outstanding amount of care and compassion from fellow pilgrims. As a Catholic, I receive so much spiritual nourishment during my time there. This nourishment does not just come from that unique closeness one feels to Mary in Lourdes, but from what that closeness offers us: an even closer encounter with her Son. For although devotions to Mary are a large part of the pilgrimage, there are an abundance of opportunities to be close to Christ, particularly through the Sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist.

Opportunity to Celebrate Mass and to participate in the Blessed Sacrament Procession are central to my experience in Lourdes. There is something truly wonderful about the Blessed Sacrament Procession. I particularly love the sense of anticipation one feels when waiting for it to begin and that, despite how many people you are surrounded by, there is such stillness and peace that you feel like no one else is there but you and Christ. For me, the Eucharist – and the opportunity to adore it – is what makes the Lourdes pilgrimage so special.

Piers Paul Read, bestselling author

A Miracle Re-Enacted Through The Centuries

At the age of eight I was sent to school at Gilling Castle, a grim fortress in North Yorkshire, visible across the valley from our home at Stonegrave. It was the preparatory school for Ampleforth College and the teachers were Benedictine monks. The chapel at Gilling was under the eaves of one of the wings, and I can still recall, after almost 70 years, seeing for the first time the white host in the flaming gilt monstrance at Benediction, and accepting without doubt that it was the Body of Christ.

My ancestors, on my father’s side of the family, had rarely strayed from Ryedale, and I like to think that one may have taken part in the Pilgrimage of Grace in the 16th century. Held aloft, as they marched on London, were banners depicting the Eucharist – aradiating circle representing the bread, and a chalice containing the wine, that had been changed into the body and blood of Christ.

It is good to recall the pedigree of this belief by Catholics in the miraculous transformation of bread and wine initiated by Jesus at the Last Supper, and re-enacted by priests, in persona Christi, down the centuries to the present day. It is good because it challenges the scientific conviction that only what can be observed through a microscope can be true. It is good to recall the act of faith involved in the belief that the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ.

There is something wonderful about that belief, and it’s our responsibility as Catholics to bring that belief to our friends and family. It’s a matter of faith. It’s a matter of living a life of faith. It’s a matter of sharing our faith. It’s a matter of being a Catholic.

Piers Paul Read, bestselling author

A Chance To Reflect And Pray

I enjoy visiting Our Lord in the Eucharist during a Holy Hour. It’s a good chance to sit quietly, reflecting, praying, particularly for all the members of our family past and present, both in the USA and UK. Just saying, individually, “God bless Dad, Grandma, Aunt Stella etc.”

Receiving Communion at Mass is also special and sets me up for the week or the day. I hope to go to the Adoremus congress in Liverpool in September. It would combine with a trip down Memory Lane to call in at Sefton Park, Liverpool, where my family originated.

Mike Morrissey, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Saltburn

The Lourdes pilgrimage is such a big event that I still remember it vividly today and it has hooked me ever since. It is something intensely personal and there is nothing that compares to sitting quietly in church with the sanctuary lamp glowing, knowing that Jesus is there beside me.

Chris Cuthill

If you would like to contribute your own short reflection, please email it together with a photograph to catholicvoice@dioceseofmiddlesbrough.co.uk.
Apostolic Exhortation Calls Us All To Holiness

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have welcomed Pope Francis’s new apostolic exhortation Gaudete et Exsultate on the call to holiness in today’s world.

The document encourages us to take inspiration from “Saints next door” – people who may not be officially canonised but can be decisive in bringing about change. Pope Francis wants people to know they don’t need special qualifications nor to have taken religious vows to be holy – just an open heart and a desire to spend time with the Lord in prayer and reading the Gospel.

“The most decisive turning points in world history are substantially co-determined by souls whom no history book ever mentions,” he writes. “And we will only find out about those souls to whom we owe the decisive gestures and little things that we are led to do holy.

“Jesus Christ not only invites us to this holiness but enables us, through his grace, to make the journey to God. This journey, although deeply personal, is never private.

“Our worship becomes pleasing to God when we devote ourselves to living generously. God’s gifts, granted in prayer, are seen in our concern for our brothers and sisters, particularly those most in need. We are to set out afresh to do all we can to love the least in our society and culture.”

A far-reaching and accessible document, Gaudete et Exsultate examines many subjects tied into our relationship with Christ – prayer, reading scripture, helping others, maintaining and upholding human dignity, not to mention challenges to holiness such as the danger of gossip.

Badges Promote Martyr Of The Moors’ Cause

Parishioners in Redcar have come up with a small way of promoting the Cause for the Canonisation of Blessed Nicholas Postgate by having badges made and offered for sale.

In recent years the previous four parishes that served Redcar, namely Sacred Heart, St Augustine’s, St William’s in Darlington and St Alban’s have been drawn together into a single parish now served by two of the churches, the Sacred Heart and St Augustine.

The process of joining the parishes together included Bishop Terry giving the new parish an overriding dedication and he chose one of our own martyrs, Father Postgate. Redcar parish is now known as the Parish of Blessed Nicholas Postgate incorporating the churches of Sacred Heart and St Augustine.

Parishioners are currently working hard to raise funds to add a hall and meeting rooms to the Sacred Heart Church to assist in developing the community life of the parish and provide much-needed facilities for RCIA, SVP, Legion of Mary and Children’s Liturgy of the Word, together with social activities.

In the last 12 months the parish fundraising committee has raised £55,000 towards its £500,000 target. The idea of selling badges to promote Blessed Nicholas Postgate will contribute to the fundraising while promoting the common identity of the newly established parish and the Cause of Blessed Nicholas Postgate.

With support from the Postgate Society, a parishioner has worked with a manufacturer to produce large numbers of the badges, which have already proved very popular. The badge features a small section of the Postgate Window by Thomas Denny in St Hedda’s Church, Egton Bridge.

The badges are distributed together with a copy of the prayer card that is made freely available by the Postgate Society and with the society’s encouragement will be offered for sale during this year’s Postgate Rally. To buy a badge together with a copy of the prayer card, please contact Mick and Val Grainger either by calling 01642 477581 or emailing mickvalgrainger52@ntlworld.com.

Badges cost £2 each, to include the free prayer card. If nine or fewer are ordered there is a post and package charge of £3. Orders of 10 or more badges are postage and package free.

For more information about Father Postgate, visit postgatesociety.org.uk.

New Website For Postgate Society

The Postgate Society, which aims to spread knowledge of and devotion to Martyr of the Moors Blessed Nicholas Postgate, has launched a new website.

As well as giving a detailed account of the life of Blessed Nicholas Postgate, it contains information about the society’s activities, including meetings, newsletters and other publications, as well as photographs from past Postgate Rallies.

Father Postgate ministered to Catholics across the North York Moors before being arrested while baptising a child near Sleights in 1678. He was taken to York and imprisoned before being put to death on what is now the site of York Racecourse.

The society also encourages devotion to other martyrs and those “wronged me and brought me to this death, and I desire forgiveness of all that have pray God give him his grace, and the light of truth. I forgive all.”

His last words on the scaffold were recorded in a contemporary newspaper.

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Rising To The Challenge Of Dementia

A new project has been launched with the aim of turning every parish in the diocese into a “dementia-friendly church”.

Retired nurses Chris Tinkler and Dot Fellowes have been asked to promote the initiative and become “Dementia Champions”, delivering awareness sessions throughout the diocese.

St Joseph’s Church in Stokesley have received a certificate in recognition that it is “working towards being dementia friendly” and Chris hopes it will be the first of many, with St Mary’s Cathedral likely to follow shortly.

Dementia is an umbrella term for more than 100 brain diseases that impair people’s ability to remember, think and make choices. David Richardson, lead for Dementia Friendly churches in Cumbria, says around 85,000 people have been diagnosed with dementia in UK and the figure is set to top two million by 2050.

Four out of every five people in care homes are estimated to have dementia or significant memory problems and one in three people over the age of 65 dies with dementia.

The changing images of Christ through time

Dr Terry Egerton used his own photographs to illustrate a fascinating account of how images of Christ have changed through the ages when he spoke to Cleveland Newman Circle.

He said the Old Testament cautions against making images, perhaps as a warning that we should not conceptualise God in our own image. Nonetheless, from earliest times Christians have depicted Jesus in murals, statues, carvings, paintings and mosaics for devotional and teaching purposes.

Many such images reflect people’s struggle with contemporary theological issues, emphasising that Jesus is fully God, fully man and did actually suffer on the cross.

In addition, all the images display aspects of the culture of their time, for example, Jesus wearing a Roman toga, medieval servants at the Last Supper bowing before him as “king” and Mary and Child seated among grave cloths survive from fourth-century Egypt as well as carved stone coffins from Italy – the fourth-century “Dogmatic Sarcophagus” clearly presents Christ as a member of the Trinity, involved with creation.

Terry showed images of Jesus’ Baptism, including an exquisite ivory carving just five inches tall and the majestic mosaic within the dome of Ravenna’s Arian Baptistery. Crucifixion images included the crucifix before which St Francis prayed and paintings by Raphael and Stanley Spencer.

In the discussion that followed, people showed their appreciation for the art, history and theology Terry presented. His final message, linked to Graham Sutherland’s “Noli Me Tangere” from Chichester Cathedral, was that we can never fully grasp Christ from any image.

Cleveland Newman Circle holds six talks a year on Wednesdays at 7.45pm in St Mary’s Cathedral Hall, Middlesbrough. Dr Stefano Cracolici will give his postponed talk on “Mater Admirabilis” later in the year.

Definition of a Dementia-Friendly Church

*Welcoming and inclusive to people with dementia carers and friends*

*Leaders and other members of the congregation help people to feel safe and orientated*

*A church where it is all right to get confused and forget things*

*A church where people with dementia and their carers feel valued*

Dr Elizabeth Anderson, Dementia Advisor for the Diocese of Leeds, says it’s important for churches to respond to the challenge of extending a welcome to those with dementia.

“All mainstream churches would maintain that they are there for everybody, that everyone is welcome and no one should feel excluded,” she says. “Nearly everyone knows someone with dementia and if the church does not take dementia seriously we would be neglecting a concern to most of its members.”

The Changing Images Of Christ Through Time

Dr Terry Egerton speaking at Cleveland Newman Circle

Jubilee Congratulations To Priests

Our most grateful thanks and congratulations to priests in our diocese as they celebrate significant anniversaries.

**Diamond**

Father Jack McKeever (July 22 1958)

Father Brian Nicholson (July 22 1958)

**Ruby**

Father John Wood (July 15 1978)

**Silver**

Father Neil McNicholas (July 10 1993)

**Gold**

Father Julian Nicholson (September 23 1988)

**Diamond**

Father Richard Mims (July 10 1989)

**Jubilee**

Father Colin Ford (June 16 1958)
Return Of The Hungry Months

Francis Hannaway, from St Gabriel’s Parish, Ormesby, in Middlesbrough, lives and works in Basankusu Diocese, in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He is a lay missionary with Mill Hill Missionaries. This month he sees the number of malnourished children increase again.

It seems like yesterday that I was writing about the “Hungry months”. Well, they’re here again. This time we hope that it won’t be as bad – but nevertheless, more and more malnourished children are entering our two centres in Basankusu.

The first centre, on the other side of town to where I live, started to fill up at the beginning of last month. There are now 30 children being treated there. The new centre, beside the Catholic hospital and for children with severe malnutrition, began fairly quietly last month. One day I was there to see Judith, who runs the whole programme, to talk about improving the new house. While we were talking, she looked out of the window.

“Oh no,” she exclaimed. “Look! The garden is full of people!”

It was actually only five children who needed treatment, but they, of course, came along with their mothers and a few fathers, as well as brothers and sisters.

At the other centre, the children are brought along by their parents for each of the three days we feed them. At the new centre, all the children, parents and brothers and sisters will sleep at the centre because they’ll be fed every day and need round-the-clock care.

“We don’t have enough chairs, let alone beds,” said Judith. “What are we going to do?”

We quickly sent people to buy wood and raffia chairs, which are made locally, as well as a large tarpaulin and raffia mats for people to sleep on.

We continue to improve the new centre. A strong fence has been built around the whole plot. We have a well for water and a strong fence has been built around the building a palm-thatched shelter to keep people dry when it rains and out of the sun when it’s too hot.

So, all together we have 35 children – by the end of June, it’s bound to be around 60. When everyone was settled, and being fed, Judith looked out again.

“It’s very sad,” she said. “The mothers are often just as hungry as the children.”

We watched one mother who ate every second spoonful herself.

“Yes,” I said. “The hungry months are very sad indeed.”

Francis with children at one of the nutrition centres.

Francis Hannaway and request a gift aid form).
An Invitation To Get Together
Parishes and other faith-based groups are being encouraged to take part in The Great Get Together (TGGT) weekend as a way of building up a sense of community throughout the country. TGGT was set up after the murder of MP Jo Cox and is inspired by her famous statement during her first speech to parliament, “We are far more united and have far more in common than that which divides us.”
Events can include street parties, a barbecue with neighbours and friends or opening the doors of the church or parish hall and inviting local people to come in and have a look around. This year’s event takes place from June 22 to 24. If you might be interested in holding an event under the TGGT banner, call Mike Buckley on 07866 312996 or email mike@moreincommon.com.
For more information and ideas, visit greatgettogether.org.

Catenians Boost Two Health Charities

Hull Circle of the Catenian Association presented cheques to ambassadors representing two worthy medical charities, the Cure Parkinson’s Trust and Prostate Cancer UK. The funds were raised during the presidential year of Brother Malcolm Bellamy, who had personal reasons for choosing both causes.

Presenting a £500 cheque to Elizabeth Ryan MBE, representing the Cure Parkinson’s Trust, Malcolm explained that seven years ago he was fortunate when his prostate cancer was diagnosed at an early stage through a routine health check. He was symptom-free and unaware of his illness. Malcolm underwent surgery and now takes every opportunity to encourage men to be more proactive in screening is needed. The money will be put to good use in areas such as these as well as pure research.

On presenting £500 to Prostate Cancer UK representative Alan Stirling, Malcolm explained that seven years ago he was fortunate when his prostate cancer was diagnosed at an early stage through a routine health check. He was symptom-free and unaware of his illness. Malcolm underwent surgery and now takes every opportunity to encourage men to be more proactive in screening is needed. The money will be put to good use in areas such as these as well as pure research.

This Month’s Clergy Anniversaries

Please pray for the following priests of our diocese whose anniversaries are during the month of June...

6th 1927 Rev William Strucken, Market Weighton
11th 1995 Rev Arthur Stritch, Redcar
12th 1925 Rev Vincent Calvert, Bridlington
12th 2014 Rev Michael Lambe, Liverpool
13th 1906 Very Rev Canon Edward Riddell, Redcar
23rd 2003 Rev Ian Stewart, Yarm
14th 1922 Rev Richard Roche, North Ormesby
14th 1939 Rev Christopher Flanagan, Marton
15th 1981 Rev Denis Bankes, Bedale
19th 1881 Rev Charles O’Neill, Wycliffe
19th 1906 Rev Matthew O’Donoghue, Grangetoan
21st 1995 Rt Rev Mgr William Carroll, Saltburn
21st 1999 Rev Thomas Brophy, Middlesbrough
26th 2014 Rev David Hynes, Middlesbrough

Funeral Directors

If you would like to advertise in the Funeral Directors section, please contact Caroline on 07931 836926 or email caroline@cathcom.org

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**Out & About around the Diocese**

**BISHOP TERENCE PATRICK DRAINEY ENGAGEMENTS FOR JUNE 2018**

1. Last day of Lourdes Pilgrimage
2. Attends meeting of Ushaw Trustees at Hinsley Hall 10.30am
3. School visit to St Mary’s Primary, Malton 12 noon
4. Attends meeting of the Canon’s Chapter at St Mary’s Cathedral, Middlesbrough 11.00am
5. Confirmations at St Charles Borromeo, Hull 7.00pm
6. Attends renewal of promises of Madonanna house members at St Hilda’s, Whitby 2.00pm
7. Attends meeting of Bishop’s Council at Bishop’s House, Middlesbrough 11.00am
8. Attends meeting of Council of Priests at the Curial Office, Middlesbrough 2.30pm
9. Celebrates Mass for School Commissioners Conference in York 6.00pm
10. Attends meetings of CSAN Board of Trustees at Romero House, London 12 noon
11. Parish visitation to St Joseph’s, Skelton 9.00am
12. Attends meeting of the Canon’s Chapter at St Mary’s Cathedral, Middlesbrough 11.00am
13. Installation of New Canon at St Mary’s Cathedral, Middlesbrough 12.00 noon
14. Attends meetings of Confirmation at St Mary’s Cathedral, Middlesbrough 7.00pm
15. School visit to St Anthony’s Primary, Hull 12 noon
16. Vacations Weekend at Hyning Hall All day
17. 25-28 Attends Clergy Retreat at The Briry Retreat Centre, Ilkley

**1 Fri**

- Events and articles for the July issue are due by today

**1-3 June**

- First of June – the Reason for our Hope” led by Fr Kevin Hayden OSB. Contact Ampleforth on 01439-766000 for details.

**2 Sat**

- 12 noon Christian Meditation Weekly Group, St Johns of Beverley, Church (11.45am for new meditators). Contact: christianmeditation.beverley@gmail.com

**3 Sun**

- 10am Solemn Mass for Corpus Christi, St Mary’s Cathedral (Choir)
- 12 noon Sung Latin Mass, St Wilfrid’s, Duncombe Place, York Y01 7EF
- 6pm Sung Latin Vespers and Benediction, St Wilfrid’s, Duncombe Place, York Y01 7EF

**4 Mon**

- 7.30pm York Newman Circle AGM followed by talk by Doug Robertson ‘The Newman Community and Parish Missions’, Bar Convent, York

**5 Tues**

- 7.30pm Knights of St Columba, Council 29, meet at St Mary’s Cathedral, Dalby Way, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough commencing with Mass in the Cathedral chapel.
- 7.30pm Ebor Lecture at York Minster ‘The Medieval Question’ with Michael Morpurgo; family event - free tickets available from yorkfestivalideas.com

**6 Wed**

- 6pm Sung Benediction with Vespers, St Mary’s Cathedral (Ladies Schola)

**7 Fri**

- 7.15pm The Secular Franciscan Order meets every first Wednesday of the month at More House, Harlington, York. Contact: Mrs Lyn Bradbury OFS, tel (0946) 47017 for further details.

**8 Fri**

- 2pm Mass in St Hilda’s, Whitby – Madonna House (Day ‘of Promise’)
- 7pm-8.30pm Divine Mercy Prayer Group meets in St Anthony’s Church, Beverley Road, Hull. Contact John (01793) 804319 for details.
- 7.30pm Marian Evening at the John Paul Centre, 55 Grange Road, Middlesbrough – Rosary, Holy Mass, talk, videos. Contact Marie Bedingfield, tel (01642) 307399 for details

**9 Sat**

- 12 noon Christian Meditation Weekly Group, St John of Beverley, Church (11.45am for new meditators). Contact: christianmeditation.beverley@gmail.com

**10 Sun**

- 10.00am Solemn Mass at St Mary’s Cathedral (Choir)
- 12 noon Sung Latin Mass, St Wilfrid’s, Duncombe Place, York Y01 7EF
- 6pm Family Mass in the Lady Chapel, Osmotherley, bring a picnic and stay for lunch and family games afterwards.
- 3pm Diocese of Middlesbrough LGBT outreach and service; Mass giving an explicit welcome to LGBT+ Catholics, their families and friends, in the chapel of The Bar Convent, 17 Blossom Street, York Y012 4AQ. All are welcome.
- 4pm Sung Benediction with Solemn Vespers in preparation for Eucharistic Congress, St Mary’s Cathedral (Cathedral Choir)
- 5pm Latin Mass, St Mary & Joseph, Baxtergate, Hedon HU12 8JN
- 6pm Mass in the Malayalam language at St Joseph’s Church, Marton Road, Middlesbrough. Contact tel (01642) 812039 for details.
- 6pm Sung Latin Vespers and Benediction, St Wilfrid’s, Duncombe Place, York Y01 7EF

**11 Mon**

- 7.30pm Justice & Peace meet at St Bede’s Pastoral Centre, Blossom Street, York. Contact Nan Saeki (0946) 781628 for further details

**12 Tues**

- 12.30-3.30pm ‘Results of Recent Excavations on Hull’s Eastern Defences’ talk by Ken Steedman at the Hull History Centre, Worship Street, Hull HU2 8BG. Free to attend; contact 01422 317500 for more details.
- 12.45pm Hull and District Catholic Women’s Luncheon Club meet at the Kingston Theatre Hotel, Hull.
- 2pm ‘The Life Ascending Group, York West meet at Our Lady’s, Acomb, York in the Fr Kelly room
- 7.30pm The Knights of St Columba, Council 95, meet at Council Chambers, English Martyrs Hall, Dalton Terrace, York

**13 Wed**

- 10.00am The Life Ascending Group at Our Lady of Lourdes, Hessle meets after morning Mass
- 10.30am The Life Ascending Group at St Leonard’s & St Mary’s, Malton meets every month. Contact 01629 803799 for further details.
- 2.30pm Prayer Group, John Paul Centre, 55 Grange Road, Middlesbrough. New members welcome.
- 2.30pm Music for the Mind in St Mary’s Cathedral hall. All welcome, especially those suffering from dementia, their carers and friends. Contact 01642 701297 for details.
- 6pm Sung Benediction with Vespers at St Mary’s Cathedral (Cantor)

**14 Thurs**

- 6.30pm Sung Mass at St Mary’s Cathedral (Cathedral Choir)

**15 Fri**

- 7.30pm Aquinas Reading Group in the Upper Room at St Wilfrid’s, York. A guided reading of the Summa Theologiae. Contact Steve Evans, tel 07960799759 or e-mail: steve_evans21 @tiscali.co.uk. Further details at http://readingthesumma.blogspot.com

**16 Sat**

- 11.45am Tudor Croft Gardens, Stokesley Road, Guisborough, TS14 8DL; fundraiser for Middlesbrough Lourdes Fund
- 12 noon Christian Meditation Weekly Group, St John of Beverley, Church (11.45am for new meditators). Contact: christianmeditation.beverley@gmail.com
- 2pm-3pm Eric-a-brac, toys, books and clothing sale, St Thomas More’s Church Hall, Middlesbrough T54 3EE
- 7.30pm Sacred Heart Parish Dance (Decian Group), Ermitus Club, Cumberland Road, Middlesbrough T54 6LB. Contact Eddie: 01642 860227

**17 Sun**

- 10am Solemn Mass, St Mary’s Cathedral (Choir)
- 11.45am Tudor Croft Gardens, Stokesley Road, Guisborough, TS14 8DL; fundraiser for Middlesbrough Lourdes Fund
- 12 noon Sung Latin Mass, St Wilfrid’s, Duncombe Place, York Y01 7EF
- 3pm Catholic Fellowship Mass, Sacred Heart, Middlesbrough
- 6pm Sung Latin Vespers and Benediction, St Wilfrid’s, Duncombe Place, York Y01 7EF

**19 Tues**

- 10 am A Quiet Day at Ampleforth. Contact 01439-766000 for details.

**20 Wed**

- 6pm Sung Benediction with Vespers, St Mary’s Cathedral (Low voices Schola)
- 8pm The Knights of St Columba, Hull Council 45, meet at St Joseph’s Church, West Hull

**21 Thur**

- 7.30pm-9.30pm Bible study in Our Lady’s, Acomb looking at one complete set of Sunday readings (first, second and gospel). Contact Lukasz (07340981429) for details

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**Advance Notices**

- **7 July** Summertime Special at Middlesbrough Theatre
- **8 July** 1-3pm Summer Fete at St Thomas More’s Church Hall, Middlesbrough; tombola, raffle, bottle and cake stalls, refreshments and more
- **8 July** St Mary’s Cathedral, 2pm; Malcolm Archer singing workshop for all parish musicians. Contact csag.cartwright@outlook.com to reserve a place
- **10 July** 2pm, St Thomas More’s Parish Hall ‘York Martyrdoms in Focus’; presentation on his book by John Rayne-Davis
- **14 July** Day of Pilgrimage of Reparation and Consecration, 11.30am, Osmotherley
- **15 July** Days of Prayer: ‘The Question of Reparation’ by Thomas Merton
- **15 July** Lourdes Hospitality Mass and barbecue in the garden of Sacred Heart Church, Middlesbrough; tickets £5
- **23 July** Houseth of Our Lady of Perpetual Help takes place every Wednesday after the 9.30am Mass in St John’s, Beverley, North Bar Without.
**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**Mass To Celebrate Marriage And Family Life**
Families are invited to a Mass to celebrate marriage and family life followed by a picnic at the Lady Chapel in Osmotherley. The event, on Sunday June 10, is being organised by Teesside and Yorkshire members of Teams, an international organisation for Christian married couples. Mass is at 1pm. Please bring a picnic and stay for lunch afterwards and enjoy family games later on. Our photograph shows families at last year’s gathering.

**York Martyrdoms In Focus**
Catholic author John Rayne-Davis will give a presentation on his latest book ‘The Martyrdoms of Clifford’s Tower 1190 and 1537 at St Thomas More’s Parish Hall in Middlesbrough on Tuesday July 10 at 7.30pm. The book, which has an endorsement from Bishop Terry, examines the history of persecution suffered by two groups in the city, Catholics and Jews, covering the massacre of Jews in 190 and the execution of Robert Aske, leader of the Pilgrimage of Grace, in 1537. For more information email rosel@stairwellbooks.com.

**Toddlers’ Group Needs Help To Blossom**
St Thérèse Little Flowers baby and toddler group in Ingleby Barwick is asking for your help to win a “Bags of Help” grant. The scheme gives community projects grants of up to £4,000, raised from the sale of carrier bags in Tesco stores. Shoppers can vote in the Ingleby Barwick store for St Thérèse Little Flowers baby and toddler group in Ingleby Barwick and Eaglescliffe stores during May and June.

**Bene Merenti Presentation in Scarborough**
Hugh Davey of St Peter’s Parish in Scarborough is pictured with his wife Josie and Canon Eddie Gubbins after being presented with the Bene Merenti medal. The papal award is in recognition of Hugh’s loyalty as an altar server for more than 70 years, his service of the church and his courageous defence of the unborn.

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**Copy Deadline**

Copy and photographs for inclusion in the Catholic Voice should be sent to:
The Editor, Middlesbrough Diocesan Catholic Voice, Curial Offices, 50a The Avenue, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, TS5 6QT.
Tel (01642) 850505, email catholicvoice@dioceseofmiddlesbrough.co.uk

By Friday 1 June for the July 2018 issue
By Friday 6 July for the August 2018 issue
Where possible please send articles in Word and photographs as jpegs.
The Lourdes family turned out in force for the funeral of a man who gave more than 25 years of sterling service as a brancardier. Gerald Moxon, 78, who was awarded an MBE for his services to beekeeping, died in hospital after suffering heart failure. A coachload of fellow Hospitalité members from Middlesbrough joined the hundreds of mourners packed into the Sacred Heart Church in Hull.

Father Frank Gallagher was the principal celebrant, assisted by priests who got to know Gerald over the years.

Famed for his trademark red beret, he was a hugely popular figure who never seemed to take life too seriously and always had a tale or two to tell. He first came to Lourdes in 1989 alongside his great friend Bernard France. The two often travelled together to the shrine by train, but ill health led to Gerald staying in the hospital as a supported pilgrim in recent years.

“Gerald threw himself into helping everyone and nothing was too much bother,” said Bernard in the eulogy.

“He volunteered for everything and read at the International Mass in front of a congregation of almost 20,000, carried candles, incense and banners and his red beret and blue jacket became synonymous with the Middlesbrough Pilgrimage.

“In 2013 he became the first non-Catholic to be awarded a 25-year long service medal. There have been many tributes but the one I like the most is, ‘The legend in the red beret’.”

Gerald was introduced to beekeeping when he was 11 and was a member of the British and Yorkshire Beekeepers’ Association and secretary of Beverley Beekeepers’ Association.

He was presented with his MBE by Prince Charles at Buckingham Palace in 2006 and was also active in the Labour Party.

He leaves behind his wife Margaret, 72, with whom he celebrated his golden wedding last year, and a large extended family including daughters Joanne and Julie.

**Farewell To ‘The Legend In The Red Beret’**

The Lourdes Diary Dates

- **Saturday July 7** – Summertime Special at Middlesbrough Theatre with special guest Jimmy Cricket returning after last year’s smash success and lots of excellent local talent, singers and a magician. Tickets are available from the Middlesbrough Theatre or Lourdes committee members. For enquiries call Keith Tillotson on 01642 324043.

- **Saturday July 14** – Hospitalité Mass and Barbecue in the garden of the Sacred Heart Church, Middlesbrough. Tickets are £5 including all you can eat.

- **Friday September 7** – Hospitalité Ball at Acklam Hall, Middlesbrough. Reception drinks from 7pm and dinner at 7.30pm. Tickets are £40 each and include live entertainment and a disco. Donations wine and spirits for the raffle and bottle stall are welcome. There are only 120 places so please book as early as possible. Tables can only be set for 10 people.

Please email john.brown160@ntlworld.com or email or text him on 07879954912 to book tickets or for more information on any of these events.
“Open my eyes, that I may see wonderful things.”
- Psalm 119:18

Augustine has been living his childhood in darkness. Will you help a child see the wonder of God’s creation?

Dear Middlesbrough Voice reader,

As a fellow Christian, I wanted to share with you how incredibly powerful it is to witness a child seeing for the first time, after eye surgery.

As we carry out our work at Christian Blind Mission, we are constantly moved by the astonishment and wonder on the faces of children when the bandages are removed and they get their first clear look at their smiling loved ones.

The photo to the right shows 6-year-old Augustine with cataracts, leaving him barely able to see. But cataracts aren’t difficult to treat. Surgery taking just a couple of hours could restore his sight.

Just think, in this short time his entire life can be transformed. Instead of living with darkness, frustration and exclusion he could have light, colour and a future filled with opportunity. He could start school and find a way out of poverty. He could even fulfil his dream of becoming a radio reporter.

Cataract removal surgery costs £95, but families like Augustine’s can barely afford even basic necessities, so I am turning to you in the hope that you can help.

If you could send a gift of £95 today, you could pay for surgery for a child like Augustine. You could open a child’s eyes to the beauty of God’s creation. And we’ll send you an update on Augustine’s surgery.

God bless you,

Andrea Brandt von Lindau
Programme Manager for Inclusive Eye Health

Christian Blind Mission is a huge inspiration to me. It works in more than 50 countries, including some of the world’s poorest communities, to restore sight, mobility and independence to people living with disability. It’s putting Christ’s love into action for the most marginalised people. Will you join Christian Blind Mission by supporting this amazing work?

Diane Louise Jordan, Friend of CBM

Yes, I will give £95 to make a blind child see the wonder of God’s creation.

I will give: ☐ £95 ☐ My choice amount of:
☐ I enclose a cheque/postal order/CAF voucher made out to CBM or
☐ Please debit my Visa/Mastercard/Maestro Card/CAF Card

Card holder’s name:

Card number: ________________________________ Expiry date: __/__/____

3-digit security number: ___________________________ Date: __/__/____

Title: First Name: Surname:

Address: _______________________________ Postcode: _______________

We will send you an update on Augustine’s surgery.

We’d love to keep you informed about our work and how your support is transforming lives. If you are happy to hear from CBM UK by email or phone, please let us know your details:

Phone: __________________________ Email: __________________

We like to contact our supporters with postal fundraising messages and updates from the projects we support. If you do NOT want to receive such messages from us in the future please contact our Supporter Care team on info@cbmu.k.org.uk or via 01223 484700

Please return this form to: Freepost Plus RSKK-HXAX-CYGZ, CBM, Oaklington Business Park, Dry Drayton Road, Oaklington, Cambridge CB24 3DQ

In the event of there being insufficient funds to carry out a project, or in the event of a surplus arising on a project, any unspent funds will be used wherever the need is greatest.
CAFOD is inviting you to organise a walk during Refugee Week of Action and answer the call of Pope Francis to “Share the Journey”.

That’s the name of the global campaign launched by the Holy Father to highlight the plight of the millions of people who are refugees, migrants, asylum seekers or internally-displaced, meaning they are refugees within their own country. Many are fleeing violence and terror or are dispossessed of their lands, while others are in search of a better life and future for themselves and their families. These journeys are a last resort for desperate people.

Walks provide a chance for parish communities to take time out to reflect on the stories of migrants and refugees around the world, as well as to share with each other the journeys we have taken ourselves in our lives. You could invite your local MP to walk with you!

The timing of the week of action – from Saturday June 16 to Sunday June 24 – is particularly important because Pope Francis will address world leaders at the United Nations in September, before they consider the call of his Servant of the Poor to “Share the Journey”.

The future of humankind isn’t exclusively in the hands of politicians, of great leaders, of big companies but the future is, most of all, in the hands of those people who recognise the other as ‘you’ and themselves as a part of ‘us’. We all need each other.” – Pope Francis

We may never be refugees but we can be in solidarity with those who are by showing our concern for their situation by our actions. We invite those who can to walk and donate the distance towards our target of 24,901 miles – the distance around the world. It doesn’t have to be a long walk. The important thing is to reflect on the journeys made by refugees and migrants and to consider the reasons that have impelled them to make the journey.

People who are unable to walk can send a message to our Prime Minister, asking her to work with other world leaders to ensure the global agreements on migration and refugees will:

- Keep families together
- Support host countries
- Protect the vulnerable
- Respect human dignity
- Tackle the reasons why people migrate
- Are you looking for new volunteering opportunities? There are so many ways you can get involved with CAFOD and you really don’t need to make a long-lasting commitment, although many of our volunteers do. Visit the diocesan website to see current vacancies or CAFOD’s website at cafod.org.uk/Volunteer/Volunteer-with-us to see the many interesting ways you can help us. If you prefer to speak to someone by phone, use the numbers above – we’d love to hear from you!