



## Bishop's Column

The focus for us this April has to be the end of Lent, the celebration of Holy Week, the Triduum and Easter. The month begins with what we used to call "Passion Sunday". Passiontide comprised of the last two weeks of Lent including Palm Sunday. For all of us, the Liturgy goes up a gear as the drama of the Lord's last week is commemorated. It's a week full of intrigue and plot, of triumph and betrayal, of bitter sadness and expectation. It should be for us all an exceptional week. After all, we are about to celebrate the central events of our faith. If these days had not come to pass together with the precious events, then our faith would be meaningless. At the beginning of the Palm Sunday gathering, the celebrant says:

*Therefore, with all faith and devotion, let us commemorate the Lord's entry into the city for our salvation, following in his footsteps, so that, being made by his grace partakers of the cross, we may have a share also in his resurrection and his life.*

Nothing about Holy Week and the Triduum should be normal, rather it should be normative. The rest of the Easter Season flows from it; the rest of the liturgical year takes its shape from it; indeed, the rest of our lives derive their meaning from it. Hence it is right that the timings of our celebrations should correspond to the events that we commemorate. We celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper at evening time. We recall the Lord's Death on Good Friday beginning at the ninth hour – 3pm. We begin the Solemn Vigil of Easter on Holy Saturday after dark. Even if these times are inconvenient, we should be prepared to change and adapt. Jesus did not allow convenience to come between him and the ultimate sacrifice he paid for our salvation and for once, once only in the whole year, we should be willing to sacrifice our convenience to celebrate these precious events with awe and thanksgiving.

As I write this, I can't help but mention the terrible event of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. I am sure that we are all praying and will continue to pray for peace, justice and reconciliation. I hope that by the time we read this, our prayers will have been answered. However, praying for peace, becoming peacemakers ourselves should be central to our lives as Christians. The first words our Risen Lord said to his apostles were, "Peace be with you." May we all experience that same peace this Eastertide. Christ is risen, alleluia! He is truly risen, alleluia, alleluia!

Yours in blessed hope,

*+ Loy*



## Special Pilgrimage Feature Pages 8 and 9

# Two new priests join diocesan 'family'

**Two priests have been getting to know their "new family" after coming over from India to work in our diocese.**

Father Xavier Santhiyagu, from the state of Tamil Nadu, and Father Anil Kumar Narisetti, from Andhra Pradesh, arrived in the UK in February and are living at St Francis Parish in Acklam, Middlesbrough.

They will assist Monsignor Gerard Robinson in the churches within St Mary's Cathedral Parish – St Francis, St Clare's in Brookfield and the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Grace, Osmotherley.

The two are both members of the Heralds of Good News, which aims to supply missionaries to dioceses both in India and abroad that are experiencing a shortage of priests due to the lack of local vocations.

Father Xavier said: "I have a strong devotion to Our Lady and I hope and pray that she will assist me. I see statues of Our Lady of Grace everywhere here and I think she will walk before in all my work."

"Father Anil and I joined the seminary, so we're very happy that we're going to work together in the same diocese."

He entered a seminary at the age of 15 and since being ordained in 2017 has worked as the vice-rector of a minor seminary and helped the provincial of the order with administration and was assistant in St Mary's Basilica in Bangalore, as well as studying languages.

Asked if he will miss his mum and two elder

sisters, Father Xavier said: "Yes, but God has given this family to me now and I will enjoy the people who I meet."

Father Anil joined the seminary at the age of 14 and was also ordained in 2017, celebrating his fifth anniversary as a priest in March.

He worked as a parish priest in a remote

village in India for a year and then studied pastoral management at the Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram institute in Bangalore. After further studies in Pune, he also worked closely with the provincial superior.

**Continued on Page 2**

## Easter Schedule 2022

**Holy Week St Mary's Cathedral, St Clare and St Francis of Assisi and the Lady Chapel**

### PALM SUNDAY

#### Lady Chapel

Blessing and distribution of Palms

Saturday evening Vigil Mass 3pm

#### St Francis

Saturday evening Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday 10.30am

#### St Clare

Sunday 9am

#### Cathedral

Sunday 10am (LS) with Bishop Draine

5pm Mass

### Tuesday, 12th April: Cathedral Only (LS)

Chrism Mass 12midday

### Wednesday, 13th April:

Cathedral (LS) 9.30am

St Clare 9.30am

St Francis 12midday

Cathedral only There will be confessions available from 5pm-8pm

### Maundy Thursday

Cathedral only (LS) 7pm Watching until 10pm

### Good Friday

Cathedral 10am Morning Prayer

St Francis 3pm

St Clare 3pm

Cathedral (LS) 3pm with Bishop Draine

### Holy Saturday

Cathedral 10am Morning Prayer

Cathedral only (LS) 9pm Vigil Mass

### Easter Sunday

St Clare 9am

Cathedral (LS) 10am with Bishop Draine

St Francis 10.30am

Cathedral 5pm

### Easter Monday

Cathedral only (LS) 9.30am Mass

\*LS – available on the Diocese of Middlesbrough Youtube Channel

Mgr Gerard, Mgr Gerry, Fr Anil and Fr Xavier

Wish Everyone a Very Happy and Joyful Easter

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NEWS

# Two new priests join diocesan ‘family’

Continued from Front Page

He said: “Now I’m here in the Diocese of Middlesbrough and excited to do my pastoral ministry and continue my work from India to the UK. I come with lots of gratitude to the people here.

“These are the English people who helped us to study in institutions built by the British, so I’m very proud to be here to preach the word of God for them.

“Thank you to Bishop Terry and Monsignor Gerard for inviting us and to our provincial superior for giving us the chance to work here.

“We ask you to bear with us because the dialect is very different – we’ll polish our English language and pick it up in a few months.”

This is the first time the two priests have been to England, but they have been closely following the diocese through its YouTube and Facebook channels as they prepared for their new life here.

Monsignor Gerard Robinson said: “It’s very refreshing to have young priests who are willing and motivated, and I hope their energy resonates throughout our diocese,



Father Xavier Santhiyagu and Father Anil Kumar Narisetti, who will live at St Francis in Acklam, Middlesbrough, while working throughout the cathedral parish

whatever their ministry is going to be.

“They are eager to learn and to get to know everything and we’re delighted to have them here.

“They should have come two years ago but were unable to because of the pandemic, but the great thing is they’ve been watching us on YouTube and know us very well already.”

BISHOP TERRY'S  
APRIL  
ENGAGEMENTS

7

Attends meeting of the Diocesan Trustee’s Education Committee

10.30am

7-8

Attending “Call to The North” Retreat at Hinsley Hall, Leeds

10

Celebrates Mass of Palm Sunday at St Mary’s Cathedral, Middlesbrough

10am

12

Celebrates the Mass of Chrism at St Mary’s Cathedral, Middlesbrough

Noon

14

Celebrates the Mass of the Lord’s Supper at St Mary’s Cathedral, Middlesbrough

7pm

15

Celebrates Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion at St Mary’s Cathedral, Middlesbrough

3pm

16

Celebrates the Solemn Easter Vigil at St Mary’s Cathedral, Middlesbrough

9pm

17

Celebrates Mass of Easter Day at St Mary’s Cathedral, Middlesbrough

10am

## New team will support charismatic renewal

**In 2017, Pope Francis appointed four people to create a single service for Catholic charismatic renewal throughout the Church.**

This service was called CHARIS (Catholic Charismatic Renewal International Service) and was officially instated at Pentecost 2019. The Holy Father entrusted a threefold mission to CHARIS:

1. To share baptism in the Holy Spirit with everyone
2. To serve the unity of the body of Christ
3. To serve the poor and those in greatest need, physical or spiritual.

From this mandate, each country has established a CHARIS national service of communion and, from there, a charismatic diocesan service of communion. As the appointed interim coordinator, it’s my role to contact the various groups, organisations and communities to build a service team whose aim will be to establish and support charismatic renewal in the Diocese of Middlesbrough.

We have Bishop Terry’s blessing to organise a launch day for the service sometime later this year, most likely in York. It is my vision that regular days of healing and renewal will take place across the diocese, supported by charismatic prayer groups in each deanery, which will meet regularly to draw nearer to God and increase in the gifts of the spirit.

I first encountered Catholic Charismatic renewal in my late 20s. I had been a committed, practicing Catholic all my life, but really didn’t know God until my mum persuaded me to attend a healing conference one weekend.

She was desperate for me to be healed of a serious eating disorder I’d had since the age of 17. I’ll never forget my first impression of

walking into the hall, full of hundreds of people praising and worshipping God. It was so unlike anything I was used to in my experience of being a Catholic. I remember thinking, “These people must be on drugs!”

I was prayed over and the priest put his arms around me and I experienced the all-embracing love of God. It was the most profound thing I had ever felt. When I later saw a drawing of Julian of Norwich, of a tiny baby, cradled gently in the hand of God, it described perfectly what I had experienced that day.

Slowly, I experienced a deep, inner healing of wounds and over two or three years, I was gradually, but completely, healed of the eating disorder and went on to have two healthy children.

Through all of this, I was inspired by the story of Jesus healing the 10 lepers. I felt determined to be the one who came back to give thanks to God for the gift of having my life restored. I wanted to share God’s love with others and tell them of the extraordinary things he does in the life of very ordinary people like me. I began to attend charismatic events locally and encouraged others to come with me.

In 2018, I helped organise an ecumenical healing day in York, followed by another day a few months later, when Ros Powell delivered a powerful teaching and healing ministry – we saw physical healings happening before our very eyes.

After the second healing day, 15 people from various denominations signed up to form a charismatic prayer group. The faith and commitment of this little group got us through the training period and the Holy Spirit gently guided us along.



Now, four years on, our group is still going strong. We go to local and national renewal events, Catholic and non-Catholic, together. Possibly one of the most precious things we have gained from the group is being part of a “prayer family”. Despite being from varying backgrounds, we have supported each other with love, prayers and friendship through our varying trials (we even managed to keep going virtually throughout the pandemic).

Please be assured that God is pouring out the gifts of the spirit on the Church and we expect to see a tsunami of grace flowing from the work of the national CSC and our own CDSC.

I ask you to pray for our mission and about your own personal calling to be part of it. If anyone is feeling “nudged” by God to do more for him, I would advise you to pray about it and get in touch with me at the email address below.

God is calling us to get out of our comfort zones and step out of the boat. We should be inspired by his words, “The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.” (Matthew 9:37-38)

To find out more, email [cdscmiddlesbrough@outlook.com](mailto:cdscmiddlesbrough@outlook.com).

God bless,

Sharon Daniel



# CAFOD’s Lent Family Fast Day and Ukraine Emergency Appeal

**What a difference a year makes. Who could have predicted we would emerge from the coronavirus pandemic straight into a war? Our plans have been superseded by the terrible events that are taking place in our world today.**

I hope that by the time you are reading this, a lasting ceasefire will have ended the suffering of the Ukrainian people and that diplomatic discussions are helping to negotiate a peaceful settlement to the violent invasion of Ukraine, which has been so graphically reported in each day’s news bulletins.

It is truly horrifying to see the devastation and witness the terrifying attacks on innocent people, even while they are fleeing to safety. But sadly, that is all part of our work. Wars are raging around the world in many countries where we are currently working. They are largely unreported but, nevertheless, as brutal and devastating as the one we are witnessing so close to home.

Sierra Leone, which is the focus of our Family Fast Day appeal, is a country that is all too familiar with conflict and the legacy it leaves behind.

Our ability to respond to these emergencies comes out of the funds raised for our work from your donations, which is why it is so important that our Family Fast Day appeal went ahead as planned and we continued with our Walk Against Hunger challenge.

Your donations to our Lent and Harvest fast days go into our “general funds” and enable us to work across many countries on different programmes and in response to emergencies. They are “unrestricted funds”.

Appeal funds, on the other hand, can only be used for the fund they are donated to – they are earmarked to that appeal. They also enabled us to send funds to Caritas Ukraine swiftly as the crisis began.

When large-scale disasters hit countries that can’t respond, the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) brings together 15 leading UK aid charities to raise funds quickly and efficiently.

The member charities are Action Against Hunger, ActionAid, Age International, British Red Cross, CAFOD, Care International, Christian Aid, Concern Worldwide, International Rescue Committee, Islamic Relief, Oxfam, Plan International, Save the Children, Tearfund and World Vision.

Currently, CAFOD is in a period of joint action with the DEC and we have launched an emergency appeal for Ukraine.

We are also part of one of the largest aid networks in the world – Caritas Internationalis – and because of our global reach and local presence, we are there when an emergency hits.

Our Ukrainian and neighbouring Caritas local aid workers and volunteers are part of the communities they work with, and so understand people’s immediate needs. Caritas organisations are already on the ground responding to this humanitarian crisis.

Caritas Ukraine has 19 centres across the country. They are extremely experienced, having been active for 30 years and having been responding to the conflict in eastern Ukraine since 2014. They are already helping by...



A Caritas Poland worker offering assistance to a displaced Ukrainian – Photo by Caritas Poland

- Running warm and safe collective centres, which provide beds, food, washing facilities and safe spaces for children. Displaced families can also receive up-to-date information, referrals to local services and psychosocial support.
- Transporting people to friends, family, or the collective centres for shelter and support.
- Organising child-friendly spaces where children can play sports and do arts and crafts as a means of coping with their experiences.

Caritas SPES, a charity of the Religious Mission of the Roman Catholic Church in Ukraine, is helping children and families reach safe locations. They are also distributing humanitarian aid in their centres across the country and to people who have fled to the borders.

Caritas Poland, Caritas Romania and Caritas Moldova are all supporting people who have

fled Ukraine and need food, water, shelter and means to continue their journeys to safety.

Tetiana Stawnychy, president of Caritas Ukraine said: “I am so proud of our team who are working hard to look to the needs of the most vulnerable while managing their own circumstances as well.

“We are grateful for the outpouring of support from our partners and people of goodwill from abroad.”

Thank you for your generosity to our work and this emergency appeal.

Please visit our website to learn more about our work. If you would like to help with our work, email me at [middlesbrough@cafod.org.uk](mailto:middlesbrough@cafod.org.uk) or call 07779 804253.

Carol Cross, CAFOD Middlesbrough

## Pupils hear emotional appeal for peace

**Thousands of Teesside and North Yorkshire school pupils answered the call of Pope Francis for a day of prayer for Ukraine.**

Children attending the 27 schools in Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust stopped their lessons and prayed for peace on Ash Wednesday.

NPCAT schools and its head office stopped at 11am for prayer and reflection. As well as watching a moving video recorded by a Ukrainian woman living in the UK, they also prayed and listened to music that was specially written for the occasion.

NPCAT’s Catholic standards officer, Mark Ryan, said: “The message was deeply moving and so important, and we were pleased to be able to share it with our communities.

“We all need to spread love and kindness in our own communities

and not wait for something terrible to happen to change our lives.”

Mr Ryan said that like all of us, children will be struggling to process what they are seeing on the news and hearing about from their friends.

“For very young ones, we have to be very sensitive because they will have very little understanding of what’s going on, so we focus on peace,” he said.

“Older children, who are more aware of what’s going on in the world, will have questions and thoughts and feelings.

“We have to be prepared to respond to those in a peaceful way. That’s what the Pope asks us to do, not to be people of war but to be people of peace.”



Children from St Augustine’s Catholic Primary School in Coulby Newham at St Mary’s Cathedral

## Maundy money honour for Canon Michael

**Canon Michael Bayldon has been chosen to receive the Queen’s Maundy money this year.**

Canon Michael, who was parish priest of St Paulinus in Guisborough until his retirement, was nominated for the honour by Bishop Terry.

He will attend the annual ceremony at Windsor Castle on Maundy Thursday to be presented with the gift from Her Majesty the Queen. We hope to have more details in a future edition of the *Voice*.



Canon Michael Bayldon



## SCHOOLS

# Mary's Meals inspired pupils to feed hungry children

**The Mini Vinnies and chaplaincy teams from St Cuthbert's Trust were inspired by the work of Mary's Meals for their fundraising during Lent.**

Mary's Meals is a Scottish charity that has been providing meals for children in some of our poorest countries since 2002.

That's when founder Magnus McFarlane-Barrow met a lady called Emma on a trip to Malawi. Emma was dying of AIDS and lay on the floor of her hut surrounded by her six young children. Emma said all that was left for her was to pray that someone might care for them after her death.

Magnus asked her eldest, Edward, what he hoped for in life. He replied simply: "I want to have enough food to eat and to go to school one day."

Edward's words helped inspire the founding of Mary's Meals, which aims to provide chronically hungry children with one meal every school day.

Mary's Meals now feed more than two million children a day in their school. It costs only £15.90 to provide one meal a day for a child for a year.

Pupils were so inspired by the work of Mary's Meals that they decided to do what they could to help.

That was how "40p for 40 days for 40 children's meals for a year" was born. We are also very aware of how the last few years have been hard on lots of families, so we decided to ask for as little as we could, a penny a day for 40 days.

We hope that by involving every school in the St Cuthbert's trust, we will be able to feed 40 children for a year. Every class, staffroom and reception in every school has a collection pot for donations.

As Sadie at St Anthony's said: "Every penny helps!"

**Micki Coyle**



A St Anthony's pupil delivering one of the Mary's Meals collection pots to class



**St Benedict's Catholic Primary School**  
*'Pray together, Learn together'*  
 Part of Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust  
 Mersey Road, Redcar TS10 1LS  
 Headteacher: Mrs Kendra Sill  
 Tel: 01642 495770  
 E-mail: [enquiries@stbenedicts.npcat.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@stbenedicts.npcat.org.uk)  
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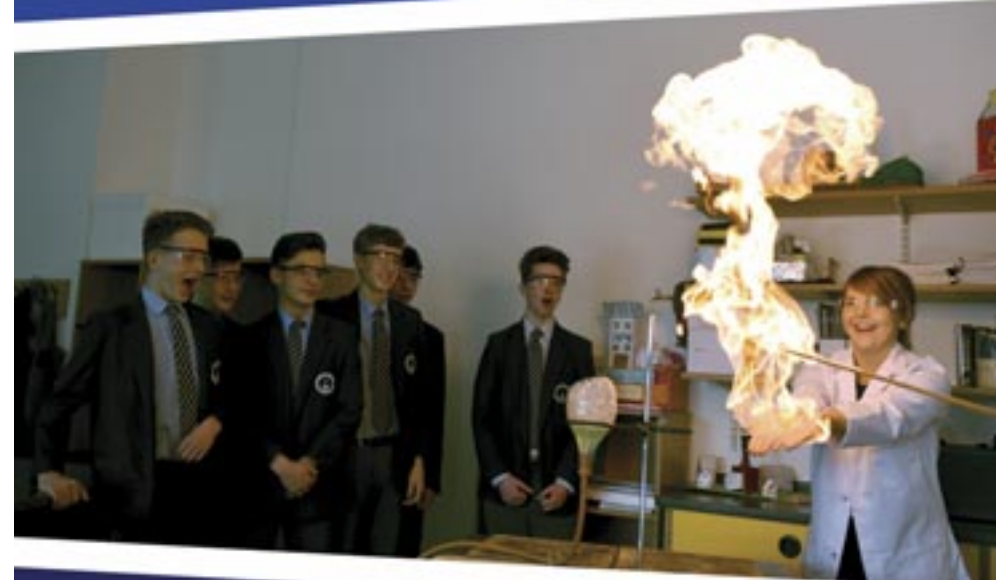
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 Tel 01642 819507  
 Executive Head Mrs Mary Brown  
 Head of School Mrs Anne Teasdale  
 email: [Enquiries@stedwards.npcat.org.uk](mailto:Enquiries@stedwards.npcat.org.uk)  
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 Head of School: Mrs S Garthwaite  
 Tel: 01642 453462  
[enquiries@stpeters.npcat.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@stpeters.npcat.org.uk)  
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 Mrs Mary Brown  
 Head of School Fran Mackle  
 Telephone: 01845 523058  
[Enquiries@allsaints.npcat.org.uk](mailto:Enquiries@allsaints.npcat.org.uk)



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# Future's bright as St Peter's celebrates 80th birthday

**St Peter's Catholic College in South Bank is looking forward to educating generations of pupils for years to come after a wonderful celebration marked its 80th birthday.**

The iconic school, famed for turning out a production line of young footballers that included Boro and England Golden Boy Wilf Mannion, has been at the heart of the community since it was built during World War 2.

Hitler's Luftwaffe did its best to raze the school to the ground soon after its doors were opened, and a decade ago it was threatened with closure before a last-minute change in government policy.

But St Peter's has stood the test of time and, after a significant recent investment programme from Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust, its future now looks brighter than ever.

"St Peter's has always been the rock for this part of the community," said head of school Stephanie Garthwaite.

"We still have some photos of the German planes flying over St Peter's during the war and 1,000 people turned out to support the school when it was going to be bulldozed in 2010.

"But we're still here and we hope St Peter's will continue to be the foundation of this community and provide an outstanding Catholic education for many more generations of young people."

As well as Boro legend Mannion, Formula One engineer Rob Smedley and legendary folk singer Vin Garbutt also attended the

Normanby Road school.

"It's an honour and a privilege to be head of a school with such a rich tradition," said Mrs Garthwaite. "Lots of pupils have gone on to do well in a wide range of professions and we're very proud of every one of them."

Pupils took part in a variety of activities on a packed day of celebrations, including a cake sale, a careers convention attended by years 10 and 11 and a three-mile sponsored walk for CAFOD, while each tutor group buried a time capsule in the school's gardens.

Bishop Terry was joined by hundreds of former pupils and members of the community

attended two special events including three Masses to mark the momentous occasion.

They included Wilf Mannion's son and daughter, former deputy headteacher Kevin O'Connor, 79, and 92-year-old Patrick Webster, who was a pupil when St Peter's first opened.

Canon John Lumley, whose mother, Amy, was also in that very first intake, was among many clergy who attended the celebrations.

"It really has been a very special day and has left me with a very positive feeling," he said.

Bishop Terry celebrated Mass and guests took

a trip down Memory Lane as they viewed an exhibition featuring photographs from St Peter's rich history.

The school looked resplendent after its recent facelift, which included the provision of purpose-built changing rooms, a brand-new fitness suite, an exhibition centre and a VR suite.

Head girl Megan Donaghy-Marshall said: "The improvement is massive since the trust has joined – not only the building, but the standard of learning is better."



Bishop Terry gives the blessing at the end of Mass during the day of celebrations for St Peter's Catholic College's 80th birthday – Photo by Chris Booth



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# Holy Week Mass Times

*Sacred Heart & St Bede's Hull*

**Sacred Heart  
Southcoates Lane Hull**  
**PALM SUNDAY**

9.30am Holy Mass

**HOLY THURSDAY**

7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by watching before the Altar of Repose until 9pm

**GOOD FRIDAY**

3pm Solemn celebration of the Lord's Passion & Death

**HOLY SATURDAY**

6.30pm The Easter Vigil

**EASTER SUNDAY**

9.30am Holy Mass

8-8.30pm Confessions

Holy Thursday

9.30-10am Holy Saturday

**St Bede's  
Staveley Rd, Hull**  
**PALM SUNDAY**

11am Holy Mass

**Monday & Wednesday  
of Holy Week**

9.30am Holy Mass

**GOOD FRIDAY**

10am Stations of the Cross

**EASTER SUNDAY**

11am Holy Mass

Confessions on request after Mass

*Lealholm,  
Egton Bridge,  
Ugthorpe*

**Our Lady, Lealholm  
St Hedda, Egton Bridge  
St Anne, Ugthorpe**

**Palm Sunday**

6.30pm (Saturday) Vigil - Lealholm

9.30am Mass - Egton Bridge

11am Mass - Ugthorpe

**Holy Thursday**

7pm Mass of the Last Supper and watch until 9pm - Egton Bridge

**Good Friday**

9am Stations of the Cross - Lealholm

10am Stations of the Cross -

Ugthorpe

3pm Liturgy of the Passion

- Egton Bridge

**Holy Saturday**

8pm Easter Vigil Mass - Lealholm

**Easter Day**

9.30am Mass - Egton Bridge

11am Mass - Ugthorpe

*York*

**St George  
Palm Sunday**

10.30am Mass

**Holy Thursday**

7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

followed by Watching until 11pm

**Good Friday**

3pm Celebration of the Passion and Death of the Lord

**Holy Saturday**

8.30pm Easter Vigil

**Easter Sunday**

10.30am Mass of the Resurrection

*Hull*

**Our Lady Of Lourdes  
& St Peter Chanel,  
with Hull University  
Catholic Chaplaincy**

**HOLY THURSDAY 14 April**

7:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

**GOOD FRIDAY 15 April**

8:45am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer

3pm Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

7pm Stations of the Cross

**HOLY SATURDAY 16 April**

8:45am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer

7:30pm Easter Vigil – First Mass of Easter

**EASTER SUNDAY 17 April**

10am Easter Mass

*Ingleby Barwick*

**St Therese of Lisieux**

**Palm Sunday**

5.30pm Mass Saturday

11am Sunday

**Holy Thursday**

7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by watching till 11pm

**Good Friday**

12 noon Stations of the Cross

3pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

**Easter**

9pm Easter Vigil

11am Easter Sunday Mass

*Whitby and Sleights*

**St Hilda's, English Martyrs**

**Holy Thursday**

6pm St Hilda's Whitby

**Good Friday**

3pm St Hilda's Whitby

**Holy Saturday**

9pm St Hilda's Whitby

**Easter Sunday**

9am English Martyrs Sleights

10:30am, St Hilda's Whitby

*York*

**English Martyrs Church**

**HOLY THURSDAY**

**14 April**

7pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Followed by a Service of Watching until 9pm

**GOOD FRIDAY**

**15 April**

3pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

**HOLY SATURDAY**

**16 April**

6pm The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

**EASTER SUNDAY**

**Sunday of the Resurrection  
17 April**

10.30am Mass of Easter

*Hessle*  
**Our Lady of Lourdes**

**Holy Thursday**

10am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer

7.30pm Mass of the

Lord's Supper

**Good Friday**

10am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer

11am Stations of the Cross for Children

3pm Liturgy of the

Lord's Passion

7pm Reflection on the Passion

**Holy Saturday**

9.30am Office of Readings

& Morning Prayer

8.30pm Easter Vigil

**Easter Sunday**

8.30am Mass

10.30am Mass

No evening Mass

*Wishing all our readers a  
Holy and Happy Easter  
from all at CathCom  
and the Diocese of  
Middlesbrough*



# Positive response to synod call

We have received an excellent response to the synod consultations from parishes, groups, religious orders and schools across the diocese.

Work is taking place to use the feedback to produce our diocesan submission to the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales in preparation for the Synod of Bishops in September 2023.

We are pleased with the way the people of our diocese have engaged in the synodal process, being so generous with their time and commitment.

However, we need to remind ourselves that the job isn't done. Pope Francis wants us to make the kind of sharing and listening that the synodal process has facilitated continue and become an everyday aspect of how we journey together as a Christian community.

Maybe, we need to think about how we "live" the synod.

Thank you to all those members of our clergy, our synod parish coordinators and everyone who has put so much time and effort into making the process work.

The diocesan synthesis will be shared with the people of our diocese in an event in the cathedral on Saturday May 21.

Jenny Sinclair, writer of an article on the synod in The Tablet on January 1, will give a keynote input at the event.

Jenny is a founder and director of Together for the Common Good, an ecumenical partner of the Caritas Social Action Network. More information coming soon!

David Cross, Adult Formation Coordinator



Jenny Sinclair will speak at our diocesan synod event at St Mary's Cathedral

# Ministers gather for ecumenical synod talks

Anglican, Methodist, Baptist and Catholic ministers gathered at St Leonard and St Mary's in Malton to talk about the synod. Lay members of Churches Together in Southern Ryedale also took part in the conversations.

A similar meeting took place at St Joseph's Church in Pickering, involving representatives from the Anglican, Methodist and Catholic Churches.

Our picture shows, from left to right: Nigel Hardwick (Methodist), Marion Cuthill (coordinator), Reverend Glyn Diggins (Anglican), Reverend Jenny Buckler (Anglican), Jean Green (Baptist), Reverend Adrian Green (Baptist), Reverend Peter Sheasby (Methodist), Sue Westmacott (Catholic pastoral assistant).



Photo by Father Tim Bywater

# Celebrating the World Meeting of Families in our parishes

The World Meeting of Families was instigated by St John Paul II in 1994 and has been celebrated every three years since then.

It has grown in strength, popularity and significance into the largest meeting of families in the world.

The last meeting was in Dublin in 2018 and was attended by families from 196 countries. That's where we come in. My wife Nicky and I were fortunate enough to be there for the six days of the meeting.

It was a brilliant few days, filled with prayer, presentations, talks and bands and it ended with Mass attended by 130,000 people with Pope Francis in Phoenix attended by 130,000 people.

This year things will be very different. The WMoF is still happening, from June 22 to 26. It is being held in Rome, and I'm sure it will be as inspiring as Dublin was in 2018.

However, Pope Francis has also asked our global community to celebrate the event in their own diocese and parishes.

The Bishop's Council for Marriage and Family Life is in the process of working out what we might do in our diocese and at parish level to enable our people to take part in this worldwide celebration here at home.

So look out for more information on our events in the next few months!



Micki Coyle

# Date set for Inspirational Day

All Ministers of the Word and Holy communion will be commissioned during our Diocesan Inspirational Day at the Spa in Scarborough on Saturday September 10.

The day, which is for existing ministers and for those who may have been asked to become ministers, will be led by our friends from Madonna House.

Letters and invitations will be sent out to coordinators and parish priests in early June. This will be our first inspirational day since November 2019, so we really do want to make it a success!

# Friendship and help for those who work at sea

When the *Ever Given* container ship got stuck in the Suez Canal last year, it was carrying 18,300 containers but only had a crew of 25 onboard.

While ships like this mean goods can be delivered more quickly and cheaply than ever before, there is less time for seafarers to rest, more stress and often a sense of isolation.

Anne McLaren, Stella Maris port chaplain in Hull, sees the effects of the modernisation of shipping first hand. Modern ports are often far from towns and cities, where at one time seafarers could spend time ashore.

Huge container ships such as the *Ever Given* carry everything from computers and clothes to parts for cars and food. We might be more familiar with airports than ports, but around 90 per cent of goods imported to the UK arrive by ship. The seafarers on board are likely to be from the Philippines, India or Eastern Europe.

Quick turnarounds mean ships visiting more ports, more moorings and lashings (securing cargoes) and more paperwork. Seafarers have little time to relax.

There is a growing awareness in the maritime industry of the mental health of seafarers. Being away from their families for up to nine months, having little shore leave and sometimes dealing with bullying or racism on board can place an enormous strain on some seafarers, who do what is, arguably, one of the toughest jobs in the world.

Seafarers rely on the internet to keep in touch with their families back home. However, not all vessels have an internet connection and on those that do, access to the crew is sometimes restricted.

Stella Maris port chaplains such as Anne and volunteer ship visitors are a lifeline to seafarers when they arrive in a port. Among other things, they provide sim cards, mobile



The *Ever Given* container ship only had 25 crew onboard when it got stuck in the Suez Canal last year carrying 18,300 containers

wifi units, woolly hats, and transport to local shops or medical centres.

Anne says seafarers' centres also play an important role.

"The Hull Seafarers' Centre can provide a quiet space for seafarers to unwind and to create a home from home where they can relax away from the noise and bustle of their vessel as being onboard the same for many months at a time can be stressful," she said.

"As the centre provides free wifi, they can contact their families back home, which is especially important for them to maintain that contact and they can speak to a chaplain or volunteer if they wish."

When social restrictions were in place during the Covid pandemic, Stella Maris chaplains could only communicate with seafarers from the gangway or through social media.

A high percentage of seafarers are Catholic, and one of the tasks of port chaplains is to help them feel part of the Church, especially at times such as in Lent and at Easter.

Anne and her work supporting seafarers are featured in Stella Maris' Lent Appeal. If you would like to donate to support the work of Stella Maris, visit [stellamaris.org.uk/lent](http://stellamaris.org.uk/lent).

Greg Watts



## PILGRIMAGES

### Register your interest in Lourdes 2022

We are asking you to register your interest for our 2022 pilgrimage, including hospitalité helpers, supported pilgrims and everyone who wishes to visit the shrine as part of the pilgrimage.

**Supported pilgrims:**

headofhospitalite@rcdmidd.org.uk

**Brancardiers:** headbrancardier@rcdmidd.org.uk

**Handmaids:** headhandmaid@rcdmidd.org.uk

**Nurses/doctors:** doctor@rcdmidd.org.uk or headnurse@rcdmidd.org.uk

**Musicians:** thelombards@hotmail.com

**Pilgrims:** pilgrimagedirector@rcdmidd.org.uk

Alternatively, write to Lourdes Pilgrimage Director, Curial Office, 50a The Avenue, Middlesbrough TS5 6QT



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**ALLELUIA**

Here at Tangney Tours whilst not many of you have had the opportunity to travel or go on pilgrimage with us, we have been busy keeping in touch with you! With travel restrictions easing even further, this is the year whereby you can return on pilgrimage to the places that we all love. Our dedication to pilgrimage has not faulted and our team remain ready to welcome you back!

**We cannot wait to welcome you on pilgrimage once again!**



**The Lourdes Theme for 2022 is "Go and tell the priests ..."**

Join some of our following pilgrimages to Lourdes, Spring: The Society or our Lady of Lourdes, Birmingham & Middlesbrough. Then in the summer: Leeds, Nottingham, Westminster, Brentwood, departure for Newcastle, East Anglia, Southwark, Northampton, the CA, Raphael and more... scan the QR code to find more:

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## Packed church for funeral of devoted Gerald

**"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud." 1 Corinthians 13:4**

These words perfectly reflect the life of Gerald Baker whose funeral took place on Tuesday March 1, in Holy Cross Church in Cottingham.

Gerald chose the readings and hymns himself and lived them every day during his long and fruitful life. He was totally devoted to the Church, and he put his faith into action every day.

He was a member of the St Vincent de Paul Society for more than 60



**Dedicated brancardier Gerry Baker, whose funeral took place in Hull**

years. He joined the Sacred Heart conference shortly after completing his national service in 1955 and became president in his early 20s.

After his mother died, he moved to Holy Cross Parish, where he served as treasurer of that conference for over 30 years, as well as doing a stint on the Middlesbrough district council. He did countless acts of kindness to help others, in a quiet, effective way. He never spoke about what he did, he just got on with it.

He was also devoted to Lourdes and the diocesan pilgrimage. He was a founder member of the Hull and District Lourdes Fund, serving as treasurer for many years and travelling to Middlesbrough regularly as the Hull representative on the diocesan organising committee. He served as a brancardier in Lourdes for 28 years and when he could no longer do this, he carried on going as an ordinary pilgrim. He was planning to go on this year's pilgrimage.

In addition to these roles, he was involved in the Hull Housebound Day since it first started and was a volunteer driver every month. He was also a great supporter of the St Charles Drop-in Centre for the homeless and went there to help out whenever necessary, as well as being a generous benefactor. After he retired, he volunteered at Castle Hill Hospital making tea and taking it round to the patients.

Gerald was also a passionate rugby fan. He played for the Marist Rugby Union Club and was a lifelong member after he stopped playing. He also followed Hull Kingston Rovers

Rugby League team, su week in and week out. that Browns Funeral Di organise his funeral be were true Robins' supp himself.

Gerald was a genuinely Catholic, attending Mass until the very end, as v other devotional servic be seen every Sunday counting the money be to the bank. He was a man, who spoke his m with rancour, always wi

He had a great sense o was great fun to be wi people remember him affection and have love about him. It was no s the church full for his f particularly wonderful t of his Lourdes friends a brancardiers travelled o Middlesbrough to bid H He would have been de see them there

Gerald's niece, Caroline piece of paper among possessions. She think have kept it because it meant so much to him template of his life...

"Free your heart from h mind from worry, live s more and expect less."

We shall miss you, Ger May you rest in peace.



## Last few places on Teesside flight

Only a few places remain on the flight for this year's Diocese of Middlesbrough Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

We hope as many as possible of those who can do so will take the opportunity to travel, as our pilgrimage returns to Lourdes for the first time since 2019.

To enable us to plan, we're asking you to book as soon as possible or let us know if you hope to travel independently.

Before you book, we would ask you to carefully read our pilgrimage Terms and Conditions, which are set out in full on the diocesan website, [middlesbrough-diocese.org.uk](http://middlesbrough-diocese.org.uk).

## Fun and food at Lourdes social

Lourdes friends old and new will meet up for fun and food at a social evening in Middlesbrough.

The event takes place at St Francis Social Club, Acklam Road, Middlesbrough, at 7.30pm on Saturday April 30 and will feature live entertainment, bingo and raffle.

Tickets are £5 with a finger buffet included.

Please email John Brown at [john.brown160@ntlworld.com](mailto:john.brown160@ntlworld.com) if you would like to go, so the organisers can plan the food.

## Christian tour firm's mission to inspire

JC Journeys' mission is to help others experience the love of the Lord in their hearts through the beauty of nature, the wonders of the world and in the footsteps of the saints.

The firm offers tailor-made parish pilgrimages to a wide variety of destinations including the Holy Land, Patmos, Italy and Spain.

Pilgrims can embark on a journey of discovery, growing closer to God, with plenty of quiet time for prayer and reflection.

There's the chance to visit key Christian sites and spend time enjoying God's beautiful creation, discovering his purpose for your life by stepping out in faith and taking a pilgrimage.

JC Journeys also has a passion for exploring "faith through art", by studying and meditating on famous works of art throughout the world.

Exciting new tours during 2022 include the chance to see the works of Piero della Francesca in Arezzo in May and Duccio in Siena in September, both tours led by Father Brendan Thomas OSB, from Belmont Abbey.

You can book as an individual or couple or small group. For more information visit [jcjourneys.com](http://jcjourneys.com) or call the firm's office on 01886 812 862.



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NEWS

# SVP: Levelling Up white paper is ‘missed opportunity’

**The government’s long-awaited Levelling Up white paper represents a missed opportunity to address the ingrained social and economic disparity across the UK, according to the SVP.**

Secretary of state for levelling up, housing and communities Michael Gove announced details of the white paper in February after months of delays.

Mr Gove previously said: “We are on a mission to regenerate the nation, transforming derelict areas in our towns and cities into thriving places people are proud to live and work in.”

However, the SVP – which works to tackle poverty in all its forms – believes that high streets and deprived areas can only thrive if the people living there have access to good quality jobs, fit for purpose education and affordable housing.

The Catholic charity argues that limited consultation has taken place with groups supporting people in communities across the country that are best able to inform the conversation on regional inequalities.

The SVP operates nine St Vincent’s community support centres across England and Wales, each providing a tailored response to needs. There are also hundreds of local groups of SVP members supporting people and families in need.

Since the start of the pandemic, requests for support coming into the SVP’s national office have increased by 75 per cent for food, 50 per cent for clothing and 140 per cent for support with paying bills and money advice.

“We welcome the government’s proposal that ‘by 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top-performing and other areas closing’,” said SVP chief executive, Elizabeth Palmer.

“However, the success of this agenda will be determined by the detail, and the white paper fails to lay out a clear plan for reaching this ambitious goal. There is little mention of quality employment or secure employment. Without these embedded in the levelling up strategy, it will be hard to reach this goal.”

Mr Gove also announced that the £2.6bn UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) will be decentralised to local leaders as far as possible, with investments set to regenerate



The SVP says the government’s Levelling Up white paper is a missed opportunity

communities, boost skills and support local businesses.  
“While we welcome efforts to regenerate

communities, the white paper lacks crucial details of how funding will be allocated, and how the UKSPF will contribute to

strengthening the social fabric of our society, which is vital in bridging the gaps between communities and regions,” Ms Palmer said.

## Newman meeting looks at theologian Bonhoeffer

**Professor Terry Wright will speak on the subject of “Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a very Catholic Protestant martyr” when he visits Cleveland Newman Circle this month.**

Famous as a Protestant theologian, Bonhoeffer was also deeply attracted to Catholic liturgy and a Catholic concept of the Church. The talk takes place in St Mary’s Cathedral Hall, Middlesbrough on Wednesday April 27 at 7.45pm, with coffee and tea available from 7.30pm. All are welcome. For more details, call 01642 645732 or email [p.egerton123@gmail.com](mailto:p.egerton123@gmail.com)

## A Letter From Madonna House – What do you see?

**“Look me in the eyes. Can you say in truth, that you have tried everything?” This challenge was issued by a mother whose daughter cried that she could no longer live with a partner suffering from bipolar disorder. Reluctantly, the daughter admitted**



**that there were still some avenues she could pursue, so her mother replied, “Then you must go back.” Some months later, the daughter returned with the same plight, but this time when she looked into her mother’s eyes, she could truthfully say, “Yes, I have tried everything.” “Then come home, sweetheart,” was the response.**

This encounter was related to me when I thought I had reached the limit of my capacity to love a member of Madonna House. In fact, I *had* reached my limit, but God always wants to stretch our hearts. In a way, I was relieved when my director challenged me: I’d rather not end a relationship in failure when there might yet be hope for healing. So back we went. Eventually, the day did come when we all acknowledged that God must have another plan because the troubles persisted. But the discernment could now be made in peace and in love.

I have revisited this story many times

through the years. It is natural to recoil from pain. When we touch a red-hot stove, our fingers have leapt from the surface to cold water almost before we consciously register the pain. But Christ drew us through the suffering of his cross into resurrection life. What does that mean for us?

When I struggled with the person who hurt me so much, I had to reach beyond my capacity to keep loving, forgiving, trying. I experienced my own sinfulness, weakness and brokenness in excruciating clarity. I wanted out of the situation, but gradually, my desire for this person’s healing melted my fears. When the moment arrived and God lit another path for my friend, we could let go.

Sometimes that moment results in an act of *tough love* of setting boundaries. When all other attempts have failed, we can have peace that this seemingly harsh line is what will eventually bring new life. Sometimes, the end moment is an act of humility, as we

realise that someone else must pull our drowning friend to safety.

When we look into the eyes of God and answer that question, “Have you tried everything?”, we have to confront our part in the conflict, our lack of love, our lack of faith that God can move in the situation. Our foundress wrote movingly about being assailed by doubts. She learned not to apply a facile, pious “right answer”, but to be honest about the doubts and walk into them. There is no other way to the other side, which is faith and reliance on God.

So in whatever situation you may now be facing in which you want to give up, ask the Spirit to reveal your heart: admit your pain, and reach into the deep places where God dwells, for love and wisdom. Keep doing this until he moves with healing and change, or makes it clear it’s time to let go. When you look into his eyes, what do you see?

Cheryl Ann Smith



# Children help raise new defibrillator funds

**Young parishioners helped raise £735 towards a new defibrillator for St Thérèse of Lisieux Church in Ingleby Barwick by selling raffle tickets after Mass.**

The money was added to other donations collected in the area and the device has now been ordered. Once it has been delivered, it will be fitted outside the church.

"We are very thankful to Canon Alan for

allowing us to fundraise, and to our parishioners who were so supportive," said Kerry Roberts, of the organising committee.

"We also have another three defibrillators on order for new sites in Ingleby. We will continue our fundraising efforts and once new sites have been identified, we hope to have eight within 500 metres of each other."



Year 1 teacher Amy Kerr with children from St Thérèse of Lisieux Catholic Primary School in Ingleby Barwick with pupils Corbin, Ben, Connor, Eli, Chloe and Lucy, who helped raise funds for a new defibrillator

**Please remember in your prayers the following clergy from our diocese whose anniversaries are this month**

1	1975	Canon James Lindley Hall	Hull
1	1988	Rev Richard Van de Pitte	York
4	1988	Rev Anthony Wade, MCCJ	York
5	1900	Very Rev Canon William Sullivan	Hull
6	1956	Rev John Potts	Pickering
7	1978	Very Rev Canon Francis O'Hara	Middlesbrough
8	2021	Rev Ross Thompson	Port Chalmers
10	2017	Very Rev Canon William Madden	Cork
10	1894	Very Rev Canon Edward Pearson	Leyburn
10	1977	Rev William Bury	Middlesbrough
11	1929	Rt Rev Richard Lacy, first Bishop of Middlesbrough	
12	1946	Rev Bernard Costello	Hull
14	1897	Very Rev Canon Benjamin Randerson	Whitby
15	1999	Very Rev Canon Donal O'Byrne	Scarborough
16	1962	Rev James Murphy	York
18	1982	Very Rev Canon Daniel Ryan	Bridlington
19	1986	Rt Rev Mgr Provost Thomas Breen	Thornaby
21	1912	Rev David Smith	Holme
21	1886	Very Rev Canon William Fisher	Bridlington
22	2006	Rev John A Treacy	York
25	1928	Rev Alphonsus Wannyn	Hull
25	2009	Rev Austin O'Neill	Limerick
26	1990	Rev James J Gilligan	Ballyagran
26	2014	Rev Clement Pattison	Middlesbrough
28	1935	Rev James Skehan	Howden
29	1915	Rev Patrick Finn, CF	Houghton Hall
29	1932	Rev Patrick O'Regan	Driffield
30	1995	Rev John Jenkinson	Hull



**Father Ross Thompson's first anniversary is this month**

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NEWS

Out and About

**Friday 1**  
Events, articles and photographs for May Voice are due by today.

**Saturday 2**  
**11am** Catholic Women are invited to share an hour of feminine communion including mediation, via Zoom. Text Barbara on 07796 1177004 with your mobile number and email address so she can add you to the Whats App group.

**Monday 4**  
**9.45am–10.25am** Beverley Christian Meditation Group meets online. Further information from [Christianmeditation.beverley@gmail.com](mailto:Christianmeditation.beverley@gmail.com)

**Tuesday 5**  
**10am** Christian Meditation Group meets online. Further information from Terry Doyle at emailing [terry-doyle@live.co.uk](mailto:terry-doyle@live.co.uk).  
**7pm** Knights of St Columba Council 29 meets at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough, beginning with Mass at 7pm in the cathedral chapel.

**Wednesday 6**  
**5.30pm** Vespers and Benediction at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough

**Monday 11**  
**9.45am–10.25am** Beverley Christian Meditation Group meets online. Further information from [Christianmeditation.beverley@gmail.com](mailto:Christianmeditation.beverley@gmail.com)  
**2pm** Music for the Mind, for people who enjoy singing and connecting memories, takes place every second Monday in the month from 2pm to 3.30pm in St Mary's Cathedral Hall, Coulby Newham. There is no charge and donations are welcome. Come and enjoy tea, cake and biscuits followed by fun. For details call 01642 710179. You can also join in on the Diocese of Middlesbrough Diocese YouTube page. Singing starts at around 2.30pm.

**Tuesday 12**  
**10am** Christian Meditation Group meets online. Further information from Terry Doyle at emailing [terry-doyle@live.co.uk](mailto:terry-doyle@live.co.uk).  
**Noon:** Chrism Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough

**Wednesday 13**  
**5.30pm** Vespers and Benediction at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough  
**7.30pm** Cleveland Newman Circle Talk, St Mary's Cathedral Hall, Middlesbrough. All welcome.

**Thursday 14**  
**7.45pm** Middlesbrough Catenians meet at Middlesbrough Cricket Club. Meetings are currently taking place via Zoom

**Sunday 17**  
**3pm** Middlesbrough Fellowship Mass celebrated by Canon Derek Turnham at Sacred Heart, Redcar

**Monday 18**  
**9.45am–10.25am** Beverley Christian Meditation Group meets online. Further information from [Christianmeditation.beverley@gmail.com](mailto:Christianmeditation.beverley@gmail.com)

**Tuesday 19**  
**10am** Christian Meditation Group meets online. Further information from Terry Doyle at emailing [terry-doyle@live.co.uk](mailto:terry-doyle@live.co.uk).

**Wednesday 20**  
**5.30pm** Vespers and Benediction at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough

**Sunday 24**  
Divine Mercy Sunday day of prayer at St Aelred's in York. Eucharist Adoration from 11.30am, with confessions from around 1pm and available throughout the afternoon.  
The Holy Hour of Mercy will begin at 3pm and there will also be blessing of the image, diary readings, Chaplet of Mercy, individual consecration to the Divine Mercy, a eucharist procession and benediction. All are welcome and tea and biscuits will be served afterwards in the community centre

**Monday 25**  
**9.45am–10.25am** Beverley Christian Meditation Group meets online. Further information from [Christianmeditation.beverley@gmail.com](mailto:Christianmeditation.beverley@gmail.com)

**Tuesday 26**  
**10am** Christian Meditation Group meets online. Further information from Terry Doyle at emailing [terry-doyle@live.co.uk](mailto:terry-doyle@live.co.uk).

**Wednesday 27**  
**5.30pm** Vespers and Benediction at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough  
**7.45pm** Cleveland Newman Circle meets at St Mary's Cathedral Hall. With tea and coffee from 7.30pm. Professor Terry Wright will speak on the subject of "Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a very Catholic Protestant martyr"

Bishops’ statement calls for end to violence

**The presidents and vice-presidents of the Catholic Bishops’ Conferences of England and Wales, Ireland, and Scotland issued a statement on the escalating violence in Ukraine when they met in London.**

“In the face of the shocking loss of life, bloodshed, displacement of people and destruction of property in Ukraine, we make these heartfelt appeals,” it said.

“We ask our Catholic communities to sustain the prayer and self-denial of Lent as a constant offering to God, begging for an end to this pointless violence.

“We ask our fellow Christians everywhere, including Patriarch Kirill and all in the Russian Orthodox Church, to join in solidarity with us in daily spiritual and practical efforts for a ceasefire, for humanitarian outreach and the silencing and laying down of weapons.

“We ask all who have an instinct for God to raise their hearts and minds in prayer for peace. We urge everyone to open their hearts and respond generously to the many appeals for help and support for all who are fleeing their homeland.

“We call on the UK and Irish governments to offer an open and generous welcome to those who seek refuge in the face of this warfare.”

The statement was signed by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop Eamon Martin, Bishop Hugh Gilbert, Archbishop Malcolm McMahon, Archbishop Dermot Farrell and Bishop John Keenan on behalf of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, the Irish Catholic Bishops’ Conference and the Bishops’ Conference of Scotland.

Copy Deadline

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Tel (01642) 850505, email [catholicvoice@rcdmidd.org.uk](mailto:catholicvoice@rcdmidd.org.uk)  
**Deadline Friday April 1 for our May edition.**  
**Where possible please send articles in Word and photographs as jpegs. Please confirm when you send in your photographs that those who appear in them have given their permission for publication.**



NEWS

# Introducing our new SVP membership support officer

**I recently became the new membership support officer for the Diocese of Middlesbrough's St Vincent De Paul Society.**

My main responsibilities are to lead in the recruitment of new volunteers into the SVP and strengthen and support existing conferences.

I am a member of St Bernadette's SVP in Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough, where I volunteered after an appeal eight years ago.

I love being a member of a friendly and supportive group of people who all bring something different to the team, both practically and spiritually.

The motto of the SVP is "Turning concern into action" – so how do we help?

Befriending is a huge part of what we do, by visiting people or having a quick chat on the

phone. This can make someone's day. We shop, offer lifts, collect for the local foodbanks and support other projects in our area. We also offer help and assistance to our refugees and asylum seekers.

These acts of kindness don't take up large amounts of time, but they make a huge difference to the people receiving them.

It's not just parishioners we support – we help anyone in need, irrespective of their faith. Right now, more than ever, we need volunteers, whatever your skills and experiences and however much time you can spare.

I hope to visit as many parishes as I can to introduce myself and help in any way, so please don't be shy, come and say hello!

You can contact me on 07554336984 or



New SVP membership officer Sharon Pemberton

sharonp@svp.org.uk.

Sharon Pemberton

# Finding more ways to turn 'Faith into action'

**Most Catholics give to charities such as CAFOD, particularly during Lent. It is good to have a period that reminds us to do this.**

People's generosity during the pandemic has been heartwarming. Some could easily afford to do this, while others couldn't but gave anyway – "The widow's mite" springs to mind. We often feel good about being able to help. But I wonder, is it enough?

Could we reach out to families coming back to Church? Just a hello and a smile for the children would make them feel welcome again. The fact that we often don't know those who go to different Masses came up in our Synod discussions, both in the SVP and in the parishes.

We might make more effort to get to know others in our parish, now that restrictions

have eased, and especially over Easter, when more people may attend.

My daughter told me how an elderly lady in her Leeds parish always talks to them and tells three-year-old Elijah how good he's been in Church. She said it made such a difference when struggling with toddlers at Mass.

At the recent baptism of her youngest son, several parishioners spoke to the family and welcomed all 45 of us, including their non-Catholic friends. What a lovely message of the local Catholic community this gave.

Much of the work done by the SVP over the last year has been reaching out to the lonely and isolated in our communities, particularly when we were unable to visit in person. Hopefully, we can continue this.

There may be relatives we haven't spoken to

or neighbours we haven't seen now we've stopped walking every day. Perhaps we could have a friendly word with the Big Issue seller or the homeless man on the street rather than just handing money over? There may be new families who have moved into your area and who know nobody.

None of these suggestions are as easy as giving money we can afford, as we have to give of ourselves and perhaps our time, but it would make such a difference to the recipients.

We can show our love of God through loving our neighbour.

Frances Gilchrist, Middlesbrough SVP President

# Rite of Election returns to cathedral

**More than 100 people gathered at St Mary's Cathedral on Sunday March 6 for the first Rite of Election in the diocese in two years.**

Bishop Terry presided at the service as 10 people presented themselves as catechumens who will be baptised and received into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.

Another eight people standing as candidates will also be received into full Communion at Easter. One person described the service as "moving and emotional".

Our new director of music Steven Maxson and the diocesan choir led us beautifully with their singing, making the service a very memorable occasion.

Thank you to catechists and clergy who have helped to prepare people for this part of their journey in faith.

It was great to begin to get things going again. Let's hope that there will be even more people ready for next year's Rite of Election.



# Ancient Byzantine iconography course at Stonyhurst

The Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst College in Clitheroe, Lancashire, is holding a seven-day exploration of the spirituality and discipline of writing an icon in the Byzantine style. The course is led by Deacon Nikita Andreyev, of the Prosopon School of Iconography, and residential and non-residential options are available. The course takes place from Saturday June 25 to Friday July 1. Visit christianheritagecentre.com/events/iconography-course/ for more information.

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NEWS



Long-serving Catenian Jim Goodwin with Ian Calvert, of South Shields and Sunderland Circle, and provincial president John Thompson

# Golden celebrations for Catenian Jim

Fifty years of faith and friendship was celebrated when Middlesbrough Catenians gathered for their monthly meeting. Long-serving Jim Goodwin was presented with a memento scroll having achieved half a century of membership of the association. Jim joined the Catenians on February 9 1972, knowing they were a group of Catholic men who enjoyed each other's company through spiritual and social activities. But he turned up to his first meeting along with his wife Mary, only to be reminded that the meetings were for men only! Jim soon realised that although the Catenians is not primarily an organisation for charitable works, most members are involved in organisations such as CAFOD, SVP, school governing bodies in education and fundraising for various causes.

"I was very proud and pleased to be appointed president of Middlesbrough Circle on four occasions, greatly supported by Mary, who managed to curtail any excesses which may have come my way," Jim said. Middlesbrough Circle is one of 17 in the northern area and Jim served on the provincial and as provincial president in 2019/20. However, his year in office was interrupted in March 2020 when he was hospitalised after he suffered a stroke, at a time when strict visiting restrictions were in place because of the pandemic. Thankfully, Jim was nursed back to health – and he says the hundreds of cards, get-well messages and prayer offerings played a big part in his recovery.

# Worshippers come together to pray for peace

More than 80 worshippers gathered for Ash Wednesday Mass at St Gabriel's Church in Ormesby in response to Pope Francis' call for us to fast and pray for Ukraine on the first day of Lent. They then stayed on to pray before the Blessed Sacrament and the silence in the church was palpable. "We may feel helpless in the face of such aggression, but we believe that when we pray, we are doing a mighty work, calling on the Lord our God to intervene on behalf of the suffering people of Ukraine," said Canon John Lumley. "We know that, 'The Lord hears the cry of the poor'."

Gabriel's School came into the church to receive their ashes. Prayers were offered for Ukraine and a candle was lit to represent the light of Christ in our world. White poppies were also placed before the altar as a sign of the peace of God that we all long for. Here is the powerful prayer the children prayed: *Goodness is stronger than evil Love is stronger than hate Light is stronger than death Victory is ours through God, who loves us. Amen*



Children from St Gabriel's Catholic Primary School in Ormesby praying for peace

# Environment Corner

## Historic global treaty to end plastic waste

For the first time, an agreement has been reached by leaders from 175 countries to draw up a legally binding treaty by 2024 that will regulate plastic production and pollution on an international scale. This resolution was passed at the UN Environment Assembly in Kenya on March 2 and is being seen as the most important international multilateral environmental deal since the Paris climate accord. The resolution will see nations produce a set of universal rules and targets to end plastic waste "from source to sea". To date, the world has generated more than seven billion tonnes of plastic waste, of which only nine per cent has been recycled. The vast majority of all plastic produced is currently piling up in landfills, polluting the environment, harming marine life and breaking down into microplastics that have found their way into everything – most notably our oceans and fish. This resolution establishes a committee that will complete a draft agreement by the end of 2024. The result will be a legally binding instrument that will reflect diverse alternatives concerning the full lifecycle of plastics – the design of reusable and recyclable material, and above all enhanced international collaboration on all aspects of technology, and scientific cooperation. "Today marks a triumph by planet earth over single-use plastics," said executive director of UNEP Inger Andersen. "This is the most significant environmental multilateral deal since the Paris accord. It is an insurance policy for this generation and future ones, so they may live with plastic and not

be doomed by it. In the midst of all the grimness that we're seeing in the world, it's really such great news." Japan's environment minister Tsuyoshi Yamaguchi added: "Together, let us go forward as we start the negotiations towards a better future with no plastic pollution."

Barbara Hungin





# Nuncio: War in Ukraine is ‘demonic’

The papal nuncio to Ukraine has described the conflict inflicted on the country as “evil” and “demonic” and said that it can only be defeated with a worldwide campaign of prayer, fasting, humility and love.

Speaking to Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), which has rushed through help for Ukraine, Archbishop Visvaldas Kulbokas said there was a spiritual aspect to the origins of the invasion and that spiritual tools needed to be part of the solution.

Archbishop Kulbokas, who was speaking from battle-scarred Yyiv, said: “And so it is during this war, which is not a purely human invention, there is something demonic about it – as there is in all violence.

“And we can only defeat the evil in this war together, all over the world, through fasting, prayer, much humility and love.

“So, I say to myself, and also to many believers I speak to, that our main weapons are humility, surrendering ourselves totally to God, solidarity, and love.

“Because, in any case, if we are here for each other, if we are close to God, if we are



Archbishop Visvaldas Kulbokas, Papal Nuncio to Ukraine – © Office of the President of Ukraine

faithful, he will look after us.”

Archbishop Kulbokas highlighted the current dangers for the people of Yyiv.

He said: “Every day and every night there have been missile attacks on several points of the city. We, at the Nunciature, are not in a

central area, so for now we have not seen any of the bombings from up close.

“We have witnessed some street fighting quite nearby. But it is very likely that things will get worse in the coming hours. In other cities like Kharkiv, the residential areas have been badly affected. Nobody in Ukraine can feel safe.

“The humanitarian crisis is very severe here, and in some other cities in Ukraine. And then there is something that weighs on us, it is not always possible to help.”

Ukraine is a priority country for ACN and the charity recently launched a £1.1m aid package for the neediest dioceses in the country.

Archbishop Kulbokas said: “Any help is appreciated. It is difficult to guess what the needs will be in the future, but a lot of infrastructure is damaged.

“Even from a structural and organisation perspective there will be a lot of work to do, because hundreds of schools, hospitals and homes were destroyed. The needs will be enormous. It will take a very long time.”

# Organisers hope evangelisation conference will build lasting legacy

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The On Fire! Conference hopes to reinvigorate evangelisation in England and Wales

Organisers of a major conference in Durham this autumn hope it will lead to the establishment of regional teams to help promote the Catholic faith.

The Young Catholic Adult Network (YouCAN) – which helps bring together young Catholics aged between 18 and 35 – has put together the programme in partnership with the Centre for Catholic Studies at Durham University, and with support from the National Vocations Office.

Those attending “On Fire!” will learn about God’s call to evangelise and practical lessons to put it into practice – as well as the problems that can be faced.

With the assistance of trainers from Catholic Voices, which seeks to improve the representation of the Church in the media, they will also learn how to defend themselves against criticism of the faith.

“The need for evangelisation has never been

so urgent,” said YouCAN’s Rina Bird.

“Recognising this, speakers from the Benedictine and Dominican orders, CAFOD, the St Vincent de Paul Society, Aid to the Church in Need, Catholic Voices have kindly given their time to enable this conference to take place at cost price only.

“We hope that among the many tangible benefits of the conference will be the establishment of regional evangelisation teams.”

On Fire! is not age-restricted, and any Catholics over the age of 18 are welcome to attend. It takes place at Durham University from Friday September 9 to Sunday September 11.

For more details, or to book, visit [dur.ac.uk/conference.booking/details/?id=1818](http://dur.ac.uk/conference.booking/details/?id=1818). To find out more about YouCAN, search for [youngcatholicadultnetworkuk](http://youngcatholicadultnetworkuk) on Instagram or visit [youngcatholicadultnetworkuk](http://youngcatholicadultnetworkuk).

## From the Archives



### 40 Years Ago

*(From April 1982 Catholic Voice)*

Father John Joseph Ryan, the respected and well-loved Chaplain at St Joseph’s Convent, Whitby, publicly celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his ordination to the Priesthood. At Father Garvan O’Hara’s invitation, the Jubilee Mass was concelebrated with more than 50 of his fellow priests in St. Hilda’s Church, Whitby, in the presence of his lordship Bishop Harris, who preached. The full congregation included clergy and representatives from other denominations. In the Parish Hall after Mass, Father Ryan was presented with various gifts, including a colour T.V. set, a return plane ticket to Ireland and a cheque.

### 100 Years Ago

*(From Bishop Shine’s Visitation Notebook, April 15 1922)*

Ugthorpe. The church is neat and well cared for. The large building is in a bad state; damp striking through the walls and the roof faulty in parts.

The cemetery is full & Fr. McGlone would like to make use of the plot in front of the church for burials. The people have collected nearly £100 towards a chapel which they say is required in the outskirts of the parish, about 50 people finding it difficult now to get to Mass. It would also be a help for the instruction of some 20 children who are obliged to go to the Council School in that neighbourhood.

David Smallwood

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## NEWS

# Human chain shows solidarity with Ukraine

**Almost 2,000 pupils and staff created a human chain across the city of York to show solidarity with the people of Ukraine.**

The prayer chain, which began at the Bar Convent and ran all the way to York Minster, was the idea of pupils at the city's All Saints Roman Catholic School.

Linked by yellow and blue ribbons, representing the colours of the Ukrainian flag, All Saints pupils were joined by those from Catholic primaries in the city, including year 6 from Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, who went straight from Mass to the prayer chain.

Pupils from Manor Church of England Academy and the Mount School also joined in to show their support.

Beginning at 11.10am, those taking part in the chain recited two prayers for peace and the symbolic stand against violence was brought to a moving close by the pupils singing the hymn Make Me a Channel of Your Peace.

All Saints' headteacher Sharon Keelan-Beardsley said: "Our students have all seen the horrors of war on their televisions and mobiles and sometimes they can feel impotent when all they want to do is help.

"By praying together, they were able to take a stand and bear witness to our school values and values they live by, such as justice and compassion.

"As I looked along the line of students, I felt very emotional, knowing that their response was heartfelt and their conviction in knowing what is right was very genuine.

"The school will plan some fundraising

activities to support the people of Ukraine, but the Pope asked the world to pray for peace in Ukraine at the start of Lent and I hope that collectively the prayers of our

young people can change people's hearts."

York Central MP Rachael Maskell Tweeted: I have just been reading letters that young people from All Saints School have written for

me to take to the Ukrainian Embassy – so moving. Young people care so much for those in deepest need, they give such hope."



Almost 2,000 pupils joined a human chain to show solidarity with the people of Ukraine – Photo by Johan Bergström-Allen

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