



I am sure you will be aware of our two new saints canonised last month, Ss Pier Giorgio Frassati and Carlo Acutis. There are lots of articles about them on the internet. They are not hard to find. Here is a little compact edition of what I have found about St Carlo Acutis.

Known for his deep devotion to the Catholic faith and his adept use of technology to share religious content, Carlo has become the first millennial saint.

He was born in London on May 3 1991 and his family later moved to Milan, where his passion for computer programming blossomed alongside his deepening faith.

Carlo, who died due to leukaemia in 2006 at the age of 15, was admired for his work in creating a website documenting Eucharistic miracles worldwide. His beatification took place in October 2020, and the recognition of a second miracle – an essential step in the process – marked the final step towards sainthood. Pope Francis officially recognised a second miracle attributed to Carlo and approved his canonisation. Carlo is celebrated not only for his piety but also for his ability to integrate his faith with modern technology, resonating deeply with young Catholics around the globe.

His life was characterised by a remarkable integration of faith and reason. Despite his young age, he exhibited an exceptional intellect and a keen interest in understanding the mysteries of technology and Catholicism. He spent many hours developing his skills as a computer programmer while remaining committed to prayer and devotion. His feast day is October 12.

Through his exemplary life and actions, St Carlo challenges us to examine our own lives and strive for holiness in all we do. May his legacy continue to inspire us to live lives of virtue, devotion and service to others, as we seek to follow Christ faithfully in the footsteps of this modern-day saint.

“Sadness is looking at ourselves, happiness is looking towards God,” Carlo would say. “The only thing we have to ask God for, in prayer, is the desire to be holy.”

O God, our Father, thank you for giving us Carlo, a life example for the young and a message of love for everyone. You made him become enamoured with your son Jesus, making the Eucharist his “Highway to Heaven”. You gave him Mary as a most loving mother and, with the Rosary, you made him a poet of her tenderness. Receive his prayer for us.

Above all, gaze upon the poor, whom he loved and helped. Grant for me too, by his intercession, the grace I need. And make our joy fulfilled, placing Carlo among the saints of your Church, so that his smile may shine again for us in the glory of your name. Amen.

St Carlo Acutis, pray for us.

In blessed hope,

*+ Terry*

## What's Inside

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# Bishop reflects on shared devotion to Our Lady

Principal celebrant Bishop Terry was joined by priests and deacons from throughout the diocese for our annual Assumption Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Grace.

The event began with recitation of the Rosary before the clergy processed onto the outdoor altar for Mass beneath our recently erected canopy.

In his homily, Bishop Terry talked about the different ways he has seen the Feast of the Assumption celebrated by Vietnamese-Canadian, Kenyan and Spanish Catholics.

All had different ways of marking this special day, he said, but all are united in giving honour and respect to Our Blessed Lady.

“Mary’s Assumption shows us our own destiny as God’s adopted children and members of the body of Christ,” Bishop Terry said. “Like Mary our Mother, we are called to share fully in the Lord’s victory over sin and death, and to reign with him in his eternal Kingdom. This is our vocation. This is our hope.

“In honouring Mary, Queen of Heaven, we also turn to her as Mother of the Church. We ask her to help us to be faithful to the royal freedom we received on the day of our baptism, to guide our efforts to transform the world in accordance with God’s plan, and to enable us, as the local Church to be ever more fully a leaven of his kingdom in society.

“May we be a generous force for spiritual renewal at every level of society. May we combat the allure of a materialism that stifles authentic spiritual and cultural values and the spirit of unbridled competition, which generates selfishness and strife.



Deacon Tom Rolfe reads the gospel during this year’s Assumption Pilgrimage to Mount Grace – Photo by Joe Harrison

“May we also reject inhumane economic models which create new forms of poverty and marginalise workers, and the culture of death which devalues the image of God, the God of life, and violates the dignity of every man, woman and child.

“As Catholics, heirs to a noble tradition, we are called to cherish this legacy and transmit it to future generations. This will demand of everyone a renewed conversion to the word of God and a passionate concern for the poor, the needy and the vulnerable in our midst.”

Brothers from Council 29 of the Knights of St Columba worked on preparing the Lady Chapel site in the days leading up to this year’s Assumption pilgrimage.

They also marshalled car parking, helped those who needed lifts up the hill and assisted our clergy during the Mass itself.

Father Anthony Storey’s beautiful booklet describing the history of the Lady Chapel, updated by Father Neil McNicholas, is available from the Curial Office, St Mary’s Cathedral or the Lady Chapel itself, priced £1.

Friends of the Lady Chapel members are united in the spirituality of the Lady Chapel through an annual Mass and daily prayers and also receive newsletters and invitations to events. A suggested membership donation is £10 a year for an individual or a family group. Schools are also welcome to join. Visit [ladychapel.org.uk/friends](http://ladychapel.org.uk/friends) for more information.

Have you ever thought about leaving a legacy to the Friends of the Lady Chapel in your will? By doing so you will help to preserve this important shrine to Our Lady for future generations and bequests are free of inheritance tax.

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NEWS

# Pilgrims gather to remember St Margaret and York Martyrs

**Hundreds of pilgrims gathered in York to take part in a pilgrimage to honour St Margaret Clitherow and the York Martyrs.**

A civic party, including the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of York, the Sheriff of York and the Sheriff's Consort, took part in the procession and attended the Mass.

Before the procession set off from Micklegate Bar, the Lord Mayor and the Sheriff delivered speeches at the Bar Convent.

The Lord Mayor reflected on the Pearl of York's enduring legacy, saying, "Her story has

become his story, and has become history."

The procession made notable stops at the Ouse Bridge, where St Margaret was martyred, and at the shrine on the Shambles, the street where she once lived.

The day ended with a solemn Mass at the Oratory, followed by Benediction in the afternoon.

Pilgrims came from York and from all over the world to take part in this moving event, celebrating the faith and sacrifice of St Margaret Clitherow and her fellow martyrs.



The procession passing York Minster

# Sadness after death of Catholic royal

**A Catholic charity has joined Cardinal Vincent Nichols in expressing its sadness after the death of the Duchess of Kent.**

The duchess, who was the first member of the royal family to publicly convert to Catholicism, passed away on Friday September 5 at the age of 92.

On hearing the news, HCPT chief executive Tricia Macfarlane said: "We are saddened by the death of Katharine, Duchess of Kent, HCPT patron.

"She knew from personal experience that Lourdes is a very special place, and that HCPT's pilgrimages to Lourdes are truly life changing for so many children and adults.

"Katharine's support meant a great deal to us. Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her."

HCPT is a volunteer-based UK charity founded in 1956 in response to Our Lady's invitation to go on pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Every Easter, HCPT groups, including one in York, travel to Lourdes on pilgrimage with children and young people who have a variety of needs.

Cardinal Nichols assured the Duke of Kent of

the prayers of the Catholic community in England and Wales.

"I recall with fondness her presence in our community, especially her participation in the pilgrimage to Lourdes, as well as her lifetime of public service," the cardinal said.

"We pray that God will receive her soul into heaven, the promise given to us by Our Lord, Jesus Christ. May Katharine now rest in peace and rise in glory."

The duchess was received into the Catholic Church by the then Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Basil Hume. She volunteered for the Passage homelessness charity, which Cardinal Hume had helped set up, and of which the Prince of Wales is now patron.

She spent many years teaching music at Wansbeck Primary School in Hull and was known as Mrs Kent to the children, who did not know her real identity.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols led the liturgy at the duchess's funeral at Westminster Cathedral. Senior royals including King Charles and the Prince and Princess of Wales were among the mourners.



HRH Duchess of Kent with Bishop Victor Guazzelli and HCPT founder Michael Strode at HCPT Bartrès Ball fundraising event in 1987

## Holy Father calls for a 'human alliance' rooted in fraternity

**At the opening of the third World Meeting on Human Fraternity, Pope Leo delivered a powerful message urging participants to foster a "human alliance" founded on care, generosity and trust instead of power, profit and suspicion.**

Speaking in the Sala Clementina, the Pope emphasised that in a world plagued by conflict and division, the gathering stands as a "strong and courageous 'no' to war, and a resounding 'yes' to peace and fraternity".

Drawing from the Biblical story of Cain and Abel, Pope Leo cautioned against accepting violence as normal.

"Where is your brother?" he asked, framing

it as a call for reconciliation and personal responsibility in daily life. This question challenges individuals to confront their roles in perpetuating conflict or loneliness in society.

Highlighting Pope Francis's stance that war is never the answer, the Pope explained that seeing others as sisters and brothers frees humanity from isolation and selfishness. Fraternity, he said, reveals the face of God in everyone – including the poor, the lonely and even enemies.

He urged ongoing efforts to build inclusive, participatory bonds across cultures, generations and social groups, insisting that true fraternity must include the marginalised as active partners.



# Celebrations continue in Ireland for Canon Pat

The celebrations for Canon Pat Harney’s platinum jubilee of priestly ordination continued when he returned to the church where he celebrated his first Mass.

Friends and family gathered at St Ann’s Church in Fews, Kilmacthomas, County Waterford, where a message was read out on behalf of the Diocese of Middlesbrough.

It said: “Canon Harney’s 70 years of priestly ministry stand out as an exceptional witness to faith.

“It is truly an extraordinary achievement and wonderful blessing, for him and especially for the thousands of people to whom he ministered and, indeed we should say, continues to minister through his work.

“During those years, he served in many parishes, but most notably as dean of the newly built St Mary’s Cathedral in Coulby Newham, establishing its central importance in the diocese.

“Among the clergy, Canon Harney is well respected by all for his wisdom and dedication. We are blessed by his witness.

“From all in the Diocese of Middlesbrough, we wish him many more blessings and a great celebration as he returns to the place of his first Mass.”

Afterwards, Canon Pat joined guests in Danny’s Bar as the celebrations continued with tea and sandwiches.

“There was enormous goodwill, respect and pride for Canon Harney’s service to the Church and its people,” said administrator of the church, Father Mark.

“It was amazing to hear and see how Canon Harney maintained and developed his ties with home, family and friends despite being separated by the Irish Sea. A true bridge-builder. Praise the Lord!”



Canon Pat Harney with fellow clergy in the church where he celebrated his first Mass 70 years ago

# Pilgrims proudly carry new banner along Holy Mile

York Walsingham Association members made their annual four-day pilgrimage to Walsingham during the summer.

On our last evening we joined the candlelit ecumenical procession, starting at the Anglican parish church, through the village to the modern Catholic church, then to the beautiful grounds of the Anglican shrine. We sang all the way, pausing at each place for

scripture and a short reflection. Our pilgrimage closed with Mass among a huge attendance by England’s Traveller community – the carpark and overflow were crowded with mobile homes. York Walsingham Association has a new banner. We carried it proudly in the candlelit procession, as well as parading it along the Holy Mile on the morning pilgrimages.

“What about the toad?” asked a pilgrim. Erasmus’s description of the statue at the medieval shrine describes a toad under Our Lady’s shoe. By tradition, she treads on the snake from the Garden of Eden, but the medieval English decided that, for lack of poisonous snakes in our land, she should have a poisonous toad under her shoe. A toad has now been added.

With “Ave Maria, Hail Mary” at the top of the banner, “Noli Timere” (Don’t be afraid) was chosen for below Our Lady’s picture. It is the angels’ message three times in the Nativity story, and an important reassurance for our own troubled era.

Mary Callan



York Walsingham Association members at the Middlesbrough cross before Mass for the Feast of the Assumption

## BISHOP TERRY’S OCTOBER ENGAGEMENTS

- |   |   |       |  |    |   |    |  |
|---|---|-------|--|----|---|----|--|
| 2 | Visits St Wilfrid’s School, York, for 150th Anniversary Celebration 9am   | 6-11  | Leads the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome for the Holy Year                            |    | the Very Reverend Canon Michael Loughlin at Sacred Heart Parish, Middlesbrough 12pm | 22 | Chairs a Consultation Meeting regarding 18 North End, Osmotherley, at St Joseph’s Parish Hall, Stokesley 6pm |
| 3 | Attends a Mass of Thanksgiving for the Episcopal Ministry of Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon, Archbishop Emeritus of Liverpool, at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral 7pm | 13-15 | Attends the Owned by All Conference at the High Leigh Conference Centre, Huddesdon | 22 | Attends a Meeting of the Northern Province at Bishop’s House, Leeds 10.30am         | 28 | Chairs Meeting of the Trustee Board at the Curial Office, Middlesbrough 10.30am                              |
|   |   | 18    | Attends Mass for the Ruby Jubilee of Ordination to the Sacred Priesthood of        |    |   |    |  |



SCHOOLS

# St Mary's ranked among top 100 state schools

**St Mary's College in Hull has been named among the best schools in the UK after its GCSE and A-level results set it apart from the rest.**

A list of the top 100 best state schools in 2025 has been revealed by the Daily Mail, based on GCSE and A-level results, extracurricular activities, class sizes and The Good Schools Guide.

The newspaper says private schools have become around 20 per cent more expensive since the scrapping of tax breaks on independent school fees. Higher fees mean parents have turned their backs on private schooling, with children switching to state education.

However, the schools in this list, which includes some of the most prestigious names in London, Oxford and Cambridge, offer an education it says is equivalent to or better than private schools.

St Mary's is the only school in the Hull and

East Riding area to feature in the prestigious national ranking.

The school's consistently strong exam performance, combined with its "Outstanding" Ofsted rating, helped secure its position.

Explaining why St Mary's College was included, the report said: "This mixed comprehensive in Hull is heavily oversubscribed, thanks to consistently high results at GCSE and A-level, which enable students to progress onto the most competitive courses at top universities, including Oxbridge."

This summer St Mary's celebrated its best-ever GCSE results, with 287 grade 9s, the highest possible grade, being achieved.

Headteacher Maria Stead said: "St Mary's is proud to take its place on this list of prestigious and successful state schools in the country."

Naomi Bedworth



St Mary's College student Penny sat several exams early in the summer while in Year 10 and achieved the top grade 9 in her History GCSE and a distinction in Dance

# Pupils follow in footsteps of patron St Aelred

**Year 6 pupils from St Aelred's Catholic Primary School, York, started the school year by visiting Rievaulx Abbey, the Cistercian monastery where St Aelred lived and served as abbot in the 12th century.**

For many of the children, it was their first time visiting this historic and spiritual site.

The visit was organised with Father Bill Serplus and parishioners from St Aelred's Church.

Parishioners shared their knowledge of monastic life and of St Aelred, giving the children the chance to connect more deeply with their school saint.

A highlight of the day was a liturgy led by Father Bill, held within the abbey ruins.

Together, pupils, staff and parishioners reflected on the words of John's Gospel: "Love one another as I have loved you."

Members of the public who were visiting the abbey also joined in prayer and song, bringing to life the sense of community and

welcome St Aelred taught.

The visit echoed the school's mission of "Learning together in friendship with God" and reflected their school values of friendship, courage and respect.

Pupils showed friendship not only in supporting one another but also in the sense of friendship they shared with Father Bill and the parishioners who accompanied them.

They showed courage by asking thoughtful questions about St Aelred's life and their faith, and respect for the historic site.

Class teacher Stuart Hill said: "Our pupils didn't just learn about St Aelred, they experienced his message. The liturgy in the

abbey was very special and gave us all a chance to live out our mission together as a school and parish family.

"For the children, this was more than a school trip; it was a chance to walk in the footsteps of their patron saint, to deepen their faith, and to see how, like St Aelred, we are all called to live in friendship with God and with one another."

The school now hopes to make this pilgrimage to Rievaulx Abbey an annual event for Year 6 pupils.

Headteacher Claire Hughes added: "We couldn't think of a more fitting way to start the new school year for our Year 6 pupils than

with a visit to Rievaulx Abbey – a place so deeply connected to our school by our patron, St Aelred. The children had a fantastic day, taking time to pray, reflect and be together before beginning another busy school year.

"It was wonderful to see our faith in action through the unity of our school and parish community.

"A particular thanks goes to the members of the parish who supported the visit, and to Father Bill for generously taking time out of his busy schedule to spend this special day with us."



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Head of School: Miss H Lickess

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**St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School**

Part Of the Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust

South Bank, Middlesbrough TS6 6TA  
Tel 01642 835370

Headteacher: Miss C McNicholas  
email: enquiries@smc.npcat.org.uk



Year 6 pupils from St Aelred's Catholic Primary School, York, during their visit to Rievaulx Abbey



# St Cuthbert's

## ROMAN CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST



## Support Schools, Inspire Growth



Could you support one of the schools in the St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Academy Trust as a member of one of our Local Governance Boards?

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- ensure that schools deliver the Trust's ethos, vision and strategy

If you have the right professional skills and are interested in becoming a member of one of our Local Governance Boards, please contact the Trust Community & Governance Lead, Naomi Bedworth ( [nbedworth@scrcat.org](mailto:nbedworth@scrcat.org) ) or talk to your local parish priest.



For pupil admissions information, please visit the St Cuthbert's Trust website to find your nearest school: [www.scrcat.org/our-schools](http://www.scrcat.org/our-schools)

**All of our schools have been rated 'GOOD' or 'OUTSTANDING' by Ofsted & CSI inspectors**



## NEWS

# Fellowship offers warm welcome, smiles and hope

In Pope Francis' encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* (All brothers and sisters), he places great emphasis on human beings being given dignity, saying: "God has created all human being with equal rights, duties, and dignity, and has called them to live together as brothers and sisters." (FT 5)

The Middlesbrough Catholic Fellowship perfectly embodies these teachings. This year I worked as a brancardier in Lourdes and spent time thinking how much I loved the service, joy and fellowship that was shared between the pilgrims – it is a place where you see the face of Jesus in others, with the love of our Blessed Mother.

When the pilgrimage was ending, I couldn't help but feel a sense of sadness that I wouldn't be able to have that same feeling for another year. So sitting with Tony Kirk in the Brancs bar was perfect timing and we got into a conversation about the Catholic Fellowship and how I could help the group.

After sleeping in for the Fellowship's Saturday morning playgroup the first week after Lourdes, I was filled with joy when I walked into the room the following Saturday. Faces I knew from Lourdes greeted me, but then other new faces, members I hadn't met, also said, "Hello Chris!", a simple greeting and fellowship immediately formed, regardless of faith or background.

Each week I attend the group I am filled with the same joy and warmth of the heart. I've even learnt to win a game of dominoes too!

To then go on a summer holiday with the group was an amazing experience. It's not easy – you work hard – but that joy, the warmth of the Spirit and the love is constant.

Pope Francis, in his call to the Jubilee Year, urged us to not be held back, but to change and carry hope with us. Joining the Fellowship holiday has certainly fulfilled this for me; I would usually spend the summer holidays snoozing, but by changing and following the call to serve, I've very much been filled with hope – a hope in the mercy and service of humankind, in acts of kindness and compassion and a hope in prayer and reflection (Wydale Hall certainly offers tranquillity and spaces for prayer). But most of all I am filled with the hope in God's promise of his love and providence.

If you're looking for an opportunity to see Elvis, The Beatles or The Love Affair singing karaoke, Tiger Woods or Rory McIlroy taking a five put, a cheeky monkey chasing a sly fox or being part of Ladies who Lunch, you certainly want to spend time on the Fellowship holiday



The late Father Peter Ryan was much missed during this year's Fellowship holiday but the group was delighted to welcome Canon John Lumley who celebrated a lovely Mass for them

or at one of the Wednesday or Saturday clubs. It is a time when the feeling I was dreading missing from Lourdes has been fulfilled. It's a place to see the Spirit at work; a place where you will have your heart filled

with joy, but you will also bring joy to the hearts of others.

If this is something you are looking for yourself, you would be more than welcome at the youth club (Wednesdays, 7pm-9pm) or

playgroup (Saturdays, 10am-noon) at St Thomas More Church Hall in Easterside, Middlesbrough. If you'd like to get involved, email Tony Kirk at [anthony.kirk@ntlworld.com](mailto:anthony.kirk@ntlworld.com).

**Christopher Lovell**



Bishop Terry celebrated confirmations at Our Lady's in York for young people from the parishes of Our Lady's, St Aelred's, English Martyrs, St Margaret Clitherow, St Mary and St Joseph and St Wilfrid's. One young person from Middlesbrough who was unavailable for the dates in their own parish was also confirmed – photo by Johan Bergström-Allen

## A Letter From Madonna House – God will break through when time is right



**I recently heard a testimony given by a former Muslim woman. From the age of 19 to 40 she was filled with a great desire to know the truth, in particular the truth about who God is.**

Her Muslim parents had been very loving to her, and they spoke about loving God and her neighbours. But they did not practise their faith.

As a young adult finding herself in an abusive marriage, she turned to her Muslim faith, praying five times a day and reading the Quran. There was a chapter on Mary – Maryam, as she is called in the Quran, the mother of Jesus the Prophet. She was very taken with Mary. But still there was no entrance to God's love here.

One day, as a tourist, she walked into St Patrick's Cathedral, New York, and was immediately captivated by a picture of Jesus. His eyes pierced her deeply and though she turned away, she felt he was watching her all the while.

But how could he help? He was not God; God cannot have a son. This is what her faith told her. She then discovered a chapel of Mary. As she was gazing at her lovingly, she felt hands on her shoulders turning her around and she was now facing Jesus.

She was filled with peace but cried out to God that this was not right and she did not want to offend Allah because Allah could not possibly have a son. She heard these words, which were filled with great authority and love: "Who are you to tell me what I can and cannot do? You may come back when you wish to listen."

These words and encounters broke through her mindset, and she knew God loved her, that he was a God of love and that Jesus, God, is the truth of God the Father's love and only he could give her the life she so desperately wanted.

Another woman was raised Catholic, practiced her faith and raised her children Catholic. Covid struck when she was in her

90s, so she had to settle for Mass on TV. After Covid she continued watching Mass and being content to make a spiritual communion.

Then one day, not so long ago, she read a book about the Real Presence. And when her daughter went to visit her, she proclaimed to her daughter this revelation, that Jesus is really present, flesh and blood and divinity, in the host. Now she was happy to have her daughter bring her communion from Mass and now, at the age of 96, she would receive him and quietly say: "He's real; he's here."

What does it take? Desire? Grace? Waiting on God? All the above? I think one thing is for sure. God wants us to know that he loves us and that he is waiting for us. He will break through at the right time. Let us be open and just keep asking.

Yours in Christ,

**Father Kieran Kilcommons**



# Four days filled with faith and summertime fun

**More than 40 young people from across the diocese enjoyed four days of catechises, prayer and fun at a Catholic summer residential event at Ampleforth.**

They joined another 50 young people from Lincolnshire, Cumbria and Scotland at Faith Summertime during the first week of the summer holidays to grow in their Catholic faith and in friendship.

The youngsters listened to five talks, which explained to them concrete evidence for the truths of their Catholic faith.

The first talk explored proofs for the existence of God, outlining that the universe is a “cosmos” not a “chaos”, and that the laws of science and the complexity of creation confirm that there must be a “lawgiver”, who is God.

The second presentation focused on the high point of God’s creation, human beings, who are intelligent and a unity of body and soul, made out of love, for love.

Then, the young people looked at how the disaster of original sin has confused our intellect, scattered our emotions and weakened our will towards committing personal sin.

The next talk was about Jesus Christ, true God who becomes true man as our saviour and our redeemer from sin. Lastly, participants looked at Christ’s establishment of the Church as our “spiritual environment” in which we can hear the Word of God today in its teachings and meet Christ in the sacraments.



**Around 90 young people took part in this year’s Faith Summertime**

The children showed what they had learned in all the talks by producing, in groups, a “children’s Catechism” book designed to explain the central truths of the faith to eight-year-olds.

Three of the young-adult helpers also gave powerful testimonies on the last morning about their own love of the Mass in their lives.

Mass, celebrated in Ampleforth Abbey, was at

the heart of each day and the young people also joined the monks for compline on two of the nights. There was also an opportunity for the Sacrament of Confession, a period of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and other periods of prayer.

On the first full day, in what is a highlight for many of the young people, there was an afternoon trip to Flamingo Land where they enjoyed rides, games and the zoo. On the

second full day, they took part in sports such as cricket, football and traditional school sports day activities.

Faith Summertime is an event of the Faith Movement which always takes place at the beginning of the school summer holidays. To look out for the date for next year, visit [faith.org.uk](http://faith.org.uk).

**Father Richard Marsden**

## Thank you for supporting our global neighbours

**CAFOD would like to thank all parishes and communities who have come together to support our Family Fast Day Appeal.**

Whether through donations, prayer, collections or fundraising events, you have shared hope with families in Ethiopia and around the world.

This harvest time, we shared the story of Waré, a mother in southern Ethiopia. For years, she walked for hours every day to fetch water for her husband and children even while pregnant, fearing for her health and her child’s safety.

Thanks to your donations, CAFOD’s local partner and water expert Abbiott worked with Waré’s community to build an underground water tank to harvest the rains. Today, more than 300 families have safe, clean water close to home.

CAFOD has worked in Ethiopia for nearly 40 years and was pleased to assist Bishop Paul Swarbrick in his recent visit to the country. We appreciate Bishop Paul’s call for us to “stand in solidarity with its people, acknowledging their struggles and amplifying their voices”.

The climate crisis continues to bring uncertainty around the world, with many families still walking miles each day for water. Thanks to your generosity, more communities like Waré’s can get safe water.

Your gifts and prayers are also reaching communities in places of conflict such as Gaza, Ukraine and Sudan, where CAFOD’s partners are working courageously to help families who are facing unimaginable hardship. By donating to CAFOD, you are helping families get the food, water, shelter and medical care they need.

We are especially grateful to parish priests and parish volunteers who have helped organise collections, shared CAFOD’s stories and encouraged generosity and solidarity in their parishes.

Pope Leo XIV told us: “Jesus reminds us in the Gospel to love our neighbour, and this



**Waré collecting water – Photo from CAFOD**

challenges us now more than ever to remember to see our neighbours today with the eyes of Christ: that all of us are created in the image and likeness of God.”

Thank you for your witness to that love for

our global neighbours this Family Fast Day.

It’s not too late to give. Please support CAFOD’s Family Fast Day Appeal by donating online at [cafod.org.uk/envelope](http://cafod.org.uk/envelope), or by calling 0303 303 3030.

Together, we’re building a better world.

**Rachel Blaylock**

**CAFOD Community Participation Coordinator**



## NEWS

# Say a prayer for the hidden heroes of the sea

**Seafarers and fishers live and work on the periphery of society, spending days or months at sea.**

Their lives are hidden and yet they play a crucial role in bringing us so much of the food, fuel and goods we consume.

From clothing and digital devices to bananas and tea, almost 90% of goods are transported on cargo ships crewed by thousands of seafarers from all over the world.

Seafarers and fishers make enormous sacrifices just to bring us the basic things we enjoy in life.

Their work is tough, and the shifts can be gruelling – for some that means six hours on, six hours off, day after day. They have to eat, sleep, wash and speak with loved ones in a six-hour window before they're back on shift.

Most shipping companies provide for crew welfare, but life on board can be lonely and isolating, shore leave is becoming less frequent and sailing in dangerous shipping routes is an unavoidable part of the job.

Seafarers and fishers also miss their families back home. They miss out on important moments that many of us take for granted – births, graduations, celebrations, funerals...

But their sacrifices and hardships don't go unrecognised, and seafarers and fishers are not forgotten. Stella Maris, the Catholic charity supporting seafarers, fishers and their families, is present in ports around the UK to provide friendship, care, practical and spiritual support.

Recently, the Stella Maris team in the Tees assisted the crew of a cargo ferry which sailed regularly between Teesport and Zeebrugge in the Netherlands.

The only chance the seafarers had to get ashore was during weekends that their ship called at Zeebrugge. They enjoyed shopping for themselves and their families back home in the Philippines, but the shopping centre was too far to walk, taxis were expensive and eventually they gave up on the shopping trips altogether.

Hearing this, Stella Maris Tees volunteers Billy Barnett and Wico van Mourick decided to help. They managed to get 10 bikes at a reduced rate for the crew. They were delighted that they could get ashore again, enjoy some exercise and get to the shops.

Stella Maris Regional port chaplain Deacon Peter Barrigan said: "Spending nine months working on a ship when 'every day is a Monday' so far from home can be tough for seafarers. It's often the least expected help that makes all the difference."

For the crew, those bicycles have made such a difference, not only for their physical wellbeing, but more importantly, for their mental health.

As we celebrate the season of harvest and abundance, please remember the hidden heroes of the sea and say a prayer for them. Your kindness and support mean a lot to them.

For more about the work of Stella Maris visit [stellamaris.org.uk](http://stellamaris.org.uk).



Stella Maris Tees volunteer Billy Barnett with a seafarer and the bikes

# Stella Maris fundraiser receives prestigious award

**Accomplished yachtsman and seafaring charity supporter Russell Fairman, who undertook an epic voyage around Britain to raise awareness of the work of maritime charity Stella Maris, has been honoured with the esteemed British Citizen Award (BCA).**

Russ, a longstanding supporter of Stella Maris, was presented with his medal for services to volunteering and charitable giving.

In 2023, Russ undertook a unique 70-day, 2,433-mile voyage on his trusted 34-foot boat, Mintaka, covering 2,433 miles, to mark the centenary of Stella Maris' work.

The journey involved daily crew changes with people of varying degrees of sailing experience and visits to 65 ports and historic sites. Hundreds of people from church and community groups across 22 locations in all four nations of the UK also joined in the Round Britain Sailing Pilgrimage on land.

Russ raised more than £20,000 to support Stella Maris' work with seafarers and fishers and contributed to a further £400,000 raised through a follow-up national campaign.

Russ said: "The Round Britain Sailing Pilgrimage took two years of planning and nearly three months to carry out. I am so proud of the commitment and kindness of Stella Maris supporters who participated and the media who got behind us.

"This BCA is given to me, but I accept it on behalf of all the Stella Maris supporters around the country who participated, on and off the water.

"Together we created lifelong memories of adventure, but this was surpassed by the satisfaction that our efforts and prayers were making a tangible difference to the welfare of seafarers and fishers who serve our nation."

Tim Hill, CEO of Stella Maris UK, said: "As a sailor himself, Russ clearly understands the challenges and sacrifices that seafarers and fishers face and his epic sailing pilgrimage

has shone a light on the life-changing work Stella Maris does providing practical, pastoral and spiritual support to them."

The presentation, hosted by TV presenter Matt Allwright at the Palace of Westminster, was attended by BCA Patrons Dame Mary

Perkins, founder of Specsavers, and the Rt Hon Lord Dholakia.



Russell Fairman BCA with Matt Allwright (left) and Dame Mary Perkins



# St Hilda's celebrates 100 years since consecration

**Whitby's St Hilda's Catholic Church in Whitby was consecrated in 1925 and marks its centenary this year.**

Bishop Terry and parish priest Father Michael Sellers were due to celebrate a Thanksgiving Mass with many former clergy and parishioners past and present also attending.

St Hilda's has been a feature of the Whitby landscape since construction first started in 1866. Since then we have seen 15 serving parish priests, 13 popes, two world wars and Whitby's economy change from fishing, agriculture and jet, largely towards tourism.

The church has played a key role in the community, supporting seafarers, the poor and elderly, as well as contributing to national and overseas charities. It is listed on most of the tourist websites as a "local attraction", which ensures it gets a regular stream of visitors throughout the year.

Father Michael says: "The church building was consecrated to God for divine worship in September 1925. This centenary celebration is a wonderful opportunity to thank God for the priests who built and cared for the building and for the people, as well as the countless blessings he has given to so many who have come here to pray.

"It is also a tribute to the strong faith of former generations who sacrificed themselves for the greater glory of God and the salvation of souls. We ask God to bless us and guide us as we rededicate ourselves to his service in our generation."

## History

After the upheaval of the Reformation in 16th-century England, the parish church of Whitby St Mary the Virgin on the East Cliff passed into the ownership of the Church of England. Gradually, the town grew and more religious provision was made, but the laws banning Catholicism didn't start being relaxed until the Papists Act of 1778.

Around that time many Catholic clergy fled persecution in France, and some set up missions along the Yorkshire coast. One of these arrived in Whitby in 1803 and set about raising funds to build a permanent home for his community, by then around 150 strong. A small chapel holding 300 worshippers was opened on Walker Street behind the current church in 1805.

The opportunity came to buy the large plot of land of the current site and the then parish priest, Father Glover, began serious fundraising from multi-benefactors. The structure took only about 18 months to build in 1866-7 but another 25 years to complete most of the decoration.

## Consecration

Consecration, when a church is given over to God, can only take place when it is completely free of any debt. This took place on September 24 1925. The serving and auxiliary bishops of Middlesbrough performed the ceremony in front of a great assembly of priests and clergy from the diocese and beyond. A report on the ceremony was included in the Whitby Gazette the next day:

*The impressive ceremony commenced on the evening prior to the actual consecration, when the relics of the martyrs were deposited in the old chapel, now the club-room. Twelve crosses were graven on the walls inside the church, four upon either side, and two at the south end and in the chancel, a candle being placed before each of them, the candles being lighted the following morning. After this the Bishop caused the church to be closed, a deacon remaining within to keep the door. The consecration service commenced at 7.30am the next morning with the seven Penitential Psalms. The presence of the bishop was denoted by the hoisting of the Papal flag on a flagstaff in the Presbytery garden. The Bishop, in white vestments, went to the main door where litanies were sung. The procession then proceeded three times round the church, the Bishop sprinkling the walls with holy water and each time, on passing the still closed door, striking it with his crozier, the door being opened the third time. After a hymn the Bishop traced the letters of the Greek and Latin alphabets in two wide bands of ashes, which had been strewn from corner to corner of the nave, typifying the uniting of nations under the Cross. To enable this part of the ceremony to be performed, the whole of the seating of the nave had been removed. The Benediction was sung while the Bishop wrote. The interior walls were then sprinkled and blessed. After visiting and blessing the altar in preparation for the relics, he resorted to where they were deposited the previous evening. They were then carried round the church before being placed in the sepulchre of the altar stone. After anointing the altar and the crosses on the walls, appropriate prayers accompanying all the ceremony, incense was burned upon each of the five crosses on the altar slab, and while it was burning the prayer Come O holy Ghost fill the hearts of Thy Faithful was recited. The ceremony concluded with the solemn blessing of the altar cloths, crucifix, candlesticks, etc., and the Mass appointed for the dedication of a church celebrated.*

## Church design

The church is in the Early English Gothic style, designed by architect Matthew Hadfield of Sheffield and built from local Aislaby sandstone. Most of the principal contractors were Whitby-based parishioners, except for the slater, who was from Scarborough.



Clergy at the consecration of St Hilda's in Whitby in 1925

The inside of the church is 101 feet at its longest, and 54 feet both high and wide. The tower was originally 148 feet high but was lowered by about 40 feet to reduce the weight after it was found to be moving away from the church. Apart from the main altar, there are altars dedicated to the Sacred Heart, Our Lady and the English Martyrs, and a wealth of stained-glass windows and statues. Most of these were donated by parishioners over the years.

Hilda, or Hild, was born in 614, the second

daughter of the nephew of King Edwin of Northumbria. In about 647 she entered religious life, and after various roles she came to Whitby (then called Streonshalh) to found the abbey. She died in 680.

There are two churches dedicated to St Hilda in Whitby, this Catholic church in Victoria Square and the Anglican church on West Cliff.

• We'll have a report and picture from the Thanksgiving Mass in next month's *Voice*.

John Moran and Mark Edwards

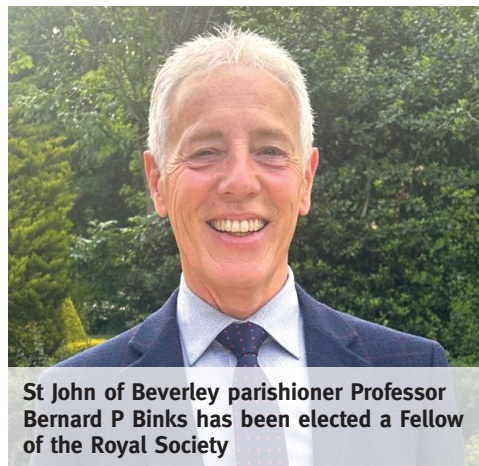
# Professor Bernard honoured by Royal Society

**Congratulations to St John of Beverley parishioner Professor Bernard P Binks, who has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.**

He was one of 90 scientists across the world, including medics, mathematicians, chemists, physicists, biologists and geographers, to be elected this summer.

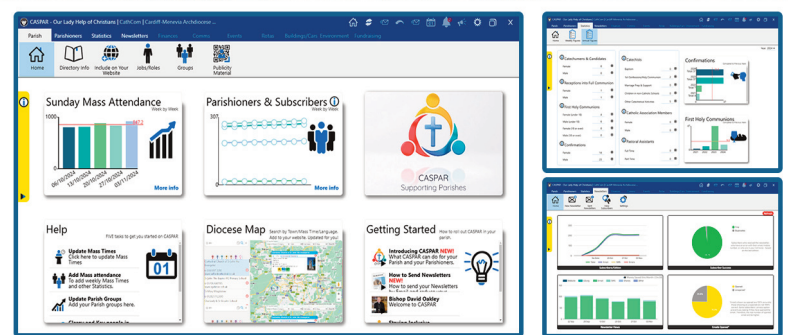
Bernie is Emeritus Professor of Physical Chemistry at the University of Hull, having spent his career of over 35 years there.

His world-leading research is in the area of formulation science (foams/emulsions) and has included invention of dry water, liquid marbles and the inclusion of air bubbles in chocolate (Aero).



St John of Beverley parishioner Professor Bernard P Binks has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society

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NEWS

# Runners thank supporters after reaching target

Father Steven Leightell and St Mary's Cathedral altar servers Jack, Leo and Louis would like to thank all those who sponsored them for the Thirteen Middlesbrough 3K Run for All.

The target of £2,000 to support the Upper Room project in Middlesbrough has been reached.

Upper Room volunteer and cathedral parishioner Teresa Lyth said: "Thank you to Jack, Louis, Leo, their families and Father

Steven for their amazing efforts to raise much needed funds for the Upper Room, which offers welcome, food and some support to those who are homeless in Middlesbrough every Saturday morning.

"Thank you to everyone who donated. The amount raised so far will finance the upper room for at least four months. Visitors frequently express their gratitude and appreciation, especially as the colder weather starts."



The fundraisers after completing the Thirteen Middlesbrough 3K Run for All

# Edna's story of family, faith and hope

Author Edna Hunneysett has published the fifth book in her semi-autobiographical Greener series, Greener Evermore.

Edna, who is a Minister of the Word in the Holy Name of Mary Parish in Middlesbrough, recently celebrated her 85th birthday with a memorable gathering of 85 family members at St Anne's Hall in Ugthorpe, just months after celebrating 64 years of marriage with her husband, Ray.

Themes of family life, faith, hope and resilience inspire Edna's writing, which captures the struggles and victories of real life.

Set in 1969, Greener Evermore tells the story of a young couple who move their five children into a worn Victorian house in the industrial North-East. With a sixth child on the way, their hope for a better life shines

brightly, despite financial pressure from a heavy mortgage.

But as strikes bring the country to a standstill and blackouts become routine, the family faces harsh realities. The father loses his job, and the household battles poverty, uncertainty and the cold darkness without heat or light.

One reader said: "Loved every bit. The words that come to mind are 'Love conquers everything.' What an amazing love story."

All books in the Greener series are available in large print and can be bought from the Book Dragon, 42 The High Street, Stockton, TS18 1SB and thebookdragon.co.uk or from the author by calling 07578 148159.

Edna is holding a book signing at Chapters and Chai, 42 High Street, Stockton, on Saturday November 29 from 11am to 1pm.



Author Edna Hunneysett has published the fifth book in her semi-autobiographical Greener series, Greener Evermore

# Finding God in all things – including ourselves

St Peter's, Scarborough, parishioner Andrew Carter continues his series of reflections on the close links between poetry and prayer...

In her autobiography, the English Catholic writer Caryl Houselander describes a life-changing vision on the London Underground.

She was sitting (as we all have) surrounded by "all sorts of people jostled together" when she saw "as vividly as a wonderful picture, Christ in them all ... and because he was in them, and because they were here,

the whole world was here too".

When she comes out into the crowds, "it was the same, on every side, in every passer-by, everywhere – Christ."

After a few days, she says, "the vision faded ... Christ was hidden again" and she describes how her life became a search for him in others "through a deliberate and blind act of faith".

I was reminded of this by this month's poem, a sonnet by Gerard Manley Hopkins. Hopkins became a Catholic while an undergraduate at Oxford, received into the Church in 1866 by St John Henry Newman.

He became a Jesuit priest and wrote some of the most experimental and spiritual poetry in English but was thought just too odd until well into the 20th century!

But this is a poem that can help us prayerfully discern God's presence in an imperfect world, "to find God in all things", as St Ignatius of Loyola encourages us to do.

The poem bursts into colour, movement and sound. Enjoy the images of diving kingfisher and darting dragonfly! Then there's the ringing echo of stones dropped into a well: not any old stones but specifically tumbled-over-rim-in-roundy-wells stones.

The whole phrase becomes an adjective pin-pointing their special life and action. A

plucked string gives off a particular note; and notice the swinging rhythm of the bell – bing-bong, bing-bong – in "each hung bell's bow finds tongue". And the bell has its unique voice with which to "fling out broad its name".

Hopkins' point seems to be that everything is unique, itself, and he invents a verb – "selves" – to show how everything in creation wants to communicate to the world its hidden "indoors" God-given being (he called this "inscape"), like Christ in the people on the Tube.

And when we respond to God's grace and act accordingly – our "inscape" is Christ, "for Christ plays in ten thousand places". Hopkins loved music (he creates extraordinary music in his poetry) and I think he means that Christ plays, makes music, for his Father on the instruments of his creation, alive in us. It's a joyful, affirmative vision.

As Caryl Houselander saw, "Everywhere – Christ!"

As kingfishers catch fire, dragonflies draw flame;

As tumbled over rim in roundy wells

Stones ring; like each tucked string tells,

each hung bell's

Bow swung finds tongue to fling out broad its name;



Each mortal thing does one thing and the same:

Deals out that being indoors each one dwells;

Selves – goes itself; myself it speaks and spells,

Crying What I do is me: for that I came.

I say more: the just man justices;

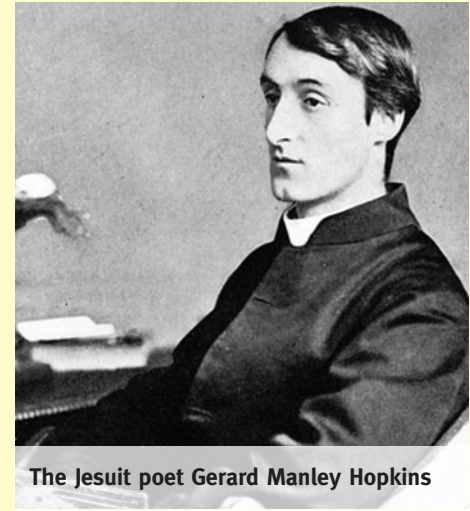
Keeps grace: that keeps all his goings graces;

Acts in God's eyes what in God's eye he is –

Christ – for Christ plays in ten thousand places,

Lovely in limbs, and lovely in eyes not his

To the Father through the features of men's faces.



The Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins



# Spending time in Christ at 'oasis of silence' retreat

St Hilda's Priory in Whitby became an "oasis of silence" for seven retreatants making a 10-day contemplative retreat on what is known as the Gries Path.

Coming from as far away as Madrid and Dublin and much nearer to home, each found the experience one of healing and an opportunity to come ever closer in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

One of them, Father Tony Slingo, a Catholic priest from the Diocese of Salford, offers his personal reflection on what the retreat meant for him...

The Gries Path contemplative retreat is given to serve our communion with Christ. This communion is more than spiritual, more than religious, and those of us who followed the 10-day silent path at St Hilda's Priory, Whitby, realised the profound wisdom of our Christian mystical life.

It is founded on the ancient Biblical call to "Love God with your whole heart, whole soul, whole mind and whole strength."

The whole person is drawn and lovingly united to Christ, more and more, step by step; even if we know that not all of us is yet completely united, we know that all our parts are being drawn into the path, and all aspects of day-to-day life are involved and important.

Such is the cleverness of the Gries Path, steeped as it is in the Ignatian charism of God being present in all things. Though we made our commitment and agreement to be led, and personally asked God during the opening Mass, we were guided to use our awareness as prayer at all times – especially appreciating nature, the first language of our loving God.

"Strength" in the command of the first covenant above refers to bodily life, as well as owned goods and wealth, so that's where we began: meditation on nature, our bodily life and especially on breathing, and our hands, when sitting in the silence together or

alone.

By focusing on the word "yes", our "souls" were engaged, our personal make-up, psychological history, conscious and unconscious. This is termed "listening" – learning to be receptive, attentive, rather than reciting as a mantra.

It is effective at arousing from within our unconscious delight or conflict according to personal history and temperament. Such then is the inner content for the healing action of the Holy Spirit, purging obstacles and uniting what makes for communion.

The mind is obviously involved mightily in this meditation, but not as the thinking mind. The awareness mode with the fruit of faith enables an attending action, presence without pushing.

It became clear to me – when deliberately thinking, outside the meditating, and in the one-to-one interviews with our guide, Angela Simek – that the mind carries on in its own thinking while we "detach" in Ignatian style into the awareness alone.

When this fails, the loving discipline is simply to return and start again on the deliberate focus.

So when it was time to focus on the name of Jesus, the body, soul, mind were already schooled to serve the heart as the depth of attending. Listening to the inner whispered waves that carry the name of Jesus in harmony with the breath, there the heart is open, awaiting what Christ's Spirit will enact from deep within the heart, where God dwells.

This "heart" is the Biblical version of the human person. A particular excellence of the teaching was the presentation of the levels in the human person: the senses and conscious mind – the unconscious – the divine presence dwelling in the depths.

The evening reflections and talks by our guide helped the progressive learning, so I could



Retreatants at St Hilda's Priory in Whitby

adjust mightily to "unthinking", "unplanning" and letting go, to "let be" the active sharing by Christ as he has promised: to become more one with us, live in us, let love surround and penetrate all, answering our prayer at the opening of the retreat.

Examples from teaching were refreshingly about ordinary life and family; the vocabulary, while reverent, was wonderfully worldly and "unchurchy"; the faith was presented directly and straightforwardly.

Such content showed me the Gries Path presumes a certain level of active faith, knowledge of the great themes of Scripture and readiness to have personal attachments challenged and accept guidance in pursuing such ends.

I was ready! God knows, I had some struggles when some attachments were being sorted and purged. But God knows also how grateful I am for the grace from this retreat and

knowing that the Gries Path is a great gift for Catholics and other Christians wanting to enact the Vatican Council's mission to be Church in the modern world.

Perhaps the easiest way to get to know contemplative prayer on the Gries Path is by taking part in a four-day Tasting the Silence retreat. The next is from Monday October 20 to Thursday October 23.

The next of our one-day Saturday retreats, which are open to anyone, but especially those with some experience of contemplative prayer, are October 18, November 8 and December 13 from 9.30am to 4.15pm. Please contact Sister Helen Stout at St Hilda's Priory, Whitby, if you would like to attend. Email [hospitality@ohpwhitby.org.uk](mailto:hospitality@ohpwhitby.org.uk) or call 01947 899600 or 07595 215083.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Angela Simek

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NEWS

# Out & About

## Month of the Most Holy Rosary

### 1 Wednesday

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

### 3 Friday

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

**7pm** Built on the Songs of the Tees: An Evening with Mike "Wildcat" McGrother at St Mary's Cathedral. Tickets for all cathedral events available from [ticketsource.co.uk/middlesbroughcathedral](http://ticketsource.co.uk/middlesbroughcathedral), the telephone box office on 0333 666 3366 or via the parish office (Tuesday to Friday, 9.30am to 3.30pm) on 01642 597750.

### 4 Saturday

**11am** Catholic women are invited to share an hour of feminine communion including meditation, via Zoom. Text Barbara on 07796 117704 with your mobile number and email address so she can add you to the WhatsApp group, or email [catholicwomenmdl@gmail.com](mailto:catholicwomenmdl@gmail.com) for Zoom link.

**6pm** Mass in Italian in the Father Kelly Room, Our Lady, Acomb, York. Followed by refreshments. All welcome.

**7pm** An evening of music with John Bramwell at St Mary's Cathedral.

### 5 Sunday

World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

### 6 Monday

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

**7pm** Catholic charismatic prayer group meets at St Bede's Pastoral Centre, Blossom Street, York. Contact Sharon on [cdscsmiddlesbrough@gmail.com](mailto:cdscsmiddlesbrough@gmail.com) or 07932 420809.

### 7 Tuesday

**10am** Coffee at the Cathedral. Tea, coffee and treats every Tuesday after 9.30am Mass. A warm welcome and friendly atmosphere. Make new friends and enjoy some fellowship. Those who are alone especially welcome.

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

### 8 Wednesday

**7pm** Hull Circle of the Catenian Association meets at Lazaat Hotel, Cottingham. Followed by buffet-style meal. Contact Charles Cseh at [hullcirclesecretary@gmail.com](mailto:hullcirclesecretary@gmail.com).

### 9 Thursday

**7.45pm** Middlesbrough Catenian Circle, sharing faith and friendship with kindred spirits throughout Teesside. Meeting at Middlesbrough Cricket Club, Green Lane, Middlesbrough TS5 7SL. Call Peter Carey on 01642 317772 or Chris Rhodes on 01642 319161.

### 12 Sunday

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

### 13 Monday

**2pm** Music for the Mind dementia-friendly communal singing, an hour of fun and music at St Mary's Cathedral for people living with dementia, their friends and carers, with Trish McLean. All welcome. St Mary's Cathedral is a Dementia Friendly venue.

### 14 Tuesday

**12.45pm** Catholic Women's Luncheon Club meets every second Tuesday of the month at the Kingston Theatre Hotel, Kingston Square, Hull. Gather at 12.45pm, lunch at 1pm. All ladies in the Hull and East Riding area welcome. Call 01482 446565 or email [jayne.wilson24@ymail.com](mailto:jayne.wilson24@ymail.com).

**7pm** Mass for Knights of St Columba Council 29 at St Mary's Cathedral, followed by a meeting.

### 15 Wednesday

**7pm** National Board of Catholic Women webinar on "Women in the Criminal Justice System: Keeping Women out of Prison" with speakers Emily Evison (PRT) and Julia Corcoran (PACT). Zoom meeting ID: 81258279075, passcode: 991011.

### 17 Friday

**7.30pm** The New Eden Consort at St Mary's Cathedral.

### 18 Saturday

**7.30pm** Irish dance is with Peter Mylett at the Erimus Club, Cumberland Road, Middlesbrough TS5 6JB. Contact John Brown 07871958412.

### 19 Sunday

World Mission Sunday

**3pm** Catholic Fellowship Mass with Canon Alan Sheridan at St Thérèse of Lisieux, Ingleby Barwick.

### 25 Saturday

**Noon** LGBT+ social gathering at the Bar Convent, York. All welcome.

**7.30pm** Jeremy McMurray & The Pocket Jazz Orchestra at St Mary's Cathedral.

### 29 Wednesday

**7.45pm** Cleveland Newman Circle meets at St Mary's Cathedral Hall with Professor Luca Settimo on "Theology of Creation and Middlesbrough Cathedral reredos: Might they be connected?" Tea and coffee from 7.30pm. All welcome. For more details call 01642 645732 or email [p.egerton123@gmail.com](mailto:p.egerton123@gmail.com).

If you have any events you would like to include in the Out and About section, please email [heidi.cummins@rcdmidd.org.uk](mailto:heidi.cummins@rcdmidd.org.uk)

## Papers invited for third annual conference

The Centre for Catholic Studies at Durham University is calling for papers for the third Lived Catholicism Conference, taking place online on Tuesday December 2 and Wednesday December 3.

Organisers say the first two Lived Catholicism conferences opened up some of the pressing questions for the Catholic Church today. They included how to manage the tension between innovation and tradition, how to take seriously prophetic and paradoxical voices from the edges of our community and how to make visible the complexities of power and powerlessness at all levels.

Many of these questions are now being raised by the synod process but remain under-explored.

Short papers and poster presentations are invited from across the disciplines, including practical theology, organisational studies, ecclesiology, sociology/anthropology, cultural studies/theory of change, community organising, ecclesial ethics, history of Catholicism and spirituality.

There will be two kinds of presentation: 15-minute papers, given live, and a pop-up podium of five-minute poster presentations, prerecorded on video.

Confirmed speakers include Tricia Bruce, Agbonkhianmeghe E Orobator SJ and Estela Padilla. For more details visit [livedcatholicism.org](http://livedcatholicism.org).

## 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@rcdmidd.org.uk](mailto:catholicvoice@rcdmidd.org.uk)

Deadline Friday October 3 for the November 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.



# Exhibition reveals secret life of a Georgian clockmaker

**Step back in time as the Bar Convent celebrates York clockmaker and inventor Henry Hindley (1701–1771) with its latest exhibition.**

The Hindley turret clock at the Bar Convent is the best example in York and is one of the most important in the UK.

It has been expertly recommissioned and, in celebration, the new exhibition will explore the life and times of Hindley, his connections with the convent and his contribution to York's city life in the Georgian era.

His blue plaque will also be on display on loan from York Civic Trust before its official unveiling.

Dr Hannah Thomas, special collections manager at the Bar Convent, said: "Henry Hindley was an exceptional clockmaker and inventor.

"The Bar Convent turret clock, which can be seen from Blossom Street in York, is the best example in the city and among the best in the country. It took seven years to complete (1754-1761) and boasts a pendulum of 19 feet

that drops through three floors and is the longest in York.

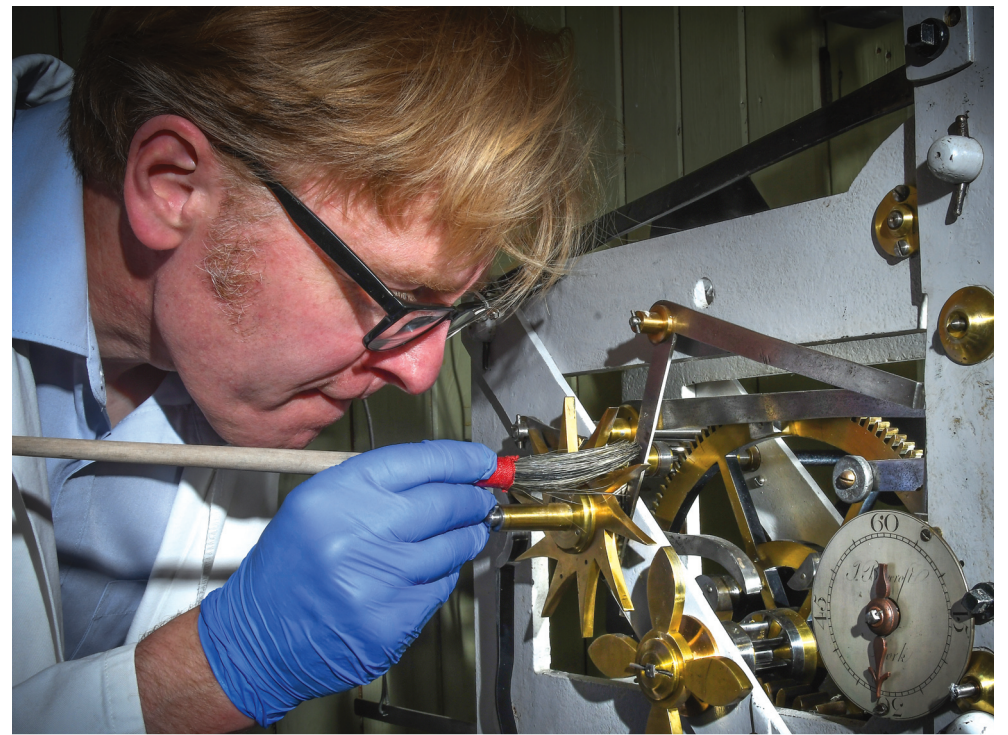
"Following extensive work we are thrilled to have restored the clock to working order, thanks to the work of nationally renowned clock conservator Matthew Read.

"While restorations took place, we carried out further research into the clock and Hindley's links to the convent and city and we found it so interesting that we wanted to share our findings with the public.

"For example, in 1750, Hindley had just finished installing an expensive turret clock in York Minster. The man who commissioned this clock was Jacques Sterne, an influential Anglican cleric who had waged war against the sisters here at the convent in the 1740s and did all he could to run them out of York.

"Is it just coincidence that by 1754, Hindley was working on the Bar Convent's turret clock, which was more expensive than the Minster clock and had a more complex and impressive mechanism?

"We invite visitors to discover more about



Matthew Read with the Bar Convent turret clock mechanism – photo by David Harrison

this fascinating rivalry and Hindley's networks, explore the hidden workings of the Bar Convent turret clock and see the Hindley blue plaque on loan from York Civic Trust."

Matthew Read added: "The Bar Convent turret clock is an innovative and groundbreaking example, arguably one of the top ten turret

clocks in the world. It is a tour de force of 18th-century clockmaking."

Striking the Hours: The Secret Life of a Georgian Clockmaker will run until November 1 and is included in admission to the museum.

## Working together to end poverty

**Do you want to deepen your church's ongoing commitment to justice and help to overcome some challenges facing your community?**

One step would be to sign up for Church Action on Poverty Sunday, which takes place on October 19. All churches taking part are provided with a resource pack including discussion ideas, worship materials and prayers.

The theme this year is Dreams and Realities, based on a powerful portrait project with artist Stephen Martin at a church in Sheffield, featuring the stories and aspirations of people living in hardship.

Church Action on Poverty is a national charity, which has been supporting and equipping churches and community groups for more than 40 years.

Liam Purcell, the charity's chief executive, says: "As Christians, we know that seeking

justice and speaking up against injustice should be an integral part of our faith. The Bible tells us to call out oppression and to challenge unjust systems.

"Knowing where to start isn't always easy, but when churches put themselves at the heart of this work, as thriving community hubs, amazing change can happen.

"At Church Action on Poverty, we've always said that it is not enough to keep pulling people out of the river, nor simply to wish for change. We need to go upstream, find out what or who is sweeping people into poverty in the first place, and take action there. We'd love to hear what work churches are already involved in or explore how we might work together."

Churches can sign up for Church Action on Poverty Sunday at church-poverty.org.uk/sunday.

## Couple's run raises impressive total for cancer

**Diocese of Middlesbrough chief operating officer Deacon Peter Warren and his wife, Susan, raised over £500 for Yorkshire Cancer Research by taking part in the Great North Run.**

"We first ran the GNR together in 1993, just before we got married," said Peter, who admitted their times were "slow".

"We did again in 2018, celebrating 25 years of marriage, and we're planning to run again next year."

Curial Office staff were among those who sponsored Peter for his efforts.



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## NEWS

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Cathedral reredos features in Newman talk

Professor Luca Settimo from Nottingham University will speak about “Theology of Creation and Middlesbrough Cathedral reredos: Might they be connected?” at the next meeting of Cleveland Newman Circle. The meeting is at St Mary’s Cathedral Hall on Wednesday October 29 from 7.45pm, with tea and coffee from 7.30pm. All are welcome. For more details call 01642 645732 or email p.egerton123@gmail.com.

## Fishermen’s choir concert supports church funds

You are warmly invited to join the parishes of Loftus, Staithes and Brotton for an evening of music, warmth and community spirit with entertainment from Marske Fishermen’s Choir.

Tickets are £10 and include entrance, pie and peas and raffle entry and all proceeds are for church funds. Tickets are available from any of the churches, Father Simon Broughton (07418 001407), Mike McGuinness (07984 919507) or Gina Wilson (07891 748912). The evening is on Friday October 10 at Marske Football Social Club, Mount Pleasant Avenue, Marske. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30 start.

## Find hope and healing with Retrouvaille

Retrouvaille is a programme dedicated to healing and renewing marriages. The word “retrouvaille” means “rediscovery”. The programme offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse and a loving relationship in your marriage. Does your relationship need some TLC? Need help with deeper issues? The next weekend programme starts on Friday October 17 at the Focolare Centre, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, and online programmes are also available. Visit [retrouvaille.org.uk](http://retrouvaille.org.uk) or call 07887 296 983.

## Webinar looks at keeping women out of prison

The National Board of Catholic Women invites you to a webinar titled “Women in the Criminal Justice System: Keeping Women out of Prison”, featuring expert speakers Emily Evison from the Prison Reform Trust (PRT) and Julia Corcoran from the Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT). Join the discussion about practical and compassionate approaches to supporting women at risk of imprisonment. The event is on Wednesday October 15 from 7pm to 8.30pm. Participation is free via Zoom (Meeting ID: 812 5827 9075, Passcode: 991011) and all are welcome.

# Lourdes family turn out for funeral of photographer Les

**Members of our Lourdes Hospitalité teams formed a guard of honour at the funeral of Les Clark, a committed brancardier who was also our official diocesan photographer.**

Fellow Knights of St Columba were present in large numbers for the funeral Mass at St Mary’s Cathedral and were among the pallbearers.

The community from Madonna House at Robin Hood’s Bay, of which Les was a big supporter, also attended.

Les, who was 84, passed away on August 2 after a long illness. He is now reunited with his beloved wife, Veronica, who died in 2017.

Les’s photographs featured in the *Voice* for many years. In a message to Les’s daughter, Andrea, Bishop Terry wrote: “What a good

man Les was. When he was in full photographer mode, I would always say that as soon as I saw him, I knew I was in the right place. He was always there, faithful and professional.

“Now he will be with Veronica again, and forever. Please be assured of my prayerful support for yourselves and a very special place in my thoughts during this sad time. I will offer Mass for the repose of his soul and for the intentions of all family and friends.”

Proceeds from a collection in Les’s memory at the funeral will go to the Diocese of Middlesbrough Lourdes Fund.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for him  
St Bernadette, pray for him



Former diocesan photographer Les Clark, who has died at the age of 84

## Pilgrimage dates confirmed for 2026

**Our 73rd Diocese of Middlesbrough Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from Sunday May 24 to Saturday May 30.**

These dates have been chosen because the International Military Pilgrimage will once again overlap with our time in Lourdes.

Prices and booking information will be announced in October as usual.

The mandatory Formation Day for all our Hospitalité members is at Trinity Catholic College in Middlesbrough on Saturday March 7, with the Formation Evening for those unable to make this date being on Tuesday May 5.



Children celebrating their First Holy Communion at St George’s in York, pictured along with Canon Jerry Twomey and Father Jose Michael – Photo by Lars Karlsson

## Biodiversity – our planet’s life-support system

**This month’s column focuses on the importance of biodiversity, which we rely on for food, energy, medicine, fresh water, breaking down waste and much more.**

Without it, the environment couldn’t provide us with what we need to survive.

The current state of global biodiversity is alarming as we lose many

more animals and plants than in the past – and this loss of species shows no sign of slowing down.

“The good functioning of ecosystems requires fungi, algae, worms, insects, reptiles and an innumerable variety of micro-organisms.” (*Laudato Si’* para 33)

Pope Francis alludes to human behaviour that is mainly causing this loss.

Along with some methods of farming and livestock grazing, we are also cutting down more trees, thereby altering and breaking up habitats.

The need is for co-operation at all levels of society to tackle this, but individuals can play their part.

As consumers we can have an impact through what we buy and use in our day-to-day lives. We are encouraged to buy fewer products and to make sure those we do buy minimise the impact on biodiversity.

Reducing what we waste and throw away can play a part in lowering pollution levels and the overexploitation of natural resources. Certain products such as cotton have a disproportionate effect on biodiversity.

Huge amounts of food are wasted and by repairing rather than replacing electrical items and getting more use out of the clothes we already own, we can all have a positive effect on biodiversity that could also save us money.

As families we can encourage our children to learn about biodiversity and the opportunities we all have to restore our ecosystems.

St Francis was a powerful example of care for even the smallest of creatures and his feast day falls on October 4.

This month, Pope Leo XIV invites us to pray “for our relationship with all of creation”. Inspired by St Francis of Assisi, he invites us to experience our interdependence with all creatures loved by God and worthy of respect and love.

Barbara Hungin



Tudor Croft Gardens in Guisborough – Photo by Joe Cornish





# Singer Grace returns for evening of sacred music and more

This month sees the first of the Cathedral Series of concerts, part of the wider events programme.

The first of these, on Friday October 17 at 7.30pm, promises to be a special event, as we welcome back former cathedral chorister and choral scholar, Grace Oliver, along with her vocal quartet, for an evening of first-class music.

Grace joined the cathedral choir at the age of seven, singing with us until she went to study singing at Trinity Laban Conservatoire in London. Her voice will be familiar to many parishes from the recordings she made with Tim Harrison during the pandemic, which were widely used across the diocese.

The New Eden Consort is a London-based vocal quartet, formed of Grace, Niamh, Charlie and Dom – all graduates of Trinity Laban's Vocal Studies department.

The ensemble was founded through their shared experience singing in the chapel choir of the Old Royal Naval College Chapel, Greenwich, and has since performed regularly at venues across London.

Now, they are excited to bring their music to audiences in the north, hoping to make these visits a regular part of their performing calendar.

Grace said: "My time at Middlesbrough Cathedral holds such happy memories of making music with wonderful people, and I am truly delighted to be returning to the place where it all began for me.

"From joining the very first intake of the junior choir through my years as head



The New Eden Consort with Grace on the right

chorister and later as soprano scholar, it was singing under the direction of Tim Harrison that allowed me to pursue this career path. I remain deeply grateful for his unwavering encouragement and support."

The programme includes a wide variety of music, both familiar and less so. As well as familiar pieces from the sacred repertoire, including some sung previously by Grace in the cathedral, such as If You Love Me by Thomas Tallis, the concert will include music composed for the consort by Tim Harrison, two of which will receive their first performances.

The programme will also feature arrangements of jazz standards and pop songs, such as A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square and Here Comes the Sun.

In addition, and as a special treat for the Middlesbrough audience, the concert will feature a solo sung by Grace.

This is a concert not to be missed. Tickets are available from the Cathedral Box Office at [ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/middlesbrough/st-marys-cathedral](https://ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/middlesbrough/st-marys-cathedral) or by calling 01642 597750.

Doors open at 6.30pm with a licensed bar and hot and cold drinks available before the concert and during the interval.

• The second concert of the Cathedral Series, on Saturday November 8, the eve of Remembrance Sunday, is Come and Sing Fauré's Requiem. Singers are invited to come together to rehearse from 4.30pm to 6.30pm before performing with soloists in front of an audience that evening (dress code all black for singers). The conductor will be Richard Gooding, accompanied on the organ by Steven Maxson. Tickets are £10 for singers and £5 for others (accompanied children free). Doors open at 6:30pm and the concert starts at 7:30pm.

## Tickets available for cathedral programme

The autumn-winter season at St Mary's Cathedral continues as Teesside's musical maverick Mike McGrother presents a powerful night of stories and song on Friday October 3.

With guitar, violin and a stripped-back band, he brings us three rich sets: songs inspired by Teessiders, a heartfelt tribute to Vin Garbutt and a rousing finale with his male choir, Infant Hercules.

The following day, Saturday October 4, there's a return from indie songwriting legend John Bramwell, who rated his 2024 cathedral show as one of his top ten of all time.

Mercury Prize-nominated and regarded as one of the finest live acoustic performers of his generation, John's songwriting and presence are something every music lover should experience.

On Saturday November 15, Catholic singer, songwriter and musician Jo Boyce and friends present An Evening of Praise. A regular on BBC's Songs of Praise and a familiar voice on Sunday radio, Jo's music has inspired worshippers for decades. Together with friends, Jo will lead this uplifting evening of music and praise.

And on Friday December 12, Middlesbrough's own ukulele sensation Amelia Coburn brings her spellbinding sound and sharp northern charm to the cathedral stage.

**St Mary's Cathedral Autumn-Winter Programme**

**October 3:** An Evening with Mike 'Wildcat' McGrother

**October 4:** John Bramwell (Solo)

**October 17:** The Cathedral Series: The New Eden Consort

**October 18:** Candlelight: Hans Zimmer

**October 18:** Candlelight: Coldplay

**October 25:** Jeremy McMurray & The Pocket Jazz Orchestra

**November 8:** The Cathedral Series: Come and Sing Fauré's Requiem

**November 11:** Light Still Shines – An Evening of Reflection and Prayer for the Bereaved

**November 15:** An Evening of Praise with Jo Boyce and Friends

**November 21:** Fleetwood Bac

**November 29:** O Holy Night with Newcastle University Chamber Choir

**November 30:** Advent Carol Service

**December 2 and 3:** Christmas Wreath Making

**December 12:** Amelia Coburn Live in Concert

**December 13:** Cantabile: Christmas at the Cathedral

**December 16 and 17:** Santa's Jingle Jamboree

Tickets for Candlelight concerts from [feverup.com/en/middlesbrough](https://www.feverup.com/en/middlesbrough) and for the Christmas orchestra from [thechristmasorchestra.co.uk/2025-tour](https://thechristmasorchestra.co.uk/2025-tour).

Tickets for all other cathedral events are available from [ticketsource.co.uk/middlesbroughcathedral](https://ticketsource.co.uk/middlesbroughcathedral), the telephone box office on 0333 666 3366 or via the parish office, which is open Tuesday to Friday from 9.30am to 3.30pm on 01642 597750.

## New psalms are sung from east to west

We are little more than a month away from the first anniversary of the New Lectionary being used across the Church in England and Wales.

Doubtless, the last year has provided us all with opportunities to hear afresh the Word of the Lord, with the benefit of the latest biblical scholarship and the increased focus upon the Word being proclaimed.

In the run up to the introduction of the new lectionary, I ran sessions in Hull, Middlesbrough and York (as well as being invited to lead a session in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle) exploring the changes and also looking at settings that were already available or due to be published.

This information is on the music section of the diocesan website and my introductory video is on the Diocesan Music YouTube channel (@MusicDiocese).

As with the previous lectionary, I have been composing settings of the psalms which are freely available for use within the diocese.

All have to go through the process of gaining a Concordat before they can be shared, which is a very detailed check to ensure that the text is correct, down to the last punctuation mark.

By the time of publication, Concordats had been received for all the Sunday psalms for Years A and C and for much of Year B, as well as the psalms for holy days and festivals that stay the same from year to year.

These settings are being used in several churches across the diocese and beyond. Indeed, they are being sung from east to west, with parishes in both Scarborough and Workington (in the Diocese of Lancaster) being among those using them!

If your parish would like access to the psalms, or would like to explore how the psalms can be sung, please contact me at [musicdept@rcdmidd.org.uk](mailto:musicdept@rcdmidd.org.uk).

Steven Maxson  
Director of Music

## Could you help administer Romero Awards?

Organisers of the Oscar Romero Awards are looking for new volunteer validators to assess applications from Catholic schools and sixth form colleges in the Diocese of Middlesbrough.

More than 350 schools take part nationwide, with 11 from our diocese currently involved.

The awards help schools live out the key principles of Catholic Social Teaching, challenging them to let its principles guide as many of their decisions as possible, play a significant part in the curriculum and to work with charities that support Catholic values and way of life. There are three levels: participator, developer and innovator.

Schools that have taken part say the award has helped them enhance their Catholic identity and be more faithful to their mission as Catholic schools.

In its submission for a participator level

award, St Patrick's Catholic Primary School in Thornaby said: "Since achieving the participator level we have particularly focused on reaching out to learning and helping more charities and individuals linked to social injustice. This has no doubt enriched our school including governors, families, parish, staff and pupils."

Applications from schools are assessed by validators and we are looking for people in the diocese who can fulfil this role. If you are passionate about Catholic education and you have some spare time, please consider volunteering for this role.

The three current validators can give you more information on how you can be involved either as a school or as a validator. They are Jen Colley at [J.Colley@romeroaward.co.uk](mailto:J.Colley@romeroaward.co.uk), Helena McGouran at [H.McGouran@romeroaward.co.uk](mailto:H.McGouran@romeroaward.co.uk)

[romeroaward.co.uk](https://romeroaward.co.uk) or Peggy Swinhoe at [P.Swinhoe@romeroaward.co.uk](mailto:P.Swinhoe@romeroaward.co.uk). You can also find information at [romeroaward.co.uk](https://romeroaward.co.uk).

Mugeni Sumba  
Coordinator



Children at St Patrick's Catholic Primary School in Thornaby, who won the participator level award



## NEWS

# ACN pilgrims learn Catholic history of our diocese

**Pilgrims from around the country learned about Catholic history in our diocese on a visit to York and its surroundings.**

This year's Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) national pilgrimage brought a group of 33 to connect with our Catholic recusant history and make the link with persecuted Christians and religious minorities abroad.

The pilgrims were visited by Bishop Terry, who celebrated Mass in York Oratory for the group and spent some time meeting them afterwards.

The group was led by Father Dominic Robinson SJ, ecclesiastical assistant to ACN UK, assisted by pilgrimage historian, Suze Mathews and ACN lay chaplains Bridget Teasdale and Errol Palmer.

Prayer was at the heart of the pilgrimage. Each day began with the Mass in York Oratory, concluding with the Litany of the English Martyrs, and ended with the evening prayer of the Church (Vespers).

This prayerful review of the day offered the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation in the Hidden Chapel of the Bar Convent, the oldest living convent in the country, which was established by the Venerable Mary Ward.

The week included a series of talks by Suze Mathews on the Catholic history of our islands, complemented by visits to York

Minster, Ripon Cathedral, Beverley Minster and Fountains Abbey.

Pilgrims visited English Martyrs in York, where Canon Michael Loughlin gave an informative talk on the York Tyburn, on Knavesmire, and

Blessed Nicholas Postgate, whose relic is on display in the church.

They also visited St John of Beverley, where they were welcomed by Canon David Grant, who gave a talk on his parish's patron.

Errol said: "Pilgrims told us they found the pilgrimage inspiring, fun and spiritually enriching."



ACN UK pilgrims in front of the main entrance to Beverley Minster

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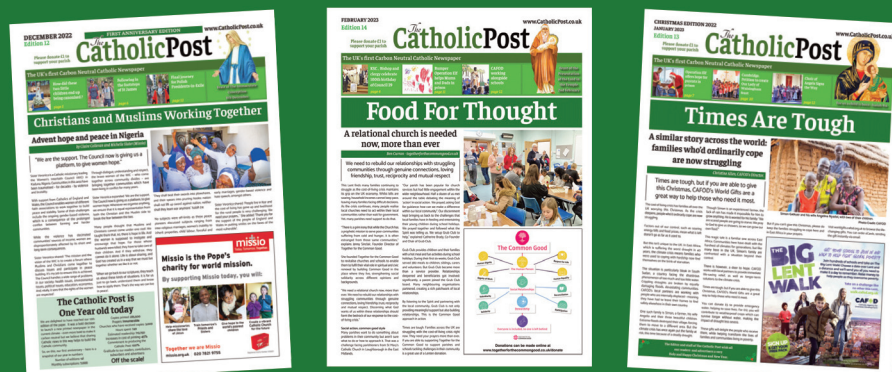
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