

Please pray for those who have gone before us

Shaun Milner, Gerard Wilson, John Hughes, Wendy Reynolds, Maureen Dean, John Lopez, Peter Middleton and Kathryn Leavy

and for those whose anniversaries occur in March

Kathleen Mary Bennett, Emily Ambrose, Juliana Weller, Mary Davis, Kenneth McPherson, Molly Thompson, John Noades, Marguerita Russell, Waddy Kopka, Francis Brittorous, John Cady, Christine Bell, Joseph Rowley, Jim McDermott, Mrs Tickner, Dorothy Fox, Henry Rachwalski, Charles McKeever, Agnes Gardner, Mrs Critchlow, Robar Langford, Anne Bellingham, Renee Harivel, Raymond Harivel, Danny McKeever, Fr C. Marshall SMM, Bridget Monaghan, Patrick Connolly, Dorothy Moorat, Clarice Connor, Cecily Plowden, Albert Hawthorne, Marian Picken, Annie Miley, John Scott, Kathleen O'Connell, Bridget Hynes, Gordon Barnett, Patrick Daly, Bartholomew Thomas, Catherine Pithar, Lily Taylor, David Coleblack, Michael Matheson, Catherine Haslam, Gabriel Josephson, Fr Sean O' Haire SMM, Michael Scicluna, James Turner, John D'Arcy, Michelle Mattia, Meg Blair, Catherine Patterson, Frank Beaumont, Jane Jackson, James Eldridge, Jean Millington, Anita Birtwell, Maria Boudreau, Dominic Clarke, Robert Bray, Joyce Hales, Tom Flynn, Paddy Connolly, Teresa McQuillan, Daniel Taggart, Marian Matejski, Bill Allen, James Grady, Lily Tunncliff, Mary Roche, Maureen Armstrong, John Granville, Elizabeth Monaghan, Edward Kenny, Christina Mellows, Amelia Green, William Hardiman, Emilio Perrone, Patricia Mahon, Susan Dodds, David Cave, Margaret Brookes, Elizabeth O'Reilly, Beryl Hanson, William Pava, Richard Stanley, Mary Jolliffe, Anastasia Cullen, Eileen Jackman, Colum Harrington, Julie Curley, James Sexton, Margaret Cogan, Robert Maxwell, Sally Curtin, Brian Parker, Karl Hellbusch, Winnie Eglin, Peter Hurley, Maria Germon, Fr.Paul O'Connor C.J., Michael Hickey, Frauke Henrietta Duffy, Hilda Nicholson. Joseph Moss, Michael Holloway, Robert Duffy, Una Kemple, Lillian Herbert, Con Murphy, Bridie Weeks, Jenny O'Leary, Cyril Twist, Vera Carden, Diane Blease, Mick Dean, Sylvia O'Brien, Stephen Dillon, Canon Terence Walsh, Sue Ryan, Martin Roberts, Sam Brown, Tony Vaicaitus, Betty Twist, Peter Hathaway, Colleen Tarr, Elaine Dempster and Canon Digby John Samuels

During the month to come please remember in your prayers the following who are sick:

Patrick Pacini, Daphne Channing, Audrey Francis, Audrey Stephenson, Jo Parker, Esmé Coveney, Doreen Burke, Rita Lane, Valerie Muir, Mary and Alan Daws, Debbie Smythe, Tom Wilkins, Mary Bullough, Sam Hearn, Margaret Williams, Patrick Arnold, Allan Wickens, Di Mussert, Lisa Ramage, Christine Budden, Diane Cooper, Barbara Long, Myra Thompson, John Mills, Sheila Muir, Jo Hibberd, Therese Ayres, Sheila Roberts, Mary Hathaway, Rachel McGarvie, Peter Calderley, Chris Kirby, Jim Shine, Stella Pelligrini, Rosemary Gallagher, Eileen Dickie, Anne Ivanson, Don Walker, Anne Langston and all those in need of our prayers.

If you know that anyone on this list is now happily recovered, or if you would like a name added to this list, please contact the editors.

PLEASE NOTE

Articles printed in *The JOURNAL* are printed in good faith and are not necessarily the views of the editors. Contributions must be accompanied by full name and address, which may be withheld on request. The editors reserve the right to amend all contributions. Please support our advertisers, they support us.

ENDPIECE

Many thanks to the various contributors to this month's *The JOURNAL*. The next edition will be weekend 4th & 5th April. Contributions should be with the editors by Monday 30th March. Please leave contributions at the Presbytery or email them to: stjohnsjournal@googlemail.com



The JOURNAL

The newspaper of the Parish of
St John the Baptist, Andover.
Including: **St John Fisher, Whitchurch**

Issue
No 313
March
2020

Pope Firm on Celibacy

Despite many South American bishops being hopeful that, following the Synod on the Amazon, Pope Francis might relax the rules on celibacy to help the critical shortage of priests in South America, the pope has ruled against ordaining married men in the Amazon region as a means of addressing the shortage of Catholic priests. Bishops backed the measure last year, but the decision needed the Pope's approval to be implemented.

Catholic priests are required to abide by the rule of celibacy upon ordination except in cases where married Anglican ministers have converted. Celibacy is seen as the devotion of one's life to God. The conservative wing of the Catholic Church - particularly in Europe and North America - has spoken out against the idea of married priests, arguing that this could lead to the global abolition of celibacy.

A statement from the Vatican said: "The Amazon challenges us to overcome limited perspectives and not to content ourselves with solutions that address only part of the situation."

The Pope said there was a need for ministers who can understand Amazonian sensibilities and cultures from within. He urged bishops to "promote prayer for priestly vocations" and to encourage those who want to become missionaries to "opt for the Amazon region".

In October last year, a synod of 184 bishops met at the Vatican to discuss the future of the Church in the Amazon. It was argued that older, married men should be allowed to become priests. However, they would need to be men who are particularly well-respected and would preferably come from the indigenous communities where they intend to work. It is estimated that at least 85% of villages in the Amazon are unable to celebrate Mass every week as a result of a shortage of priests. Some are said to only see a priest once a year.

Interviewed on the BBC's *Newshour*, Bishop Robert Flock of San Ignacio, a remote diocese in the Bolivian Amazon said: "The Pope simply kicked the can down the road. He doesn't even mention the recommendation of the possibility of married deacons being ordained as priests which was what the synod conclusions had suggested. The Catholic Church moves slowly in certain areas and this is one of those that could have caused terrible divisions in the church."

In the light of the recent publication of a book co-authored by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, strongly asserting that priests must be celibate, it might be tempting to conclude that Pope Francis' decision not to accede to the request from Amazon bishops is a victory for his predecessor and those traditionalists who regard him as their standard-bearer.

Easter Triduum

The three-day season that begins on Holy Thursday and ends with Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday is known as the Easter or Pascal Triduum. In the Catholic liturgical calendar these three days are considered as a separate season, though they still form part of the forty fasting days of Lent.

The Triduum commemorates the Institution of the Eucharist, Christ's Passion and death, and his Resurrection. In this way these three days encapsulate the essence of our Christian Faith, and the centrality of Christ's death and resurrection has been commemorated by Christians since the time of the Apostles.

Without the Resurrection, that proof of Christ's Divinity, there would be no Christian Faith. From very early in the life of the Church, the Great Easter Vigil, beginning the night of Holy Saturday and continuing till dawn on Easter morning, was observed and celebrated. The converts to the early Church, who would have undergone three years of catechesis, would make the Vigil of the Catechumens before being baptised and receiving their First Holy Communion on Easter morning.

Our celebration of the Triduum will be:

Holy Thursday 9th April at 7.30pm

The Solemn Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, in Andover

Good Friday 10th April at 3.00pm

Solemn Liturgy in Honour of Christ's Passion and Death, in Andover

Easter Vigil Saturday 11th April at 8.00pm

Beginning of the Easter Vigil and the Service of Light, in Andover

Easter Sunday 12th April 8.45am

Morning Mass of Easter in Whitchurch

Easter Sunday 12th April at 10.30am

Morning Mass of Easter in Andover

Bible Quiz

We are well and truly into the Year of the Bible, and these questions are taken from the quiz set by the Postulants who assisted Sister Hyacinthe when she came to the parish to offer us "An Introduction to the Bible". Those who attended the evening would probably admit that they did not do as well as they might have hoped! See if you can do better.

1. How many books does the Catholic Bible contain?
2. What is the third book of the Old Testament called?
3. Name the three books of the Old Testament that are named after women.
4. In which Old Testament book is David anointed as king?
5. In which Old Testament book do we find: "By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat and wept, remembering Sion?"
6. What is the sixth book of the New Testament? (Hint – after the Gospels and Acts)
7. In which New Testament book do we find the popular reading at weddings and funerals: "Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous ...?"
8. Which of the Gospels contains the parable of the Good Samaritan?
9. How many letters of John are there in the New Testament?
10. What is the shortest verse in the Bible? (Hint – found in St John's Gospel)

(Answers on page 7)

Praying for our Seminarians

Last July two of the then seminarians for whom we asked your prayers, Mohanraj Edward who had studied at St Mary's Seminary, Oscott, and Johnpromise Umeozoru, a student at St John's Seminary in Womersley, were ordained to the priesthood.

There are currently twelve young men from our diocese undergoing training in seminaries. Some of these, like Farvin Gonsalves, Ryan Hawkes and Jack Ryan, are very much at the start of their journey towards ordination to the priesthood. They are currently undertaking a propaedeutic year of discernment at Mater Sacerdotum House in Shrewsbury prior to going on to a senior seminary.

The Seminarians for the Portsmouth Diocese are: David Bateman and Ambrose Chou, who are studying at St. Mary's College, Oscott, near Birmingham. Paul Nwune who is at St John's Seminary in Womersley. James Lewis is studying at Allen Hall which is situated in Chelsea. Anthony Fyk, Ryan Brown, Edward Hauschild and Matthew King are at the Venerable English College in Rome, and Kevin Conmee is at the Pontifical Beda College in Rome.

Your prayers are asked for all of these young men that God may continue to bless them and guide them on their way to serving him through priesthood.

If you would like to know more about these seminaries, you can find information on their websites:

St. John's, Seminary Womersley: www.womersley.org

Allen Hall, Chelsea, London: www.allenhall.org.uk

The Venerable English College, Rome: www.vecrome.org

The Pontifical Beda College, Rome: www.bedacollege.org

St. Mary's, Oscott, Birmingham: www.oscott.net

(The Frequently Asked Questions page for St Mary's is particularly helpful!)

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From the School

A special visitor recently spent a day in Year 4 talking about the effects dementia has on the lives of those who suffer from dementia and on the lives of their families. The class looked at “Twiddle Muffs”, which are knitted muffs or cuffs with zips, buttons and pom-poms attached, which are given to dementia patients who find them soothing and calming to handle, giving them something to do. Every Year 4 pupil added buttons to a knitted muff before Mrs Johnston sewed them up and finished them. The muffs were then taken to the local hospitals, where they will be much appreciated.

Year 6 celebrated the music of English composer Benjamin Britten in a gymnastic and music performance. They had learned his “New Year Carol” to sing while accompanying themselves on the piano, glockenspiel and guitar. In gymnastics the class demonstrated symmetrical grouped balances on a range of apparatus. The routines were timed to particular instrumental section of Britten’s “Young Person’s Guide to the Orchestra”.

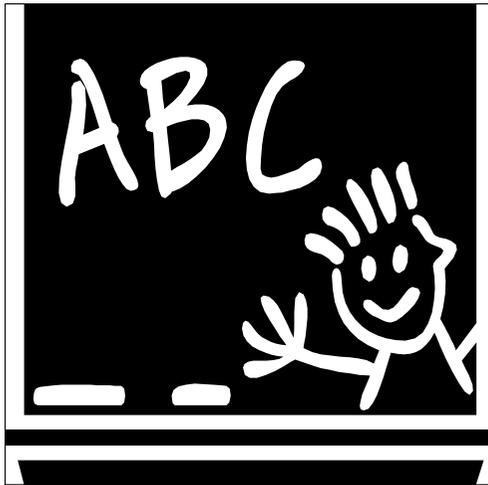
Year 6 were honoured to welcome Mrs Rita Harrington, who told of the heroic actions of her late father in World War Two. He was a commando and took part in actions pivotal to the war effort. Mrs Harrington shared personal artefacts including moving letters sent home during his active service. Year 6 had valuable insights into the life of a very courageous man.

Year 2 visited Milestones Museum in Basingstoke, where they explored, and played with, toys and games from various periods in history. They will use their new-found knowledge for their History topic and are even building up their own museum.

The termly “Rocksteady” concert was held recently. The talented musicians showcased their hard work as they sang and played their instruments including drums, keyboard, guitar, and bass guitar. It was a most enjoyable celebration of achievement.

As part of Children’s Mental Health Week, our school joined schools across the country taking part in the first ever “Inside Out Day”. This is aimed at raising awareness of children’s mental health and encouraging children to think about the feelings of others. Children and adults alike all wore items of clothing inside-out as a way of thinking about how someone may look fine on the outside but may be feeling unhappy or worried on the inside. Lots of reflective discussion took place about emotional well-being and kindness and thoughtfulness towards others.

The theme of Year 5/6 liturgy was “The salt of the Earth”. They discussed how salt acted as a preservative and as an enhancer. In the same way we are called to preserve the Word of God and to flavour, or influence, the world for good. Our actions, no matter how small or humble, can have a positive impact.



Ethics and Artificial Intelligence

The pope was recently expected to address a workshop on the role of “Artificial Intelligence: Ethics, Law, Health” which had been organized at the Vatican by the Pontifical Academy for Life. The Academy is dedicated to promoting the Church’s consistent life ethic. It also does related research on bioethics and Catholic moral theology. Unfortunately, the Holy Father was unwell, and he had postponed all of that day’s audiences. He did, however, send a message to those attending the workshop, a message which stressed that the principles of the Church’s social teaching, namely the dignity of the person, justice, subsidiarity and solidarity, can make a powerful contribution to the development of what is becoming known as “algor-ethics”.

In his message, the Pope noted that the complexity of the technological world demands of us an increasingly clear ethical framework, so as to make our commitment to serving every individual in his or her integrity and of all people, without discrimination or exclusion, truly effective.

He pointed out that Algor-ethics can be a bridge enabling those principles of social justice to enter into digital technologies through effective cross-disciplinary dialogue. He stressed that in the encounter between different visions of the world, human rights are an important point of convergence in the search for common ground.

The “good algorithm”, he said, points to the need for renewed reflection on rights and duties in this area.

The pope said that the scope and acceleration of the transformations of the digital era, have in fact raised unforeseen problems and situations that challenge our individual and collective ethos.

On the personal level, the digital age is changing our perception of space, of time and of the body, and on the socio-economic level, users are often reduced to “consumers”, prey to private interests concentrated in the hands of a few. Algorithms now extract data that enable mental and relational habits to be controlled, for commercial or political ends, frequently without our knowledge.

The asymmetry, by which a select few know everything about us while we know nothing about them, the Pope said, dulls critical thought and the conscious exercise of freedom. He also lamented the inequalities that are expanding enormously with knowledge and wealth being accumulated in a few hands with grave risks for democratic societies.

However, these dangers, the Pope said, must not distract us from the immense potential that new technologies offer. Broader educational effort and solid reasons need to be developed in the pursuit of the common good, even when no immediate advantage is apparent.

As believers, the Pope said, we ought to allow ourselves to be challenged, so that the word of God and our faith tradition can help us interpret the phenomena of our world and identify paths of humanization.

At the conclusion of the Vatican workshop on Friday, the Pontifical Academy for Life, Microsoft, IBM, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Italian government signed the “Call for an AI Ethics”, a document developed to support an ethical approach to Artificial Intelligence and promote a sense of responsibility among organizations, governments and institutions with the aim of creating a future in which digital innovation and technological progress serve human genius and creativity rather than replacing them.

Pope's Lenten Message

As we enter the season of Lent, Pope Francis has urged us all to use these few weeks to spend more time in silence and conversation with God rather than being immersed in the noise and chatter of the world dominated by television and mobile phones. He reflected on the "desert" of Lent and how countercultural it is to spend time in silence, away from the noisiness of modern life. "We live in an environment polluted by too much verbal violence, by many offensive and harmful words, which the internet amplifies," he explained.

"We are inundated with empty words, with advertisements, with subtle messages. We have become used to hearing everything about everyone and we risk slipping into a worldliness that atrophies our hearts."

Lent is a time of penance and, he continued, it is also the time to "work on giving up gossip, rumours, and useless chatter, focusing instead on giving yourself to the Lord, who spent 40 days in the desert in fasting and prayer". He explained that during Lent, Jesus is "calling us into the desert". Jesus "invites us to listen to what matters. To the devil who tempted him, he replied: 'Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. More than bread, we need the Word of God, we need to speak with God: we need to pray,'"

Amid the noise of our daily lives, "we struggle to distinguish the voice of the Lord who speaks to us, the voice of conscience, of good," the pope said.

According to Pope Francis, the 'desert' of Lent, where we can be in conversation with the Lord, becomes a life-giving place. "In the desert one finds intimacy with God, the love of the Lord," he stated. "The road that leads us from death to life opens up in the desert. We enter the desert with Jesus, we will go out savouring Easter ... Prayer, fasting, works of mercy: here is the road into the Lenten desert."

The solitude of the desert also reminds us of the people around us who are lonely and abandoned, he said, because "the path in the Lenten desert is a path of charity towards the weaker."

He acknowledged that it is not easy to make space for silence in one's heart, but invited everyone to imagine themselves in the desert, surrounded by a great silence, with "no noises, apart from the wind and our breath."

"It is the absence of words to make room for another Word, the Word of God," he said.

Lenten Healing Mass

During Advent and Lent each year, Father Austin offers us all the opportunity to join him in a Mass for healing. One element of such a Mass is the Anointing of the Sick, which bestows on the recipients the healing grace of the Holy Spirit. This anointing does not just apply to those who are desperately sick or in physical pain; it is also beneficial for those suffering mentally or spiritually and for those who want to bring new energy to their spiritual life.

A Mass is essentially about recalling to mind Christ's redeeming work, bringing that redemption into our present lives with the whole congregation celebrating. Each Mass bestows upon us the benefits of redemption, the forgiveness of sin, the deliverance from the power of evil, the opening of the doorway to immortal life. It provides spiritual healing of all that we have done or endured. A Healing Mass is all of those things with the addition of the opportunity to enjoy the Anointing of the Sick, a sacrament which is available for all of us for we are all in need of strength and healing. *(Ctd on page 6)*

Star Wars: Episode IX – *The Rise of Skywalker* (2019)

Nine down – none to go. Directed by J J Abrams, this is the final instalment in the Star Wars cycle of nine films as originally envisaged back in the 1970s. The inspiration for this end of saga film is clearly the Book of Revelation and its final apocalyptic battle between Good and Evil. And thankfully - as in the Bible – it's the Good Guys that win.

Even more thankfully, Mr Abrams understands that *Rise of Skywalker* needs a life and energy of its own if it is going to work for the viewer. This he achieves by lots and lots of plot content continually folded into the film by a pace of action that never slackens throughout. And driving the film from the front are the two leads from the first and middle films of this final trilogy. On the Dark Side, is the 100% Bad Boy, Kylo Ren, and on the side of Light and already faced off as his enemy, young female trainee Jedi, Rey. With supporting cohorts for both acting leads, everybody just goes for it big time.

The core reason for why this film works is in its depiction as a quest, perhaps the oldest form of human storytelling. And all the action that happens during the course of the quest becomes part of the quest itself. The quest's end goal is the search for the planet Exogol and this becomes the race between Kylo Ren and Rey. There are twists and turns at every point and Rey and her friends have to fend off continual attacks by the First Order bad guys.

Both make it to Exogol and Rey discovers it is the home and base of the Evil Emperor. She also discovers that she is the Emperor's granddaughter (*don't ask*) and he wants her to go over to the Dark Side and they will rule the Universe together. Thankfully, Rey is a good girl and it's a, "No" without even a "Thank You". More than that, she is able to get Kylo Ren to turn from the Dark Side back to the Light. No wonder she always wears white.

In the Final Battle that ensues, the Good Guys are at their last gasp when the Cavalry comes over the top of the hill (out of hyperspace, actually). The Evil Emperor is killed and his plans for a renewed Evil Empire are stopped. Kylo Ren is also killed but as he died fighting for the Light he's now a hero – redeemed by blood.

But what about the entire saga? Worry not. In his direction of this film, Mr Abrams achieves the cinematic equivalent of squaring the circle. Whilst barrelling along merrily, *Rise of Skywalker* still manages to scoop up, one by one, all the loose ends from the previous Star Wars films and weave them tidily into the larger picture. By the end of the film all has been revealed, explained and sorted. And Rey, job done, just like Shane, walks off alone into the end credits.

John Newland



St Abraham Kidunaia

St Abraham was born to a wealthy family living near Edessa in Mesopotamia towards the end of the third century. He felt called to the celibate life, but when his parents chose a bride for him, he was afraid to go against their wishes. It was the custom in that region for seven days of festivities to precede the marriage ceremony. On the final day of the celebrations, Abraham ran away and hid in the desert. His family and friends went in search of him, and they eventually found him absorbed in prayer.

They tried to persuade him to leave the cave in which he had hidden and to return, but nothing could shake his resolve. He walled-up the entrance to the cave, leaving only a little window through which food could be passed to him.

When his parents died ten years later, he inherited the family fortune, but he asked a friend of his to distribute all his goods to the poor. His only remaining possessions were a cloak, a goatskin jacket, a bowl for his food and the rush mat on which he slept.

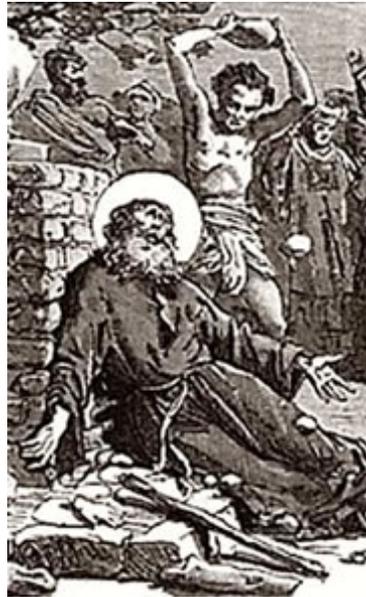
Abraham became known as a holy man to whom people could turn for guidance. He came to the attention of the bishop of Edessa, who ordained him a priest and begged him to leave his hermitage and go to the town of Beth-Kiduna to convert the people there who worshipped many false gods.

Not knowing quite how to begin his mission, Abraham asked the bishop to build a Christian church, and when it was completed he spent time in prayer then set about destroying the idolatrous altars, shrines and statues in the town.

The townspeople were furious. They beat him and drove him out of the town. He returned during the night, and morning found him in the church praying. He went out into the streets and harangued the people, urging them to give up their superstitions and turn to the one true God. His words had little effect. He was seized, dragged out of the town, beaten, stoned and left for dead.

When he regained consciousness, he returned once more. For the next three years he continued to preach while suffering many more beatings and insults. He did not seem to be making any difference to the way the people behaved. Eventually, it seemed that his meek and patient endeavours were having a positive result. People began to see that he was indeed a good and holy man, and they started to listen to what he had to say.

Over the next year or so he built up a large number of converts. But he began to worry that he was becoming too absorbed in the things of this world, and he longed for the solitude of his hermitage. He considered his work in Beth-Kiduna to be done, and he returned to his solitary life in the desert. St Abraham lived to the age of seventy, and when illness struck him down people from all around came to receive a final blessing



The Pope's Intentions

The Pope's monthly prayer intentions alternate between prayers for Evangelization and prayers for a Universal theme. In this month of March he asks us to pray for Catholics in China: We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

Reflection on the Pope's Intention for March

China is the largest country by population in the world with 1.4 billion people. The percentage of Catholics is less than 0.1%.

Living under strict restriction with little religious freedom, however, the Catholic community has shown incredible perseverance and vitality, who tried their best to keep communion with the universal Church by suffering all difficulties and persecutions. During the Easter of 2018, there were about 48,000 baptized. Young Catholics in China seek all means to deepen their faith and are actively present in the Church.

Just by reading news (which is often imbalanced), outsiders hardly understand the real situation of the Church in China. The often dualistic description of the Chinese church as "underground" and "official" is not only too simplistic but also very harmful. As Pope Benedict XVI clearly emphasized, there is only one Church in China, though it may exist in two ways due to certain very complicated reasons. The majority of both are living under persecution and yet remain faithful. The conflicts within the Church have created great confusion for believers and caused severe obstacles for evangelization. Pope Francis passionately invites the universal Church to pray for the church in China, that it may be more Catholic (united) and more Chinese at the same time.



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Archbishop Accuses Pope

The Catholic News Agency reports that a retired archbishop who accused Pope Francis of heresy has been ordered to cease celebrating Mass in public. Archbishop Jan Pawel Lenga, the 69-year-old former Archbishop of Karaganda in Kazakhstan, has also been forbidden to preach at Masses or speak to the media. The sanctions were imposed by the Diocese of Włocławek in central Poland, where the archbishop retired after serving in Kazakhstan. Fr Artur Niemira, chancellor of Włocławek diocese, told the Polish Catholic news agency *KAI* that Bishop Mering had decided to impose the disciplinary measures in order to prevent the spread of scandal among the faithful. The news agency said the archbishop had refused to mention Pope Francis's name when celebrating Masses, and he had repeatedly criticised Pope Francis, apparently referring to the Holy Father as a "usurper and heretic." It added that the measures would remain in effect until the Holy See issues a judgment on the case.

Showing no sign of remorse, Archbishop Lenga immediately defied the ruling by giving an interview to a television station in which he insisted that he would continue to speak out.

Last year the Polish journal *Wież* reported that the archbishop had given a lengthy interview to the author Stanisław Krajwski. The journal quoted the archbishop as saying: "Bergoglio preaches untruth, preaches sin, and does not preach a tradition that lasted so many years, 2,000 years... He proclaims the truth of this world and this is the truth of the devil."

In January, the archbishop appeared on a Polish television show prompting criticism from the Polish bishops' conference. The bishops' spokesman Fr. Paweł Rytel-Andrianik pointed out that the archbishop is not a member of the Polish bishops' conference. "Therefore, the statements of Archbishop Lenga cannot be identified in any way with the Polish episcopal conference," he said. "They cannot be treated as positions of Polish bishops."

In June 2019, Archbishop Lenga was among the signatories of the 40-point "Declaration of Truths." The declaration claimed to address "the most common errors in the life of the Church of our time," reaffirming Church teaching on topics such as the Eucharist, marriage and clerical celibacy.

Fr Niemira, chancellor of Włocławek diocese, said that bishop Mering had imposed the measures on Archbishop Lenga in accordance with canons 392 and 763 of the Code of Canon Law.

(Ctd from page 4) The sacrament is administered during the Mass, after the Gospel and the homily. The sacrament has two main parts: the laying on of hands on the head of the person, and the anointing with Holy Oil on the person's forehead and hands. Everyone present at the Mass is entitled to be anointed. After all we are all in need of healing in one way or another. **The Lenten Healing Mass** will be celebrated at **2.30pm on Saturday 4th April**. It will be a way of rounding off our Lenten observances at the start of Holy Week, a time when we can pray for ourselves and for others whom we know to be in need of healing.

There may be people you know who would like to attend this Mass but have no means of transport, so if you, as a friend, can help them then please do so. The Mass is a good opportunity for those who cannot usually get to Mass to join the parish in a special celebration – it might also be a good opportunity to invite someone who has not been to Mass for some time to come and join us.

After the Mass there will be tea provided in the parish hall, offering a chance to mingle, chat, renew old acquaintances and make new friends.

Aid the Church in Need

Aid to the Church in Need recently highlighted the financial problems facing the Church in Sudan. Sudan was one of the earliest countries to embrace Christianity, possibly within ten years of Christ's time on earth. Sadly, by the 16th century the lack of priests to instruct in the faith caused the church to dwindle and almost die away. Without priests and deacons to lead the faithful, knowledge of the Sacred Scriptures began to fade and, people were no longer able to withstand the pressure of Islam. Today the bishop recognises the need to provide a sound and solid formation for the country's seminarians. They have 29 men studying for the priesthood and it costs £19,900 a year to keep these men in the seminary – that is £690 per student. It doesn't seem much by our standards, but it is difficult for the Christians in that country, fraught with such political and economic turmoil, to find that money. Aid to the Church in Need is supporting those seminarians and some 12,000 others in different countries. If you can help, please send donations to CAN, 12-14 Benhill Avenue, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4DA.

Unity Cheque Presentation

Test Valley Mayor, Cllr. Martin Hatley, and his wife joined Sharon O'Leary and members of Unity Christian Theatre to present a cheque for £2,250 to the Countess of Brecknock Hospice. The cheque was accepted on behalf of the hospice by former BBC presenter Bruce Parker, who is an active member of the board of the Trust.



Unity raised the money from their production of the pantomime "Strangers in the Night" which they performed at The Lights Theatre last month. Mr Parker thanked the group for their hard work and generosity, and he outlined some of the many benefits which the new additions to the hospice would bring to those in need and to the town in general.

Answers to Bible Quiz on page 2

1. 73 books in the Catholic Bible
2. The third book of the Old Testament is Leviticus
3. The three Old Testament books named after women are Ruth, Judith, and Esther
4. David is anointed in 1st Book of Samuel
5. "The rivers of Babylon" is in the Book of Psalms (136)
6. The sixth book of the New Testament is Romans
7. The "Love is ..." reading comes from the First Letter to the Corinthians
8. The parable of the Good Samaritan can be found in the Gospel of St. Luke
9. There are three letters from St John
10. The shortest verse in the Bible is St John Chapter 11 Verse 35: "Jesus wept."