



The JOURNAL

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

Issue
No 318
September
2020

Please pray for those who have gone before us in July and August

Fred Tarrant, Peter Calderley, Rosemarie Harris, Kevin O'Leary, and Daphne Channing

and for those whose anniversaries occur in August & September

Tracey Hodgson, Doreen O'Dowd, James Connor, Theresa Anthony, Leonard Sandiford, John Regan, Larry Gitten, John A. Fyle, Hanna Maria Kirby, Margaret Barnett, Maureen Marchant, Agnes Kidney, Mrs Douglas, Patience Gardiner, Marion Isherwood, Dorothy Bennett, Mrs Ackers, Tony Baulk, Alan Trimble, John Moorat, Dennis Fuller, Sid Viret, Raymond Fox, Edmund Plowden, Joan Mostyn, Rex Pontet Picollomini, Alan Green, Nita Wilson, Andrew Clark, Terence Colleno, Milton Judge, Francis McSwiggan, Pauline Chuter, James Drugan, Mary McKeever, Margaret Mulligan, Michael Murphy, Lillian Walton, Francis Gwillim, Loretta Thorn, Elise Tanburn, Vincent Gallagher, Janine Armstrong, Anne Wain, Winifred Newth, Starlight LeGarde, Ernest Tricker, Angelique Quinton, Peter Coquet, Mrs Easterby, Beatie Kidney, Peter Monaghan, Elizabeth Ellwood, Lily Collins, Joan Mills, Fr. Vincent O'Connor, Mrs. E. Smith, Patrick Guihan, Kathleen McCann, Eileen Fox, Bridget Hunter, Jan Rychlik, Isobel Coquet, Pat Campbell, Maureen Kennedy, Jane Risdale, Ivy O'Connor, Patrick O'Toole, Sarah Higgins, James Sweeney, Peter Byrne, Mr Gardener, Eddie Shroff, Patrick Mackie, John Monaghan, George Walsh, Nita Wilson, David Pike, Shirley Owen, Jim Church, Suzie Simpson, Frank Flaherty, Jessie Jamieson, Michael Padgham and Joe Goble, Bishop Cesare Mazzolari, Fr. Martin Laker, Dave Holdway, Fr. Owen Cannon SMM, Thomas Hourigan, Bill Dennahay Patrick Everard, Janet Franklin, Constance 'Tommie' Hill, Laurence Holden, Des Warren, Urszula Pomian, William McCabe, Monica Thomas, Patrick Kane, Marian Otter, Nellie Spiller, Edward Graham, Kenneth Walsh, Ed Lansing, Tony Waugh-Bacchus, Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor, Patricia Hillier, Pat Moore, Sheila Cuffley, Lillian Baxter, Cecily Plowden, Ursula Reid, Michael Gavin, James Lowry, Gladys, Vickery, Agnes Smith, Fr Joe Connell, Margaret Scott, Patrick Monaghan, Cecilia Connelly, William Green, Tiggy Eldridge, Nora Smith, Kathleen Lee, Kevin Marchant, Edith Bush, Fr Jean Marie Vincent SMM, George Lynn, William McLamey, Margaret Symon, Matthew Everett, Florence Coleman, Br Joseph, Max Double, Giuseppe Ardolino, Pat Copeland, Laura Pearson, Gordon Ross, Doris Baulk, Mary Field, Patsy Hynes, Lilly Collins, Eric Ramsden, Nan Bootyman, Brian Fleming, Almuth's Father Wilhelm, Sheila Collins, Harold Fowler, Bill Green, Fr Isherwood SMM, George Platt, Esther O'Hanlon, Pauline Badman, Angus Glen, John Cremins, John King, Thomas Saywell, Annie Hynes, Ruth O'Shea Gwendolyn Dodsley, Patrick McDonnell, Dorothy Bennett, Kathleen Bowen, Mary Reeve, Staistawa Danisz, Eileen Watts, Catherine Thornton, John Tschuk, Cecil Mundy, Annie Howlett, Finbar Howlett, Sandor Zalavolgyi Hyde, Carlos Cabral, Mary Simmon, Fr. Patrick O'Donnell, Norah Kimmet, Mary Snelling, Sybil Evelyn Murphy, Ivor Palmer, Bridget Pierce, Dorothy Robinson, Paul Coady, Sean O'Connell, Jean Lloyd, Elizabeth Scanlan, Kathleen Copleston, Fr Danny Burns, Virginia Geary, Teresa Moss, Laurie Fisher, Maria Ardolino, Doris Pearson, Dorothy Lomax, Baby Dominic Quaresama, Beatrice Bradley, Bernadette Lloyd, Bridget MaLachlan, Patrick Taylor, Noreen Tierney, Vincent Howard, Kathleen Page, Clementine Cuttini, Geoffrey Loveridge, Francisca Uche Unegbu, Tracy McGarel, Mary Power, John Davison, Eileen Hourigan and Bernard Rees

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

Patrick Pacini, Audrey Francis, Audrey Stephenson, 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, Patrick Scowen, Sheila Muir, Jo Hibberd, Therese Ayres, Sheila Roberts, Mary Hathaway, Rachel McGarvie, Chris Kirby, Rosemary Gallagher, Eileen Dickie, Annie Maxwell, Judith Everett-Heath, Christopher Brown, Frances Eggleston, Geoff Hall 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 3rd & 4th October. Contributions should be with the editors by Monday 28th September. Please leave contributions at the Presbytery or email them to: stjohnsjournal@googlemail.com

Andover Catenians

The Catenians were established in Manchester in 1908 and were originally known as "The Chums Benevolent Association". It was typical of many male societies established at that time, but it had additional significance as a way of bringing together Catholic men to help overcome the limited opportunities Catholics enjoyed in terms of education, social standing, politics and general influence in society.

The name "Catenians" was adopted some two years after the Association was formed; the name coming from the Latin word Catena meaning "chain". Each member is seen as a link in a chain whose strength depends upon all of its links.

The Association, encouraged by several bishops, spread rapidly through the United Kingdom. It gradually spread across many of the colonial countries, and today has some 10,000 members in various parts of the world.

The last few months have been an interesting time for Catenians worldwide, restricting normal meetings and social events. But we have not been idle. Very quickly, in common with many organisations, we came to see the benefits of ZOOM. So, from April, most Catenian Circles have been using Zoom to continue normal business. April is the month when new officers take up post so it was straight in at the deep end for them after their installation was carried out virtually.

Part of the fun in being a member of the Catenians is to visit neighbouring Circles or indeed those further afield. With Zoom this has been so much easier, doing so from the comfort of your own home. It has also had the benefit of allowing visitors from other parts of the world to join meetings in Great Britain and for us to join overseas. So, it has been good to see members from as far away as India and Australia.

Part of the social programme for Andover Catenians, as for other Circles, is a regular monthly walk followed by lunch. With the easing of restrictions, members of our circle ventured on a gentle walk around the Stockbridge marshes, all the while keeping our distance from one another! It was really enjoyable to be able to meet friends again and catch up on news. The day chosen for our walk turned out to be the hottest day of the summer so it was with great relief that we arrived at the Three Cups restaurant in Stockbridge for a cold drink and lunch. If you are interested in joining us as a Catenian or visitor, please click on the link on the Parish website or contact our President Mike Sibbons by email mike.sibbons19@gmail.com.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe imprinted on the tilma of a 16th century peasant was recently the centre of attention at a conference held at the Pontifical Regina Apostolorum Athenaeum in Rome, where Jose Aste Tonsmann of the Mexican Centre of Guadalupan Studies spoke about his twenty year study of the image of Our Lady.

The image has long been the subject of debate, and sceptics have tried to deny its authenticity. However, the various scientific examinations, far from casting doubt on the image's miraculous origins, have rather cast doubt on its being any sort of human creation.

Scientists have determined that it was impossible to paint such a detailed image on fabric such as that from which the tilma was made, and the "ayate" fibres from which the cloth was woven deteriorate after some twenty years, yet the fabric of the tilma and its image remain intact after almost 490 years. The 1938 Nobel Prize winning chemist Richard Kuhn found that the image did not have any natural animal or mineral colouring, and yet there were no synthetic colourings or pigments available in the 16th century. Furthermore, American scientists Philip Callahan and Jody Smith had examined the image using infrared rays and discovered there was no trace of paint and the fabric had not been treated using any known technique. The two American scientists also showed how the image is iridescent, i.e. shows small changes in colour according to the angle at which it is viewed, a technique which cannot be produced by human hands. This research raised the question as to how it is possible to explain the image and its consistency on an untreated fabric, and if no known paint has been used how do the colours maintain their remarkable luminosity and brilliance?

The latest digital scanning techniques perfected by NASA have helped Jose Tonsmann examine one extraordinary aspect of the image - namely the eyes of the Virgin. Using the most modern digital processes Tonsmann has been able to study the eyes in minute detail, and what has been revealed is quite startling. The image's eyes have microscopically imprinted in them a highly detailed picture showing some thirteen people. The same people can be seen in both the left and the right eyes, in different proportions as would happen when human eyes reflects objects before them. Tonsmann is of the opinion that the reflection seen in the eyes of the Virgin of Guadalupe is the scene on December 9th 1531 when the peasant Juan Diego showed the image inside his tilma to those present in the room with Bishop Juan de Zumarraga.

Tonsmann magnified the iris of the Virgin's eyes 2,500 times to enable him to see the images clearly, and could see what appears to be an instant picture of the moment Juan Diego unveiled the image in front of the bishop. He was able to identify thirteen people in the image including a seated Indian, an elderly man with a white beard who closely resembles the portrait of Bishop Zumarraga, and a peasant who might well be Juan Diego unfolding a tilma. In the centre of the pupils, in a much reduced scale, there appears another scene, independent of the first, showing an Indian family of a man, a woman and several children. In the right eye there are other people standing behind the woman. Tonsmann ventured an explanation for this second image in the Virgin's eyes. He believes it is a message kept hidden until modern technology was able to discover it just when it is needed. He put forward the idea that the picture of the family in the centre of the Virgin's eye has come to light at "a time when the family is under serious attack in our modern world," said Tonsmann.



First Holy Communion

In early September 58 children from our parish will be making their First Confession and receiving their First Holy Communion. Sadly, the First Holy Communion programme and receiving the Sacraments had to be put on hold in March because of the coronavirus pandemic.

In the meantime, parents were encouraged to pray with their children, telling Our Lord they were looking forward to receiving Him for the first time in Holy Communion, to continue reading from the "I Belong" scheme, revising work already done and finishing the two unfinished lessons.

A great deal of thought has been given to how the children may receive the Sacraments reverently and safely in the present circumstances.

First confessions will have taken place on two Saturday afternoons prior to the start of the school term. The children will receive First Holy Communion at 4 special Masses on two Saturdays early in September.

Because of the pandemic and the need for social distancing, numbers have had to be strictly regulated at each Mass with each child accompanied by a maximum of 5 or 6 immediate family, previously decided. This will enable families to be seated at a safe distance from other families and each family will have a reserved and labelled bench to sit in. There will be no other places for "extra" guests.

We are truly sorry that in these strange and difficult times we are unable to celebrate our Parish First Holy Communion in the usual way. However, it will still be a very joyful occasion and the prayers and good wishes of the parish will be with each family.



Burdock Photography

*Specialising in
Weddings, Family Groups
& Newborn*



*Bespoke commissions accepted
Prices to suit your budget
Call 07724496840
Email:*



Doggy Day-care
Collection between 8-10am
Drop home between 3-4.30pm

Contact
Adam Baxter
07766431242
or
Dan Bowman
07738123385

Canine First Aid Trained
Available for Andover
and surrounding area

Every Knee Should Bow

During this turbulent year we've heard many new terms and expressions, among them 'taking the knee' which is defined as a peaceful sign of respectful protest against racial violence. When we genuflect in church, perhaps we could see it as taking the knee for Jesus, himself a victim of injustice and oppression.

St Paul's letter to the Philippians (2:9-11) says of Jesus that *God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name above all names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.* This passage is clearly the inspiration for the hymn "At the Name of Jesus", which begins with a direct quotation and continues 'every tongue confess Him King of glory Rhyming *now* with *bow* gives added immediacy to the action; and the act of bowing the knee before the Lord recurs again and again in both Old and New Testaments, for example in Isaiah 45:23 and Romans 14:11. Staying close to Scripture, the hymn goes on to invoke the beginning of St John's Gospel with the line 'Who from the beginning was the mighty Word'.

The poem from which these verses are taken was written in 1870 by Caroline Noel, daughter of an Anglican clergyman. She published her devotional poems in the hope of cheering and encouraging readers who shared her experience of long-term illness. Since 1870 the hymn has been set to a variety of tunes, including the one most frequently used in Catholic churches, a rousing version dating from 1960.

Although Caroline Noel originally titled her poem 'Ascension Day', At the Name of Jesus is a heart-warming hymn of praise which can be sung all the year round.
Julia Courtney

Wisdom Centre

Wisdom Centre in Romsey is ready to safely welcome visitors back for the Autumn/ Winter programme of events and Quiet Days from this month onwards. The centre, like so many other organisations, will be relying upon the support of patrons to help them rebuild after the enforced closedown.

The staff at the centre are doing everything possible to ensure the safety of guests, visitors, friends and staff. Like many organisations and community centres they had to furlough management and staff to protect clients, staff and jobs. The furlough scheme has been a lifeline for the Centre but under the rules of that scheme staff have not been allowed to contact friends of the Centre even on a voluntary basis.

The Centre is now able to advertise up and coming events. On Saturday 26th September Pat Clegg will be running "Encounters Along the Way: Join with Jesus as he journeys from place to place. On 17th October David Cole will be the facilitator for "Divine Nature in the Celtic Tradition: A Day of Celtic Spirituality. Patricia Yandell will be the facilitator on Saturday 21st November for a day based on the passage from Isaiah "Come all who are thirsty". The final day for 2020 will be on 5th December with Margaret Smithson the facilitator for "Advent: A time of Waiting".

Further details on the work of the Centre and of the activities offered can be found on the Centre website www.wisdomhouseromsey.org.uk

Share the Earth's Fruits

In a recent General Audience, Pope Francis focussed on the importance of equality and on the sharing of resources in order to reflect God's love for us and for Creation during the difficult times caused by the Coronavirus pandemic.

He invited the faithful to "welcome the gift of hope that comes from Christ", especially at this time in which many risk losing hope. "Christ," he said, "helps us to navigate the tumultuous waters of sickness, death and injustice, which do not have the last word over our final destination."

Pope Francis noted that many social inequalities have been highlighted and aggravated by the pandemic. Some children have been unable to receive their education, while others have continued to receive almost uninterrupted education; some people have been able to work effectively from home, but others have not; some countries have been able to offer considerable financial support while other countries have not had the ability to dispense money without seriously harming their financial futures. "These symptoms of inequality reveal a social illness," he said. "It is a virus that comes from a sick economy ... the result of unequal economic growth, which disregards fundamental human values. In today's world, a very few rich people possess more than the rest of humanity. It is an injustice that cries out to heaven!"

The pope went on to say that the desire to possess so much and to dominate our brothers and sisters is not the design of creation. God gave the world to all of us to care for and to cultivate, inviting us to dominate the earth in His name, cultivating it like a garden, "everyone's garden. It is a garden that must be protected and preserved; we do not have the right to do whatever we selfishly want with the earth which belongs to the whole human race. We have a duty to make sure its fruit reaches everyone, not just a privileged few.

To ensure that what we possess brings value to the community, political authorities have the right and the duty to regulate for the common good. Property and wealth can be used to serve and should not become themselves the aim or end for an individual or a group – when that happens essential human values are undermined, and we forget that being created in God's image and likeness we are social, creative beings with an immense capacity to love. If we fix our gaze on Jesus, in "the certainty that His love is operative through the community of His disciples, we must all act together in the hope of generating something different and better. Christian hope, rooted in God, is our anchor. It moves the will to share, strengthening our mission as disciples of Christ, who shared everything with us."

The pope concluded his address by inviting us to think about the many children who suffer due to the unjust economic system, children who are dying, hungry, lacking the opportunity of an education. When this crisis is over, we must do better. If we take care of the good things the Creator gives us and if we share what we possess so that no one is lacking, then we can inspire hope to regenerate a more health and equal world.

St John the Baptist School

The school is scheduled to reopen fully on Monday 7th September. We wish all the staff and children of the school a happy start to the new year. We are looking forward to having the news from the school in future editions. In addition there are many children who are starting the next phase of their education in secondary school and we extend our best wishes to them also.

End of an Era

Over the last fifteen years, Unity Christian Theatre, under the direction of Sharon O'Leary, has produced a variety of shows ranging from small concerts to full-blown musicals, as well as the Andover Passion Play, and several biblical-themed pantomimes written by Sharon and Jez Jameson. Numbers in the group have varied from a dozen at one time to over a hundred, and performance have been put on in a number of venues such as churches, church halls, The Lights and Andover High Street.



In those years the group's concerts, musicals and pantomimes have raised over £30,000 for local, national and international charities, as well as giving considerable pleasure to the group's members and regular audiences.

The arrival of Coronavirus and COVID-19 and the "lockdown" brought an abrupt end to the group's activities. While the lockdown has eased, the restrictions on meetings and the necessity for social distancing have made rehearsing impossible. The situation is unlikely to change much in the foreseeable future, and it is looks as though Unity Christian Theatre will have produced its final show.

The years of sharing "faith, fellowship and fun" may be coming to an end, but there are many memories which will keep the group alive in the minds of many. One of the aspects which illustrate Unity's vitality has been the number of youngsters who have joined the group, stayed with the group and developed into accomplished performers. There have also been many adults who had never given a thought to performing and who have found pleasure in taking on an active role, because the group has always given an opportunity to all "to sing, dance, speak or to do whatever they can to the best of their ability and to have a voice as part of a group where everyone is equal," said the group's director, Sharon O'Leary..

Highlighting her own feelings about the years of Unity's growth and its impending closure, Sharon said she would miss, "the friendship, the working together with musicians, choreographers, ushers, technicians, sponsors and our loyal audiences that have grown year on year, raising money for so many deserving causes. As a Christian, I was given the opportunity to lead a wonderful group and I have loved every minute." Ceasing activities is a difficult decision to make, but one which seems inevitable, and "nothing goes on for ever."

Sharon has expressed the hope that it might be possible for all those with associations to the group to enjoy a final celebration party next year when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

The Golden Voyage of Sinbad (1973)

This is a wonderful film and not one to frighten any of the horses. It's a Sinbad the Sailor adventure that follows on in the tradition of Douglas Fairbanks Jnr and other heroic adventures set in the fantasy past of an Arabia dreamt up by Hollywood. It ticks all the right boxes. There's Good Guys and Bad Guys (to help the audience, the Bad Guys wear black) and there's a Treasure to be sought and a Quest to go find it.



With all these bases covered, it only remains to fill in the details with enough plot action to get Sinbad from start of Quest to finding the Treasure. Of course, having found the Treasure, Sinbad has also to fight and vanquish the chief Bad Guy. Once this is done, he refuses the Treasure (of untold riches) and sails off for yet more adventures. And in this type of film all the character roles are stock stereotypes simply overlaid with a surface layer of personalised individualism.

What is central is getting the plot to work as a flowing narrative and not merely a collection of disjointed scenes that bang into each other like dodgem cars. This film totally accomplishes this through making the chief Bad Guy (Tom Baker) a magician who uses the dark arts and then capitalising on his skill in those same dark arts. Whenever the plot needs to be moved on, it's Tom that achieves this by doing that dark magic which does, "that something", which makes this happen.

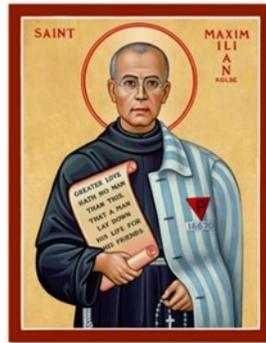
These events are largely the animation of inanimate objects to do Tom's will. On Sinbad's ship he causes the ship's wooden figurehead to come to life to steal the Treasure map in Sinbad's cabin. Further on, he causes a statue of the Indian goddess of destruction, Kali, to come to life and attack Sinbad with a sword in each of her many arms. Sinbad and crew destroy the statue and find the remaining item that leads them to the Treasure and which sets up Sinbad's (John Philip Law) climatic confrontation with Tom Baker.

With no CGI in the early 1970s, these action moments were created through the use of Stop Motion photography (by moving models in incremental physical adjustments) by the acknowledged master of that art, Ray Harryhausen. Ray had been working in the industry for decades and was the best there was. In this film his sequences are utterly authentic-looking. This is Stop Motion as good as it gets. After this, the development of computer technology makes this film both Ray Harryhausen's finest hour and also his last hurrah.

It's also really the last full example of the practise in Hollywood of using white actors in ethnically non-white roles with cosmetic make-up to achieve that desired level of skin darkness required for their character. This was just the norm and always had been. The only clearly ethnic players are the effectively walk-on roles. All of the main players are made-up to "look Arab" as it were. Perhaps, indeed, time for a change.

John Newland

St Maximilian Kolbe



Maximilian, the son of Julius and Mary Kolbe, was baptized Raymund Kolbe in January 1894 in Zdúnska-Wola, Poland (actually part of the Russian Empire at the time). His father was an ethnic German and his mother of Polish origins.

When he was ten, he had a vision in which Our Lady held out to him two crowns, one white and the other red, asking him to choose between them: he took both.

In 1907 he and his elder brother Francis decided to join the Conventual Franciscans and went to the junior seminary in Lwów. He was allowed to enter the novitiate in 1910. First vows followed in September 1911 and final vows in 1914.

In the meantime, he had been sent to Krakow in 1912 and then to Rome in the same year. He earned a doctorate in philosophy at the Pontifical Gregorian University in 1912. He was ordained a priest in Rome on April 28th 1918 and gained a doctorate in theology at the Pontifical University of St Bonaventure in 1919.

He returned to the newly independent Poland where he was active in promoting the veneration of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, whose name he had selected as one of his names in religion. He began to implement his idea of a “Militia of Mary Immaculate”, receiving the blessing of the pope.

He founded two monasteries, a seminary, a radio station, and several other organizations and journals, including a bulletin for his Militia, *The Knight of the Immaculate*, which was published in a million copies in many languages. Perhaps the most extraordinary result of his Marian devotion was the establishment of towns composed entirely of friars and dedicated to Mary. The first of these was the “City of the Immaculate”, *Niepokalanów* as it is called in Polish. By the start of the Second World War it housed some 800 religious.

In 1930 he left to spend six years as a missionary in Japan. While there he founded a monastery, a seminary and a newspaper as well as founding another of his friar-filled towns.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, he was back in Poland. He sheltered refugees during the Second World War, including 2000 Jews whom he hid from the Nazis in one of his monasteries. On 17 February 1941 he was arrested by the Gestapo, and on 28 May was transferred to the concentration camp at Osweicim (Auschwitz) as prisoner no 16670.

At the end of July, three men escaped from the hut in which Maximilian, Block 14, and the camp commandant selected ten men to starve to death as a reprisal. When one of the selected men, a sergeant in the Polish Army, cried out “My wife! My children!”, Kolbe volunteered to take his place.

After two weeks of dehydration and starvation, Kolbe was the only one left alive. In order to clear the bunker, the guards gave Kolbe a lethal injection of carbolic acid on 14 August 1941; his feast-day is celebrated on that day. His remains were cremated the following day, the solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Kolbe was beatified as a confessor by Paul VI in 1971, and he was canonized as a “martyr of charity” by John Paul II on 10 October 1982. The man whose life he had saved was in attendance at the canonization.

He was declared by John Paul II “the patron saint of our difficult century”, and he is one of the ten 20th-century martyrs whose statues appear above the Great West Door of Westminster Abbey. Maximilian Kolbe is patron saint of drug addicts, families, journalists, political prisoners and the pro-Life movement.

“Greater love than this no man hath, that a man lay down his life for his friends”



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 September, he asks us to pray for proper respect for the resources of our planet: Pray that the planet’s resources will not be plundered but shared in a just and respectful manner.

Reflection on the Pope’s Intention for August

*It is all too easy to take some things for granted. Last month the Holy Father asked us to remember a group of people who do work which is essential and yet which most of us rarely if ever give any thought to. This is a reflection on the Pope’s Prayer Intention for August 2020 – **The Maritime World**: We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.*

The beauty of the sunrise took my breath away. A tall fishing vessel glided over the horizon as it approached the shore. A little while later it yielded up its harvest of 153 beautiful fish. Despite the catch, the nets were not broken. (John 21:11) Fishermen had breakfast on the seashore and gave thanks for the labour of the night.

Sadly, for many a different story unfolds. Inclement weather, poor quality boats and ever-changing legislation cripples the fishing industry plunging the families of these good men into poverty and distress. Man’s abuse of creation pollutes the oceans – the seabed is poisoned, fish die.

On some occasions fishing trawlers are captured by human traffickers – the soul of man bleeds as victims endure all forms of abuse and the God of all creation fills the sea with his tears.

Our world cries out for healing and renewal. May we place our hand into the hand of the God who calmed the seas that his beautiful gift of creation may be restored and all whose lives depend on the fruits of the ocean be protected, this day and always. As one, may we rejoice and give thanks. Amen.

Siobhán O’Keefe S.H.J.M

MIXED UP PILATES

Mixing the best of all exercise styles:
Gentle Pilates, Stretching and physio-rehab
Targeting all round approach
To maximise your individual
body strength,

Led by a fully qualified physio.
St John’s Church Hall, Andover
On Thursdays from 6.00pm - but currently
on hold.

(Other times may become available)
Call or text Joan on 07748153999

A Splash of Colour Decorating Services

Simon Cowley

61 Borkum Close
Andover
Hampshire SP10 4LE
01264 338612
07809 543115
simon.cowley01@btinternet.com



I don’t just decorate Need any other jobs doing around the house? Tiling? Plastering? General Maintenance?

NO JOB TOO SMALL
Call for free quotation
01264 338612 or 07809 543 115

SEMINARIAN JACK RYAN

"I was raised a cradle Catholic, going through the 'normal' sacramental formation of First Confession, First Holy Communion & Confirmation within the context of a Catholic family. This, coupled with serving the Mass, and attending Catholic schools conforms to a well-trodden path introducing a young person into Catholic life.

However, I first remember vaguely thinking of the possibility of the Priesthood in a rather novel way when I was a very small child. My pre-school was located in the church hall, next to the church, and I distinctly remember conflating the two. I wasn't at pre-school but 'Priest-school'. I would never have predicted that years later I would be applying for the real 'Priest school', but God works in amusing ways.

Attending Mass, regular periods of Adoration, working with the S.V.P. and getting involved in other areas of Parish & Chaplaincy life were all really helpful to me in my discernment. I have also enjoyed good relationships with several clergy in our Diocese, and within my own family, and they have all helped me along the way.

It is all well and good thinking you know what your vocation is, but it is for the Church to discern if it is a true vocation. This process ultimately ends with candidacy but starts with a discernment conference. So it was that in March of last year I attended the formal interviews required to enter the seminary process, after being in regular touch with Canon Gerard our Vocations Director for two years. Bishop Philip kindly accepted me and sent me to Shrewsbury Cathedral for a year of discernment and prayer.

The time in Shrewsbury was a great introduction to the prayer of the Church, life in community (with its ups and downs), and life in a Parish context. This month, God willing, I start at the Venerable English College, Rome – I hope it will be a great time of study and an immersion into the heart of the Church. I pray this will set me up well to return to Portsmouth and serve the Diocese as a Priest."

Please pray for the newly ordained in the Diocese – Fr Matthew King & Deacon Anthony Fyk. Please also pray for the Bishop and all the Priests of the Diocese, who are doing their best to reopen the churches for the public celebration of Mass. Please continue to pray for more vocations to the Priesthood and religious life."



PRAY, DECIDE AND DON'T WORRY

Father John Cooke, Vocations Promoter for the Diocese, suggests a book which could be of interest to anyone who might be wondering what God has in store for them: **'Pray, Decide and Don't Worry'** Bobby & Jackie Angel with Fr Mike Schmitz

This small book (available from Ascension Press and Amazon) is a helpful and practical introductory guide for those who are actively seeking God's plan for their lives.

If you know anyone, especially a young person, who is at a bit of a crossroads or finding it hard to move on or take the next step, why not buy one for them? Lots of plans have been turned upside down with COVID & the lockdown and this may be the hope & help that person needs. It is not just about specifically discerning the Priesthood or Religious life - unless that does indeed transpire to be God's will...!

Pope's Homilies Published

Pope Francis has given daily homilies from Casa Santa Marta, and the homilies and prayers which he has offered during the Coronavirus pandemic have been published in downloadable form by Vatican Publishing House.

During the pandemic, Pope Francis has been reaching out to those who have been ill, were under quarantine, or unable to leave their homes for any reason, by broadcasting his daily morning Mass. The on-line broadcast has been seen all over the world by thousands of people, Catholics and non-Catholics alike, who have been able to follow through the Vatican Media channels, and other radio, television and digital platforms that picked up the transmissions.

The transmissions of the Mass and homilies has now been suspended, but playbacks of the Mass, together with summaries of the pope's homilies and prayers could be seen on YouTube and complete texts of the homilies have been made available as digital files which can be downloaded, with up-to-date English translations being added as and when the became available.

The text contains blessings and prayers, including the prayer used during the memorable time of prayer with Pope Francis broadcast on 27th March.

The director of the Vatican Publishing House, Father Giulio Cesareo, underlines how important the pope's homilies were. Fr Giulio said "He is a father, a spiritual guide who has accompanied us as we lived that time in our lives. His homilies are precious because they are not only valid for back then. We still experience conflicts, shame, difficulty in praying. We were perhaps more receptive and attentive to what he told us back then, but it is important to keep his words with us as we allow ourselves to be continually nourished by the beautiful things he said about life.

Following requests received since the transmissions were suspended, the digital edition of "*Strong in the Face of Tribulation*" has ceased to be available, but a printed edition is available through Amazon and other publishers who have obtained the publishing rights.

Papal General Audience

There have been no weekly Wednesday General Audiences during the last six months or so, but the Prefecture of the Pontifical Household has announced that from the start of this month of September Pope Francis will once again be holding Wednesday General Audiences at which the faithful can attend.

Safety and hygiene considerations mean that the audiences will be held in the Apostolic Palace's San Damaso courtyard. The audiences will be open to anyone who wishes to participate. No tickets are necessary for the audiences which will begin at 9.30am. Entry will be via the Bronze Door under the right colonnade of St Peter's Square. Numbers are limited, and people wishing to attend will be allowed to begin entering the Courtyard at 7.30 am, so arriving early is recommended.