

Please pray for those who have gone before us in October

Pamela Nolan, Eileen White, Geoff Hall, Lillian "Topsy" Charlton and Myra Thompson.

and for those whose anniversaries occur in November

Bob Jones, David Allergant, Frances Cross, John Webster, James Fenyhough, Eileen Weatherly, William Dwyer, Thomas Cullen, Mary Sweeney, Michael Doyle, Emma Taylor, Pat Thornton, Mary Palmer, Leonard Biggs, Oliver Plunkett, Richard Morgan, Winifred & Maurice Creighton, Edward Davis, John Boland, Michael Kane, Romeo Bisson, John Gordon-Stables, Bartholemew Bruen, James Potter, Kathleen Fisher, Mary Glasspool, Francesco Segolo, Mrs Dobson, Ann Curry, John O'Neill, Adele Fisher, James Nash, Fr Liam Cosgrove, Cecilia Antrobus, Robert Laversuch, Mrs Mitchell, Margaret Murrell, John Nash, Stanley Bell, Patrick McCathy, Cathy Grey, Fr Tom Doyle, Jane Merrifield, John Hynes, Sadie Haughian, Katherine Houghton, Ken Loftus, Stan Evans, Ida McNeil, Fr Donald McDonald Benigno Mosquera, Anne Searle, Andrew Graham, Patricia Lona Kopka, Ethnea King, George Hill, Clive Richardson, Thomas Savage, Andrew Sharkey, Tommy Hynes, Tony Ryder, Catherine Futcher, Margaret Hassan, Michael Keegan, Eileen Flynn, John McGlynn, Tom Egan, Mary Broderick, Ellen Kemp, Catherine Morris, Thomas Wilmot, Michael Hughes, Patrick Pettigrew, Eileen Farbutt, Molly Hackett, Keith Bale, Mary Clarke, Fr. Jack Blaney SMM, Kay Watson, Mary Doonan, Annick Cremier, Isabel Thompson, Margaret Bystranowski, Daphne FynnFred Smith, Billy Kidney, Mary Gillespie, George Davis, Molly Ludlow, Olive Randall, Christina Savage, Molly Ravenscroft, Jacob Pearce, Adele Kilroy, Violet Conaghan, Mary Brown, Andrew Kladko, John Sexton, Moira Johnston, Harriet Crosby, Maureen Alland, Dennis Townsend, Lana Rose Fishwick, Simone Klukowicz, Christine Clarkson, Les Greenslade, Margaret Golding, Michael Burke, Fr Thomas Dunne, Dom Magnus Wilson OSB, Naria Barlow, Rose Plummer, Terry O'Kelly, Margaret Henry, Anne Brown, Ivy Condon, Albie Kidney and Nora Finn

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, John Mills, 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, 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

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ENDPIECE

Many thanks to the various contributors to this month's *The JOURNAL*. The next edition will be 12th & 13th December. Contributions should be with the editors by Monday 7th December. 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 320 November 2020

A Saint of Our Times

Carlo Acutis was in many ways a typical teenager. He wore jeans, T-shirts, trainers, loved fast food, was a bit of a joker and had a passion for computers. But this was no ordinary teenager, and on Saturday 10th October 2020 Carlo Acutis was Beatified in the Basilica of St Francis, in Assisi.

Born in London in 1991, Carlo lived a relatively short life. He died of leukaemia in 2016 at the age of fifteen. In those fifteen years he demonstrated qualities which set him apart, and his love of computers was more than matched by his devotion to the Eucharist and to the Virgin Mary.



When Carlo was still very young his parents, who were not practicing Christians, moved to Italy. Aged only 3 Carlo was already asking his mother to take him to church. She humoured him, and when he was seven he made his First Holy Communion. He was confirmed and became a Catechist, helping younger children understand more about their faith. He attended daily Mass and recited the Rosary each day. His devotion brought his parents back to the Church.

He became fascinated with the Eucharistic miracles and with places where Our Lady had appeared, and he used his computer skills to research the miracles and the apparitions. He visited many of the places where miracles had taken place and used them to illustrate a website which he created, and to create a virtual museum of miracles and a downloadable exhibition. He regarded the Eucharist as the "highway to Heaven".

During the beatification, Papal Legate Cardinal Vallini spoke of the way Carlo used the internet in the service of the Gospel, saying that he saw the web as a place to use with responsibility without becoming enslaved.

In 2006 Carlo was seriously contemplating becoming a priest. He had already shown a gentle nature, defending weaker children at school, helping a local charity, and enjoying helping others to understand the faith. Then he became ill.

Many of his school friends had gone down with the flu, and Carlo thought that that was what afflicted him. When it became clear that he wasn't getting better, his parents took him to hospital. As they entered the building Carlo told his parents that he did not expect to leave the hospital alive. He was right. The doctors diagnosed Acute Myeloid Leukaemia. Carlo's reaction was striking. He said: "I offer to the Lord the sufferings that I will have to undergo for the Pope and for the Church, so as not to have to be in Purgatory and be able to go directly to heaven". He died just two weeks afterwards.

(Ctd on page 2)

Called & Gifted

Many in the parish completed the “Called and Gifted” programme to help them discern the gifts which God had given them and the mission for which their own charisms best fitted them. The Portsmouth Diocese Called and Gifted team are in the process of developing an ecumenically inclusive “digital” model which, with personal accompaniment from the experienced Portsmouth Team, will mean that the programme can be offered nation-wide to individuals and groups. The website will reflect the new model and will offer a Called & Gifted webstore, with links to the Catherine of Siena Institute, for purchasing passes to the online teaching videos.

If you know anyone who wishes to discern their charisms, the Portsmouth team can help & direct them...simply email: amfletcher@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

The team also draw our attention to Ananias Training which the Catherine of Siena Institute has recently put together. Named after the disciple who played an important role in accompanying St Paul at the beginning of his spiritual conversion, this programme helps you look at how you can accompany your family and friends in a gentle affirming way, bringing God to them according to where they are. It explains the different stages of the spiritual journey, starting with building relationships of trust in a gentle and affirming way. It helps you look at your own spiritual journey. It helps you learn how to listen to someone else's story and recognise the evidence of God at work and the significance of that. The training shows how you can accompany someone slowly, at their pace, building trust that earns you the right to have a conversation that might help people get curious about God. Too often there is a culture of silence around talking about God, yet everyone is searching for meaning and purpose to their lives. You can find further details on the Catherine of Siena Institute website <https://sienna.org/ananias>

Clare Simpson from the Called & Gifted team will be happy to discuss the programme in more detail and you can contact her on the e-mail address at the foot of this article. If you would like to do some training, the team will put people from different parishes together in small groups on Zoom, or arrange training for a parish. It is likely that there would be one meeting a week for three weeks followed by a shortish break and then a couple more meetings, as there is quite a lot of material to share. Each meeting would last between 90 and 120 minutes!

If you are at all interested, please contact Clare Simpson by e-mail on : csimpson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

(Continued from Page 1)

His websites had attracted a large following and had also drawn the attention of the Vatican. Large crowds attended his funeral and a campaign to see him beatified began shortly after his death. In 2013 he was declared a *Servant of God*, the first step in the journey. Pope Francis in 2018 confirmed his life as being of *Heroic Virtue* and declared him “Venerable”. A first miracle was attributed to him last year after the Vatican's Medical Council of the Congregation for the Causes ruled that he had healed a seven year old Brazilian boy with a pancreatic defect after the boy was given a piece of Carlo's shirt and his parents had made a novena asking Carlo Acutis's intervention.

It seems likely that Blessed Carlo Acutis will be the first person who has died this millennium to be canonized. A Saint in jeans and trainers; a Saint truly for our times.

Pope Francis and St Jerome

On the Feast of St. Jerome, to mark the 1600th anniversary of his death, Pope Francis published a Pastoral Letter to encourage us to read the Bible.

The Letter is called *Sacrae Scripturae Affectus* (‘Devotion to Sacred Scripture’). In the Letter, the pope explains how St Jerome's work of translating the Bible from Hebrew into Latin was crucial for the Church at that time and remains just as important today. Until Jerome made his translation there was only a Greek version, but Jerome provided a definitive Latin text which could be used by the Western Church.

St Jerome was born around 347 and was renowned as a theologian, confessor and historian. Although he left many learned writings it is his translation of the Bible, which became known as The Vulgate, for which he is most remembered. It is generally accepted that much of his work on the translation was done while he was living in a cave close to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. He is often depicted with a lion in reference to a legend in which he was befriended by a lion after extracting a thorn from its paw.

Pope Francis holds up St. Jerome as an example for missionaries who must find the right words to share the faith in places where there is no translation of the Bible. There are today translations of the Bible in many languages. As we reported in last month's Journal, we see an example of this in the translation of the Bible into the Pazande language common to several African nations.

It is probably true that too many Catholics have only a passing acquaintance with Scripture. The pope writes that “*the richness of Scripture is neglected or minimized by many because they were not afforded a solid grounding in this area.*” He invites us to remember the 1600th anniversary of St. Jerome's death by reading the book to which he dedicated his life. The pope says: “*The example of this great doctor and father of the Church, who has placed the Bible at the centre of his life, awakens in everyone a renewed love for Sacred Scripture and a desire to live a personal dialogue with the Word of God.*”

You can read the new Pastoral Letter on the Vatican website.

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St Marcian of Cyrrhus

St Marcian was born into a patrician family in the city of Cyrrhus in modern day Syria sometime in the early part of the fourth century. As a young man, Marcian retired into the desert of Chalcis, between Antioch and the Euphrates. He chose the most remote part of the desert and shut himself away in a small enclosure. The cell that he built for himself was said to be so narrow and so low that he could neither stand nor lie down in it without bending his body.

Despite his determination to cut himself off from the world and to be totally unknown, his reputation for holiness spread through the surrounding country and others came wanting to join him. Eventually he was persuaded to admit just two disciples, Eusebius and Agapitus. It was not long, however, before a considerable number of others came to join them. The community appointed Eusebius as their abbot.

St Marcian performed several miracles, but he found his reputation as a worker of wonders to be humiliating. He resisted requests for miraculous intercessions. On one occasion when a hermit came to Marcian on behalf of a man living in Beroea asking to have a jar of oil blessed for the man's sick daughter, Marcian refused preemptorily. But at the same hour the girl recovered.

The Patriarch Flavian of Antioch and other bishops entreated the monk to abandon his solitude for the benefit of Christians, but he would not agree. However, he taught those coming to him for instruction and it is said that he turned many away from heresy and back to the true faith. Marcian lived to considerable age, and during the last years of his life he was pestered by a variety of people wanting to have custody of his body in the hope of benefitting from the pilgrims they hoped would flock to the holy man's tomb. Several people went so far as to build chapels ready for the internment of his body, among them Marcian's own nephew Alipius. As a result of these unwanted approaches, Marcian made Eusebius promise to bury him secretly. This was done and it was not till fifty years after the saint's death that the burial place was disclosed. Marcian's relics were solemnly moved to a shrine and became an object of pilgrimage. His feast day is 2nd November.



The God Who Speaks

Bishop Philip has issued an invitation to each and every one of us to become better acquainted with the Bible:
“In these years 2020 to 2022, I am inviting everyone in the Diocese of Portsmouth to undertake, by God's grace, a period of intense, spiritual renewal. The overall purpose of our Diocese is *Bringing People Closer to Jesus Christ through His Church*. The purpose of these special years is to grow in faith so that we might be better equipped for mission and service.

In 2020, we have joined the other Dioceses of England and Wales in keeping a Year of the Word (called “the God Who Speaks”), celebrating the 1600th anniversary of St. Jerome.

The Bishops' Conference have now decided to extend the Year of the Word into 2021. The Year is a unique opportunity for us as a Diocese, for our parishes and schools, for clergy and faithful, for families and individuals, to get to love more and to know better the Bible as a library of sacred literature that brings us into union with Jesus our Lord and Saviour and inspires us by the Holy Spirit to conversion of mind, will and heart.

Bishop Philip invites us to look in the Diocesan e-News in the coming weeks during which he will be sharing his thoughts to help us keep this Year special and to savour the Scriptures.

Father Austin's Chalice

Parishioners attending mass at our parish church, St John the Baptist, Andover, during these times of lock-down and limited attendance may have noticed that Father Austin has been using a different chalice and paten – it is of a modern design in sterling silver – and very beautiful it is too.

The chalice and paten, made by Graham Watling, were presented to Fr Austin by his parents to mark his ordination. He also received a pyx from a family friend – this was also made by Graham Watling but is to a different design.

The chalice was made in three parts. An elaborately textured convex conical stem, standing on a plain circular foot, leads up to a small plain cup (or calyx). The stem is hollow but the abstract decoration is in quite deep relief. Normally, the interior of a silver chalice is gold lined but, when this chalice was made, such gilding was not essential provided that the chalice itself was made of precious metal. It stands 10½” tall overall and weighs just over 10oz.

The paten is completely plain and undecorated apart from light planishing marks. (Planishing is the process which a silversmith uses to smooth out the surface of items formed previously by beating a flat piece of metal over a suitably shaped ‘stake’ and planishing marks can also be seen inside the calyx.)

The chalice and paten carry London hallmarks for 1975, suggesting that this was a stock item rather than being specially commissioned as Fr Austin was not ordained until 1977.

In his early priestly life Fr Austin used this chalice and paten regularly. But the limited capacity of the chalice meant that it was no longer suitable for use when communion under both kinds was introduced for the congregation. However, the current guidelines on celebrating Mass – with communion under both kinds for the congregation suspended – have provided the opportunity for Fr Austin to bring his chalice and paten back into regular use.

About the Silversmith

Graham Watling was born in Yorkshire in 1930 and spent his National Service as a Royal Marine Commando. After his military service Graham studied for a BA (Honours) degree at Loughborough University and became a teacher, eventually becoming head of the Arts and Crafts Department at the then new George Ward School in Melksham. Graham registered his mark at Goldsmiths Hall, London in 1959 and spent much of his spare time silversmithing; his work was well regarded and shown at various exhibitions, including world fairs in Canada and Japan. After 17 years teaching, he decided to become a full time gold and silversmith and opened his first shop in July 1972 before moving to a larger workshop and showroom in Lacock, Wiltshire.

He and his wife fell in love with Lacock at first sight. In 1982 he published *Discovering Lacock – An Illustrated Guide and Personal Tribute*, coinciding with the 750th anniversary of the founding of Lacock Abbey.

Graham Watling died in 1996. His son John and daughter Jane continued the business before eventually deciding to go their separate ways; Jane works in the same premises as her father and John works elsewhere in Lacock. Both specialize in making jewellery rather than what I would call ‘proper’ silversmithing.

Kieran O'Kelly





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 November, he asks us to pray for technology to be put to good use. An appropriate cause in the light of the recent Beatification of Blessed Carlo Acutis:

We pray that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind.

New Dean

Fr. Chris Whelan, parish priest of St Joseph's in Basingstoke, has been appointed as the new Dean of Blessed John Body Deanery, North Hampshire, and Coordinating Pastor of North West Hampshire Pastoral Area, in succession to Fr. Chris Rutledge.

The Deanery comprises two Pastoral Areas: Northeast Hampshire and Northwest Hampshire with their parishes, schools and religious communities. The Northwest Hampshire Pastoral Area of which Fr. Chris is the Coordinating Pastor includes the parishes of St. John the Baptist Andover with St. John Fisher Whitechurch, Holy Ghost and St. Bede's Basingstoke, St. Joseph's Basingstoke, Sacred Heart Hook and St. Michael's Tadley with St. Oswald's Burghfield Common. The Sisters of Our Lady of Providence and the Dominican Sisters of Malta are present in this Pastoral Area. There are also a number of Catholic schools: St. John the Baptist Primary, Farleigh Independent Preparatory School, St. Bede's Primary, St. Anne's Primary and Bishop Challoner Secondary School.

The role of the Dean is to act as a regional Coordinating Pastor. He is the lead Parish Priest within the Deanery. His principal task is to coordinate clergy and lay resources in order to help give spiritual leadership to the area, to share expertise, whether of the laity or the clergy, to preserve and support smaller parishes and Mass centres, to maintain and develop chaplaincy services in hospitals, prisons, etc., to create better opportunities for ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, to provide pastoral care and catechesis more effectively, and to enable a greater priority for the work of evangelisation, mission and outreach.

As Dean, Fr Whelan will seek to support clergy, especially those who are sick or in difficulties, and to ensure that churches, parish registers and Church property is being properly cared for. Bishop Philip asks us all to pray for Fr. Chris in this new and important coordinating role.



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Mr Turner (2014)

This is the definitive bio-pic of MW Turner; arguably the best painter this island has ever produced. With a running time of 150 minutes, Director Mike Leigh has cast long-time collaborator Timothy Spall in the title role and concentrated on the second half of Turner's career and life from 1828 to the man's death in 1851.



By this time – and he had begun his painting career in 1796 – Turner was at the height of his popularity. From this point at the end of the 1820s, as he continued his career, Turner's painting style evolved from a naturalistic, “show it as it looks” style into an increasingly “show it as it feels” way of approaching subjects. In his own time, this radical approach was largely rejected and often derided by the artistic and cultural establishment with Turner even becoming the butt of Music Hall jokes.

To get to grips with the character of Turner, Timothy Spall did the equivalent of an artistic Boot Camp. Over the course of two years he learned how to paint, so what is seen on the screen is him actually doing the job. This authenticity of experience, in so far as it was possible to replicate it, was an essential part of Mike Leigh's intent to create a believable experience of early Victorian Britain where the sailing ship and horse-drawn technology of the 18th Century was mutating into the steam-driven and mechanised 19th Century.

This transitioning from an agriculturally-based to an industrially-driven society is encapsulated perfectly in the sequence where Turner hires a boat to watch (and sketch) the actual *Temeraire* (a fighting battleship of the Napoleonic Wars) being towed up the Thames to be broken up. In reality and unlike the finished painting, the actual *Temeraire* was in a far sorer state than how Turner put her on canvas. Stripped of all her masts and in truth only a floating hulk, this once proud vessel had been stripped of all her dignity and was in truth a pitiful sight to behold.

This decaying symbol of a now past era is brilliantly counterpointed by the depiction of the steam tug pulling the *Temeraire*. Then cutting-edge technology and moving at a regular, steady and unhurried clip, the tug belches out thick black smoke like a good 'un and simply exudes an aura of unstoppable power and materialist virility. Yes, it's the coming age. And yes, it's all CGI-done and it all works utterly convincingly.

With his self-portrait (as a young man) now on the back of the £20 banknote, together with a depiction of, *The Fighting Temeraire*, Turner has now clearly “made it” culturally. But JMW is much more than that. In *Mr. Turner*, Mike Leigh sees Turner as a man of his times, an ordinary person in that he carried the imperfections of humanity as we all do. And yet, one so creatively attuned to the changes in the world he lived in, that he could, and did, document those changes in paint. This film is excellent. Not a brush stroke missed, or out of place.

John Newland



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FROM THE SCHOOL

At the start of the term St John's welcomed the new Reception class, at first for some story-time sessions, then half days including lunch, before spending the whole day in school. The Year R Team have been impressed by how quickly the children have settled and made new friends. Year R have also begun to create a garden, complete with strawberry plants. There has also been excitement as the school's tomatoes, carrots and beetroot are almost ready to be harvested.

Year 3 have continued their science exploration by investigating the soil in the school grounds to see what it is made up of. They are working on the results.

Year 2 celebrated the start of the new academic year by having a tasty picnic outside. While the weather permits, as much learning as possible is taking place outside. Many classes have been using the new tiered seating in the Key Stage 2 playground for Maths, Drama, Music, Story-time and praying together.

Year 4 got messy in the name of science; to better understand the digestive system, they created a replica out of everyday objects. A plastic bag for the stomach and tights for the intestines helped to show the journey food takes through the body.

Year 2 enjoyed trying out their musical skills on the glockenspiels. Some children even took the time to write out their own sheet music to help their playing. Mrs Whatley congratulated them for keeping time so well and playing the instruments so expertly.

As yet, Year 6 have been unable to meet their Year R Buddies in person as classes may not mix, so they are going to be "pen pals" instead. The Buddy Post Box will soon be fully operational so Year 6 can introduce themselves to Year R in writing.

As parents are unable to go into school, share their child's learning and celebrate their successes, these events will be shared with parents through the children's Home Learning App.

The school is also holding regular "Virtual" gospel assemblies to reflect on the week's Gospel and Readings and so bring the school together in this way.

OUTSTANDING PEOPLE

The Catholic Herald recently published a report by Olenka Hamilton which highlighted one of the reasons why there has been a rise in the number of practising Catholics. Some of the increase is almost certainly due to the rise in the number of Catholics who have immigrated to this country. But the article focusses on the dedication and personal example of priests and religious. It is easy to forget just how blessed we are in this country with remarkable men and women who have devoted their lives to the service of God.

Several people with local connections are mentioned, among them superiors of religious houses, including the Abbot of Quarr Abbey on the Isle of Wight.

Among the bishops singled out, is our own Bishop Philip Egan, who is described as "a beacon of orthodoxy in the sea of modernism which constitutes so much of English Catholicism".

Two priests with strong connections to this parish are Fr Timothy Radcliffe, former Master General of the Dominican Order, a celebrated preacher and theologian, and a certain Fr Des Connolly SMM who is currently Parish Priest at Holy Family and St Vincent de Paul parish in Southampton. As most will know Fr Des dedicates much of his time and energy to such causes as Poitiers Care and the Medaille Trust, both charities which help people in great need. The report also points out that in his three years as P.P. at Fordingbridge he more than tripled his congregation.

Also mentioned in the report is Sister Hyacinthe Defos du Rau OP who is not only a guiding light in the Portsmouth Diocese Formation for Mission, but is also an author and associate member of the staff of the Maryvale Institute where she teaches catechesis and supervises MA students.

Understanding Catholicism

Those who tuned in to Sunday Mass streamed from the Chapel of Saint Teresa at Farleigh a couple of weeks ago will have heard Fr Simon urging the congregation to explore the Bible, the faith and the ways in which we all pray. One of his suggestions was that we find and read books examining aspects of Catholicism. There are many such books – ranging from *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Understanding Catholicism* to *An Intelligent Person's Guide to Catholicism*, which would appear to pretty much cover all the bases!

As Shakespeare almost said: some are born Catholics, some become Catholic and some have Catholicism thrust upon them. Whichever of those categories you best fit in to, "Understanding Catholicism" by Hugh Murray will probably change aspects of how you think about Catholicism and give you an insight into areas of the faith.

The book is divided into four major sections: Catholic Beliefs and Traditions; The Church Since Vatican II; Thoughts on Morality; and a Conclusion. Within each section there are short sections on such things as Church history, the Mass and the Sacraments, the role of Our Lady and the saints, the Catholic teaching on purgatory, grace and the importance of good works, the role of the Pope and the hierarchy of the Church.

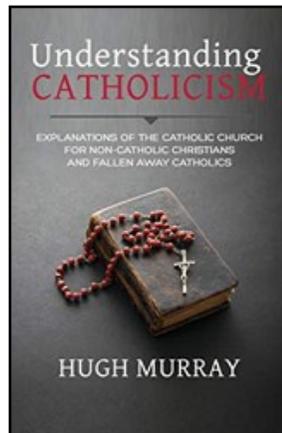
No one book on The Catholic Church can give a complete and definitive explanation of all aspects of belief, tradition, practices and sacramentals, but this book certainly provides useful information, thought-provoking insights, and interesting answers to some frequently asked questions.

Hugh Murray originally wrote the book for non-Catholic Christians but realized that his Catholic friends were interested in many of the topics which he covered. Even people who had been through the Catholic educational system told him that they learned things they had never known before. Other Catholics found it a useful refresher and a way of reminding themselves of some basic things such as the role of confession, the purpose of genuflecting, the importance of the rosary.

The book's conversational style makes it easy to dip into topics, while it provides enough information to encourage the reader to think for themselves and to begin exploring topics in more detail.

As one reviewer commented: If you are a lifelong Catholic, this little primer will teach you more than you learned in Catholic Primary school, remind you of what you forgot from Catholic Secondary School and inform you of things which you were never taught. If you are not a Catholic and have some questions nobody could answer for sure then this will help.

The book is only about a hundred pages, and is available from Amazon, Abe Books and other on-line bookstores. The author himself points out that *it has not been approved (or disapproved) by any member of the Catholic hierarchy, nor has it received a Bishop's Imprimatur*. While there may be opinions with which you may wish to disagree, the factual aspects of doctrine and history won't leave you fearing the Inquisition and there is much to recommend this book



SVP Sudan Appeal

Please help us to save lives and give hope to the poor of Sudan and South Sudan. Through the international Twinnage scheme we have built strong links with our members there and your generous support in recent years has helped us to assist them in their work with those in such great need in both Sudan and South Sudan.

Every penny donated will be sent to support the work of our members. They work hard feeding pre-school children, providing homes and safety for street children, giving vocational training in a wide range of subjects, offering free medical care to displaced persons, supplying life-giving clean water.

You can see a short video made recently by Appeal Co-ordinator Ian Mawdsley, by searching YouTube for **Sudan Ian Mawdsley**.

Over recent years, the SVP has made an appeal to help fund the work of SVP in Sudan and South Sudan, and the people of this parish have responded in typically generous fashion. As we are sure everyone can appreciate, 2020 has been a difficult year. Many of us will find it is no longer possible to give the financial help which we have given in the past, but if you are able to make a donation, large or small it will be greatly appreciated.

As in previous years, you can give someone that you love a wonderful Christmas present by making a donation in their name. Because of the restrictions imposed by COVID19, should you wish to give a Christmas card to indicate that your donation has been given as a Christmas gift you can only get a card to send to them by telephoning John Scicluna on 01264 365790.

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You can send the form and donation to John Scicluna, 15 Lillywhite Crescent, Andover, Hants SP10 5NA, or direct to our local Twinnage Co-ordinator Mr S. Hogg, 56 Fairway Avenue, Tilehurst, Reading RG30 4QA. Direct Bank Transfers are possible, but only if you contact Stephen Hogg 01180 427 646 to make the arrangement.

Please note that because all members of the SVP here and in Sudan are volunteers there will be no deductions for expenses – all money given will reach the children who need it.

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