



The JOURNAL

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Including: St John Fisher, Whitchurch and
The Chapel of St Theresa of Lisieux, Farleigh

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A Synodal Church

A synod is primarily a meeting of bishops gathered to discuss a topic of theological or pastoral significance, in order to prepare a document of advice or counsel to the pope. What Pope Francis has launched last month is something very ambitious - an attempt at reforming the Church in a two-year process in which every Catholic parish around the world is to be consulted.

The consultation process, which has been called “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission”, will involve three phases.

The first phase is to be the “listening phase” when people in parishes and dioceses will be able to discuss a wide range of issues. This phase began in October and will continue until April 2022. The pope has said it is important to hear from those who are often on the fringes of local Church life.

The second phase, from September 2022 to March 2023, will be a “continental phase” when bishops will gather to discuss and formalise their findings.

Starting in October 2023 there will be the third phase when bishops will gather at the Vatican.

The pope has warned against the process becoming an intellectual exercise that failed to address the real issues facing Catholics, and he also warned of the “temptation to complacency” when it comes to considering change.

Some Catholics have seen the consultation process as something which might lead to change in issues such as the ordination of women, married priests and same-sex relationships. Others see it as an opportunity to re-examine Catholic social teaching on alleviating poverty and strengthening the stand on climate change. Supporters of the pope’s initiative say that while the process might not be perfect the church is more likely to address the needs of the people of God with it than without it. Theologian George Weigel, writing in the conservative American journal “First Things” expressed doubts that “two years of self-referential Catholic chatter” would address such issues as why Catholics were “drifting away in droves”. He is concerned that the only people who will be fully engaged in the various phases are “people who love to go to meetings in order to share with like-minded spirits their complaints about the way things are in Catholicism”.

Meanwhile American Cardinal Timothy Dolan, set out a list of seven things which he believes are “non-negotiables”. Describing seven points as “synodality in a nutshell” he outlined the following points:

That the energy and direction driving the Church comes from the Holy Spirit, not ourselves.

While in the world, we are not of the world, and thus our guiding principles come from the Gospel, revelation, and the patrimony of the Church’s settled teaching.

That the principles of the innate dignity of every human person and the inherent sacredness of all human life are the towering moral lighthouses on our path.

That our journey through this life back to our true and eternal home of heaven is most effectively accomplished precisely as a journey as we walk with and accompany each other, with Jesus as our guide, His Mother and the saints, and we sinners at each other’s side.

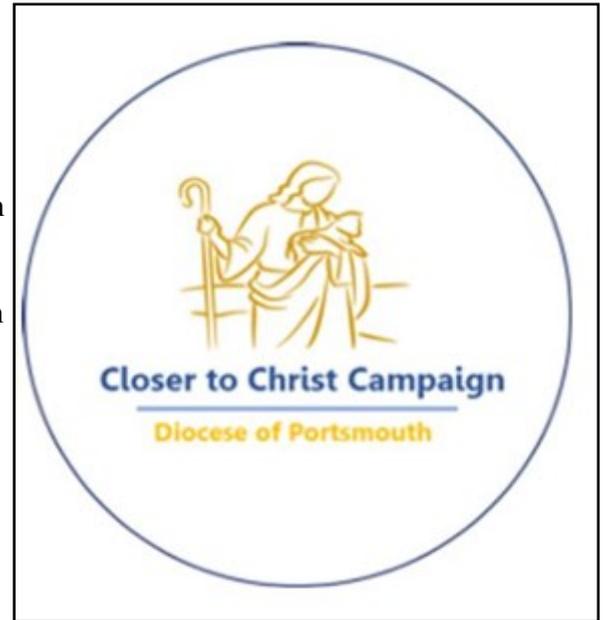
On this journey we pay special attention to those at the side of the road, especially those who are sick, weak, poor, or unable to keep up with us.

Our wealth only comes from faith, trust, prayer, the sacraments, and His grace.

That mercy, love, invitation, humility, joy, selfless generous service, and good example are our only tools, never harshness, condemnation, or pride. *(Ctd on page 2)*

Diocesan Fund Raising

Writing in the Diocesan on-line Newsletter, Bishop Philip explained the new fund-raising project which the diocese will be undertaking. He writes: “After much prayer and consultation with clergy and laity, the Diocese has decided to embark on a two-year fund-raising initiative entitled the ***Closer to Christ*** Campaign. The aim is to raise £13.5 million in pledges over a three to five year period and help us to realise our vision of *Bringing People closer to Jesus Christ through His Church*. The ***Closer to Christ*** Campaign will fund the training of our seminarians, provide support to our priests in active ministry and rejuvenate our parishes, ensuring they have the necessary resources to provide a place for prayer, worship and community interaction, meeting a broad range of faith needs and giving them a platform to thrive. It will also allow us to continue to care for our priests in their retirement, recognising the important work they have achieved in delivering our mission and the contribution they continue to make in so many ways following a life of service and dedication to local parish life.



The ***Closer to Christ*** Campaign began in late spring with the launch of a Pilot Phase which included four parishes: Reading (English Martyrs), the Cathedral, Winchester and Windsor. The Pilot Phase has achieved a number of milestones, sharing the vision with thousands of parishioners and building up the momentum required for further success. This fundraising initiative is really part of the bigger project of spiritual renewal, to help everyone grow in faith, to reach a deeper, personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and to become brighter beacons of mission and service to those around. Building on the success of the Pilot Phase, we will soon begin to roll out the ***Closer to Christ*** Campaign across the whole Diocese, providing every parish with the opportunity to participate. Meanwhile, a Fundraising and Stewardship Committee, made up of clergy and laity, has been set up to oversee the campaign and along with the Committee, I look forward to keeping you updated on our progress. Please pray for the success of this important endeavour”.

(Ctd from page 1) The Cardinal admitted that he does not know if he completely understands synodality, or even if Pope Francis himself has full comprehension, but that by the end of the process we might all have a better understanding of the Church to which we belong.

Bishop Philip has announced that there will be a consultation of clergy and laity in the diocese, and this will lead to feedback to the National Conference of Bishops. He believes the Holy Father wants to “shake us up, to get us to listen to one another,” to engage with the young, with the lapsed, with other Christians”. The bishop wants every parish to establish a prayer-meeting with a representative sample of parishioners. In January, Fr John Chandler, Synod Coordinator for Portsmouth Diocese, will send out guidance to parishes on how to conduct the meeting, together with a simple feedback form which will be sent back to him. A diocesan summary will be collated, and the results sent on to the National Synodal office.

Bishop Philip has said: “In the First Reading about Pentecost Day, we’re told: *They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak*. That is our prayer during this Synod process: that we will all be filled anew with the Holy Spirit and made able to speak with wisdom and listen to one another. *You together are Christ’s body* St. Paul said in Second Reading *but each of you is a different part of it*. As a Christian, we are not lone rangers; we are members of Christ’s Body the Church, each of us with our own role and function, all equally important, which is This is why during this Synod process we want to hear from everyone. And in the Gospel, we heard Jesus promise that *the Spirit of Truth will lead you to the complete truth*. The Synod will surely raise questions and all the neuralgic issues. Yet the Spirit may surprise us, leading us in new ways hitherto unforeseen. Let us pray that God will renew us, making the Church’s mission more vibrant, especially in our Diocese, that we may *bring many more people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church*”.

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.

Over recent years, we have 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, 2021 has again 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. 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.

You can print out and use the form on the back of this message to make your donation. If your donation does not qualify for Gift Aid, please cross out the Gift Aid declaration. 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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There is a Gift Aid declaration form on the next page.



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The Last Duel (2021)

This film has Director Ridley Scott written all over it. It is visually stunning with a blanket emulsion wash of de-saturated colour overlaying everything from frame one onwards. That means no bright colours bursting through, not one. Even the Sun has been made to tone it down. And this sets the tone for this film. It's medieval grunge and no-one does grunge better than Ridley.



The Story: Set in the 1380s in the High Middle Ages in France, it opens and culminates in 1389 in Medieval Paris and is based on an actual event. The film opens with two warriors about to engage in a duel to the death. These are Matt Damon and Adam Driver. Why? Matt Damon has accused Adam Driver of attacking his wife in their castle when she was alone. Adam Driver denies the charge.

Matt Damon has attempted to prosecute Adam Driver through the law but Mr Driver has powerful friends and it has gone nowhere. The only remaining recourse Matt Damon has to gain justice is by engaging in a duel – one to the death. This is the concept of Trial by Combat. That means that God Himself will make clear what the truth is and who is lying. If Matt Damon wins (and it *is* to the death) then his accusation is proved through God allowing him victory.

However, should Adam Driver kill Matt Damon, then by that same token, God has proved that the accusation is false, and that Adam Driver is innocent of the charge. Furthermore, by that same logic, this means the wife's claim (Jodie Comer) to have been attacked by Adam Driver is also false and she has given false witness under oath. And if she's adjudged a perjurer (well, it's *her* husband that's dead) she is taken, there and then, in the same combat arena and burnt to death at a prepared stake with the wood already stacked.

The actual duel bookends the film with the opening sequence with the two warriors making the first charge and the final part of the film being the entirety of the duel and the outcome. The meat of the film in this sandwich is the substance of the story which goes from the early 1380s to the day of the duel itself. The two start out as friends but there is a falling-out (over land, equals money) and then to the attack itself. This does indeed take place and is clearly shown.

The way Ridley tells the story is to show each of the three principals, Matt Damon, Adam Driver and the wife, Jodie Comer, experiencing the events, (“The Truth according to...”). Perhaps this is the only way of addressing the sequence of events and it is a stock technique, but it does reduce the film to something that has to be worked through rather than being continually gripping. Put simply, by half-way in, you literally know what is going to happen next, because you have seen it before. Still, is this a film worth seeing? Yes, it is and on a very big screen.

John Newland

St Albert the Great

Albert was the son of the Count of Bollstadt at the castle of Lauingen on the Danube in 1206. We know little of his early life, but he studied at the University of Padua, and in 1222 was received as a postulant for the Order of Friars preachers. His father was most indignant when he learned that his son was clothed as a mendicant and would have probably taken him away by force were it not for the friars quietly removing him to the friary in Cologne.



By 1228, Albert was teaching in Cologne and over the following years he taught at Hildesheim, Freiburg-im-Breisgau, Regensburg, and Strasburg as well as Cologne. He went to Paris where he studied for a master's degree, and when the Dominicans decided to open four new colleges, Albert was sent to be regent of the one in Cologne, where he had among his students a young friar called Thomas Aquinas.

Saint Albert was a prolific writer whose works covered physics, geography, astronomy, minerology, chemistry, and biology. He wrote a treatise on botany, another on human and animal physiology. His writings were so diverse that there were rumours that he used magical powers. His most important work, however, was as a result of his realizing the autonomy of philosophy and seeing the use that could be made of philosophy of Aristotle in ordering the "science of theology". He re-wrote Aristotle's works so as to make them acceptable to Christian critics, and by the application of Aristotelean methods and principles to the study of theology. In combination with the Englishman Alexander of Hales, Albert inaugurated Aristotelian principles to the study of theology which was later brought to perfection by Albert's former pupil Thomas Aquinas.

Albert was made prior provincial of his order in Germany, and two years later, in 1258, he attended the general chapter in Paris which forbade Friars Preachers at the universities to be called "master" or "doctor", or anything other than their right name. He went to Rome to defend the mendicant orders from scurrilous attacks, and while there he filled the post of personal theologian and canonist to the pope. In 1260 he was ordered to take the role of Bishop of Regensburg, but after only two years Pope Urban IV accepted his resignation and allowed him to return to Cologne. He helped the Franciscan Berthold of Ratisbon to preach the crusade in Germany.

When, in 1277, Stephen Tempier the Bishop of Paris and other theologians seriously criticised the writings of St Thomas Aquinas, Albert hurried to Paris to defend the teachings of his dead disciple, teaching that was, of course, in great measure Albert's own. He challenged the critics to examine him on the teachings, and was partially successful though he could not avert local condemnation on certain points.

In 1278, during a lecture, his memory suddenly failed. The loss of memory became acute, the strength of his mind failed and two years later, sitting in a chair among his fellow friars in Cologne, he died peacefully. His feast day is 15th November.



The Pope's Intentions

Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to answer the Holy Father's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this intention each month. From time to time, the Holy Father may add a second prayer intention related to current events or urgent needs, like disaster relief. The second prayer request will help mobilize prayer and action related to the urgent situation. 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 people who suffer from depression: We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

Reflection on the Pope's Intention

If you or someone with whom you are close has suffered from depression, you might know how isolating it can be. Depression is a mental illness that touches every part of one's life: family, work, friendships, hobbies. It can feel dark and alone. Sometimes those with depression withdraw so as not to burden others with their darkness. At other times, they are isolated by the stigmas that surround depression. Some friends may tell them, "Just get over it," while others avoid them altogether. Jesus, however, shows us how to meet people in their suffering. He meets the blind man Bartimaeus, the woman at the well, lepers, and paralytics. They have been pushed to the margins of society, and Jesus meets them there. He gets close to them, connects with them and offers restoration. So, how can we follow Jesus' example as we encounter those suffering from depression and burnout in our world today? How do we extend an opportunity for healing and restoration? We draw close, we connect, and we offer the Light of Christ. He is the Light that gives us hope always.

To those suffering from depression or burnout: there is hope. Depression is a treatable mental illness. Do not be afraid to take the risk of reaching out and seeking professional help. Do not be afraid to let others accompany you in your difficult journey. If you know someone who is suffering in this way, reach out; encourage them to see a counsellor. And invite Jesus close. Ask for His healing and His Light. Take consolation in His words, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness but will have the Light of life." (John 8:12)

Timothy Bishop SJ

Papal Prayer App

An updated digital app. "Click To Pray" 2.0 can be downloaded on iOS and Android platforms. Launched by the "Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network", the app offers users a variety of specific propositions to pray together with Pope Francis on a daily basis and a way of supporting the synodal process.

Launched last month in the Holy See Press Office by the Network itself, in collaboration with the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops and the International Union of Superiors General, "Click To Pray" proposes new content for prayer and accompaniment of the synodal itinerary.

The International Director of the "Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, Father Frederic Fornos, SJ, noted that as, Pope Francis says, "the heart of the Church's mission is prayer"; and for this reason, "Click to Pray" intends to become a place of personal encounter with the Lord and to build a worldwide community of digital prayer.

Monsignor Lucio Ruiz, the Secretary of the Dicastery for Communication, added that one of the lessons learned from the Covid-19 pandemic is that "the digital culture has much to offer", also in its capacity "to reach and accompany men and women wherever they may be, including those who may find themselves in geographical and existential peripheries". He stressed that the Pope's social media platforms have increased enormously in followers in the past couple of years.

Bettina Raed, International Coordinator of Click To Pray, explained that users will now be able to organise their own personal prayer planner, configuring their moments of prayer for each day.

For those who are not familiar with the app, it features the option of receiving notifications and a wide choice of content for prayer at any moment of the day, in order to inspire people to commit fully to the intentions of the Pope and pray for the challenges facing humanity and the mission of the Church.

Available in seven languages, "Click To Pray" aims to provide a bridge between generations by promoting interaction among users by offering the chance to generate a shared community space, where each user can publish his or her intentions and share prayers throughout the entire network. It also includes a teaching tool for experiencing prayer at a more profound level.

"Click to Pray" has so far reached over 2.5 million users on all continents, allowing more than 400,000 users to pray together with Pope Francis for his prayer intentions.

As Cardinal Mario Grech, Secretary-General of the Synod of Bishops, has had occasion to point out, "The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network is at the service of the spiritual process, which invites us to be available for the encounter, listening from the heart and the discernment of the Holy Spirit."

"Synodality," he notes, "requires both personal and community conversion which originates in and is sustained by prayer. Our prayer, which springs from silence and contemplation, can be of immense help to the entire Church".

The Beda College

We tend to think of seminarians as being relatively young men who have discerned their vocation early on in life, but there are those who receive the call to the priesthood later on in life. Some of those in that situation find themselves going through their religious formation in the Beda College in Rome.



The College was founded in 1852 when Pope Pius IX approved a plan to accommodate in Rome a number of clergymen from England who had converted to the Catholic Church from other Christian denominations and who wished to prepare for the Catholic priesthood. Originally the College was housed within the Venerable English College. The new College was originally known as *Collegio Ecclesiastico* and later as *Collegio Pio*, and, as well as converts, took in a second group of men who were lifelong Catholics drawn to the priesthood fairly late in life. A third category of students comprised younger, newly ordained priests who wished to study for postgraduate degrees. The College became known world-wide as the College for “late vocations” and trained men who came to the priesthood from a wide variety of previous careers.

In 1898, Pope Leo XIII issued a new constitution to the College. He had a devotion to the eighth century theologian the Venerable Bede, author of the *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, and so he placed the College under the patronage of the Venerable Bede. In 1899, Bede was raised to the status of Doctor of the Church, and the College acquired the new name of Pontificio Collegio Beda. In 1917 the Sacred Congregation of Studies decided that it should be completely separated from The Venerable English College and have an autonomous existence with its own premises, rector and staff. It took up temporary accommodation in space rented from the Polish Hospice. The Polish returned after the First World War, and the College eventually transferred to a site close to the Piazza Barberini.

During the 1930s and 1940s, the Beda developed its own system of priestly formation which unlike other seminaries was, and still is, based on a four-year course of studies conducted in English. At the outbreak of the Second World War, the College was evacuated to Britain. In 1947, it returned to its home near the Piazza Barberini. In the next few years there was considerable growth in the numbers of men seeking admission and it was clear that the College had outgrown its premises. In 1956 Pope Pius XII provided land adjacent to the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls, and construction of the new building was begun. The building which houses the Beda College today was officially opened by Pope John XXIII in October 1960.

The Beda remains the responsibility of the Bishops of England and Wales, but now receives men from English-speaking countries throughout the world. The College currently has some forty-five students from seventeen different countries. One of the current students is Tom Hiney from our own Diocese of Portsmouth. Together with eight other students he took the first step towards priestly ordination in May when he received the Ministry of Lector.

(See page 14 for further information on our seminarians or add directly under Seminarians piece)

We need more cantors – do you have the confidence to sing in church on your own or with a very small group? You need to be able to sing in tune with a pleasant and fairly strong voice, and be able to read music to some extent. It's not easy but very fulfilling and is a great service to the Church. Full training will be given. If you think you can help, please contact Bruce via the parish office.

Cameroon Still in Crisis

Archbishop Andrew of Bamenda, the diocese twinned with our own diocese of Portsmouth, recently gave an interview to *Vatican News* about the conflict in Cameroon. Here is a transcription of the article.

“Metropolitan Archbishop of Bamenda, Andrew Nkea Fuanya says he is dismayed by the world’s indifference towards the conflict in the English speaking territories of Cameroon. “In many other parts of the world where there is an ongoing conflict, if someone dies or there are attacks, the press all over the planet talk about it. In Cameroon, clashes, killings, massacres or kidnappings have taken place every day for years, but nobody talks about it. Obviously, they are of no interest to anyone, and this increases our suffering,” observed Archbishop Andrew Nkea Fuanya. He spoke to the *Agenzia Fides*.

“The Anglophone Crisis sometimes referred to as the Ambazonia War or the Cameroonian Civil War, is an armed conflict in the English-speaking territories of Cameroon. The Anglophone regions of Cameroon are the South-West and North-West regions. They make up about twenty per cent of Cameroon’s population. The current conflict spiralled out of control following the 2016–17 Cameroonian protests about marginalisation. The protests were forcefully suppressed by Cameroonian authorities. What resulted was a low-scale insurgency that has since intensified and spread to most parts of the English-speaking areas. Political observers say that the violence has recently worsened. The insurgents known as *Amba Boys* fighting the security forces seek to form a separate state called Ambazonia.

“Archbishop Nkea is saddened by the general silence from the international community towards the conflict in Cameroon. In the last five years, the conflict has caused thousands of deaths and created families that are internally displaced. Over one million persons have fled and become refugees in Nigeria. “The political situation is still very difficult, and the crisis continues. There is no way out. Violence increases, and more and more weapons circulate among the separatists. The population is exhausted. They no longer want war. They just want a normal life. The Church and other religious communities in the area say they are committed to promoting dialogue and national reconciliation.

“There is a platform of religious leaders which is now a point of reference for all dialogue. We speak directly to the government and then to the *Amba Boys*. We meet them secretly, and we are in constant contact. In the meantime, we are also trying to talk to the (Ambazonia) independence leaders in the diaspora. They are important because they are very influential people. Although carried out with great difficulty, the dialogue is bearing some fruit, such as the reopening of schools. Now sixty per cent of young people attend school regularly,” said Archbishop Nkea. The Archbishop of Bamenda added, “This conflict can never be resolved with arms. There is no alternative to dialogue,” he emphasised.”

COP 26 Glasgow

The Vatican will be sending a delegation to Glasgow for COP26, the Conference of the Parties on the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The delegation will be led by Secretary of State, His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin.

In a meeting at the Vatican, Pope Francis along with religious leaders and scientists, had signed a document calling for the world to achieve net-zero carbon emissions as soon as possible. The appeal, which said: “We have inherited a garden; we must not leave a desert to our children,” spells out the challenges which threaten “our beautiful common home.” It notes that “multiple crises facing humanity are ultimately linked to a crisis of values, ethical and spiritual, adding that as caretakers of the natural environment, there is a moral obligation “to cooperate in the healing of the planet.”

“We need a framework of hope and courage,” the document underlines, “but we also need to change the narrative of development. Climate change is a grave threat.”

The document calls for the world to achieve net-zero carbon emissions as soon as possible, and finance emission reductions by poorer nations.

It also appeals to governments “to raise their ambition and their international cooperation to favour a transition to clean energy; adopt sustainable land use practices; transform food systems to become environmentally-friendly and respectful of local cultures; end hunger; and to promote sustainable lifestyles and patterns of consumption and production.”

The appeal emphasizes that efforts need to be deepened in order to bring about “a change of heart among members of our traditions in the way we relate to the Earth and to other people.”

“Future generations will never forgive us if we miss the opportunity to protect our common home,” the document says.

“Scientists have warned us that there might be only one decade left to restore the planet. We plead with the international community, gathered at COP26, to take speedy, responsible and shared action to safeguard, restore and heal our wounded humanity and the home entrusted to our stewardship. We appeal to everyone to join us on this common journey.”

In his own address during the meeting, the Pope called for a common commitment shaped by interdependence, love and mutual respect in efforts towards caring for our common home.



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CAFOD & CARITAS on COP26

Christine Allen is the Director of CAFOD, the Catholic development agency for England and Wales. Giving her reaction to the appeal by Pope Francis, church leaders and leading scientists, she said, "It's really quite unprecedented isn't it for so many faith leaders to come together in this way. I remember when Pope Francis issued *Laudato si'* in 2015; it had a very, very significant impact on world leaders and on the subsequent COP negotiations there, and I'm hoping, as I hope Pope Francis is too, that this current appeal will have a very similar impact because it's really desperately needs."

The CAFOD director noted that these are messages Pope Francis has been talking about since the publication of *Laudato si'*.

"His sense that everything is connected is absolutely fundamental to his concept of integral ecology; this sense that we are part of something, that we are connected to something. We can't just act as if our actions have no implications on either other people or indeed the planet as a whole."

She went on to say that "Pope Francis is calling us to see this issue completely differently; not just about economics, not just about politics but about how we as human beings engage both with one another and with our planet: How do we hear the cry of the earth as well as the cry of the poor?"

CAFOD have offered us all a prayer to say for the talks in Glasgow to have a genuine and powerful effect on the climate change crisis.

On Thursday 11th November, Caritas Portsmouth will be screening a short film *Extinction The Facts* and supporting environmental short films. The event, which will be held at Portsmouth Cathedral Discovery Centre, Bishop Crispin Way, Portsmouth PO1 3QA, will begin at 18.00.

After the screening of the films there will be group discussions focussing on addressing climate change through behaviour change and social action. There will then be time for discussing the conclusions groups may have reached and general summing up. The evening will end at 20.50.

If you would like to attend you need to book at:

[Caritas - Climate Café and Short Film Screening Part 2 Tickets, Thu 11 Nov 2021 at 18:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Prayer for the COP26 climate summit

Loving God, We praise your name with all you have created. You are present in the whole universe, and in the smallest of creatures. We acknowledge the responsibilities you have placed upon us as stewards of your creation. May the Holy Spirit inspire all political leaders at COP26 as they seek to embrace the changes needed to foster a more sustainable society. Instil in them the courage and gentleness to implement fairer solutions for the poorest and most vulnerable, and commit their nations to the care of Our Common Home. We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ your Son. Amen

Europe's Hundred Best Cathedrals

If you are looking for an impressive, entertaining and informative present for a discerning friend or family member, you might like to consider *Europe's Hundred Best Cathedrals* by Simon Jenkins.

Europe's cathedrals are magnificent. They outstrip palaces and castles. They are the most sensational group of structures anywhere in the world - which everyone should 'see before they die'. They are also hugely popular, most of them absolutely packed. They are humankind's greatest creations.

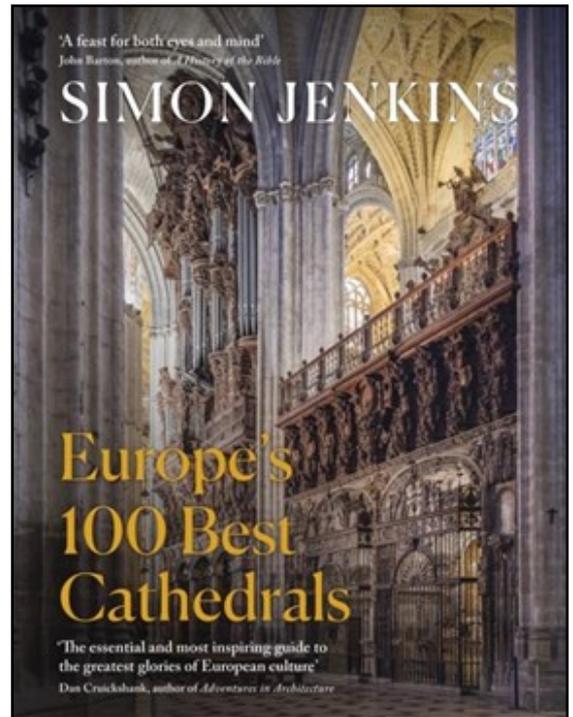
In *Europe's 100 Best Cathedrals*, Simon Jenkins has travelled the continent - from Chartres to York, Cologne to Florence, Toledo to Moscow and Stockholm to Seville - to illuminate old favourites and highlight new discoveries. Beautifully illustrated with colour photographs throughout, this joyous exploration of Europe's history tells the stories behind these wonders, showing the cathedral's central role in the European imagination. Readers will be inspired to make their own pilgrimage to all one hundred of them.

Various reviewers have praised the book. John Barton, author of *A History of the Bible* has written: Simon Jenkins has provided a feast for both eyes and mind in this sumptuously illustrated guide to Europe's greatest cathedrals. His Introduction, and description of the history and architecture of each cathedral, bring the living reality of these works of art into sharp and vivid.

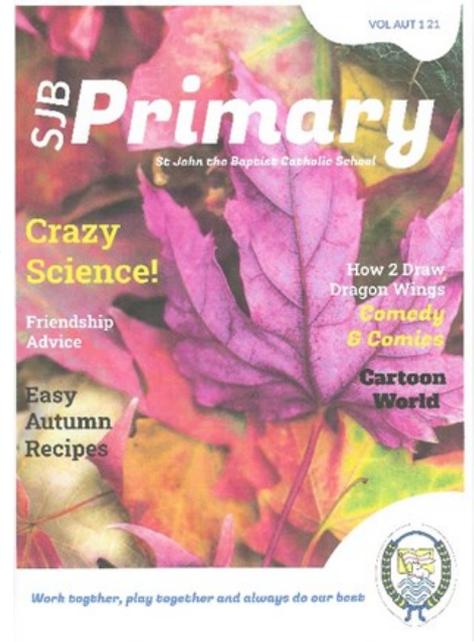
Author of *Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years*, Diarmid MacCulloch writes that Simon Jenkins is here the best sort of guide to some of Europe's greatest buildings and their settings: well-informed, elegantly opinionated and passionate in his feelings for his subject. Set out on your European travels expecting to be entertained as well as informed.

Ed Hollis, author of *The Secret Lives of Buildings*, describes the book as an engaging mixture of personal recollection and grand narrative, this book introduces the reader to the astonishing variety and invention of Europe's cathedrals, from Albi to Wells. Concise accounts and beautiful images conjure up what are still, after centuries among the largest and most complex buildings ever. And architecture expert and broadcaster Dan Cruickshank describes Jenkins' book as being well researched, well written and perceptive - this is the essential and most inspiring guide to the greatest glories of European culture.

The book is published by Penguin Books (ISBN:9780241452639) at £30



From the School



The start of the term saw the first whole school worship since March 2020, as the children gathered together to focus on the words of St Paul, “Clothe yourselves in compassion and kindness”. We are called not just to look at each other with kindness but to ACT, to help, support and reach out to each other, and to put this into practice throughout the term.

During the summer holidays the children were asked to join the CAFOD climate campaign in preparation for COP26, taking place in November. It is being hosted by Britain and will have lasting consequences for all. Many pupils drew their visions for the future. These personal visions will be shared with CAFOD, who will add them to the campaign and present them to the Government.

As COP26 and *Earthshot* approached, the school focussed on the words of Pope Francis: “We are stewards, not masters of our Earth. Each of us has a personal responsibility to care for the precious gift of God’s creation”.

The display board in the hall became the place for children to join their prayers together for the reverent use of creation. All the prayers will be placed on the big board to form a prayer collage.

Recently, the Friends of St John the Baptist (PTA) held their first “Welcome” event after school. Parents and children of Year R and Year 6 were invited to a BBQ with tea and cakes. This gave the opportunity for Year 6 and their new Year R “Buddies” to spend some time together and get to know each other, while parents and staff could chat and put names to faces. After such a long time without community events it was good to see such a huge turnout.

Year 6 are working with enthusiasm on their science topic of “Evolution and Inheritance”. They have made replica fossils from clay and are now keen to visit a beach sometime to find the real thing, and even perhaps to dig up the odd dinosaur.

Year 6 have also been busy researching, drafting and editing this half term’s magazine. With contributions from every pupil, it makes great reading, and can be found on the school’s website.

Seminarians

Bishop Philip recently paid a visit to St Mary’s College, the seminary in Oscott. The seminary is currently full and nineteen new students began formation this academic year. While attending meetings of Bishops and College staff, Bishop Philip spent time with David Bateman in Year Five, who will be ordained a deacon next summer, and Farvin Gonsalves just beginning Year Two. Another Portsmouth Diocesan seminarian currently studying at Oscott is Ambrose Chou who is in his fourth year and currently on a pastoral placement in Jersey.

As reported in *The Journal* in September, Anthony Fyk, who had been studying at the Venerable English College Rome, and Paul Nwune, who had been a student at St John’s Seminary, Womersley, were ordained to the priesthood on 31st August. James Lewis, who is a student at Allen Hall, was ordained as Deacon at the same Mass. Fr Fyk is now assistant priest in Reading, and Fr Nwune is an assistant priest in Jersey.

Please pray for our newly ordained priests, the seminarians at Oscott and Edward Hauschild, Ryan Brown, Jack Ryan and Ryan Hawkes, studying at the Venerable English College Rome; Francis Ezenai and Nathan King who are completing their Propaedeutic Year at Sacred Heart, Fareham; and Tom Hiney who is studying at the Beda College in Rome.

Look on page 9 for a more detailed piece about The Beda College.

A Grieving Mother is Consoled



Sometimes apparently small acts of kindness can have dramatic consequences. Fr. Barry Cairns, a Columban Missionary who has served for over sixty years in Japan, tells this story:

A parishioner whose husband had died two years before, lost her only son. He died of a heart attack while hiking in the mountains. His body was not discovered for two days.

He was a really caring and loving son. His mother was distraught. Sudden death is always a great shock. She told me: "There is an emptiness and dire hunger in my heart." She used a strong Japanese verb usually associated with dying of hunger.

Like the Gospel scene of Naim, Jesus saw this mother's tears and gave her his consolation. But as so often happens, the Risen Lord in our world today works through others. Jesus says to us: "You are my hands and voice."

In this case, a fellow parishioner and friend sent the bereaved mother an amaryllis bulb in a pre-prepared container. All that was needed was to insert water. This plant had a message for the grieving mother. The dead-looking amaryllis bulb with its roots touching water at first showed green leaves, then a bud, and finally bloomed. And just as it bloomed the mother read the words of Jesus: "I am the resurrection and life. The one who believes in me will never die." (John 11:25)

Thanks to the eternal present tense of Jesus's words in the Gospel, aided by a bulb in bloom, this mother was greatly consoled. She realised that her son's love was still with her. I told her that she could still talk to her loving son, as this was one part of what we believe when we use the theological term "communion of saints".

It is also a message for us today. Consoling those who grieve is a great act of kindness. In the vein of Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 25, the Lord will say to us: "When I was sad, you comforted me." "When," we may ask. "Whenever you did it to one of my people, you did it to me." *Originally published in "Far East" the magazine of the Columban Missionaries.*



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Please pray for those who have gone before us in October

Margaret Taylor

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 Hacket, Keith Bale, Mary Clarke, Fr. Jack Blaney SMM, Kay Watson, Mary Doonan, Annick Cremier, Isabel Thompson, Margaret Bystranowski, Daphne Fynn, Fred Smith, Billy Kidney, Mary Gillespie, George Davis, Molly Ludlow, Olive Randall, Christina Savage, Molly Ravenscroft, Jacob Pearce, Adele Kilroy, Violet Conaghan, Hilda Mary Agnes 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, Lewis Theodoropoulos, and Paul Murray

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

Patrick Pacini, Esmé Coveney, Doreen Burke, Rita Lane, Alan Daws, Margaret Williams, Tom Wilkins, Patrick Arnold, Lisa Ramage, Diane Cooper, Sheila Muir, Jo Hibberd, Therese Ayres, Sheila Roberts, Mary Hathaway, Rachel McGarvie, Rosemary Gallagher, Eileen Dickie, Christopher Brown, Antoinette Thomas, Mervyn Owen, Kay Krauze, Michelle Taylor, Kay McGlynn, Canon David Caine 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 December. Contributions should be with the editors by Monday 28th November. Please leave contributions at the Presbytery or email them to: stjohnsjournal@googlemail.com