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Habemus Papam



The death of Pope Francis was announced on the morning of Easter Monday, just a day after he had appeared on the balcony of St Peter's Basilica to offer a blessing to the thousands who thronged the square. Appearing to still have trouble breathing deeply, he uttered the short message "Dear brothers and sisters, Happy Easter." The greeting was met with thunderous applause, but his annual Easter Message *Urbi et Orbi*, to the city and the world, had to be read out for him by Archbishop Diego Ravelli.

Following the reading of the message, the pope delighted the crowd by riding in his "Popemobile" round the square, waving and smiling.

His death was announced on Easter Monday, and accounts of his life, his papacy, his deeply held concerns for the poorest and least considered people, and for the precious world which we inhabit were soon being broadcast throughout the world.

His was an extraordinary life. Born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Argentina, the son of an Italian immigrant and an Argentinian mother, he entered a seminary at the age of twenty but, following a serious illness, transferred to the Jesuit order after a year. He was ordained in 1969. Only four years later, he was appointed Jesuit provincial superior in Argentina. He became the archbishop of Buenos Aires in 1998 and was created a cardinal in 2001 by Pope John Paul II.

As archbishop, he established new parishes, restructured the archdiocese, led pro-life efforts, and formed a commission on divorces. One of Bergoglio's major initiatives as archbishop was to increase the church's presence in the shantytown slums of Buenos Aires. Under his leadership, the number of priests assigned to work in the shantytowns doubled, and he visited them himself. This work led to him being referred to as the "*villero bishop*", sometimes translated as the "bishop of the slums." On Holy Thursday, the archbishop would wash the feet of residents in the slums, in hospitals, retirement homes and prisons. He had little time for the trappings of office, often taking the bus to appointments, and as Pope he continued to live more simply than most of his predecessors, living in Santa Marta House rather than the papal apartments, doing away with over-elaborate vestments, and he was often to be seen driving himself around Rome in a little Fiat.

His funeral service and final resting place reflected his preference for simplicity. During the homily, Cardinal Giovanni Baptist Re, Dean of the College of Cardinals, referred to Francis as a Pope that touched minds and hearts, a good shepherd close to his people until the very end, someone open to everyone and conscious of the signs of the times, with evangelisation central to his vision of life and religion. Cardinal Re highlighted Francis' emphasis on mercy, demonstrated by his declaration of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy in 2016, his call for human fraternity in the Encyclical "Fratelli Tutti" and the 2019 Abu Dhabi joint Declaration on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together, underscored his desire for global solidarity and peace.

As the Church continues the Jubilee Year of Hope, we may pray that the example shown by Francis may indeed be a springboard for Hope throughout our troubled world.

On Wednesday 7th May 133 Cardinals made a solemn entry into the Sistine Chapel to begin the Conclave, the process by which the new Pope would be elected.

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In the afternoon of Thursday 8th May the figure of Cardinal Prodeacon Dominique Mamberti appeared on the balcony of St Peter's Basilica to announce that the conclave had elected the new Pope. Although his name had been among those Vatican watchers had nominated as being *Papabile* (possible papal candidate) it was something of a surprise when the world learned that Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost was elected by the Conclave as the 267th Bishop of Rome and successor to St Peter. Cardinal Mamberti then declared that the Pope had chosen to be known as Leo XIV.

Robert Prevost was born in the United States of America on 14th September 1955 in Chicago, Illinois and it was a long-held belief that an American, a citizen of a "superpower" would never be elected as Pope since some would question whether his decisions and actions were free from US political interference.

The new Pope has an interesting family background. He is the son of Louis Prevost and his wife Mildred. His father was of French and Italian descent and his mother Spanish. He grew up in a staunchly Catholic family and was a student at the Augustinian Minor Seminary before attending Villanova University in Pennsylvania where he earned a Degree in Mathematics.

In 1977, he entered the Augustinian novitiate and made his profession in 1978, making his solemn vows three years later. He attended the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and then studied Canon Law at the "Angelicum", the Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas in Rome. He was ordained a priest in June 1982 at the Augustinian College of Saint Monica.

Having obtained a licentiate in 1984, he was preparing a doctoral thesis when he was sent to the Augustinian mission in Peru. While there he completed his thesis and was appointed vocation director and missions director of the Augustinian Province of "Mother of Good Counsel" in Olympia Fields, Illinois. He then returned to Peru where he spent some ten years in charge of the Augustinian seminary in Trujillo, as well as serving as a parish priest, working at the diocesan headquarters and acting as judicial vicar for the diocese.

In 1999 he was elected to serve as Prior of his province, and three years later he was elected Prior General of the worldwide Augustinian order. The order's headquarters, the "Augustinianum" is adjacent to St Peter's Square in Rome. He served two terms as Prior General and earned a reputation as a sound leader and skilful administrator.

Following a brief spell in Chicago as director of formation for the Augustinian order, Pope Francis appointed him as apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Chiclayo in Peru, and in 2015 he became the bishop of the diocese. He became a moderating influence between the Peruvian bishops who were close to the liberation theology movement and those inclined towards the right wing with close links to Opus Dei.

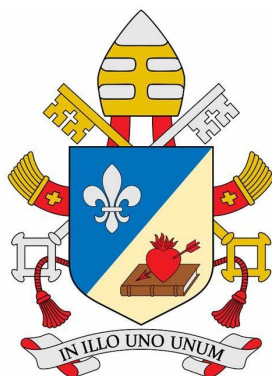
In 2023, Pope Francis created him a cardinal and he took over as the head of the church's Dicastery for Bishops, meaning he oversaw the selection of new bishops. Although observers claim that Prevost did not always see eye to eye with the late pontiff, it is believed that Francis saw Cardinal Prevost as someone he could trust and on whom he could rely. Furthermore, he became highly regarded by others in the Vatican as a well-balanced, moderate man with sound judgement and a willingness to listen. He was described as being without the brash attitude so often exhibited by Americans. The Italian television network RAI recently described him as "the least American of Americans".

At the time of his elevation to the College of Cardinals, the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago summed up his appeal: "Prevost brings to the College of Cardinals the heart of a missionary and years of ministerial experience, ranging from academic classrooms to poor barrios to the upper echelons of administrations. He embodies the Gospel call to be ready to serve wherever the Spirit leads."

It might be significant that when the newly elected Pope Leo XIV spoke briefly from that balcony on May 8th, he made warm references to his predecessor, perhaps indicating an intention to continue the liberalisation of Pope Francis, and his choice of the papal name Leo would suggest a link to previous popes of that name. The last Pope Leo, (1878 – 1903) was a great supporter of the Catholic Church in America, and was known for being wise and compassionate and standing up for ordinary people. His encyclical "*Rerum Novarum*", which focussed on the dignity of workers and fair treatment of workers laid the foundation for the Church's modern social teaching.

Pope Leo XIV has released his papal coat of arms, which showcases his Augustinian background. He retained the diagonally divided design of his coat of arms when he was a cardinal. The upper part features a white lily on a blue background, and the lower shows the symbol of the Augustinian Order: a heart pierced by an arrow on top of a closed book.

Leo XIV's motto is "*In Illo uno unum*," which means "In the One, we are one." These were the words of Saint Augustine in his Exposition on Psalm 127, wherein he wrote: "Although we Christians are many, in the one Christ we are one."



Urbi et Orbi - Pope Francis' Farewell

On the morning of Easter Sunday, sitting in a wheelchair, and looking frail, the pope had greeted the thousands in St Peter's Square with a single sentence, wishing his brothers and sisters a Happy Easter. As millions watched and listened to Pope Francis's Easter message *To the City and to the World* being read out for him by Archbishop Diego Ravelli, master of liturgical ceremonies, few could have guessed that the next day they would be woken with the news that Pope Francis had died.

During this Jubilee Year of Hope, it was not surprising that early on in his message, Pope Francis had begun in an upbeat way: "Love has triumphed over hatred, light over darkness and truth over falsehood. Forgiveness has triumphed over revenge. Evil has not disappeared from history; it will remain until the end, but it no longer has the upper hand; it no longer has power over those who accept the grace of this day."

He urged everyone, especially those experiencing pain and sorrow to take heart, for in the passion and death of Jesus "God has taken upon himself all the evil in this world and in his infinite mercy has defeated it. He has uprooted the diabolical pride that poisons the human heart and wreaks violence and corruption on every side. The Lamb of God is victorious! That is why, today, we can joyfully cry out: "Christ, my hope, has risen!"

"The resurrection of Jesus," he said, "is indeed the basis of our hope. For in the light of this event, hope is no longer an illusion. Thanks to Christ — crucified and risen from the dead — hope does not disappoint! *Spes non confundit!* (cf. *Rom 5:5*). That hope is not an evasion, but a challenge; it does not delude, but empowers us".

All who put their hope in God, their lives in his hands, with the Risen Christ, become pilgrims of hope. The words "Christ is risen" encapsulate the whole meaning of life, for we were made not for death but for life. "Every life is precious," he said, "The life of a child in the mother's womb, as well as the lives of the elderly and the sick, who in more and more countries are looked upon as people to be discarded."

He criticised man's thirst for conflict, for violence directed at the most vulnerable, and he stressed that, no matter what our customs, ways of life and ideas, we are all children of God. He expressed solidarity with the suffering Israelis and Palestinians and condemned the growth of anti-Semitism. He empathised with the Christian people in Gaza and appealed for a cessation of fighting and the release of all remaining hostages. He went on to pray for Christian communities in Lebanon, Syria and the Middle East, and the people of Yemen and Ukraine, and he prayed for a peaceful settlement between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The pope's compassion spread to the many parts of the African continent, particularly the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan and South Sudan, and so many places where Christians are not able to freely profess their faith, for there can be no peace without freedom of religion, of thought and expression.

But peace, he said, depends on true disarmament. The need for people to provide for their defence must not become a race to rearmament. The light of Easter should break down the barriers that create division, it should make us increase mutual solidarity.

He prayed for those affected by natural disasters, for those who died as well as those who survived and the volunteers who worked so hard to help.

The pope appealed to politicians and world leaders to use resources as "weapons of peace" to help the needy, to fight hunger and help development, for we cannot allow ourselves to forget that in conflicts it is not targets that are struck but persons, each possessed of a soul and human dignity.

He concluded by saying that "in the Lord's Paschal Mystery, death and life contended in a stupendous struggle, but the Lord now lives forever (cf. *Easter Sequence*). He fills us with the certainty that we too are called to share in the life that knows no end, when the clash of arms and the rumble of death will be heard no more. Let us entrust ourselves to him, for he alone can make all things new."

In what some might have seen as a last act of selflessness, Pope Francis had himself wheeled into the white "Popemobile" and was driven round St Peter's Square, smiling and gently waving to the vast crowd which had assembled to hear his Easter message. While he appeared frail, there was nothing to suggest that this was indeed a final farewell and that the next morning the Vatican would announce the death of this gentle and much loved pontiff.

Volunteers' Day

On Saturday 7th June Caritas Portsmouth invite you to a charity and volunteer networking event being held in our parish here in Andover. The event will take place from 2:30pm to 4:30pm. During that time you will be able to connect with other people in the Diocese who have a concern for social justice and who have a desire to support their community.

During the afternoon you will have an opportunity to chat with people from different charities, hear more about their work and, if you are interested discover what volunteering opportunities there might be for you. It might help you to explore ideas for our own parish by chatting to staff and volunteers about projects already running in the diocese, and to find out how Caritas can support the parish and local community. You will also have a chance to look around the Andover foodbank.

Everyone is welcome, and you can spend as little or as much time as you want.

For further information email caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Vocation

Not all those who seek a vocation to a religious life necessarily discern a vocation to the priesthood. One young man, a parishioner from Winchester, joined the Diocesan Vocation Seeker Group and, like our newly elected Pope Leo, he felt a vocation to join the Augustinian Friars. Gregory was a parishioner from Winchester who journeyed with our Vocation Seeker Group. He has sent us an update on his discernment:



“Hello, I’m Gregory and I am a novice with the Augustinian Friars based in Galway, Ireland. My brother novice and I have just passed the six-month mark of our novitiate year and so we are already halfway through. Time is really flying!

The novitiate is a time that is set aside for discernment. It is the time when the candidate first enters fully into the life of the institute that he or she wants to join and a time when that sense of vocation is tested both by the novice themselves and by the novice master and wider novitiate community.

I am really enjoying life. I feel I have settled in well in the city, in our parish, and in our religious community. We are six in number and our community life is well observed. I have become really grateful for the rhythm of common prayer, and I often wonder now how I could ever do without it. Apart from prayer, my activities include sacristy and kitchen duties, studying and reading, often about St Augustine himself and the nature of consecrated life, and preparing local school children for their First Holy Communion. I have enjoyed the company of the children. It is a lot of fun being in the classroom with them.

I believe my discernment is progressing well. There are certainly challenges to living in religious community, but God is helping me to experience this way of life as a gift. And I do experience it that way.

Please do keep my brother novice and I in your prayers. I definitely need them! With many thanks to Cn. John Cooke, Mrs Clare Ryan, and everyone involved with the Diocese of Portsmouth Seeker Group. God bless you all. Brother Gregory.”

Portsmouth Catholic Mothers

Portsmouth's Catholic Mothers group invite other Catholic mothers and their children to join them at their monthly meetings.

The aim of the group is to help Catholic mothers to grow in faith, to encourage prayer, discussion and friendship and to provide a space to encourage and support each other. The group welcomes children to the meetings, which are held in the Discovery Centre at the Cathedral of St John the Evangelist, Bishop Crispian Way, Portsmouth once a month at 9:30-11:30am. The next meetings are on Monday 19th May, Monday 16th June and Monday 14th July.

For further information get in touch with Maria or Katherine vis email on:

catholicmothersportsmouth@gmail.com

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Long Road to Heaven

Leading up to Easter, a group of parishioners guided by Mark Johnson-Ferguson began a five-week investigation of “The Long Road to Heaven”, a lent course loosely based on the 2010 film “The Way”. The film, directed, produced and written by Emilio Estevez, and starring his father Martin Sheen, follows Sheen’s character, Dr Thomas Avery, as he walks the traditional pilgrimage route known as the Camino de Santiago. Avery’s son has died in an accident during a storm as he walked on the Camino, and the father has gone to collect his son’s ashes. In an attempt to honour his son, Tom decides to make the pilgrimage while carrying the ashes.

While walking the Camino, Tom meets other people, all looking for greater meaning in their lives. He reluctantly finds himself more closely linked with three others, an extrovert Dutchman called Joost, a Canadian called Sarah who is fleeing an abusive husband and who claims she is walking the Camino in an attempt to quit smoking, and Jack an Irish travel writer suffering from “writer’s block”. Tom starts out cold and uncommunicative but gradually opens up to them and they to him. Throughout the journey, Tom scatters handfuls of ashes along the way, and occasionally has visions of his son Daniel alive and smiling among other people. After the group reach Santiago de Compostella, they enter the magnificent basilica with its outsized thurible belching out incense – and Tom has a vision of Daniel among the monks pulling on the ropes of the thurible. His journey completed, Tom carries on to Muxia on the coast where he sprinkles the rest of Daniel’s ashes. In the final scene Tom is seen cheerfully setting out on another walking trip in Morocco.

The course book was written by Tim Heaton, an Anglican priest in the Diocese of Salisbury. In his introduction, Heaton says that, in common with many other world religions, “concern for salvation is at the heart of the Christian faith and is addressed throughout most of the New Testament writings. Christianity is a religion of salvation”.

On first viewing the film I was not really sure how it related to messages of salvation, which the “Long Road to Heaven” is about. However, as the course progressed one gradually saw the characters not so much finding God as God finding them as the pilgrimage becomes a life-changing experience. The course asked us to explore five questions relating to salvation: What are we saved from? What are we saved for? Who can be saved? What do we have to do to be saved? How are we saved?

By dividing each of the five weekly sessions into manageable chunks of between five and ten minutes, the course allowed for some Bible study, watching a film clip, brainstorming and whole group discussion, small group discussion and feedback. The small group discussions were particularly fruitful in encouraging some lively debate and opening minds to new ideas, confirming old beliefs, and changing certain attitudes. In our own small ways, we had indeed been on a pilgrimage of our own and may well have discovered things that will help us to our own salvation.

King and Queen Visit Pope

On a particularly significant day which marked their 20th wedding anniversary and the four-year anniversary of the death of the King’s father, Philip Duke of Edinburgh, King Charles and Queen Camilla met privately with Pope Francis on the afternoon of Wednesday 9th April, less than two weeks before the Pope’s death.

The meeting took place at the Vatican’s Casa Santa Marta, where the Pope had been convalescing for over two weeks after being released from Gemelli Hospital, and where he had recently resumed various meetings.

In a statement released after the visit, the Holy See Press Office stated: “Pope Francis met privately with Their Majesties, King Charles and Queen Camilla, this afternoon. In the course of the meeting, the Pope expressed his best wishes to Their Majesties on the occasion of their wedding anniversary and reciprocated His Majesty’s wishes for a speedy recovery of his health.”

The Pope’s best wishes were a reference to the King’s condition, following his hospitalisation at the end of March due to the side effects of treatment for cancer, which was diagnosed a year ago. There had been some doubt as to whether the meeting would take place as the Pope’s health was giving cause for concern. Their Majesties had sent the Pope their best wishes for his convalescence and said they were looking forward to visiting him in the Holy See, once he had recovered. However, the King and Queen were able to express their best wishes in person during their audience on that Wednesday afternoon. A post on The Royal Family social media account noted, “the King and Queen were deeply touched by The Pope’s kind remarks about their 20th wedding anniversary and honoured to be able to share their best wishes to him in person.”

During their three-day visit to Rome, the King and Queen met with the President of Italy, Sergio Mattarella, and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. On Wednesday, the King also became the first British Monarch to address the assembled Houses of Parliament in Montecitorio. King Charles III is not only the Sovereign of the United Kingdom, and 14 other commonwealth realms, but is also Supreme Governor of the Church of England. In 2019, on the eve of the canonisation of Cardinal John Henry Newman, the first Briton in over forty years to be proclaimed a Saint, the then-Prince of Wales published an article in *L’Osservatore Romano*, calling the event “a cause of celebration not merely in the United Kingdom, and not merely for Catholics, but for all who cherish the values by which he was inspired.” The future King was later present for the canonisation ceremony at the Vatican on 13th October 2019, at the end of which he had spent time with Pope Francis.

St. Rita (1381 – 1457)

Saint Rita was born as *Margherita* in the city of Roccaporena in Italy where various sites connected with her are at present the focus of pilgrimage. Although she wished to enter a convent, her parents arranged for her to be married to a nobleman, Paolo Mancini, at a young age. Mancini was known for his temper and general immorality, and Rita suffered abuse and humiliation during much of her married life. Rita bore two sons, and raised them in the faith. She continued to show patience, kindness and humility, qualities which eventually converted her husband into a better man.



As a result of his conversion, Paolo renounced a long-standing family feud, or vendetta. Sadly, Paolo's brother, Bernardo, was unwilling to renounce the vendetta, and he eventually contrived to have Paolo murdered by one of the men of the enemy family. As a result he was able to lure Rita's two sons into the vendetta. Despite Rita publicly forgiving her husband's murderers, and therefore nullifying the vendetta, Rita's sons carried out a revenge killing. Within a year both sons themselves died of dysentery.

Widowed and alone, Rita sought to enter the convent of Saint Mary Magdalene in Cascia. The nuns acknowledged her good character and her piety, but they were afraid of being associated with her and with the scandals arising from the feud. Rita persisted in seeking entry into the convent, and finally the authorities agreed to allow her in if she could reconcile her husband's family with the family of her husband's murderers. She was able to settle the conflict between the two families and, at the age of thirty-six, she entered the convent. Tradition has it that she was helped in her task of reconciling the families by Bernardo being struck down by bubonic plague!

A popular legend has it that Rita's entry into the monastery was miraculous. It was said that during the night, when the doors to the monastery were locked and the sisters were asleep, Rita was miraculously transported into the convent by her patron saints Saint John the Baptist, Saint Augustine, and Saint Nicholas of Tolentino. Thus, when she was found inside the convent in the morning and the sisters learned of how she entered, they could not turn her away.

It is said that one day, while living at the convent, Rita said, "Please let me suffer like you, Divine Saviour". Suddenly, a thorn from a figure of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ fell from the crown of thorns and left a deep wound in Rita's forehead. This wound never healed and caused her great suffering for the rest of her life. As a result, depictions of St. Rita show a forehead wound to represent this event. In addition to the physical pain, the wound emitted a terrible stench, which kept the other nuns away from her. On the day she died, the odour from the wound in her forehead became a beautiful scent of roses. She is known as the patron saint of Impossible (or hopeless) Causes due to the miraculous results of her intercession. Her feast day is 22nd May.

Healing Prayers Group

The Healing Prayers Group meets in the parish church each Tuesday evening between 6.30pm and 7.00pm. If you would like to choose a theme, scripture reading and music, or would like a copy of the El Shaddai Healing Prayer or if you would like any further information, please contact the parish office.



September 5 (2024)

This is a “must see”. Watching it, it rivets you to your seat - it's *that* good. It's the story of the hostage taking on 05 September of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics by Black September – but from the inside. Set just over a 24 hour period, from the early hours of the 5th to just beyond dawn the next day, it centres on the American ABC TV network Sports Team that found itself in pole position for dealing with what was happening as it became breaking news and then locks on, like a limpet, to how the ABC Team kept this show - their show – on the road throughout the day.



The film starts off with the duty persons turning up about 2am-ish for their shift. It's 1972 and this is the first time television coverage can be 24/7 for the entire Olympics. Television coverage is by satellite that everybody has scheduled booked slots and its all very analogue and non-digital. And the ABC Sports Team is the only television crew effectively operational at this stupid o'clock hour. Suddenly, gunshots are heard. They are investigated and it becomes clear, bit by bit, that the Olympic Village has been penetrated by terrorists and that Israeli athletes (the Weightlifting Team) have been taken as hostages, with one killed.

For the ABC Team, they now go into overdrive. Everybody gets called in and the ABC guys in charge there in Munich are attempting to find out the full facts of what is taking place and what are they able to do about it, as they grasp, by default, they are the eyes and ears of the world. What burns through this entire film is that this is 1972 and that this is the first time anything of this magnitude has taken place. The German Authorities are completely unprepared, and it shows.

Meanwhile, the ABC Munich Team are operating on the basis that if it works, it's right. They manage to get cameras to oversee the prime locations and smuggle shot film back and fresh film out to their cameras. What anchors all of this to reality is the extensive use of the actual television footage shot by the original ABC cameramen on the day itself. You never lose sight of the bigger picture.

Of course, as happened in the event, none of it ended well. In the early hours of the next day, 06 September, all the hostages were killed by Black September as the German Authorities attempted to free them at a local airport where they and their captors had been flown. This end part of the film highlights the dilemma and anguish of the ABC Team at this point. Initial reports were that all the hostages had been freed and were alive and only after a while, did the reality that they were dead, become apparent. The ABC Team had been cautious in what they had put out. No-one listened.

So, this film? It's about people, the ABC Sports Team, doing the best they could and being the best they could be. That says it all - for all of us.

John Newland

Wisdom Centre

The Wisdom Centre in Romsey has the following events planned:

Thursday 22nd May 10am to 12pm: A Spirituality of Aging, Led by Mary Dunn

Saturday 14th June 10am to 4pm: Silent Retreat, Led by the Breathing Space Team

On **Friday 25th April and Friday 23rd May**, they also offer the popular **Community Café from 12 to 1,30pm** serving a choice of either soup and a roll, or jacket potato with a choice of filling; a dessert or fruit; tea or coffee. Please contact the Centre to book a place – suggested donation £6.50 per person.

Also, their **Creative Café, on the same days as the Community Café, 1.30 to 3.30pm**, friendly mindfulness sessions with a different craft each week: February – Easter Cards; March Stamped Pebbles; April – Paper Gift Tags; May – Floral Bags.

The Centre continues to hold weekly in-person meditation every Wednesday evening 7.30 – 8.30pm. Sessions are free of charge and there is no need to book.

If you would like further information please contact Wisdom House, The Abbey, Romsey SO51 8EL, Telephone 01794 830206 or email reception@wisdomhouseromsey.co.uk

The Pope's Intention for May



At the beginning of this year, the late Holy Father set out the intentions for which he asked us to pray. For this month of May, the intention he set out was concerning working conditions:

Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized.

The intention is typical of Pope Francis's concern for the welfare of all but especially for those who have the most difficulty in life. He was acutely aware of the poor working conditions and lack of opportunity experienced by so many throughout the world. He has left this world but his concern for all humanity remains.

Reflection on the Pope's Prayer intention

May of this year, the monthly intention is for "Working Conditions: We pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized."

I have seen hundreds of people walk through our doors at Kinship Community Food Centre...some working hard 2-3 jobs at a time with a low wage. Others are without work. Others have a good, steady job, but the cost of living is difficult.

One friend I think of is Patty. She came to shop after being homeless for many years and, after finding more stable housing, developed agoraphobia and was unable to leave the house. Her neighbour saw her need for food and brought her to Kinship. I was in need of extra volunteers that day and pulled her aside to help run one of our departments. She was surprised but happy to help me.

Afterwards, she came up to me so grateful and eager to come back. She explained her situation and said she felt human again by helping other people. She was no longer entirely consumed by her fear. But rather by the love of giving people a dignified experience and therefore also herself; she felt needed and capable, which she had not been for a long time.

Pope St John Paul II says man finds himself in a sincere gift of self. True, honest work seeks the good of the person you serve.

When there is little or no relationship to a person or how your product benefits humanity, work is degraded, and thus the worker is degraded.

My friend was then able to keep volunteering and eventually work with people lacking housing. Then she started studying and is getting her degree in Social Work, which will benefit so many people going forward who were in a situation like hers. Moreover, she is so happy and grateful to have dignified work to serve others, the way she was served by her volunteer work.

We must see all our work as a gift to give back to God, dwelling in each person in the world.

Samantha Vosters.

(Samantha has been with the Kinship Community Food Centre for over 8 years. She is the founder of the Mission House and is currently the Mission Intern and Formation Manager).

Mass in Winchester Prison

On Friday 11th April, Bishop Philip visited Winchester Prison to say the weekly Mass, and to meet the prisoners, prison staff, Chaplaincy team and helpers. Fr. Mario from St. Swithun Wells parish is the usual priest and, though it was Friday, the Bishop celebrated the Mass of Palm Sunday. He blessed palms and distributed them at the end. Bishop Philip found it to be a very special and memorable occasion.

Governor Mark Jones was present as well as Mike Slinn, the lay Catholic chaplain, and a number of the lay volunteers. They run weekly Bible studies and Alpha, or visit men on the wings, talking with them and bringing them to chapel.

The bishop said that it was a great joy to see the many volunteers who come mainly from St. Peter's parish, Winchester. He remembered when Fr. Jean Patrice was the chaplain and had once said to Bishop Philip that "the Chaplaincy would appreciate the prayers of all, as prisoners (and staff) can often feel forgotten by those on the outside. We would welcome volunteers to come to the Saturday morning Mass and befriend the men, listening to their stories. There is also a need to help with the greater work of Chaplaincy in making time to listen to men who are feeling vulnerable and need someone to talk to, as well as helping those who are leaving prison to find a welcoming parish community, and whatever is needed to make a new start."

There is always a need for volunteers to visit the prison, and if you would be willing to help, please contact St Peter's parish in Winchester.

Exhibition at National Gallery

Following his visit to London to a special exhibition in the National Gallery called 'Siena and the Rise of Painting 1300-1350', Bishop Philip felt moved to recommend the exhibition to anyone who has a chance to go.

One exhibit is 'The Raising of Lazarus' by Duccio di Buoninsegna, an artist considered one of the greatest Italian painters of the Middle Ages who is generally acknowledged as the creator of the style of painting of the Sieneese school. The exhibition shows works of art from the early 14th century in central Italy with work by Simone Martini and the brothers Pietro and Ambrogio Lorenzetti as well as Duccio. They painted in a dramatic way that no one had seen before: faces with emotion, bodies moving in space and stories that flow across panels in colourful scenes.

After centuries of separation, the National Gallery has reunited scenes that once formed part of Duccio's monumental *Maestà* altarpiece, as well as panels from Simone Martini's *Orsini polyptych*. The famous Wilton Diptych is also on display.

The exhibition explores a pivotal moment in the early Italian Renaissance, showcasing the contributions of Sieneese artists, and highlights how these artists defined Western painting through their innovative techniques and emotional expressions

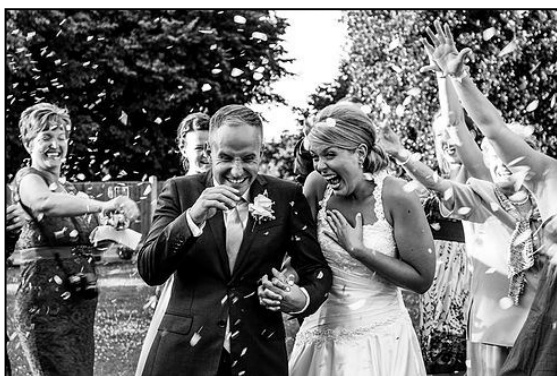
The exhibition was originally hosted by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York before transferring to London. It runs until 22nd June 2025.



Duccio's *Maestà* altarpiece



The Orsini Polyptych



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From The School

St John the Baptist School joined the rest of the world mourning the death of Pope Francis. A remembrance service was held in school the day after the pope's death, and the nine days of mourning prescribed for the Pope were marked by quiet reflection and prayer at the start of each school day. The focus was especially on the great affection the pope had for the young, and his aspirations for the youth of today when he said such things as: "The Church expects great things of you and your generosity. Aim high, do not bury your talents, the gifts God gave you. Do not be afraid to dream of great things!"

In the last week of the term the children in Key Stage 2 had led the school in prayer, enacting a Passion Play retelling the final hours of Jesus and his journey to the cross. The children acted, sang and led the readings from Scripture, reflecting on their message. Many parents, family members, friends and parishioners joined in this thoughtful and moving commemoration. As they left, the visitors left their written thoughts and reflections which were later shared with the children.

In recent months there has been growing awareness of the harmful effects of smart phones on the well-being of young children. St John's School has thoughtfully looked into the research and strongly advises parents to resist pressure from children and their peers, and to hold back giving children smartphones until at least the end of Year 9. St John's is proud to be a phone-free school, where the pupils are not allowed to bring phones into school until Year 5 or 6, and only if they walk home alone. Phones brought in are handed to an adult for safe-keeping and returned at the end of the school day. This way the school is playing its part in ensuring the pupils are happy and healthy both mentally and physically.

Key Stage 1 have been delighted and excited to welcome eleven fluffy chicks into school. The chicks' progress is being carefully monitored by the children to link up with their Science and English curriculum work. The chicks are also a wonderful reminder and celebration of new life following the Easter break. Names are being chosen for the chicks. "Nugget" is the current favourite. Just ten more names to go!



Order of the Holy Sepulchre

On Saturday 12th April, the day before Palm Sunday, Knights and Dames from the Southern Section of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem held a Lenten day of reflection at Douai Abbey. Fr Gabriel Wilson OSB led reflections for members of the Order and guests and provided much food for through for all those present in advance of Holy Week.

In addition to celebrating Holy Mass at St Mary's church in Wool Hampton and joining the monastic community for the Midday Office in the

Abbey Church, all those present were able to participate in Stations of the Cross with Abbot Paul Gunter OSB as well as Exposition and Benediction led by Fr Gabriel.

The welcome and hospitality provided by Fr Gabriel and the wider monastic community was very much appreciated and enabled all those present to take advantage of the peace and tranquillity of Douai before beginning Holy Week.

The purpose of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem is to serve the Catholic Church and promote initiatives to preserve the Christian presence in the Holy Land "in a dynamic of dialogue and peace with followers of other religious traditions". Members of the Order make a lifetime commitment to witness to the faith, practice Christian life, and carry forward charitable works for the moral and material support of the Christian communities of the Holy Land.



The Bible and Science

The Bible is a theological reflection on the history of the Israelites. One misses the whole point if he/she tries to read it in a literal way. The Bible is neither a history book nor a science book. It is in a different domain to science or history. It is theology. In other words, it is about God.

Science and scripture enrich each other. The theological wisdom found in the creation stories of the Bible remain intact as the body of scientific knowledge expands in explosive and surprising ways. According to the Bible, God creates, blesses and makes provision for everything that exists both on this planet and off this planet. We humans. Male and female He creates in His own image and like ness. We are related to all other species and we owe them respect and care. We humans need to keep boundaries with other species and recognise that they have their own intrinsic value. God wills us to have a relationship with Him and recognise that all that exists is imbued with His presence and His benevolent and graceful care.

Science, on the other hand explains how God orchestrates the whole process of creation. It was not always seen in this way. Sometimes in the past misunderstandings arose. A good example of this misunderstanding is the Galileo issue. Basically Galileo (1564 – 1642) challenged the prevailing theory of his time that planet Earth was the centre of the universe and all other “heavenly bodies” (sun, moon, stars etc) in the sky rotated around the Earth. Galileo asserted that the sun was the centre and everything else revolved around the sun (heliocentric theory). His theory was taking focus and prominence away from planet Earth (the centre of attention for the salvation of Jesus). The Catholic Church opposed these ideas and banned Galileo’s books and Galileo was ordered to abstain from holding, teaching or defending heliocentric ideas.

Pope John Paul II, in 1992, apologised for the condemnation of Galileo when he wrote: “The error of the theologians at that time was to think that our understanding of the structure of the physical world was, in some way, imposed by the literal sense of Scripture. So the history of science versus religion has not always been smooth. But the best scientists and the best spiritual leaders see science and spirituality complementing each other. The great scientist Albert Einstein once wrote: “To sense that behind anything that can be experienced there is something that our mind cannot grasp, and whose beauty and sublimity reaches us only indirectly and as a feeble reflection – this is religiousness. In that sense I am religious”. And the spiritual leader, Pope Francis, in his 2025 encyclical, *Laudato Si’*, on the environment shows how spirituality can renew the physical earth. Indeed, science and scripture enrich each other. (This article by Dr John Ryan SPS, Bishop of Mzuzu, Malawi, is reproduced here by kind permission of the editor of *Africa*, the magazine of St Patrick’s Missionary Society).

Basingstoke Choral Society

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**A SUMMER EVENING OF MOZART
REQUIEM AND SOLEMN VESPERS**

Saturday July 5th. 2025 at 7.00pm.
All Saints Church Odiham RG29 1LZ

Basingstoke Choral Society

Organist George Castle
Conductor Ben Cooper

Soloists:
Maddy Morris
Tim Carleston
Simon Irwin



**Wine or soft drink served with
fresh strawberries from 6pm.**
Tickets including refreshments: Adult £20,
12 - 18 yrs. £10. Accompanied children under 12 free.
Buy 4 or more tickets get 1 free.

   BCS is a registered CIO: No. 1202484

Basingstoke Choral Society are presenting a summer evening of Mozart at All Saints Church in Odiham at 7.00pm on Saturday 5th July.

Ben Cooper will be conducting the choir, and they will be joined by professional soloists Maddy Morris, Tim Carleston and Simon Irwin.

The programme will include Mozart’s *Requiem* and his *Solemn Vespers*. It promises to be a memorable evening. Mozart’s *Requiem* is one of the most iconic works in the choral repertoire, a haunting and emotionally charged work which has captivated audiences for centuries with its profound beauty and timeless power.

The *Solemn Vespers* is not performed as often as the *Requiem* but is a work of emotional range and powerful contrasts making it a truly hidden gem from Mozart’s sacred repertoire.

Tickets are £20 for adults and £10 for 12 to 18 year olds; accompanied children under 12 are admitted free. There is a special offer if you buy 4 or more tickets you get one free.

Strawberries and a glass of wine or a soft drink included in the ticket price available from 6pm

Please pray for those who have died recently

Tom Antrobus, Eileen Sainsbury, Wendy Rawlings, Joan Fabian, Kathie Carrick and Linda Creaven.

and for those whose anniversaries occur in May:

Anna McCracken, Joseph Cochran, Mary O'Neil, Elizabeth Hill, Annie Nottingham, Joseph Graham, Ethel Turner, Louise Girling, Montague Irwin, Kay Watson, Frank MacKrell, Dean McDonnell, Fr Francis O'Shea, Bridget Coffey, Mary Lonsdale, Fr C Mulholland, Fr D. McCarthy SMM, Kirsten Morgan, Hilda Bell, Nora Hurley, Ellen Kenny, Mary Richardson, Percy Milner, Josie Corbet, Myra Walker, Shirley Stringer, Joseph James, Mollie Stace, Edmund Plowden, Marguerite McGarvey, Mary McGarvey, Mrs O'Kelly, Peggy O'Neil, Annie and Bernard Madden, Patricia Bradfield, John Perrier, Martin Mannion, Margaret Murray, Bill Edwards, Sister Mary Damien, Mary Sainsbury, John Myles, Mary Lee, Danny Gallagher, Maramichela Holloway, Walter Stace, Fr Handley, Christine Simpson, Col. Macfee, Susan Ingram, Thomas Faye, Charles Cooke, Mary James, Catherine Fairmington, John Le Clezio, Frank Hynes, Antonio Da Silva, Sister Marie Columba, Agnes Magrath, Sister Marguerite Marie De La Trinitie, Jennifer Sutton, Arnold Baxter, Muriel Crompton, Joanna Gray, Arthur Stubbs, Mrs Sheridan, Moira Annaud, Kathleen Murray, Eugene Watson, MaryWicks, Mary Jordan, John Campbell, Frederick Wiltshire, Richard Johnson, Sarah Toland, Eileen Bell, Ethel Turner, Eamon O'Dwyer, John Monks, Margaret Monks, Debbie Tuite, Nancy Murphy, Conrad Bartosik, Madge Redish , James Leader, Catherine Farrington, Henry Davins, Lillian bell, Michael Clarke, John Sheehan, Josephine Corbett, Balbina Abreu de Jesus, Father Daniel Hogan SMM, Bob Grey, Ida Keeton, Laura Hougran, Rev. Paul Sutcliffe, Rev. Kenneth Freeman, Christiane Harivel, Philip Harris, Hazel Pereira, Alberto Michetti, Jane Thornton, Kathleen, Greene, John Trusler, Paul Wharton, Florrie Potter, Irene Lloyd, Mrs Atkinson, James Smith, Jim Cogan, William McFadden, Elizabeth Laversuch, Ros Quaife, Bridget Cartmel, William Moore, Harry Curley, Sister Celestina, James, Margaret Burrowes, George Brown, Maria Meager, Bob Hall, Kay Porter, Louise Gallagher Marjorie Baddeley, Fabienne Faulkner, Pat Adams, Dorothy O'Sullivan, Regina Fiedler, Steve Leek, Eileen Morrell, Fr. Bob Ellwood SMM, Harriet Martin, Jane Weldon, John Mulcock, Richard Hulmes, Adrian Stokes, Almuth Giebermann-Fisher, Freddie Flood, David Bull, Graeme Ellison, Sister Eileen Ryan, Marian McFadden, Mary Bradley, Barbara Long, Frank Kilroy, John Davies, Dorothy Courtnell, Doreen Burke and Baby Emily Jane.

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

Esme Coveney, Rita Lane, Margaret Williams, Patrick Arnold, Sheila Muir, Mary Oak, Fiona Hilleard, Bernard Ivinson, Tony Fabian, Helen O'Connell, Douglas Manning, Diane Mahoney, Catherine Ash, Sile Monnelly, Jane O'Kelly, Rose Bull, Carol Keenan, Tom O'Regan and Mark Radcliffe and all those in need of 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 issued on 28th & 29th June. Contributions should be with the editors by Monday 23rd June. Please leave contributions at the Presbytery or email them to: stjohnsjournal@googlemail.com