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Jubilee Year 2025

The Holy Father has decided that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, something which traditionally happens every 25 years. These special years are a time in which we pray for God's holiness to transform us. A Holy Year is also referred to as a "Jubilee", a name derived from the ram's horn, the *yobel*, used to proclaim the Jewish Day of Atonement, also known as Yom Kippur.

The first Holy Year was called by Pope Boniface VIII in 1300. Holy Years were originally intended to be held every hundred years, but Pope Clement VI reduced the gap to 50 years, and in 1470 Pope Paul II reduced it again to 25 years. Occasionally popes have declared a Holy Year to mark special occasions, the most recent being when Pope Francis declared the Year of Mercy in 2015.

The theme for this coming Holy Year is "Pilgrims of Hope", and it will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, climate crisis, and the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pope Francis announced that the Jubilee Year will begin with the opening of the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve, 2024. The Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica is opened by the Pope only at the beginning of a Jubilee Year. It is usually the first Holy Door to be opened and indicates the beginning of the Holy Year, a tradition going back to 1500 during the papacy of Alexander VI.

Later, on 29 December, the Pope will open the Holy Door of the Archbasilica of St John Lateran, the Cathedral of Rome. On the same day, every Cathedral and co-Cathedral throughout the world will have Mass celebrated by the local Bishop to mark the opening of the Jubilee, and these days "Holy Doors" are opened in selected cathedrals, shrines and significant places of worship throughout the world.

On the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, 1 January 2025, Pope Francis will open the Holy Door for the Basilica of St Mary Major, with the Holy Door for the Basilica of St Paul's Outside the Walls being opened on Sunday, 5 January, the Vigil of Epiphany. In his *Bull of Indiction* entitled "Hope does not disappoint", Pope Francis declared his intention to open a Holy Door in a prison "to offer prisoners a concrete sign of closeness".

The Dicastery for Evangelization has issued a note which specifically provided guidance regarding the opening of the Holy Door in places besides Rome.

"Given the imminent start of the Jubilee 2025," the Dicastery's note began, "the question has recently been raised about the possibility of planning the configuration and opening of the Holy Door in Cathedral Churches, International and National Shrines, as well as in other particularly significant places of worship."

The note points out that such Holy Doors can only be opened following the guidelines set out in the Papal Bull. The Dicastery also took the opportunity to recall that "the peculiar and identifying sign of the Jubilee Year, as handed down since the first Jubilee of the year 1300, is the indulgence that 'intends to express the fullness of God's forgiveness which knows no bounds,' through the Sacrament of Penance and signs of charity and hope."

"In the course of the year," Pope Francis had written, "every effort should be made to enable the People of God to participate fully in its proclamation of hope in God's grace and in the signs that attest to their efficacy."

During a Jubilee Year there are special Indulgencies which can be obtained. In the wake of the Second Vatican Council, Pope St Paul VI taught, "An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints." Indulgences are plenary (full) or partial depending on whether they remove all or part of the temporal punishment due to sin.

During the Jubilee Year, there are three main ways to gain the Jubilee Indulgence: Pilgrimages to any sacred Jubilee site; pious visits to sacred places; works of mercy, and acts of penance. There will be further details of these three ways to gain an indulgence in the next issue of The Journal.



St. Mary Soldad

Mary's parents were an exemplary couple who ran a small shop in Madrid. Their second daughter of five children, was born in 1826 and given the name Bibiana Antonia Emanuela. The family enjoyed a stable, religious and loving home life. The children were educated by the Daughters of Charity, and during her early years Emanuela was noted for sharing her food with poor playmates and teaching them prayers.

The young Emanuela showed a deep interest in the religious life, and it looked as though she would join the Dominican nuns whose convent she frequented. However, she was rejected by the Dominicans on account of her poor health.

In 1848 Don Michael Martinez y Sanz, the vicar of the Chamberi quarter of Madrid, asked Emanuela to be one of seven women he was recruiting to devote their time to nursing the poor of that district. At her investiture, she took the name Mary Soldad, Spanish for "alone and stricken", a token of her love for Our Lady of Sorrows. The group called themselves "Handmaids of Mary Serving the Sick".

It was not an easy life. A cholera epidemic struck Madrid almost as soon as the first nurses were organized. Getting additional help proved difficult, and when Don Michael took half the group to Fernando Po in West Africa, six were left with Sister Mary Soldad acting as superior.

For a time it seemed that the little group might be dissolved. They were subjected to slanderous allegations and bureaucratic interference by the local Church authorities till the queen of Spain herself interceded, and an Augustinian friar, Father Gabino Sanchez, took on the role of their director and they were able to struggle on. The Rule of the Handmaids of Mary received diocesan approval in 1861 and another Augustinian friar, Father Angelo Barra, was appointed as director.

Mary and her Sisters took over an institution for young delinquents, and this led to several new foundations being started.

In 1865 cholera once more struck, and Mary and her sisters did a remarkable job caring for the many victims. Their selfless devotion to the sick won much praise from the community. But soon after some of the members criticized her programme and left to work with another organization.

Undeterred, Mary looked overseas and founded a group in Santiago in Cuba. From that time on there was an accelerated spread of houses and hospitals of the congregation in every province of Spain, culminating in 1878 in the taking over of the ancient hospital of St Charles in the Escorial itself.

The work involved and the increasing commitments continued to the end of Mother Mary's life. She had devoted thirty-five years of her life to leading the order, and in her later years she enjoyed seeing the work the order did. On her deathbed in 1887, she said to her well-organized and skilful nuns, "Children, live together in peace and harmony."

Mary Soldad, who spent her life tending to the poor and sick, was beatified in 1950 and canonized by Pope Paul VI in 1970.



Formation Day for Readers

The Diocesan Liturgical Formation Team

led by Fr. Anthony Fyk

invite all Readers, and those interested in becoming Readers at Mass,

to a Formation Day on

Saturday 19th October

at St Bede's Church,

Popley Way, Basingstoke RG24 9DX.

The day will start with Mass at 9.30am and the programme of talks and reflections will conclude at 2.30pm.

To register email:
liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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Medjugorje

Since June 1981, there have been claims that Our Lady has appeared regularly to parishioners of the parish of St James in Medjugorje. It is claimed that Our Lady appears regularly to three visionaries named Marija, Vicka, and Ivan, giving Marija a message of peace and love on the 25th of each month.

The Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, with the assent of Pope Francis, has granted approval for devotion linked to Medjugorje, recognizing the abundant spiritual fruits received at the Sanctuary of the Queen of Peace without making a declaration on the supernatural character of the Marian apparitions.

In its Note, the Dicastery says: *"The time has come to conclude a long and complex history that has surrounded the spiritual phenomena of Medjugorje. It is a history in which bishops, theologians, commissions, and analysts have expressed a series of divergent opinions."*

Pope Francis approved the Note on August 28. It recognizes the goodness of the spiritual fruits linked to Medjugorje, authorizing the faithful to adhere to it – according to the new Norms for discerning these phenomena – since "many positive fruits have been noted in the midst of a spiritual experience, while negative and dangerous effects have not spread among the People of God."

The overall judgment of the messages is generally positive, though several clarifications are offered regarding certain expressions. "It is important to clarify from the outset that the conclusions of this Note do not imply a judgment about the moral life of the alleged visionaries," and, in any case, the spiritual gifts "do not necessarily require those involved to have moral perfection."

The places linked to the Medjugorje phenomenon have become pilgrimage destinations for people from around the world.

"The positive fruits are most evident in the promotion of a healthy practice of a life of faith, in accordance with the tradition of the Church," reads the Note.

It recognizes "abundant conversions" of people who have discovered or rediscovered their faith, many people have returned to confession and sacramental communion, and numerous vocations have been confirmed, as well as "many reconciliations between spouses, and the renewal of marriage and family life."

"It should be noted," adds the Note, "that such experiences occur above all in the context of pilgrimages to the places associated with the original events rather than in meetings with the 'visionaries' to be present for the alleged apparitions."

"Numerous healings" have also been reported. The parish of the small town in Herzegovina has grown into a place of worship, prayer, seminars, spiritual retreats, youth gatherings. "People seem to visit Medjugorje mainly to renew their faith rather than to seek help with specific requests," says the Note.

Charitable works have also emerged, including the care of orphans, drug addicts, and people with disabilities, and the Note points to the presence of Orthodox Christian groups and Muslims at the Sanctuary.

The Dicastery's Note continues by examining the central aspects of the messages, starting with that of peace understood not only as the absence of war but also in a spiritual, familial, and social sense. The most original title that Mary attributes to herself is indeed "Queen of Peace."

"I have presented myself here as the Queen of Peace to tell everyone that peace is necessary for the salvation of the world. Only in God can you find true joy, which is the source of true peace. Therefore, I ask for conversion" (June 16, 1983).

This peace is the fruit of lived charity, which "also implies a love for those who are not Catholic," an aspect better understood in the ecumenical and interreligious context of conflicts such as that involving Bosnia and Herzegovina which are marked by strong religious components.

The alleged Medjugorje apparitions began in June 1981, and they are often divided into two categories: the "originals", which took place during the period of 24 June – 3 July of that year, when the Virgin is believed to have appeared daily to six young people aged between 10 and 17 at the time; and then the subsequent apparitions that some of the original seers claimed to have had, at times daily, since 1989.

While the original set of alleged apparitions all took place in the same place, seers who claim to still receive messages from the Virgin Mary have said they see Mary at random times and places.



Visit of Papal Nuncio

Bishop Philip expressed his delight that the Apostolic Nuncio, His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía made an official visitation of our Diocese from 5th - 7th September. The bishop sent out a message inviting all to a special Mass of Thanksgiving on Friday 6th September in the Cathedral, followed by a reception in the Cathedral Centre where everyone could meet the Nuncio.



As is mentioned in the news from our parish school, representatives from the school travelled to Portsmouth to attend the Mass.

The Nuncio later visited St Edmund's School and led Solemn Vespers and Benediction at St Edmund's in Southampton that evening.

The Apostolic Nuncio represents the Holy Father to the Church in our land. His role is equivalent to that of an ambassador, representing the Holy See to the Government. Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía was originally a priest of the Archdiocese of Madrid. He has served in the apostolic nunciatures of Rwanda, Uganda, Morocco, Nicaragua, Egypt, Slovenia and Ireland, and as Nuncio to Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikstan, Romania and Moldova. He was appointed the Apostolic Nuncio to the Court of St. James's in April 2023.

The Nuncio has been visiting all the dioceses of Great Britain since his arrival. Bishop Philip said he was proud to welcome him to the Diocese of Portsmouth and through him to show our allegiance to the Holy Father.

In his homily at the Mass in the Cathedral, Bishop Philip said: "Today we offer Mass in thanksgiving to God for the Gift and Mystery of the Church, for the amazing communion we share in Christ's one, holy, catholic, apostolic Church.

That communion is made tangible when the clergy, religious and laity of the Diocese gather around their Bishop, the Successor of the Apostles, to offer the Mass and to celebrate the Sacred Liturgy. But today our communion is given a special quality by the visit of the Apostolic Nuncio. As the ambassador and as the representative of the Holy Father, His presence reminds us that we are linked by bonds of communion – the same doctrine, the same law of charity, the same liturgy, the same structures - with the Universal Church throughout the world and with the Successor of Peter.

The Church is a communion that spans space and time. As a Catholic, it's amazing, no matter where you go in the world, from Africa to America, from the Far East to the Deep South, you always belong. You are always at home. You are always one of the family. And it's a family that spans heaven and earth. It goes back twenty centuries to Christ Himself and even if the language, practice and modalities have much developed and expanded, we know that should St. Paul walk the earth again, he would immediately be one with us, rejoicing that what he said in today's First Reading was being fulfilled.

"So, in this Mass today in which we thank God for the Gift and Mystery of the Church, let us thank God for the gift of faith, for union with Jesus Christ and for the amazing communion we share. We pray for the Holy Father, for the Apostolic Nuncio and for the whole Church across the world. Please pray too for our Diocese of Portsmouth, for our mission-plan and for ourselves. May we be ever more like Blessed Mary, living tabernacles bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church".

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.



Seminarian

This month we have a message from Deacon Diego Hoyos. “I’m a Deacon and seminarian in my last year of formation at Oscott college. I’d like to share with you the story of the biggest bet of the century: two men, and a stranger who went around promising this life and the next!

It was about 9 in the morning when a stranger approached two men by the shore who were putting their fishing nets away after a whole night’s shift.

He said to them: “Follow me and I’ll make you fishers of men”. Fishing was everything to the two men, it was their trade and, however arduous and even tedious, it was their only livelihood. What to do? Trust this man and effectively lose the only fortune their poverty allowed in terms of work and social status?

If this stranger can truly give what he promises, this is the one in a lifetime opportunity to have more than any other man however powerful has ever being able to have: The whole world gathered together in a net in the hands of a fisherman!

If, however, the stranger is just a charlatan and they foolishly fall in his trap, they’ll lose everything and will be remembered in history as the worst gamblers the world’s ever known.

They took their breath and fixing their eyes in the immense sea of God’s providence, they drop their nets without second thoughts and followed him on a journey which saw entire kingdoms and empires subdued to the name of the stranger of Nazareth.

In a sense, vocation can be said to be the biggest bet of the century, because when the gain is high the stake is high. It’s only by letting go of the nets that a person can grasp in their hands the infinity



Blessed Carlo Acutis

Blessed Carlo Acutis was born in 1991. He died of leukaemia in 2006. He was noted for his cheerfulness, and his prayerful life. In his brief life he demonstrated a deep love of the Blessed Sacrament and of Our Lady. A keen computer programmer, he designed a website documenting Eucharistic Miracles and approved Marian apparitions, earning him the nickname of “God’s influencer”.

He was beatified by Pope Francis on 10th October 2020. After a second miracle was confirmed in May of this year, Pope Francis granted approval for the cause of his canonization to proceed.

Last month, Bishop Philip expressed his delight at receiving a private visit from a first class relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis. It was from his hair and the precious relic is in the care of Anna Johnstone, who for three years, (2015-2018) was the Governess, in Assisi, to the brother and sister of Blessed Carlo Acutis, twins born in 2010.

Anna now lives on the Isle of Wight. She is in regular contact with the Acutis family and was present with them in Assisi in 2020 when Carlo was declared blessed. Like Bishop Philip and so many others in the diocese, she is looking forward with excitement to his canonisation during the next year or so, on a date yet to be announced.

Anna, who is willing to give presentations on the life of Blessed Carlo, has also developed a website called “An International Exhibition of Eucharistic Miracles by Bl. Carlo Acutis”. It serves as an information centre and hosts a number of resources.

Bishop Philip has suggested we ask Blessed Carlo’s prayers for all our young people, especially our teenagers.

Anna is happy to take the relic and to give presentations to any parish or community, and her contact details are on the website.

CARITAS



Jenny LeLean, Head of Charity, brings us the latest news from Caritas Portsmouth Diocese.

As part of The Season of Creation, the *To Hope and to Act with Creation* environmental conference was held at St Peter's Winchester last month.

Attended by representatives from a range of parishes we listened to a thought-provoking talk from John Paul de Quay from the Ecological Conversion Group, focusing on the teaching of the Church through Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter, *Laudato Si'* and follow up Apostolic Exhortation, *Laudate Deum*.

John Paul took us on a journey to a look at our place in the global ecological system and how our behaviour is responsible for the imbalance of healthy ecosystems driving poverty, climate change, modern slavery, migration and armed conflict.

To support change, we need "an 'ecological conversion' whereby the effects of [our] encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in [our] relationship with the world around [us]" (*Laudato Si'* #217).

Mike Slinn from St Peter's outlined the results of the COP 28 meeting last year and the hopes for COP 29. Recognising that international change needs to be supported by cultural and personal change, this was followed by a session on how we might make changes in our parishes to hear and respond to the cry of the earth and cry of the poor. Some examples highlighted were signing up for CAFOD's LiveSimply award, using resources from the Journey to 2030 website including 'Building a Better Community' and becoming a *Laudato Si'* Animator. Discussions ranged from decarbonisation, how to engage with others in the parish, sourcing flowers and hot composting, ideas for when a parish has no land to support biodiversity and how we can support those living in poverty.

If you would like to find out more or how we can support your parish or school, please contact caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. You can also visit our website <https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk> where we have a number of resources and links.

John Paul is helping lead a retreat at Boarbank Hall with Sr Margaret Atkins from 5th-12th October. To find out more visit www.journeyto2023.org/events

Bishop and Syro Malabar Archbishop

Last month, Bishop Philip visited the parish of Our Lady of the Nativity and St Paul in Paulsgrove, which is now in the care of the Syro-Malabar community. The bishop joined in a Holy Qurbana (Mass) with His Beatitude, Mar Raphael Thattil, the Major Archbishop and Head of the Syro-Malabar Church.

Mar Raphael was elected major archbishop in January 2024 by the Holy Synod of the Syro-Malabar Church in succession to His Beatitude, Mar George Alencherry (2011-2023).

His Grace was on a visitation of the Eparchy in England and Wales, and Bishop Philip said it was a joy to have him visit the new parish in Paulsgrove, and an honour to have him in our Diocese of Portsmouth.

The church was packed for the occasion and a number of Syro-Malabar priests were there, including Mgr. Jino, Fr. Benoy and Fr. Rajeesh Abraham, one-time parish priest of Hayling Island and Waterside, who is now based in Taunton. Following the service, there was a meal afterwards in St. Paul's School.

Bishop Philip asked for prayers for the mission of the new parish and the evangelisation of the neighbourhood by the Syro-Malabar and the Latin Rite communities, along with the Neo-Catechumenal Way families, resident in the area.

Catholic Education

In a short article for the Catholic Union of Great Britain, the Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP, the Shadow Education Secretary, expressed his belief in the importance of faith schools, and Catholic schools in particular.

He wrote:

"There are many policy issues that I will continue to champion. Diversity in education is an important principle to me, including faith schools. I also believe in the principle of parental choice. Parents have the right to choose the education they wish for their children, be it at a faith school or a secular school. Indeed, as you will know the Catholic Church has a long history of education provision in England, the earliest schools were cathedral and monastic schools established from the late sixth century onwards. Today, faith schools, and Catholic schools specifically, over-index on average in results and value-added. The relationship between the Catholic Church and the State has also extended into other areas such as their important work supporting disadvantaged children and families in the UK."

Words of Comfort

A relative of mine is seriously ill. During a recent spell in hospital, he kept his spirits up by taking a positive thought each day and illustrating it with a simple pencil drawing. His son compiled the thoughts and sketches into a booklet.

Over the last two issues we have printed sixteen of the short thoughts and their companion drawings. Here is the final selection from “A Word of Comfort”.

There are a few copies of the complete booklet available free in the church porch.

A Word of Comfort



VICTOR TRAPANI



All that comes from the father is beautiful.
Appreciate everything that is around you, even a
breath of a breeze.



If you remember how much God loves you, you
will lack nothing because his love is boundless.
Offer your sufferings for the conversion of
sinners along with the Passion of Jesus Christ.



There is nothing better than a simple life. If you look at life in a different light, you can
enjoy all that the Lord has prepared for you.

Peace be with you.

Stay strong.

Order of the Holy Sepulchre

At this time, when the Holy Land is in such turmoil, there are still organisations determined to help sustain those who live and work in that troubled region.

At the invitation of Fr Peter Hollins, Knights and Dames of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem from the Southern Section, visited the Church of St Laurence in Petersfield on Saturday 21st September the Feast of St Matthew.



Holy Mass was celebrated at 11:00 by Bishop Richard Moth KC*HS, Bishop of Arundel and Brighton who is the Prior of the Southern Section. Bishop Richard reminded all present that they must constantly reflect on what their own vocation is and reminded them that they must all be sources of peace in our world today.

Donato Tallo KHS, reporting on the Mass in Petersfield, said: “The purpose of the Order 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. At this challenging time prayers for our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land are so important and while for obvious reasons formal pilgrimages are not possible at the moment, supporting financially through appropriate means is of great importance”.

He said that the Order was grateful to the parish of St Laurence who, like so many other parishes throughout the country, regularly support the Order financially which enables them to “support the living stones - our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land who really are in need of our support.” To find out more about the work of the order please visit their website at: <https://eohsj.org.uk>



New Pilgrimage Route

St Joseph's Way is a new Pilgrim Way for the Diocese of Portsmouth and the Bishopric of the Armed Forces. It runs from the Cathedral of St John in Portsmouth to the national Shrine of St Joseph in Farnborough Abbey via the Cathedral of the Bishopric of the Armed Forces (59 miles).

The St Joseph's pilgrimage trail is part of a national project of pilgrimage trails being drawn up for the Holy Year 2025 by Dr.



Philip McCarthy, formerly head of Caritas UK.

From St John's Cathedral the Way passes the Church of Corpus Christi in Portsmouth and then joins the Pilgrims' Trail out of Portsmouth passing the Church of St Colman at Cosham.

At Wood End the way joins the Meon Valley Churches Walk along a disused railway track to West Meon. The Pilgrim Way then crosses farmland by track and lane to reach Ropley where the route joins the St Swithun's Way, to reach the Church of St Mary, Alton.

Just before Hale the route leaves the St Swithun's Way, to reach the Church of St Joan of Arc in Farnham and then the Church of the Holy Family before crossing parkland to Aldershot and the Church of St Joseph and then the Cathedral of SS Michael & George, of the Catholic Bishopric of the Armed Forces. The Way picks up the Basingstoke Canal towpath and then the Blackwater Valley Path into Farnborough to reach the Shrine of St Joseph at Farnborough Abbey.

There is a wonderful website, pilgrimways.org.uk/st-joseph-s-way-is-ready-to-walk which has all this information on it plus free full walking instructions, links to Portsmouth Cathedral and Bishopric of the Armed Forces, as well as details of the inner and outer ways and a GPX file.

The Pope's Intentions



The Pope's Intention for March

Every 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. This month of October he asks us to pray that the Church continues to sustain a synodal lifestyle in every way, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, communion and mission shared by priests, religious and laity.

Reflection on the Pope's October Prayer Intention

In this month of October, Pope Francis invites everyone to embrace listening and dialogue through the Synod. In his video which accompanied his release of the prayer intention for the work of the Synod, he reflected on how the synodal dynamic carries forward the Church's missionary vocation.

"Through prayer and discernment, the Holy Spirit helps us carry out the "apostolate of the ear," that is, listening with God's ears in order to speak with the word of God," he said, noting that, "Thus, we draw near to the heart of Christ. Our mission and the voice that draws us to him spring from him."

Pope Francis concludes saying that "This voice reveals to us that the heart of mission is to reach out to everyone, to seek everyone, to welcome everyone, to involve everyone, without excluding anyone" and inviting all believers to pray for the Church during the Synod "that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a style of life at every level, allowing herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the world's peripheries."

The General Assembly of the Synod on Synodality began on Wednesday, October 4th 2023, following a two-year process that started in September 2021 when the Vatican released a preparatory document and instructions on preparing for the gathering. Hundreds of Catholics from around the world

Journeying to God with St Teresa

Thomas Alvarez In his book *Journeying to God with St. Teresa*, Fr. Tomas Alvarez OCD, responds to the many pertinent questions we have. How can we find God? How can we meet him in an authentic way? The answer is prayer.

St Teresa of Avila (1515-1582) is a Carmelite saint and the Church's great teacher of prayer. While no stranger to the highest mystical states, she set out in her writings to teach from her own, often painful, experience: to help all who knew, as she did, what it is to struggle along the way of prayer. In this book we learn of her difficulties and failures and temptations to give up, but also of her personal discovery of how to commune with God in an intimate sharing between friends.

St Teresa's writings are helpful, practical and down-to-earth; yet they lead us, surely and gradually, into the inner room of our very self where we encounter God who dwells within us, transforming our lives and enabling us to serve others with renewed strength and joy.

This book is an invitation, to each of us, to fill our life with prayer – journeying to God, day by day, in an ever-greater union with him.

Tomás Álvarez OCD (1923-2018) was one of the world's foremost authorities on St Teresa of Avila and has left an immense legacy of writings on her, including major studies, works of reference and critical editions. The current book, like all his writings, is informed by his great love of St Teresa.

As the first woman to be given the title of doctor of the church, St. Teresa of Avila continues to exercise her teaching authority in the world today both within and outside the boundaries of the church.

Journeying to God with St. Teresa, Fr. Tomas Alvarez OCD is published by Oxford, Teresian Press ISBN 978-0-947916-19-0.

Night of the Demon (1957)

This Film has legs. It's a Ghost story and replete with a Demon you *don't* want to meet. Made nearly 70 years ago it is as potent in suspense and watchability as when it was released back in 1957. Why?

Simply stated; it all works. It's a rock-solid story, straightforwardly laid out from beginning to end and told by a Film Director (Jacques Tourneur) capable and well-versed in putting this type of film on screen.

The film is based on a short story (*Casting the Runes*) written in 1899 by Edwardian Oxbridge Academic M. R. James. He wrote many Ghost short stories and is rightly regarded as the inspiration for many writers in the Ghost story genre since. For this film, the circumstances have been updated but the dramatic narrative core of the original has been faithfully adhered to.

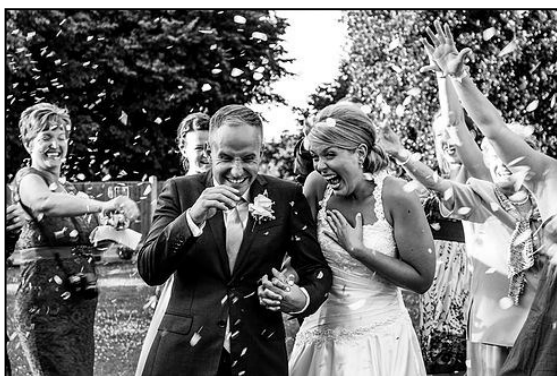
The film is set in modern day (i.e. 1950s) Britain and has Psychologist John Holden (American import actor Dana Andrews) being targeted by pseudo-Scientist, Karswell (British stalwart Niall MacGinnis). Unfortunately for Mr Andrews, Karswell isn't a loony-tune. He's much worse. Karswell is so far engaged into the Dark Arts that he can summon up the Demon of the film's title to kill anybody that has taken against him. And within 5 minutes of the film opening; it's Karswell 1 and good guy – well - null point. The “good guy” is Dana Andrews's professional colleague and its Mr Andrews going after Karswell that's got him marked.

The means that Karswell uses to target his victims is to secretly slip them a paper with certain mystic runes inscribed on it. He also tells them when “chummy” will meet up with them. That's it. You can't run. You can't hide. The only way for Dana Andrews to save himself is to return that paper to Karswell (plant it back on him) without Karswell knowing it. And that is the essence of this film as of the original short story.

Thankfully, you'll all be glad to hear that this is one occasion when it actually does turn out “alright on the night”. Well, not for Mr Karswell it is true but that's what should be expected and expected owing to the story's author. How so? Well, M. R. James was a life-long devout Anglican (necessary to hold an Oxbridge teaching post at that time) and well-studied in the Bible. And this is as Biblical as it can be. And here we're talking about the Old Testament, not the New, and one of the grittier Psalms where the psalmist castigates those that worship false gods and says God will destroy them utterly. And so it proves with Karswell's evil recoiling in and on itself.

With the story as the heart, what shines this film to perfection is how the Director has photographed it. Shot in a very atmospheric grainy black and white, it exudes an unsettling eeriness throughout. This is especially so in the night-time scenes. You know trouble is on the way. And you'd be right. One to watch for sure - from behind the sofa.

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From The School

The new school year began with Mass celebrated by Fr Austin with the children leading prayers, scripture readings and hymns. They were joined by their families and other parishioners. The theme of the Mass was “Mission” illustrated by the Gospel story of Jesus calling the disciples to be fishers of men.

Father Austin spoke of the gifts which God has given us all, gifts which might be very different but are all equally valuable. We are called to use our gifts in the service of God, of each other, and of people throughout the world.

Father Austin concluded the celebration with a special blessing on all the children and staff for another successful year.

Headteacher Mrs Whatley and School Governor Mrs Lloyd, together with two representatives from Year 6, travelled to St John’s Cathedral in Portsmouth to celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving with Bishop Philip to mark the visit of the Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendia. This was His Excellency’s first visit to our diocese. The Mass was concelebrated by many of our diocesan priests and was attended by parishioners, representatives of Catholic schools within the diocese, monks and nuns, and local politicians and civic dignitaries.

As the representatives from the school showed exemplary behaviour they were rewarded by a well-deserved ice cream afterwards.

Bailey, the school’s popular “therapy dog”, is back in school and settling into his work after enjoying the summer holidays. Children (and adults) are delighted to see him again. He has been showing off his new skill – roll the dice! Bailey chooses how many pages the children should read to him by rolling the dice. He then settles quietly to listen. He has enjoyed learning about the role dogs played in the Stone Age, and has also listened to a story set during the Holocaust.

The children have been learning how to approach a dog safely, and how to read Bailey’s body language to work out if he wants to say “hello”.

St Rose of Lima is the patron saint of Green House, and the school celebrated her feast on 18th September. She was chosen as one of the school’s special saints for her example of generosity of time, love, care and kind attention to all. She was dedicated to helping all those around her. To mark her feast day, the children in Green House were invited to come to school wearing a green item of clothing, or completely dressed in green if they so wished.



Safeguarding Training 19th October in Andover

It is a requirement of the Bishop, the Trustee Board and the Safeguarding Committee that anyone who has a role(s) working with children and/or adults at risk, or those who might otherwise be vulnerable, undertake safeguarding awareness training. We are committed to ensuring our parishes and church communities are safe spaces for all those who use them. In demonstrating that commitment, we seek to provide face-to-face safeguarding training on an ongoing basis across the Diocese. Accordingly, face-to-face sessions will be available in every pastoral area during 2024. In accordance with the national safeguarding standards, training is mandatory for all those who hold a role working with children and/or adults at risk, or those who may otherwise be vulnerable and **must be refreshed every 2 years**. The training status for volunteers who hold a DBS within our parishes is captured within the audit reports that are sent to Parish Safeguarding Ministers on a 3 monthly basis. These audit reports will assist parishes to identify those for whom training is mandatory enabling them to continue in their role(s).

If you wish to sign up for training in Andover, please email:
safeguarding@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Saturday 19th October in the Parish Hall in Andover from 10.00am to 3.00pm

refreshments provided.

2 Sessions : 10.00am to 12 noon and 1.00pm to 3.00pm.

Please pray for those who have died recently

Elizabeth Stanbridge and Conal O’Kelly

and for those whose anniversaries occur in October

Sir Ivor Stourton, David Curtin, Kate Wall, Philomena Ecclestone, Violet Mortley, Kevin Marchant, Anthony De Stefano, Michael Luxford, Agnes Smith, Margaret Fitzpatrick, Elizabeth Dean, Diane Clemas, Magdalene Ward, Edward Toland, Margaret Doyle, Gerrard McKeever, Joanna Stockley, Maisie Burnett, Colonel Plowden, John Bell, Rita Hinton, Winifred Bruen, Dora Burke, Francis Priestman, Catherine Wiltshire, Darrell Hide, May Blazic, William Hilleard, Marjorie Jeanne, Michael Hughes. George Platt, Michael Palmer, John Evans, Bartholomew Jarvis, Eddie Murphy, Catherine Morley, Peter D’Costa, Eric Smith, Edith Weal, Hans-Gunter Ziegler, Margaret Holmes, Eric Attrill, Anita Mutton, Nan Martin, Helen Greenwood, Alice McCumisky. Bert Bradbury, Brenda Millington, Alfred Coveney, Marguerite Freely, Arthur Cleary, Mr Murray, Sister Theresa, Tim O’Donne, Margaret Holland, Bill Murphy, Mary Holland, Dan Quinn, Bill Baxter, Tony Murphy, Sarah Macleod, Connie Antrobus, Julia Hardiman, Robert Henebury, Joan Mullins, Tony Reading, Thomas Scanlon, Mary Kelly, Adrian Kane-Smith, Simon Lytle, Francis Davis, Mary Bennett, Mariquita Radcliffe, Daniel Zalavolgi Hide, Joseph Ryder, Flora Wilson, Andrew Sharkey, Eric Ramsden, Dominic Gaughan, Lucy Sullivan, Patrick Copeland, Violet Mortley, John Byrne, Regis Boudreau, William Kilmartin, Alan Hamilton, Patrick Philips, Gonzales Rosa, John Patman, Anastacio Lopes, Martin Charlton, Dorothy Wisniewski, John Heeks, Josepha Wozniak, Mary Gittens, Kathleen Czyzewski, Lucy Talbot, Marguerita Hewitt and her son Nick Lynn, Marina Daniels, Phyllis Hancock, Mike Schiffer, Daryn Sutcliffe, Lydia Humphreys, Edward Minns, Elizabeth Judd, Mary Howell, Eileen Measures, Baby Finlay James Christopher, Peggay Bray, Patrick White, Terence Fitzpatrick, Margaret Taylor Valerie Stratton and Oliver Byrne.

**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 Hathaway, Mary Oak, Bernard Ivinson, Fiona Hilleard, Tony Fabian, Helen O’Connell, Douglas Manning, Victor Trapani, Diane Mahoney, Catherine Ash, Bill Jago, Linda Creaven, Wendy Rawlings, Paul Owens 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 issued on 2nd & 3rd November. Contributions should be with the editors by Monday 28th October. Please leave contributions at the Presbytery or email them to: stjohnsjournal@googlemail.com