

Journeys

The magazine of the Catholic parish of Belper and Duffield

Advent 2012



Dear Reader,

Three Important Events in the Life of Our Church

The church in our Diocese is focussing on three very important things at the present time.

A year ago, the Bishop began a consultation on the parish structure of the Diocese. Nottingham Diocese is the biggest geographically in England and Wales, and indeed the third largest in the British Isles. As in every Diocese, the age-profile of the clergy requires that a good look at pastoral provision needs to be undertaken. The *You Are Living Stones* programme gave every parishioner the opportunity in Lent to come together to pray and discuss the issues. The results of these discussions resulted in proposals being drawn up and submitted to the Bishop and his team for their consideration.

Due to time slippage in certain quarters, due to no fault of his own the Bishop's conclusions have been delayed. He has, however, called for a meeting of the clergy in mid-February, at which he will reveal his provisional proposals responding to the feedback he has received. There will then be a further short period of consultation, ending by Easter 2013, for any reasoned amendments to his plan to be suggested. The plan will then begin to be implemented in the course of the summer and autumn of 2013.

In the course of time, almost all parishes are likely to be affected by these necessary changes.

The second important event in the life of the Diocese and indeed the Church worldwide, is the Year of Faith called by Pope Benedict XVI to mark the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and the associated 20th anniversary of the publication of the *Catechism*

of the Catholic Church. (The *Catechism* was purposely published on the 30th anniversary of the Council to celebrate and promote its teaching, and to integrate this with the broader teaching of the Church down the ages.)

The logo of the Year of Faith shows a square, representing the field of the world in which the Church must preach the word. A boat, representing the barque of Peter, is tossed by billowing waves but has the cross of Christ for its masthead. The cross is incorporated into the monogram IHS, standing for the holy name of Jesus. (The H is a long E in the Greek language in which the Gospels were written: hence IHS form the first three letters of the name of Jesus, IHSOUS, the Greek I taking the value of J.) Finally, there is a sun, representing the light and warmth of the divine presence or, perhaps, the sacred host of the Eucharist. (My thanks to Sister Patricia Jordan for this interpretation of the logo.)

All of which reminds us that though the Church is tossed about by various difficulties, now as in every age, we can be confident that we will reach our destiny because God is with us, and powerfully so. The travelling Mary icon pack gives an opportunity for groups, families and individuals to gather in prayer and to remember that Mary, woman of faith, did not always have it easy either. Her faith, however, triumphed over every difficulty.

As we look to the future, we see a church where collaboration between the priest and the laity is going to be crucially important. In this parish we have travelled a certain way along this road ourselves, and the challenge will be there to extend this co-operation in the work of the Gospel even more as priests increasingly will have two or more parishes to care for in years to come.

This is where a laity well-grounded in the Gospel, confident of their faith and ready to pass it on is vital. The third important event for the Diocese, then, is the opportunities for catechists to reflect more deeply on their faith and how they can best use their time and skills to pass it on to others. Seven parishioners are currently on a Diocesan-run course leading to the award of the Bishop's Certificate in Catechesis. Others, already trained and with much experience of catechesis, are taking advantage of various other refreshing opportunities being made available by the Diocese.

Please take the opportunity offered in this Year of Faith to consider your own understanding of the faith, and how you might best share it with others. There will be all sorts of events throughout the course of the year to get involved with, and aids to tackling at some level the catechism and the Scriptures. Above all, pray! Do take a card from church showing the beautiful icon of Mary which has been created specially for our Diocese, and which will be travelling throughout our schools. There is a very meaningful prayer too, written by the Bishop, which will repay using and thinking about.

May Mary, woman of faith, journey with you throughout the coming year and point you to her Son.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

Michael Kirkham

Liturgy for the Opening of the Year of Faith

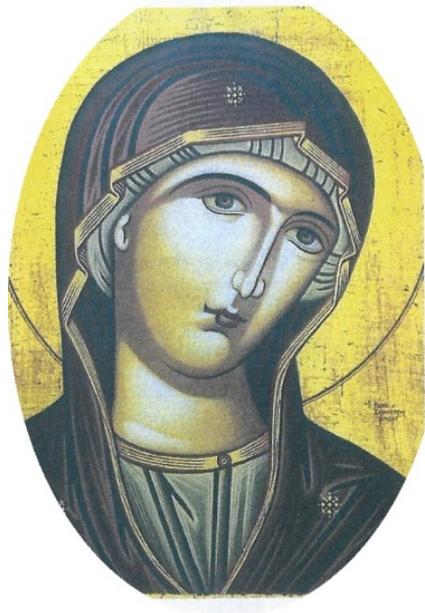
Sunday afternoon of the 14th October saw a special liturgy led by the Bishop at St Barnabas Cathedral to mark the opening of the Year of Faith. Several parishioners attended: Helena Carrazedo, David Kirkham, Pam Laven, Tricia Lloyd, Barbara and John Wareing, Rebecca Wilkinson together with Fr Michael.

Here are memories of the event by two of those present:

It was a packed 'house', many supporting banners of their church or group. These were then paraded into the Cathedral following the Bishop and placed behind the altar during the service.

Each church or group was given a candle and a picture of the Mary icon for use within their parish. They were also given the Travelling Mary Prayers to accompany the pack.

This pack travels around the parish from house to house so prayers can be said as a family group – at the moment the pack is going around the various parish groups and school and will be available in the New Year for families to take part.



Anyone wishing to participate and have the pack to say the prayers within their home, please contact Barbara Wareing to arrange a date.

barbara.wareing@btinternet.com or 01773 823947

Barbara Wareing

My Time at the Cathedral

My time at the Cathedral was very exciting. It was for the opening service for the Year of Faith. First I had to meet up with Barbara Wareing who had my school banner (St Elizabeth's). After this, everyone with a banner was called to the garden so we could process in. Suddenly, we found the banner of Our Lady's with Tricia, Pam, John, Pat and Rebecca.

After taking some photos of our group and of some other boys from Leicester, we allowed ourselves to sit down on a bench near the back of the garden. However our little rest was interrupted by someone telling us how we were going to process in and sit at the front. But we already had seats at the back! So we asked a man who seemed to be in charge if we could sit in our places and he said that would be fine.

After we had processed in, the liturgy started. When the Bishop came in, he knocked on the West door as if asking the Holy Spirit to come in. He then blessed the image of Mary and people brought forward copies of sacred texts to hand to children. This symbolised passing on the faith to the next generation. He then blessed and lit the candle for the Year of Faith. Then people with banners came up and had their small candles lit. We had a bit of a mini-crisis as we did not have any candles! Luckily we found a box full of them and got them lit. The Bishop then processed out and on his way out smiled and said 'Oh, Saint Elizabeth's'. We then joined the procession and went out to have photos taken.



David Kirkham

Opening the Door to Faith

On a sunlit morning in November, I went with two friends from Our Lady's to a conference in Nottingham for catechists and other interested Catholics, to explore how we can open the door to faith both for existing church members and those who are looking for a spiritual home in this Year of Faith. Several surprises awaited us: the Becket School is a new building whose open architecture reflects its welcoming atmosphere, and we were delighted to find a gathering of about two hundred enthusiastic and committed people of all ages from around the Diocese, including three more members of our own parish! It looked like being an energising day, with lively talks from Bishop Malcolm and David Wells, and a varied series of workshops to choose from, including mime, art and ways of working with children and young people in sharing faith. Opening doors began to feel like a two-way listening and learning process; we can best open the door of faith to others if we deepen our own faith, and offer a welcome to the spiritual experience they already bring.

I'd arrived with a series of connected questions in mind, and I'd like to share some of these, and the answers I gleaned from the day:

Faith in what/who? This may seem an odd question, but in a recent survey of Canadian Catholics at Mass, the range of different beliefs was amazing, including over 20% who didn't believe in God! At its simplest and most beautiful, our faith is expressed in the message of the angels – 'God is with us'. An astonishing claim when you think about it! As Christians, we're commanded by Jesus to love our neighbour, by sharing the good news of His presence with us through our words and actions.

Why a Year of Faith and why now? It's fifty years since the Second Vatican Council was called by Pope John XXIII to 'open the windows' of the Church and let the Holy Spirit blow some of the cobwebs away. It's also twenty years since the teaching from that council was gathered together in the Catechism. Unfortunately, some of the language used in expressing those truths can be pretty hard-going to read and understand. With an awareness of apparent indifference and even antagonism to religion in the West, Pope Benedict is now asking us to look afresh at this teaching, to deepen our own faith, so that we can share it with others. He tells us that 'faith is choosing to stand beside the Lord, in order to live with him' and that 'Christians are called to radiate the truth about Christ'. Bishop Malcolm comments, reflecting on Mary, woman of faith, that 'faith grows through the experience of love received, then communicates that love with joy and grace'.

What's 'new' about evangelisation? The message of the Gospel is always the same, but over time we discover new insights; in a rapidly changing world we need to find fresh ways of expressing what we believe as Catholics. We now have a parish website which lets people know who we are and what we do as a faith-community. Bishop Malcolm is using the internet to tell us more about this special year and to bring us closer to each other in the Diocese. We have booklets and DVDs which cut through some of the more complicated language of church documents, and present our faith in a lively and more personal way. At the conference, David Wells spoke movingly of the difficulties we can experience in sharing our faith with those we love most, and he told some very funny stories about his own experience of church and family life. And in workshops, we explored using mime, art and film as ways of meeting Jesus in unexpected ways.

In one workshop, Fr Jonathan Cotton described his thoughtful plan for the creation of small faith-sharing groups or 'cells' in his scattered parish, which would grow and multiply organically. This is based on an understanding that everyone in the Church community has a responsibility to spread the Gospel, and that each of us is accountable to God and each other; so regular reviews are built into the pattern of meetings.

Another workshop looked at art and film as a way of faith-sharing. Fr Chris Thomas showed us a strikingly varied series of pictures inspired by Scripture, and invited us to give our own responses to a particular figure which caught our eye. This opened a way to link our own stories and experiences with our faith journey together.

Just a thought... In work I was invited to create with Derby artist Michael Cook, we've been profoundly touched by the way in which people who are not closely connected with the Church have been deeply moved by a sense of the sacred in his pictures. I also had a chance conversation recently with a newer member of the parish about our shared love of a well-known Christian poet. Would one way of deepening our faith be to have a monthly group where we could explore our responses to a poem or a picture which connects us with Christ? David Wells described how conversion is a gentle and lifelong process; as well as sharing our own enjoyment, might we open a welcoming door to those who are hesitating on the threshold in the hope of being invited in?

The closing liturgy of the conference included a powerful telling of the story of the raising of Jairus's daughter through mime. Her father was so full of joy at what Jesus had done that he simply couldn't keep the news to himself! We've been given this amazing gift of faith in Christ; during this special year, could we take time to unwrap the gift, and celebrate it with delight?

Ros O'Melia

Music in the Liturgy: Some Reflections

Cantare amantis est – singing is what a lover does
(Saint Augustine)

Music is the borderland of the human, and it is here that the divine begins
(Hans Urs von Balthasar)

Chant is an exultation of the mind dwelling on the things of eternity
(Thomas Aquinas)

Let me share some of my musical memories:

'Kyrie eleison': the beautiful rise and fall of the Kyrie of the Orbis Factor Mass, dwelling on each word, resounded throughout the Cathedral of Saint Barnabas – the abiding memory of the Chrism Mass I attended a few days before my reception into the Catholic Church; whenever I hear it, I am transported back there.

In the darkened abbey church, the monks tenderly sang 'Salve, Regina' to Our Lady at the end of Compline; supplication and lullaby, so moving, going beyond what speech can convey.

The lights were lowered; the curtain rose to reveal the ladies of the chorus. One in particular was aglow: her eyes shone and there was an air of exaltation about her – she was Sarah Brightman, poised to sing Christine in *The Phantom of the Opera*. Think how delighted God would be, if we were to be in such a state of anticipation at the start of Mass!

Music is an integral part of our nature, even before we are born – contemplate the rhythm of a mother's heartbeat; and babies respond to music before language.

The words of 'Happy Birthday' are very uninspiring, but an extra dimension is added when they are sung.

Consider the many references to music in the Bible, from early in Genesis (4: 21, lyre and pipe), through the Psalms (which are certainly songs) and the Song of Solomon to singing a hymn at the Last Supper (Matt 26: 30), Saint Paul's exhortations (Eph 5: 19; Col 3: 16) and finally the heavenly singing round the throne in Revelation.

Jews have a tradition of chanting the Bible; this cantillation adds beauty and dignity to the words, as well as making them more audible. Plainchant grew out of this ritual and is especially prized (GIRM 41; *Musicae Sacrae* 42); it is not surprising that the Eucharist has been sung since the early days of the Church.

The new Roman Missal contains simple chants (which we shall be singing during Advent); surely this is a clear invitation to sing *the* Mass, rather than merely sing *at* Mass?

Singing the Mass is a unitive action: we are united as a congregation when we are listening to Father sing; we are united when we are singing ourselves, as individualism is subsumed into the communal raising of our hearts and minds to God; we are united as the Church on earth, the bride of Christ (who does not sing at a wedding?); and we are united with the angels in heaven. The Gloria has been described as a 'most ancient and venerable hymn' (GIRM 53); to my ears, it seems unfulfilling to say it, rather than sing it.

Granted, there are specified times for sacred silence during Mass: to recollect, meditate or give thanks; it is also 'praiseworthy' (GIRM 45) to observe silence before Mass. Some non-sung Masses can certainly evoke an overwhelming sense of the presence of God (I recommend the Thursday morning Mass in Saint Elizabeth's Chapel), but we are specifically encouraged to sing the texts of the Mass on Sundays and Holydays of Obligation (GIRM 40).

I pray that, during this Year of Faith, you may be inspired to enter a deeper relationship with God through singing the Mass.

'He who sings well, prays twice'
(St Augustine, attrib.)

Sally Phillips

Another Proud Year for St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School

Way back in January, we managed to clear several tons of snow off the drive to keep the school open; then we started the major project of building a new classroom and refurbishing five other classrooms. Luckily the weather was kinder and we only had rain to drain so managed to complete all the work in July ready for the new school year in September.

Every classroom now has hot and cold water, a sink and wet area and is far more spacious. When the children came back in September, all they could say was 'WOW'.

Bishop Malcolm came into school to open the new building and present a medal to Robert Hobson. Fr Michael and all the Sisters from Melton Mowbray were present and were able to join in the celebrations. Afterwards, Bishop Malcolm sent a letter to say he was 'impressed not only by the new buildings, but by the happy atmosphere in the school'.

The hot and cold water were fine until last month when our water supply was cut off. Many schools closed, but again with great effort and determination we managed to stay open by buying many litres from Morrisons and filling up cisterns etc. It made us realise just how precious water is and how we take it for granted.

Children made their first Holy Communion in June in both Belper and Ripley and later, in October, St Elizabeth's was again praised by Bishop Malcolm on our excellent banner which we carried in the opening Mass for the Year of Faith.

This year, we have collected eighty-five shoe boxes full of goodies for children who do not have a Christmas present and over £1,500 for CAFOD with teachers doing a skydive jump, children collecting on non-uniform days and parents/children being so generous at our Harvest Festival. Together with Mrs Gannon and Mrs Worth who run the minories, we really are blessed!

Our children have made visits to Our Lady's Church arranged by Fr Michael and Mrs Wareing and Father has celebrated several Masses and liturgies in school. It is always sad when we have a leavers' Mass in July and have to say goodbye to both parents and children, but we know the children will thrive and come back to see us. This year, they all achieved level 4/5, with two children managing to obtain a level 6 for maths – a truly outstanding achievement. More importantly, they take with them the St Elizabeth's ethos and a strong faith and spirit.

Robert Hobson is Awarded the Bene Merenti Medal

Robert took over as the Nottingham Diocesan Schools Officer in 1984 and was responsible for helping governors with headteacher appointments and obtaining/allocating funding for school building projects.

Robert has been fundamental in obtaining funding for our Catholic schools and together with Chris Palmer (CPA) developed a first-class team so that all the schools in the Diocese could obtain classrooms and buildings of the highest quality.

More recently, Robert has been Chair of Governors at St Elizabeth's Belper and has helped negotiate funding and designs for a new classroom and five classroom extensions, plus new office and lobby areas. He has also been instrumental in the school achieving an 'outstanding' grade by OFSTED.

Robert continues to support the Church by chairing the liturgy group and cleaning at St Mary's church in Derby.

Because of his major contribution to both children's education and to the development of Catholic schools in our Diocese, Robert was awarded the Bene Merenti medal by Bishop Malcolm on 20th September 2012; an award that Bishop Malcolm described as: 'very well deserved'.

After Robert retired, Mrs Barbara Wareing took over as Chair of Governors. She is supported by Mrs Schumann, Mr Rocki Stani, Mr Brind, Mrs Caddick and Sisters Margaret and Bernadette as Foundation Governors.



Mr Bryan Lowe, Headteacher

Altar Servers' Mass

On Saturday, 20th October, the Bishop celebrated the annual Mass for members of the Guild of Altar Servers of St Stephen at the Cathedral. Servers present from our Parish were: David Kirkham, Cal and Jack Medcalf, Anto Tomy and Christina Lopes.

Jack Medcalf writes:

The altar servers' Mass at St Barnabas Cathedral was a huge success. Over forty-five servers attended this Mass from all over our Diocese. Our parish had an important part to play in this celebratory Mass. During communion, our servers helped the Bishop just before the Mystery of Faith when the preparation of the gifts was taking place. The altar servers that attended from our Parish were Calvin – Head server, Jack, Anto, Christina, David.

As I was one of the servers that attended, I know that everyone involved in this Mass worked very hard on it including Bishop Malcolm and Fr Michael, our parish priest. There were two medals that were given out at the end of Mass and they were both silver medals. Bronze = One year, Silver = Ten years, Gold = a whopping Fifty years of service.

At least 95% of the servers that attended this mass were wearing a bronze medal and there were only two in our parish that had not received their medals yet but would be receiving their medals in the very near future.

As I said, this Mass was a great success and I hope that all the Masses in the future will be as good as this one. As we know, the servers from our two churches, Our Lady's in Belper and St Margaret's in Duffield, are not used to an audience that big or to work with the Bishop which is something we rarely do in our parish.





Parish Library

The purpose of the Parish Library (located in the St Benedict Room) is to provide an opportunity for development of faith by parishioners sharing books, CDs/DVDs and periodicals with others.

The items available have all been contributed as a gift by parishioners and are 'second hand'. A wide variety of subjects is covered and all contributions have previously attracted the interest of someone else in the parish. We try to keep to books less than twenty years old. Also, recent copies of *The Tablet* are available when donated.

We have been fortunate to benefit recently from the books collected by the late Fr Ken O'Riordan and saved from the skip by Brenda Davies! These new additions include books by Timothy Radcliffe, David Alton, Nicky Gumbel, Liam Kelly, Maureen Clarke and Esther Reed.

Please feel free to browse the library. If you wish to borrow something, then please fill in the sheet in the lending folder at the end of the shelf.

If any parishioner has personal copies of books or DVDs/CDs relating to faith or religious issues which have been read and are gathering dust, then please consider donating them to the Parish Library so that others may benefit. If anyone has such a contribution, please contact John Kelsall (01773 823702) so that items can be catalogued.

Also, the CAFE video tapes from the course run two or three years ago are no longer practical for most people, as are the audio cassette tapes on aspects of healing. So, if you would like to take them away, please do so.

John Kelsall

Leisure Group News

The Leisure Group has been very active over the last couple of years. Barbara Wareing shares some highlights from 2011 (unfortunately omitted from the last issue of *Journeys*):

- Twenty-eight members and guests gathered in the St Benedict Room to listen to Barry and Lucy Colenso – what a treat! We heard the history of chocolate and its origins – and tasted different blends – Yummy! Even a chance to buy Barry's lovely chocolate before we went home. Thanks, Barry.
- 'Tea at the Ritz': a very successful 'Posh' Afternoon Tea. The sun shone for everyone to come in their finery! The atmosphere, music and food were enjoyed by all. £380 was raised for Church funds – thanks for supporting.
- Performances at St Elizabeth's school, including an Easter Play put on by the children. They were brilliant! – we could hear every word and loved the songs they sang so clearly. An excellent performance; a few tears were shed.
- Outings to Findern Garden Centre (with a memorable steak pie), Barton Marina and Leek and the Roaches (no wallabies were spotted).
- Meals out, including the Engine Shed Restaurant, Derby College (where Pam and Jack Laven's grandson was in the kitchen), the Hill Top Inn, Belper (though it was misty, so the lovely view could not be enjoyed), Horsley Lodge and the Black Boy, Heage.
- Keeping the 'grey matter' active with games sessions and quizzes.

2012 highlights:

- **May 24th:** A sad goodbye to our dear Lucille Davis. She enjoyed outings and meetings and she will be sadly missed. We held our meeting at her Funeral Mass.
- **June 21st:** Jubilee Party – never too old to celebrate! – all dressed for the occasion and 'silly' outdoor games – what a great day we had.
- **October 18th:** 27th Anniversary Meal at the Plough Inn, Brackenfield.
- **November 22nd:** Our Annual Mass for Deceased members at Duffield followed by lunch and a fundraising event for the SVP.
- **December 20th:** We are having a Christmas Dinner at Duffield – followed by party games and a sing-along! Maybe Santa will call?

Please see the weekly Bulletin for confirmation of meetings (usually twice monthly on a Thursday either in Parish House or at a lunch venue) or contact Barbara Wareing – 01773 823947 – 07929155887 barbara.wareing@btinternet.com

Barbara Wareing



Toss the 'caber' (small rolling pin) – great fun



Everyone got into the spirit of things dressed in Red, White and Blue and enjoyed a fantastic picnic lunch 'Jubilee Style'

Minutes of the First Meeting of the Leisure Group, 31st October 1985

Meeting held at St Elizabeth's Convent to set up a Club for retired parishioners.

Seventeen Parishioners present and Fr Horrax and Sister

1. Name of club – was unanimously agreed – Leisure Club.
2. Mrs M. Francis was elected chair. Vice chair Mrs ?
Mr Pickup was elected Treasurer
Miss J. Duggan was elected Secretary with Mrs Parsons to help
3. A number of suggestions for activities.

Talks and slide shows – Various members of the group had things they could talk about:

- Mr Jim Carberry – Wine making – gardening
- Mrs West – Starting nursing 60 years ago
- Mr West – History of the Parish
- Miss J. Duggan – Water supply
- Sister Francis – Slides of Assisi

Play Readings

Singing Group including Carols and a 'fuddle' for Christmas

Games e.g. Scrabble

4. Much discussion on whether meetings should be alternate afternoon and evenings and whether first and third or second and fourth Thursday of the month.
5. Finally decided to try and alternate afternoon and evening and kept meeting on the first Thursday i.e. 7th November in afternoon as majority of people could attend.

Minutes passed on by Joan Duggan to Barbara Wareing on 6th October 2011 and transcribed.

Troubadours

Troubadours continue their travels round and about Belper, visiting nursing homes and homes for the elderly. We sing well-known hymns, read short scripture messages and have an old-time sing-along accompanied by John Vale on guitar. Intermittently, a short monologue or poem is read by Bernard Holden or John O'Melia. We are always searching for new material. Angela Vale is good at spotting a suitable verse in newspapers and Wyn Edwards has provided valuable prayer trust booklets; sometimes I put pen to paper.



A Wartime Bath

*My Granddad was a merceriser at C.P.A. Carrbrook.
His overalls were oily, multi-coloured; they had a boutique look.*

*Pockets were turned out for bread and cheese still lurking,
Mother washed them once a week in the set pot after soaking.*

*Monday morning early, newspaper, coal and wood
Were lit to warm the water in this metal copper tub.*

*Omo and Dolly Blue were used for cleaning sheets and pillow cases,
Followed by towels and long john trousers, sometimes attached to Granddad's
braces.*

*Joining undergarments were tablecloths, shirts and frocks,
Possered, rinsed and mangled before those overalls and socks.*

*As evening came, this sudsy brew had cooled to an elbow's touch;
It was time for a birthday suit, Monday night, set pot, bathing launch.*

Journeying seventy years back in time when Dad was at El Alamein.

Pam Laven

Christian Meditation Group



For several years now, a group has met weekly on Wednesday mornings for a session of meditation. You may have wondered what it's all about. Is it even Christian?

Meditation is a universal spiritual wisdom and a practice that can be found at the core of all the great religious traditions, leading from the mind to the heart. It is a way of simplicity, silence and stillness.

In Christianity, this tradition became marginalised and even forgotten or suspect. But in recent times, a great recovery of the contemplative dimension of Christian faith has been happening. Central to this now is the rediscovery of a practice of meditation in the Christian tradition that comes to us from the early Christian monks – the Desert Fathers and Mothers – and allows us to put into practice the teaching of Jesus on prayer in a radical and simple way.

Meditation, also known as contemplative prayer, seeks God in the silence and stillness beyond word and thought. Fr John Main (1926–1982), a Benedictine monk, rediscovered this ancient prayer tradition for contemporary men and women. There are now many Christian Meditation groups meeting weekly in the UK and, indeed, all over the world.

Our group meets at 10.15am each Wednesday in the St Elizabeth Chapel in the Church House. The meeting generally lasts about an hour and consists of listening to a short recorded talk on meditation, followed by approximately 20–25 minutes of silent meditation, and then a closing prayer.

Please feel free to drop in. For further information, contact Sherri Medcalf or Patricia Lloyd. You may also want to have a look at The Worldwide Community of Christian Meditation Website at www.wccm.org.

Sherri Medcalf

The Contemplative Dimension of the New Evangelisation: Christian Meditation in the Church in a Secular World

The call to a New Evangelisation creates many hopeful possibilities for the renewed influence of the Church, the primary witness to the meaning and message of Christ, in our era. As a way of bridging the growing divide between the Church and the secular world, I am proposing here a more definite emphasis on the contemplative dimension of faith for the evangelisation of today's culture.

Modern culture is often self-destructively complex; so, there is a corresponding thirst for simplicity. This need for simplification of life, both inner and outer, is integral to the spiritual search of our time – a search that many begin and pursue far from the traditional sources of wisdom; and it is often a search that is woefully superficial. Yet the Christian mystical tradition speaks of an experience of simplicity that is also profound and authentic. For Aquinas, contemplation is the 'simple enjoyment of the truth' and God himself is 'infinitely simple'.

True to this insight, the early Christian monastic tradition developed approaches to contemplative prayer that were both simple and practical. They respected the necessary balance between Martha and Mary.

Meditation can become complex and frustrating when its mental aspects are not balanced by the simple, pure prayer of the heart. But if integration of mind and heart is restored to the life of prayer, both forms and aspects of meditation – discursive prayer and the non-discursive 'laying aside of thoughts' in stillness and silence (*hesychia*) – combine into a powerful spiritual journey. Faith is born. Love is discovered. God is revealed. 'The beginning is faith, the end is love and the union of the two is God'.¹ Simplicity, though, however attractive and desirable, is not easy.

Many 'secular spiritualities' and oriental methods of meditation today teach techniques for calming the mind, reducing stress and improving well-being. They promise the physical and psychological *benefits* which have become the object of extensive scientific research.

Many who seek relief from the problems of modern lifestyle witness to these benefits. Later they are often 'surprised by joy' and awake to the first stages of a spiritual journey of faith. Thus they move from technique to discipline. Instead of the *natural benefits*, it is the *spiritual fruits* that now attract their attention.² The natural benefits of contemplation are eventually recognised as the sign that grace is working on nature.

As the spiritual dimension opens through simple contemplative prayer, deeper meaning is found in concepts such as discipleship, discipline and the very idea of God. This leads to a new way of looking at once-rejected aspects of one's religious tradition. It then also becomes clear that contemplation is not the result of a well-honed technique, but of grace.

Prayer is both a delight and an asceticism. The Church must teach a love of the necessary discipline in prayer that leads through faith and grace to purity of heart and the vision of God.

'The key element in the work of the new evangelisation is for every Christian to answer the call to holiness.'

The teaching of Christian meditation helps to position the person in a context of faith. 'Meditation verifies the truths of the faith in our personal experience' (John Main).³

The tradition in which one learns to meditate will determine the future course of one's spiritual growth. It is therefore vitally important that the Church is seen to be a wise, approachable and experienced teacher of meditation from her own richest tradition. In a parish, the silent and simple fidelity of a weekly Christian meditation group helps to deepen the love of liturgy and scripture by maturing the spiritual life.

Many Catholic schools report that children who are taught meditation in the classroom frequently choose to meditate at home as well. This touches and impresses parents and can be the awakening of a new spirituality in the family's life.

For several decades, the work of The World Community for Christian Meditation has spread in the Church (in more than 100 countries). It is invited to serve the Church in many ways.⁴ Like any missionary, it adapts its style of teaching to the audience but never fails to see its work of communicating this simple way of prayer and life-giving discipline as a witness to 'Christ within'.⁵

A clear contemplative discipline should be offered. Many people, even with very stressful lives, accept the challenge, for example, to set aside a half hour for Christian meditation at the beginning of each day; and a second half hour at the end of the day's work. For many, these times of meditation are integrated with morning and evening prayer or spiritual reading. Participating in a weekly meditation group helps to support this daily contemplative practice. It is also a means to experience the spiritual friendship and community that contemplation creates.

For many who have drifted or abandoned the Church, this has proven to be a way back to the sacraments and to regular participation in the other dimensions of an ecclesial life.

Contemplation offers the most direct and immediate contemporary way to a deep and personal experience of all Christians' unity in Christ. Silence and stillness in faith allow them to rest in the peace of the Spirit and thus return to the work of dialogue with hope and freshness of purpose.

Because there is a mystical core to all religions, meditation opens the opportunity both to *listen* respectfully to the beliefs of other faiths and to *present* the Christian faith in engaging and authoritative ways.

Christian contemplation has always been seen primarily as a work of love – God's love for us evoking our love for God. The sweetness and joy of this is beyond words. However it naturally overflows the individual and finds expression in the compassionate service of others in their needs. Nothing more fully evangelises than loving service. Deep contemplative prayer both ignites and sustains this living flame of love – which *is* the Lord.

Laurence Freeman OSB (abridged)

1. Ignatius of Antioch

2. Gal 5: 22

3. John Main OSB (1926–1982). *Word into Silence* (1980)

4. www.wccm.org

5. Rom 8: 10; Col 1: 27

Mothers Prayers

Our group is called Mothers Prayers, for mothers who wish to pray together for their children and grandchildren. During our meetings, we unite in prayer with one another and place the names of our children into a basket at the foot of the cross, offering them into Jesus's care. Our journey is from Belper to Coxbench Hall Nursing Home where we visit Sheila O'Toole who is a resident there. Our little group consists of Angela, Pam the driver, Wyn, Sheila and Flo. We are shown into a private room where we have our meeting. On our last visit, we travelled with an icon of Our Lady which was placed in the centre of our table and we included prayers for the Year of Faith.

Flo Gothard

There are three Mothers Prayers groups in the Parish:

Ann Gannon's meets every Sunday at 3pm at 19 Chapel Street, Holbrook.

Pam Laven's generally meets at the end of each month at Coxbench Hall.

Barbara Wareing's meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm in the Parish House.

New members are most welcome.

From the Bishop's Recent Letter to the Clergy of the Diocese:

'Instructions for my Funeral Mass': The Pastoral Care Project, led by Bishop David McGough, Auxiliary Bishop in Birmingham, has recently produced *Instructions for my Funeral Mass*. It covers key questions such as what sort of funeral liturgy a person would like when they die, which hymns and readings they would like at their funeral, whether they would like to be cremated or buried and their preferred funeral directors. It is specifically designed for those living alone or in care settings, and has been approved for use by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

I commend this document to you and your parishioners, many of whom may be concerned that their families, or those who care for them, might not understand or appreciate their wishes for their funeral. For further information about purchasing copies of *Instructions for my Funeral Mass* for your parish, please see: www.pastoralcareproject.org.uk (info@pastoralcareproject.org.uk; t: 01675 434035).

Catholic Truth Society

How was Margaret **C** litherow executed?

What links **A** ndrei Rublev and St Elizabeth's Chapel?

What is the **T** raditional meaning of the potato?

How can art **H** elp us to pray?

Who was **O** rigen?

Who wrote **L** ife is short; death is certain?

What are the Five Pillars of **I** slam?

How do you pronounce **C** ephas?

Who was the King's good servan **T** and God's first?

What was Monk's Peppe **R** used for?

What is **U** nitarianism?

Where is the Basilica of the **T** ransfiguration?

When is **H** oly water used?

What are the **S** even joys of St Joseph?

What are the sacred **O** ils?

Who wrote the **C** anticle of the Creatures?

When is the Pope **I** nfallible?

What is an **E** leousa icon?

How can one explain the **T** rinity?

Whose was the Little Wa **Y** ?

The answers can be found in a range of CTS publications.

The Society's motto is 'Catholic Faith, Life and Truth for all'. In this Year of Faith, please consider deepening your faith by purchasing a booklet or two; the majority cost £2.50 or less and cover birth to the grave and beyond. Please browse the stand at Belper, or contact Sally Phillips on 01332 841681, sally.phillips@talk21.com, if you would like to enrich your spiritual journey.

Sally Phillips

Society of Saint Gregory

Society of St Gregory Summer School 2013

A sign lifted up among the nations:

**Sacrosanctum Concilium,
the Church and the New
Evangelisation**

Monday 29th July - Friday 2nd August 2013

Belsey Bridge Conference Centre, Ditchingham, Norfolk

Summer School Leader: Martin Foster
Keynote Speaker: Fr Peter McGrail
Accompanist: Andrew Wright

Costs have been kept at 2012 prices:
SSG Members £365, non-members £405, under 18's £170 if
booking made by 1st May 2013

www.ssg.org.uk
Further details will be announced on the SSG website

The Society of Saint Gregory is the national society for liturgy and music in the Catholic Church in the British Isles.

A benefit of membership is the quarterly *Music and Liturgy* magazine which includes thoughtful articles and a helpful 'Preparing the Liturgy' supplement with notes for readers and suggestions for musicians.

I attended the 2012 Summer School in Whitby, with the theme 'Behold, I stand at the door', which was a rewarding, if rather exhausting, round of worship and workshops reflecting on where we ourselves stand in relation to the 'threshold'.

Please contact me on 01332 841681, sally.phillips@talk21.com, if you would like further information.

Sally Phillips

Heart Gives Unto Heart Catholic Digital Radio

www.hguh.co.uk

HGUH Radio aims to appeal to a wide catholic audience and broadcasts a magazine mix of programmes including:

- Masses and Daily prayers • Celebrity interviews
- Highlights of the work of Catholic Charities
- Music – showcasing Catholic talent from Gregorian Chant to Catholic Rap
- Seventh Heaven – HGUH's own take on Desert Island Discs
- Island of Saints – an insight into English Saints • Poetry Corner
- Did you hear a calling? People tell their own faith stories
- Lots of other exciting topics

Where Have the Angels been Stretching their Wings?



We have sixteen volunteers now taking their turn to walk the streets of our community one Friday a month. We are planning to extend our patrol so that we cover the early morning hours of a Saturday for those people making their way from the nightclub to pubs that have extended their hours. We have also discovered that like the City Street Pastors who carry flip-flops for those suffering the effects of dancing the night away in crippling heels; we too need these giveaways for tired feet and are trying to source some cheap supplies. We can be seen out and about around the Whitemoor Estate, the Parks Estate and in the centre of the town.

Where did we come from?

We are an initiative operating under the umbrella of *Hope for Belper* and we also work with the support of the *Christian Nightlife Initiative* who work improve safety in our town centres up and down the country. After our launch in June 2012, we have been a presence ever since, getting known by local Belper businesses who have been very supportive. The churches across Belper are also giving us much encouragement and we hope that you might read this and wonder about volunteering.

Observers are starting to accompany our Friday teams to discover whether it could be something they take up and we are very hopeful about extending the number of volunteers because we need twenty-four to make a later shift viable. Information about how to become a Street Angel for one Friday evening each month can be accessed from the Hope for Belper website (<http://hopeforbelper.com>).

Our youngest volunteer is eighteen and our oldest is in her seventies. We come from a range of backgrounds but are united in our hope that we can be a caring presence on the streets of our town. We are always wanting to add angels to the team, so if this is something you feel that God might be calling you to, do get in touch to find out more.

Keep praying for your Angels!

Rev Rachel Marszalek (St Peter's, Belper)

From the Registers: An Update since October 2011

Baptisms:

Colby Paul Parkin, Timothy Michael Hayes, Jamie Matthew Vinall, Constance Susan Booth, Catherine Louise Ratcliffe, Grace Eva Ruck, Paul Anthony George Basey, Jack William Tomlinson, Kit Ellis Sayers

First Holy Communion:

Zaida Lindley, Billy Kenyon, Lucy Tomlinson, Amelie Turner, Frank Vincent, Aimee Mullen, Samuel Marghinotti, Arthur Walton, Henry Moloney, Faith Byrne, Lewis Hughes, Francesca Brennan Brown, Joe Claxton, Isabella Pilia, Owen Gough-Rundle, Colby Baker, Ethan Burnham, Lucas Jackson

Catechists: Steve Brind, Jane Richards, Anne Grimshaw, Lucy Colenso and Mandy Wain

Confirmation:

John Harrison (received into the Catholic Church)

Holy Matrimony:

Benjamin Coomber and Leonie Majella Norris; Jeremy James Tooher and Melita Mary Constance Rogers

Funerals:

Anthony Graham Atkinson, John Brown, Joan Ryan-Seed, James Patrick Mallon, Lionel Jessop, Inez Laura (Lucille) Davis, Anne-Marie Allen, David Michael O'Brien

Parish Contact Details

Priest in Charge: Fr Michael Kirkham
Parish House, 12 Gibfield Lane, Belper DE56 1WA

Tel: 01773 822182

Fr Michael: our_ladys_belper@hotmail.com

Administrator: communications@ourladysbelper.plus.com

Website: www.cpbd.co.uk

Preparing for Christmas

Deanery Reconciliation Services:

Saturday, 8th December	11am	All Saints', Hassop
	11.30am	Christ the King, Alfreton
Wednesday, 12th December	7pm	St Joseph's, Matlock
Saturday, 15th December	11.30am	St Joseph's, Ripley

Sacrament of Penance in the Parish:

Times when confessions may be heard in the sacristy of the Parish Church at Belper:
Saturday evenings in December at 5.30pm

Additionally:

Friday, 14th December	10 – 10.30am
Tuesday, 18th December	7.45 – 8.15pm
Friday, 21st December	10 – 10.30am
Monday, 24th December	9.30 – 10am (after 9am Mass)

Christmas 2012

Christmas Eve

At Our Lady's Parish Church

9.00am	Mass
11.30pm	Carol singing till midnight

Christmas Day

12pm	Midnight Mass at Our Lady's
8.30am	Mass at Dawn at St Margaret Clitherow's, Duffield
10.00am	Mass during the Day at Our Lady's

Octave of Christmas (26th December to 1st January)

26th (St Stephen), 27th (St John the Evangelist) and 28th (Holy Innocents):
Mass each day at 10am

Holy Family Saturday Vigil and Sunday, 30th December: *Mass at the usual weekend times*

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Tuesday, 1st January: Mass at 10am

Epiphany Saturday Vigil and Sunday, 6th January: *Mass at the usual weekend times*

Parish Mass Times

Belper Saturday Vigil 6pm
 Sunday 11am

Duffield Sunday 9am

Please see the weekly Bulletin for weekday Mass times.