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"The resurrection gives my life meaning and direction and the opportunity to start over no matter what my circumstances." Robert Flatt



ARMY

Army Roman Catholic Newsletter

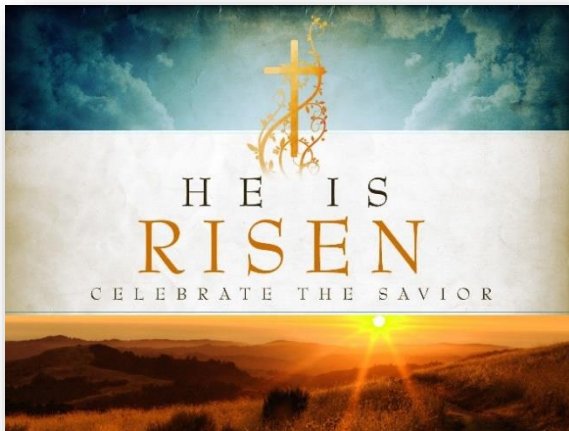


Welcome

From

The Revd. Fr. Ian Stevenson CF

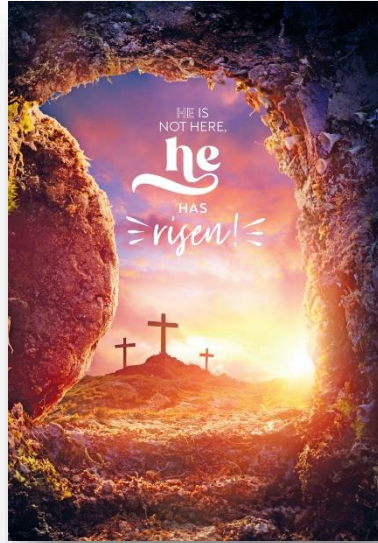
Principal Roman Catholic Chaplain (Army)



Welcome to Issue 28 of the Army Roman Catholic Newsletter.

As we journey towards the end of Lent, a time of self-reflection, introspection and spiritual renewal, let us be inspired to lead our lives with greater purpose, empathy and gratitude as well as cultivating a spirit of humility and compassion. Easter serves as a poignant reminder of the transformative power of faith and the promise of renewal. From the solemn observance of Lent to the jubilant festivities of Easter Sunday let us unite as believers in the shared journey and rejoice in the resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Easter!



As we stated in the introduction of this newsletter, we have come to the end of our solemn journey of Lent. A journey of prayer, sacrifice and charity. It has been a time to pause, reflect and spiritually grow with intent. And so, Easter is finally upon us. The most important time in the Christian calendar. It celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from death, the significant and fundamental event upon which the Christian faith is based.

Numerous people imagine that Christmas is the most significant time in the Catholic liturgical calendar however, from the initial days of the Church, Easter has been considered the pivotal Christian feast.

St Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:14 "and if Christ has not been raised from death, then we have nothing to preach and you will have nothing to believe." Christ's resurrection is the proof of his Divinity.



Easter is not only the greatest Christian feast, it signifies the fulfillment of our faith as Christians. Through his death, Christ took away the burden of sin, through his resurrection, He brought us the promise of new life, both in heaven and earth.



So what is our 'Easter Duty'? Well, most Catholics today receive Holy Communion each time they go to Mass, however that wasn't always the case. In the past, and for many different reasons, numerous Catholics very rarely received the Eucharist. Accordingly, the Catholic Church decided to make it a requirement for all Catholics to receive Communion at least once per year, during the Easter season. The Church also encourages the faithful to receive the Sacrament of Confession in preparation for the Easter Communion.

Ministry in Motion

Fr Volodymyr Sampara, Chaplain to 2 Royal Anglians (aka the Poachers') was recently deployed on OP LINOTYPER, which is part of the Desert Rats deployment support of NATO.

On Tuesday 5th March at 1530 hrs at the Poachers' camp chapel facility, Fr Vlody celebrated the Rite of Baptism for two of the regiments' soldiers, LCpl Harry Purches and LCpl Elliot Elmer. Padre Peter King was also in attendance.



Please keep LCpls Purches and Elmer in your prayers as they continue their journey of faith.

Army Foundation College Graduation Day

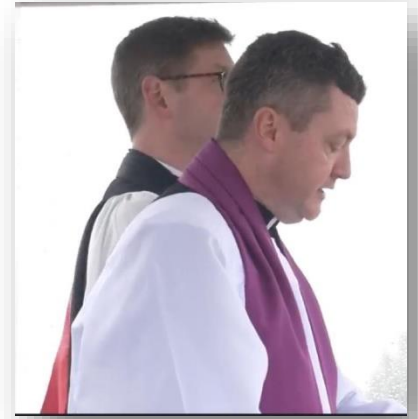


On the 15th February, Bishop Paul joined us for the graduation parade of Waterloo and Cambrai Companies as they passed out of Phase 1 training at the Army Foundation College, Harrogate. Many of the Junior Soldiers on the parade square have spent the last year at the college developing the necessary skills - both military and educational - in preparation for a long and fruitful career in the Army. The College is proud to profess that over 70% of Warrant Officers and Senior NCOs currently serving in the army began their careers and initial training at the Foundation College, with this number steadily rising.



On this celebratory day, nearly 500 Young Soldiers graduated with Vice Admiral Phil Halley as the Senior Inspecting Officer. In attendance was also the Deputy Chaplain General, Rev David Barratt, as well as the Bishop of the Forces, Rt Rev Paul Mason. The Graduation was attended by over 3000 family members and represented a significant marker in the lives of our young soldiers where they made a huge stride in moving from being a civilian to a serving member of His Majesty's Army.

For many, the journey to this point hasn't been easy. As the Catholic Chaplain at the Foundation college, I have had the privilege to be alongside our graduates as they struggled with issues such as homesickness, adaptation to the rigours of army life and the resulting challenges faced. Thankfully, many have endured and endured well, becoming stronger for their experiences. This was evidenced first-hand on the graduation parade square by the sense of achievement displayed on our soldiers' faces and the pride of their families, there present.



Another element of the Chaplain's work is to teach the *Values and Standards* of the British Army. All our phase 1 graduates throughout their time have learned and demonstrated the essential traits of courage, discipline, selfless commitment, loyalty, respect for others and integrity - traits required and demanded by the British Army for future service.

I ask you please to pray for our Junior soldiers at the Army Foundation College. To pray for them as they move forward in their training; that they will continue to grow and be challenged. That they will continue to earn qualifications and be encouraged to keep pushing the boundaries of their confidence and self-belief.

Seeing our young soldiers develop over the last year - I couldn't be prouder of them and what they have achieved. The army is in a better place because of them. Do continue to pray for our soldiers - and for their chaplains.

Article provided by Fr David Burke - Chaplain, Army Foundation College



Military clergy in attendance (Left to Right)

Fr David Burke, Rev Alex Batty, Bishop Paul Mason, Rev David Barratt, Rev Sean Robertshaw

Cathedral of St Michael and St George Aldershot



On the weekend of 24th/25th February, the Cathedral held an Arts and Crafts exhibition and sale to raise funds for the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice. Phyllis Tuckwell is the only Hospice Care service for adult patients and their families, living with cancer or another terminal illness across the whole of West Surrey and part of North Hampshire (<https://www.pth.org.uk/>)

The event was a showcase of members of the congregation's talents and skills and was organised by the Musical Director at the Cathedral, Louise Morgan-Jones and ably assisted by Vera Hearn. Their hard efforts paid off and a grand total of £550 was raised for the Hospice.



Passion Sunday

Father Nick Gosnell, blessing the palms and congregation on Passion Sunday in Aldershot.





1. How many marzipan balls are traditionally on a simnel cake and what do they represent?
2. What is the tradition behind Hot Cross Buns?
3. What is Easter named after?
4. In eastern Christianity, the end of Lent is called what?
5. Which country first introduced an Easter tree?
6. What is the official flower of Easter?
7. What meat is traditionally consumed on Easter Sunday?
8. What dance traditionally takes place at Easter?
9. What popular game is traditionally played at Easter?
10. Where is Easter Island located?
11. When was the first recorded use of decorated Easter eggs?
12. The first Easter eggs were dyed which colour?

Answers to Newsletter Issue 28 will be published in Issue 29 or email Karen at: ArmyRCPAA21@gmail.com

Answers to Newsletter Issue 27: 1. Alleluia, 2. Meat 3. Shrove Tuesday, 4. Maundy Thursday, 5. Sugar, 6. St Joseph's Feast, 7. Stations of the Cross, 8. By burning palms used during previous Palm Sunday, 9. Consecration, 10. Palm Sunday.

Online with Saints App



Online with Saints offers a virtual encounter with 100+ saints from all around the world. Women and Men, carpenters and scholars, mothers and popes, princes and paupers: their inspiring life stories are linked to real life modern questions. Be sure to check the social media profiles of the saints in the app.

Anyone can become a saint. Each saint is different, with their own unique personality and destiny. Each of them found their vocation in a different way - demonstrating that God has a special plan and vocation for each individual.

Download the FREE online with saints app on either [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play](#)

Discover much more information about the saints:

- Social media profiles of the saints
- Animated videos about their lives
- Information on their history
- Pray with the saints and find patron saints

Access videos

Turn on the subtitles in YouTube

- Via the app: scan a saint in the book
- Via the app: click on a saint's profile, play the video
- Via the website [onlinewithsaints.com](#)
- Via the YouTube channel of *Online with Saints*

Catholic Military App is Live!



The [Apostolat Militaire International](#) and [Tweeting with GOD](#) have launched the FREE Catholic Military Connect App. See the launch video [here!](#) It's designed explicitly for military Catholics.

- ❖ It offers:
- ❖ Strong Catholic prayers, all downloaded so they can be accessed easily whilst on ship/ops/ex etc.
- ❖ Answers to 200+ questions about faith and the military.
- ❖ Prayers specifically for the military.
- ❖ Testimonies from serving Catholics.
- ❖ Inspiring military Saints and quotes.
- ❖ Guidance for preparing for Mass and Confession.
- ❖ Spiritual first aid.
- ❖ Contact details for the Military Chaplain and Association of whichever country the user is in.
- ❖ The facility to upload spiritual reading.

The CMC app is currently available in both the [Google Play](#) and [App stores](#), for smartphones and tablets, in 8 languages (English, Italian, French, Spanish, Croatian, German, Portuguese and Dutch). This is an excellent resource for your spiritual armoury.



The Holy See endorses CMC App

The Vatican's Secretary of State, Cardinal Parolin, sent a message for the launch of the CMC App to the International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes. In his words: "I believe that the app will be immensely helpful to all military personnel, and in a particular way to young men and women who, in this important sector of civil service, seek to grow in personal friendship with Jesus Christ." See the video.

Event >>>

*Annual Mass for Deceased Chaplains
Westminster Cathedral
1st May 2024 - 1300 hrs*



Event >>>

International Military Pilgrimage Lourdes 2024



The UK Contingent will depart for the International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes on Thursday 23rd May 2024, returning Monday 27th May 2024.

Serving personnel may obtain details from their Military Chaplain or from the Pilgrimage Organiser: **Father Nick Gosnell**, Cathedral of St. Michael and St. George, Queens Avenue, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2BY. Tel: 01252 315042

The Travel agents are Tangley Tours, Pilgrim House, Station Road, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8AF. Tel: 01732 886666

Bishopric of The Forces Retreats

Are you in need of stillness and sanctuary? The Bishopric of the Forces is offering 4 opportunities to go on a retreat in 2024. The retreats are open to all MOD personnel (Regular, Reserve and Civil Servant); immediate dependants will be considered dependent upon the availability of places. Applications from junior ranks are particularly encouraged.

For 2024, Douai Abbey in Berkshire, Worth Abbey in West Sussex, Ampleforth Abbey in North Yorkshire and St Mary's, Kinnoull in Perthshire.



ST MARYS KINOULL 29 APR - 2 MAY 24



DOUAI ABBEY 23 - 28 JUN 24



WORTH ABBEY 14 - 17 OCT 24

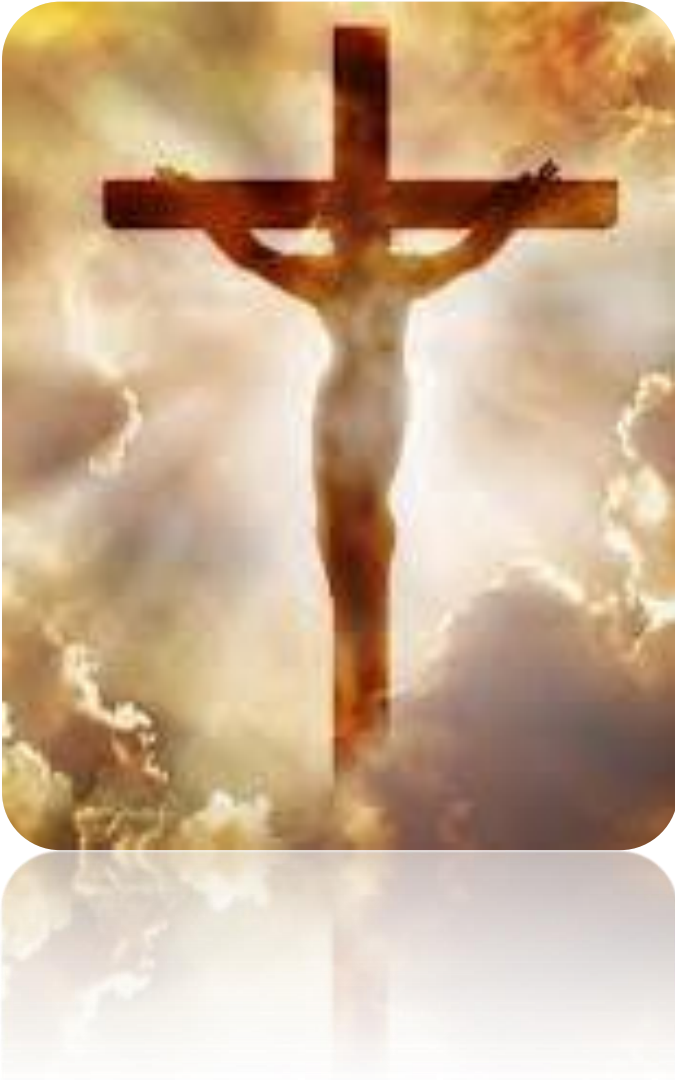


AMPLEFORTH ABBEY 11 - 14 Nov 24

The retreats are aimed at all levels of faith and knowledge, age groups, backgrounds, ranks and experiences. They will allow participants to challenge their preconceptions in a relaxed and non-judgmental environment. All venues offer a unique opportunity to take a fresh look at faith away from the pressures of everyday service life. The retreats aim to promote and foster spiritual and moral values from a faith perspective thus contributing to professional and personal development as well as serving to strengthen the moral component of the application of military force.

Further details can be found on the Defence Instructions and Notices: DIN 2022DIN01-013
Alternatively, please contact to register your interest or to receive further information:

Wg Cdr (Retd) Jem Wynne, Pastoral Administrative Assistant to the RAF Principal Roman Catholic Chaplain. Tel: 07834609153 Email: rafprccpastoralassistant457@outlook.com



Key Dates in March & April

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord – 24th March

Maundy Thursday – 28th March

Good Friday – 29th March

Holy Saturday – 30th March

Easter Sunday, Vigil Day – 31 March

2nd Sunday of Easter – 7th April

The Annunciation of the Lord (Solemnity) – 8th April

3rd Sunday of Easter – 14th April

4th Sunday of Easter – 21st April

An excellent website with weekly reflections on all the upcoming Sunday readings can be found at:
<https://www.tarsus.ie/>

CATHOLIC MILITARY ASSOCIATION the official network for Defence Catholics



We exist to support Catholics in the UK Armed Forces.

We are a lay association of the faithful whose members cooperate to support Catholicism in the UK Armed Forces. We strive to inspire one-another in the Faith, to grow through prayer and the sacraments, and to offer up our sufferings, persevering together in the universal call to holiness.

We are the official Defence Catholic Association, formally approved by the Right Reverend Paul Mason, Bishop of the Forces. We are a member of the Defence Christian Network.

We are serving personnel, helping others. Find us at: <https://www.catholicmilitaryassociation.org.uk/>

Information.....

If you wish to know more about Roman Catholic matters within the Army Faith Community, please contact: **Mrs Karen Horn MBE** Pastoral Assistant (PA) to PRCC(A) at: ArmyRCPAA21@gmail.com