

*In This Issue >>>*

Welcome  
News & Events  
Quiz  
Notices  
Key Dates



**"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you" Deuteronomy 31:6**



## *Army Roman Catholic Newsletter*



### *Welcome*

*From*

*The Revd. Fr. Ian Stevenson CF  
Principal Roman Catholic Chaplain (Army)*



**Welcome to Issue 17 of the Army Roman Catholic Newsletter and a Happy New Year!**

As we enter into 2023, it seems that society is struggling in many ways to cope with the huge economic downturn that is currently being experienced. Rising energy prices, food costs and general cost of living pressures are impacting on us all, especially the poorest in society. There is no doubt that this is a stressful time for many. However, we must remain hopeful and have faith and trust that things will start to get better. It is at times like these that we need to be more mindful of others' suffering and show compassion to them in whatever way we can. Perseverance with prayer enhances our social awareness, empathy and helps subdue negative emotions as well as communicating with our Lord. Psalm 46:1 reassures us that 'God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble'.

# Remembrance Roundup

(Remembrance Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2022)



Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday are always busy times for our military chaplains. They attend services and parades all round the globe. Here are a few photographs from a couple of those events.



Fr Kevin Dow, Unit Chaplain 30 R. Sigs Regt conducting the Armistice Day service 11 Nov 2022 at St Nicholas Church, Gamecock Barracks, Bramcote Station.



Remembrance Sunday Parade, 13 Nov 2022, Nuneaton.

St Joan of Arc, Catterick Garrison  
Remembrance Sunday 13 Nov 2022



Deacon John Power and soldiers from The Royal Lancers, St Joan of Arc, Catterick Garrison  
Remembrance Sunday 13 Nov 2022

# Salisbury Plain Garrison Church celebrates its 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The congregation of St Patrick and St George's Roman Catholic garrison church came together last month for the church's 110th anniversary.

The church, which had largely been funded by the soldiers of Tidworth Garrison, was filled with military and civilian parishioners as Bishop Paul Mason, Roman Catholic Bishop to the Armed Forces, led the anniversary Mass.



Bishop Paul Mason celebrates the Anniversary Mass, along with Fr David Burke and Fr John Moriarty.

Plans for a purpose built Roman Catholic church for Tidworth Camp started in 1910. At that time the congregation consisted largely of the Royal Munster Fusiliers, who were practically Catholic to a man. With their wives and families also attending Mass, they soon outgrew the dining hall at Mooltan Barracks which they had been using for Sunday Mass.

Permission was granted for a Roman Catholic garrison church to be built and the foundation stone of the church was laid on 22nd May 1911.

The challenge of raising sufficient funds for building the church was problematic so soldiers serving with the Royal Munster Fusiliers gave a penny a week, whilst NCOs contributed around 6d. The Royal Army Medical Corps, 18th Hussars, and 3rd Worcesters devised various means to make up the shortfall including penalties levied from recruits for misdemeanours during training and staging a garden party. The War Office also contributed £400.

The church of St Patrick and St George, located near Lucknow Barracks in Tidworth, was officially opened by the Bishop of Clifton on 15th November 1912.

In 1913 the 2nd Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers presented the church with a stained-glass window in memory of their stay on Salisbury Plain, which remains in the church to this day.

Confirmations have taken place in the church since 1912, so LCoH Jordan Marchant from the Household Cavalry Regiment, Bulford, was delighted to celebrate his confirmation during the anniversary Mass.

"It was a very special day for me, not only being confirmed but also being able to celebrate the 110th anniversary of St Patrick's with all the lovely people here. It really made the day and I've definitely gained a church to go back to in the future," said LCoH Marchant.

Two Roman Catholic Army Chaplains; Fr David Burke, Padre to 15 Sig Regt, Perham Down and Fr John Moriarty, Padre to 1 RHA, Larkhill currently preside over the church.



Bishop Paul Mason & LCoH Jordan Marchant

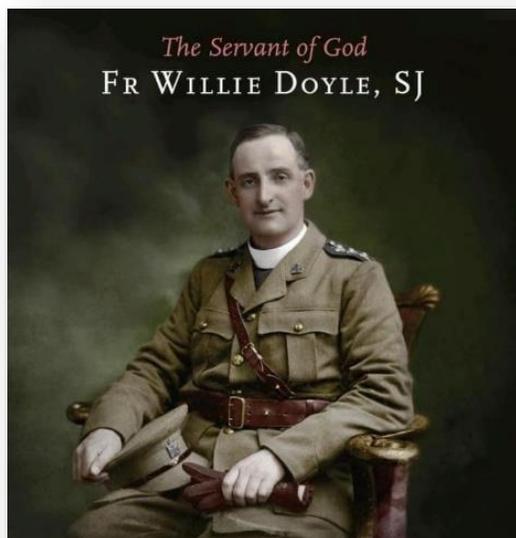
Fr John Moriarty said: "Everyone involved contributed to a wonderful sense of community, sharing and celebrating our heritage on the plain over the last 110 years. "It was a great joy too to celebrate the confirmation of LCoH Marchant in our anniversary Mass. There were a number of confirmations on the opening day of the church in 1912 and it was great that we were able to repeat that 110 years later."



If you are interested in the history of the church of St Patrick and St George, please contact Fr Moriarty for an Anniversary History Booklet. [john.moriarty101@mod.gov.uk](mailto:john.moriarty101@mod.gov.uk)

# Opening Ceremony in Christ the King Cathedral, Mullingar, 20th November 2022

(Opening of the diocesan inquiry into the cause for beatification and canonisation of the servant of God Fr Willie Doyle SJ)



On the Feast of Christ The King at the Cathedral of Christ The King in Mullingar, Co Meath I attended the Official Opening of the cause of Fr Willie Doyle SJ, an Army Chaplain from the First World War.

Relatives of army chaplain Fr Willie Doyle SJ have described their joy after his cause for sainthood was officially opened.

Fr Doyle died in 1917 at the Battle of Passchendaele during World War I. The courageous priest is known for ministering to all who needed him, despite their creed or nationality. He served in the 16th Irish Division of the British Army.

From left to right:

Postulator of the cause Fr John Hogan, Fr Paschal Hanrahan, Head Chaplain of the Irish Defence Forces, Fr Ian Stevenson, principal Roman Catholic Chaplain of the British Army, Hugh Cumisky, Grand-Nephew of Fr William Doyle, Fr Damian Farnon, Irish Defence Forces Chaplain, Fr Robert McCabe CC Navan and Dermot O'Connor Royal British Legion, Claddagh Branch.





The officials who will undertake the inquiry into Fr Doyle cause, under guidance from Bishop Tom Deenihan of Meath diocese, are Fr Joseph Gallagher, Fr Michael Cahill, Fr Paul Crosbie and Fr John Hogan. In his homily at the event, the provincial of the Jesuits, Fr Leonard Maloney said: "The life and death of Fr Willie Doyle is a stark shining witness to the radical and demanding call that our Christian Faith makes of us."

"We tread different battlefields but are similarly charged to live by the standards that much of the world does not value. To walk in solidarity with the poor, to give hospitality to the stranger and to the migrant, to ensure justice and atonement for survivors of abuse such a painful reality in part of our Church history and also to visit the sick and to forgive our enemies whoever they may be. It is a tough call but people like Fr Willie Doyle can be our inspiration," Fr Maloney said "Fr Doyle's path towards canonisation is the first to be opened in Ireland in more than 25 years".

It was a magnificent opportunity and experience. The ceremony was quite emotional and was attended by 7 Bishops, the Provincial of The Jesuits, many clergy and a packed congregation.

Please pray for this great cause.

Written by: Fr Ian Stevenson, Nov 2022.



Fr Robert McCabe & Fr Ian Stevenson

### Prayer for the Beatification and Canonisation of the Servant of God, Father William Doyle, SJ

*For private devotion*

*Eternal Father, your priest, Fr William Doyle, offered his life as a sacrifice to your love. With zeal for the salvation of souls, he sought to raise the fallen and console the broken-hearted. Amid the horrors of war, he was a servant of your grace and an advocate for peace and reconciliation.*

*Teach us to imitate his love for you and his heroic devotion to your service.*

*If it is your will that he should be venerated among the Saints of your Church, make known by miracles and favours the glory he enjoys in your presence. Trusting in your merciful goodness, graciously grant us, through his intercession, the grace of \_\_\_\_\_ . Amen.*

*Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...*

There has been much coverage of Fr Willie Doyle and the cause for his beatification and canonisation. We have included a report from 'The Irish Catholic' newspaper your interest.

# Family delight as 'extraordinary' Fr Willie Doyle cause is opened

**Chai Brady**

Relatives of army chaplain Fr Willie Doyle SJ have described their joy after his cause for sainthood was officially opened in Co. Westmeath over the weekend.

Fr Doyle died in 1917 at the Battle of Paschendaele during World War I. The courageous priest is known for ministering to all who needed him, despite their creed or nationality. He served in the 16th Irish Division of the British Army.

The opening of his cause took place in the Cathedral of Christ the King in Mullingar on Sunday. Fr Doyle's grand-nephew Hugh Cernisky told *The Irish Catholic* he found the ceremony "very moving".

He said: "We were a traditional family, always said the family Rosary, it took 5-6 minutes but the trimmings that my father put on took about 30. I remember as a child praying, and I can recite from memory the prayer for the canonisation of Fr Willie, back in the 1940s, when he was quite well known. It's extraordinary, but I do think he was an extraordinary man."

Mr Cernisky added that he does not believe Fr Doyle "could have withstood all the privations he did unless he was a saint".

Grand-niece Madeleine Edwards, from Dún Laoghaire in Dublin said she has been "praying all my life for this".

"When we were all growing up as a family we always had a Rosary at right time

and we always ended up saying a prayer to Fr Doyle and that's going back 70 years. All my life I've been praying that it would happen. He was just an incredible person. It will come to canonisation I'm absolutely convinced of it," she added.

The officials who will undertake the inquiry into Fr Doyle cause, under guidance from Bishop Tom Deenihan of Meath diocese, are Fr Joseph Gallagher, Fr Michael Cahill, Fr Paul Cosbie and Fr John Hogan.

In his homily at the event, the provincial of the Jesuits, Fr Leonard Maloney said: "The life and death of Fr Willie Doyle is a stark shining witness to the radical and demanding call that our Christian faith makes of us.

"We tread different battlefields but are similarly charged to live by the standards that much of the world does not value. To walk in solidarity with the poor, to give hospitality to the stranger and to the migrant, to ensure justice and atonement for survivors of abuse – such a painful reality in part of our Church history – and also to visit the sick and to forgive our enemies whoever they may be. It is a tough call but people like Fr Willie Doyle can be our inspiration," Fr Maloney said.

Fr Doyle's path towards canonisation is the first to be opened in Ireland in more than 25 years, with Frank Duff's cause – the founder of the Legion of Mary – being opened in 1996.



Members of Fr Willie Doyle's family on Sunday after the opening of the diocesan inquiry at the Cathedral of Christ the King Mullingar. Photos: John McElroy



Bishop Tom Deenihan swears his oath as Bishop of Meath. The cause will be pursued under his guidance.



Fr Leonard Maloney SJ, Provincial of the Jesuits, giving the homily on Sunday.



Ann and Ken Doyle.



Postulator of the cause Fr John Hogan, Fr Paschal Harrahan, Head Chaplain of the Irish Defence Forces, Fr Ian Stevenson Principal Catholic Chaplain of the British Army, Hugh Curnisky, Grand-nephew of Fr William Doyle, Fr Damian Fannon, Irish Defence Forces chaplain, Fr Robert McCabe OC Navan and Dermot O'Connor Royal British Legion, Claddagh Branch.



Josephine Eakin, Anne Hayes and Katherine Pettit having a cup of tea on Sunday after the opening of the diocesan inquiry at the Cathedral of Christ the King, Mullingar.



A picture of Fr Willie Doyle is seen at the ceremony.



Prelates attend the solemn vespers for the solemnity of Christ the King and the opening of the diocesan inquiry into the cause for beatification, canonisation of the servant of God Fr Willie Doyle SJ by Bishop Tom Deenihan in the Cathedral of Christ the King, Mullingar.



Tom Halpin, Abigail Halpin and Mark Caffrey.



Mary Smith, Imelda Flanagan and Diane Bohan.



Benedictine Fr Dom Cassian, Sr Gabriella Louka (Coptic Orthodox Church of Egypt), Sr Philomena Doss (Coptic Orthodox Church of Egypt) and Fr Dom Chrysostom (Benedictine).



Chancellor of the Diocese of Meath Fr Paul Connell, Sr Immaculata RSM and Pnylla.



Pamela Curnisky and Sarah Gimes.



Sarah Hayes, Roisin Hayes, Rachel Kenny, Emily Torra, Joseph Kenny, Wilian Kenny, Marian Kenny and Teresa Kenny.

The Father Willie Doyle Association have also produced a leaflet providing further information about Fr Willie. We have also shared this with you for your interest.

## FATHER WILLIE DOYLE SJ

The Servant of God Fr Willie Doyle was born in Dalkey, Co. Dublin on 3 March 1873. He entered the Society of Jesus in Tullabeg, Rahan, in the Diocese of Meath, in 1891. Following a fire in the novitiate, he suffered a breakdown, however, after a period of time he was accepted back to continue his studies.

On 1 May 1893 he made an offering of his life to God, desiring to become a martyr, and to live a martyr's life. He was ordained a priest on 28 July 1907 alongside Blessed John Sullivan.

*'I feel within me a constant desire or craving for holiness'*

Though often suffering from ill health, Fr Willie carried out an intense ministry giving missions and retreats throughout Ireland and Britain. He was renowned as a preacher and confessor, and numerous stories attest to his gentleness and love particularly for the poor, the afflicted and those who had fallen away from God. He sought to promote retreats among working men while also assisting in the foundation of a Poor Clare monastery in Cork. He wrote a number of popular pamphlets, including two on vocations, which inspired many to enter priesthood and religious life.

Fr Willie lived a life of deep prayer and constant self-denial, offering all to God for the salvation of souls and in reparation for the sins of priests. He was prepared to make any sacrifice to fulfil the will of God and assist others.



Fr Willie Doyle in 1908

With the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, Fr Willie volunteered as a military chaplain. He wanted to continue his ministry among working men and to serve those facing the horrors of war and death. His military service began in November 1915, and he served as chaplain in key battles including the Battle of the Somme in 1916 and the Battle of Passchendaele in 1917. He was renowned for his courage, and he won the admiration of soldiers and their commanding officers, both Catholic and Protestant. He was respected by German prisoners of war who also benefited from his tender pastoral care. Through his time as a chaplain, he wrote valuable letters to his father which offer an insight into the war and his work. He always retained his cheerfulness and joy, even in moments of great danger.

*'I want to be generous with God and to refuse him nothing'*

On the evening of 16 August 1917 Fr Willie raced to save two wounded soldiers; Anglicans from Ulster. As on countless other occasions, he willingly risked his life to save others. As he tried to pull them to safety he was struck by a shell and killed outright. He died as an ecumenical martyr of charity. Though soldiers initially noted where he fell, his body was never recovered.

Devotion to Fr Willie spread throughout the world in the years after his death. Many thousands of people have alleged that they have received favours and healings through his intercession.

The canonisation cause for Fr Willie was opened in the Diocese of Meath, Ireland, in 2022.



Back row: Fr Willie (left), Blessed John Sullivan (right) in 1905

## FR WILLIE'S MESSAGE FOR TODAY

Fr Willie's life and example has a powerful message for us today.

He was a priest who loved God and others so much that he was willing to be killed in order to save a soul or to save a life. He offered up his life, and his sufferings in the trenches, in reparation for the sins of priests. At a time of scepticism about the Church and the priesthood, his sacrifice is an example of how we should live, and love, as Christians.

*'This is my vocation: reparation and penance for the sins of priests'*

Fr Willie was known for his pastoral care for all. He ministered to captured German soldiers, and he died as an ecumenical martyr of charity while rescuing wounded Anglican soldiers. He was an icon of reconciliation and peace amid hatred and division.



Fr Willie in 1907

*'God loves your soul dearly, cling to Him, and trust Him'*

Please report favours received through the Servant of God's intercession to: Father Willie Doyle Association, Irish Jesuit Provincialate, Milltown Park, Milltown Road, Dublin 6, D06 WY97, Ireland.

The Father Willie Doyle Association is the official Actor of the Cause of Fr Willie and is a Private Association of the Faithful.

info@williedoyle.org | www.williedoyle.org

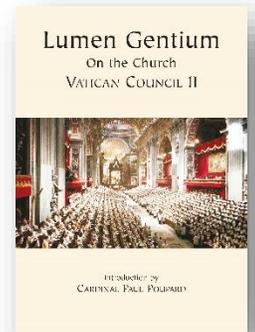
IBAN: IE31 AIBK 9334 0651 1111 87

Father Willie Doyle has been put forward for beatification and canonisation but, what does that really mean? The following article, written by Kevin Cotter (30 Oct 17) explains the process behind becoming a Saint. ([How Does Someone Become a Saint? A 5-Step Process - FOCUS \(focusequip.org\)](#) Accessed 23 Nov 22)

## **How does someone become a Saint? A 5-step process**

Usually, people want to know the answer to this question because they want to know the process for how someone is canonised within the Catholic Church. But, before we do this, it may be helpful to see the Church's vision for sainthood.

To answer the question directly, the Catholic Church believes that anyone can become a saint—that is someone who makes it to heaven. Whether you are a priest, a single man, a religious sister, etc., the Catholic Church calls all men and women, whatever their state in life, to seek holiness and sainthood. This idea has been given more attention recently and maybe most significantly during Vatican II and the released of the document *Lumen Gentium* that outlined what the Catholic Church calls the Universal Call to Holiness.



## **Why does the Catholic Church choose one person over another to be a Saint?**

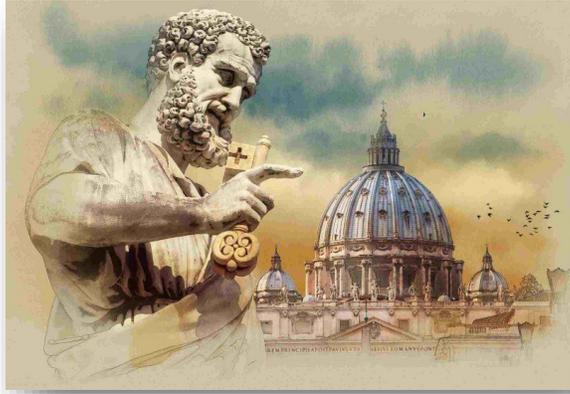


Sometimes we can casually say that the Church is making him or her a saint. But, technically, the Church does not make saints; it recognises someone who is in heaven. In addition to this, the Church is looking for folks whose lives are worth imitating and to such a degree that they should be held up as an example to the Church. Knowing these criteria can help people understanding the process for how the Catholic Church recognises saints.

## **What is the process of being recognised as a Saint in the Catholic Church?**

This is probably the question most people are really asking when they are asking: How does someone become a saint? Here are the five steps:

# 5 Steps to Sainthood



1. The person's local bishop investigates their life by gathering information from witnesses of their life and any writings they may have written. If the bishop finds them to be worthy of being a saint, then he submits the information that he gathered to the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints.
  2. The Congregation for the Causes of Saints can choose to reject the application or accept it and begin their own investigation of the person's life. If the application is accepted, the person may be called *Servant of God*.
  3. If the Congregation for the Causes of Saints approves of the candidate, they can choose to declare that the person lived a life heroically virtuous life. This isn't a declaration that the person is in heaven, but that they pursued holiness while here on earth. If this is indeed found to be the case, the person may be called *Venerable*.
  4. To be recognised as someone in heaven requires that a miracle has taken place through the intercession of that person. The miracle is usually a healing. The healing has to be instantaneous, permanent, and complete while also being scientifically unexplainable. Miracles have to be first verified as scientifically unexplainable by a group of independent doctors, then the person is approved by a panel of theologians, and then the final approval lies with the pope. If this is the case, a person is declared a blessed.
- Note: Besides the number of miracles attributed to them, *the difference between is a blessed and a saint* is that the scope of devotion for a blessed is narrower - usually limited to a specific group of people or a particular region of the world while a saint is held up for devotion for the universal Church.
5. A second miracle is needed in order to declare someone a *saint*. The confirmation of a second miracle goes through the same scrutiny as the first.

The five-step process is a general outline for how someone becomes a saint. There are definitely exceptions to this process and situations that may change the process as well.

# *'Around Our Churches'*

## The Cathedral Church of St. Michael and St. George Aldershot.

In our last issue of the newsletter it was reported that an RAF memorial crucifix was used in the cathedral for the Armistice Day service. The Crucifix has now been installed in its new home outside the cathedral.



An RAF memorial crucifix is carried through the Cathedral Church of St Michael and St George, Aldershot, in preparation for Armistice Day. The crucifix is made from material from the parts of RAF aircraft from the 1930s to present day including a Spitfire and a Lancaster bomber  
TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE



# The Nativity at the Cathedral.

Photograph courtesy of Mr Ben Casey.



# Epiphany at the Cathedral.

Photograph courtesy of Mr Ben Casey.



# Death of Pope Emeritus

## Pope Benedict XVI

(16<sup>th</sup> April 1927 - 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022)



Pope Benedict XVI served as leader of the Catholic Church from 2005 until his resignation in 2013 (due to ill health). He died on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 aged 95.

Pope Benedict XVI, his original name was Joseph Alois Ratzinger, was born on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1927 in Marktl an Inn, Germany. He was the youngest of 3 children. Ratzinger's father was a policeman and his mother a hotel cook. Ratzinger entered the seminary in 1939. In 1941 he was compelled to join the Hitler youth and in 1943 he was drafted into the German military, serving in an anti-aircraft unit in Bavaria before being sent to Hungary to set tank traps in 1945. He deserted in April 1945 and was captured by American forces, he was held prisoner for a brief period.

After the war he continued his education in the seminary; he was ordained a priest in June 1951. In 1953 he was awarded a doctorate in theology (University of Munich). After earning his teaching license in 1957, he taught in Freising until 1959., later moving to the University of Bonn (1959-1969) and also teaching at universities in Munster (1963-1966) and Tübingen (1966-1969). In 1969 he moved to the University of Regensburg, where he later became Vice-President. During his long academic career, Ratzinger wrote a number of important theological works. His work in theology attracted the attention of the Archbishop of Cologne who asked him to serve as his expert assistant at the Second Vatican Council (1962-65).

In March 1977 Ratzinger was appointed Archbishop of Munich and Freising and 3 months later became Cardinal. On 25<sup>th</sup> November 1981, he was made prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith by Pope John Paul II. He was Pope John Paul's closest adviser for more than 20 years.

On 19<sup>th</sup> April 2005, at the age of 78 Ratzinger was elected Pope. He was the oldest newly elected Pope since Clement XII (1730-40).

On 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013, Benedict formally resigned, taking the title Pope Emeritus. It made him the first Pope to relinquish the office since Gregory XII in 1415.

Bishop Paul Mason, Bishop of the Forces, made a statement following Pope Benedict's death.



*With great sadness we pray today for the repose of the soul of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.*

*When thinking of Benedict it is often his intellect and clarity of thought which come to mind, gifts which were employed at the Second Vatican Council where he served as an "expert". His interpretation of the Council as a continuation of the Church's missionary work in harmony with its tradition was, and still is, of great significance. For Benedict the Council was not a revolution but an evolution of the Church's outreach to the world in teaching the Good News.*

*Sometimes caricatured as "God's Rottweiler", he was a gentle and quiet man. His UK visit in 2010 owed much of its success to his own personal qualities and warmth. I attended his speech at Westminster Hall in 2010 where he delivered some challenging words but in such a way as to promote discussion and open debate. He was less a severe Defender of the Faith than a promoter God's love and joy which formed and informed his outlook. In this sense his orthodoxy was positive and affirmative. It was his focus on the person of Jesus and a desire always to return to the Son of God as the source of revelation which made his writing and his teaching so rich.*

*Benedict may be a great loss to the Church and the world but he leaves it richer due to his love of God and his service to His Church.*

*May he rest in peace...*

# QUIZ

## FIRSTS

1. Who was the first Pope?
2. Who is the first Saint in the Bible?
3. What is the first Sacrament of the Catholic Church?
4. Who created the first Catholic Mass?
5. Who was the first Catholic?
6. What is a priest's first Mass called?
7. Who was the first Jesuit to become Pope?
8. Who was the first Pope Emeritus?
9. Who was the first non-Catholic Monarch in the UK?
10. Who was the first Catholic Prime Minister of UK?
11. Who was the first Pope to be featured on the cover of Rolling Stone Magazine?
12. Who was the first Bishop of the Forces?

Answers to Newsletter Issue 17 will be published in Issue 18 or email Karen at: [ArmyRCPAA21@gmail.com](mailto:ArmyRCPAA21@gmail.com)

Answers to Newsletter Issue 16: 1. St Swithbert, 2. St Sebastian, 3. St Ambrose, 4. St Agatha, 5. St Stephen, 6. St Barbara, 7. Gabriel, The Archangel, 8. St Pancras, 9. St Bibiance, 10. St Joseph, 11. St Zita, 12. St Luke, 13. St Monica, 14. St Giles, 15. St Charles Patrick, 16. St Fiacre.

## **Veterans Corner**

### **Retired Army RC Chaplains**



The 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022 saw a group of retired Army Roman Catholic Chaplains get together for a lunch at the Atheneum Club in Liverpool.

*From left to right:*

*Fr Martin Caddell, Fr Michael Fava CBE, Fr Tom Butler, Msgr Phelim Rowland, Msgr Stephen Alker MBE, Fr Ian Evans, Fr Nick Gosnell.*



## *Chrism Mass*

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 1200 hrs**  
**Cathedral of St Michael and St George, Aldershot**

The annual Chrism Mass brings together the Bishop, Priests and Deacons and Lay People of the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force to celebrate the blessing of the oils of Catechumens, Chrism and the Sick. The Chaplains will renew their priestly vows and commitment in front of the people.

Further details can be obtained from:

**Mrs Diane Restall, Tel: 01252 348234 or Email: [Dianerestall654@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Dianerestall654@mod.gov.uk)**

## 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

# *International Military Pilgrimage Lourdes 2023*



The UK Contingent will depart for the International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes on Thursday 11th May 2023, returning Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

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

*"His reputation continued to grow, and large crowds would gather to hear him and to have their sickness cured, but he would always go off to some place where he could be alone and pray". Luke 5: 15-16.*

Are you in need of stillness and sanctuary? The Bishopric of the Forces is offering 3 opportunities to go on a retreat in 2023. 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.

Once again, for 2023, Douai Abbey in Berkshire, Worth Abbey in West Sussex and Ampleforth Abbey in North Yorkshire will be used. All 3 retreat locations are Benedictine Abbeys. Those attending the retreats will gain insight into Benedictine spirituality which is centred on the core values of silence, prayer, obedience, stewardship, listening, humility, peace, work, living in community and hospitality. Through led sessions, periods for prayer and reflection, and with the opportunity to join with the monastic community in the Abbey Church in praying the Daily Office, retreat participants will be refreshed and reinvigorated in the exploration and renewal of their faith.



DOUAI ABBEY 13 - 16 JUN 23

WORTH ABBEY 18 - 21 SEP 23

AMPLEFORTH ABBEY 30 OCT - 2 NOV 23

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 once it is published. Alternatively, please contact to register your interest or to receive further information:

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

Sgt Caroline Routledge, Dep Retreats Coordinator, SNCO System Coordinator, Mission Support, Centre, RAF Coningsby, Lincolnshire, LN4 4SY. Tel: 95721 8075 Email: [caroline.routledge475@mod.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.routledge475@mod.gov.uk)



## Key Dates in January & February

The Conversion of St Paul, Apostle  
(Feast) – 25<sup>th</sup> January

The Presentation of the Lord  
(Feast) – 2<sup>nd</sup> February

Ash Wednesday – 22<sup>nd</sup> February

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent – 26<sup>th</sup> February

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

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 Administrative Assistant (PAA) to PRCC(A) at: [ArmyRCPAA21@gmail.com](mailto:ArmyRCPAA21@gmail.com)