



RAF ROMAN CATHOLIC LENT 25 UPDATE

Newsletter No. 10



Welcome to the latest update for the RAF Roman Catholic Community. We are now approaching the 5th week of Lent. The season of Lent is a period of 40 days during which we are invited to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Easter by undertaking the practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Many people give something up during Lent in an act of self-denial. But Lent is also an opportunity to take something up, to reinvigorate our faith, and to strengthen and improve our relationships with one another.

This newsletter outlines resources and several opportunities where, we in the RAF RC Community, can take a positive step to better mark the season of Lent.

I would like to highlight the annual RAF Masses, the opportunity to attend the International Military Pilgrimage in May, and the 2025 Armed Forces Retreat series, in particular, as events you may wish to attend. It would be great to see you there.



Rev (Wg Cdr) Deacon Dave Skillen, RAF Principal Roman Catholic Chaplain (PRCC)

Lenten Prayer Resources

There are many resources available on-line which can help us get the most out of our Lenten season. CAFOD offers daily reflections and prayers as well as the opportunity to donate to their work amongst the poorest across the globe. To view CAFOD's Lenten resources including their Lenten calendar offering prayers, reflections and practical actions visit [here](#).

The on-line retreats and prayers offered by Ignatian Spirituality also come recommended. Visit [here](#) for further information.




The Eucharist is essential for us; it is Christ who wishes to enter our lives and fill us with his grace - Pope Francis

Join the Bishop of the Forces, the RAF Principal Roman Catholic Chaplain and the RAF Whole Force RC Community to gather together in celebration.

<p>Sunday 6 April 1100</p> <p>at St Michael & St George, The Cathedral Church of the Bishop of the Forces, Queen's Avenue, Aldershot, GU11 2BY</p>	<p>Thursday 9 October 1400</p> <p>at The Central Church of the RAF, St Clement Danes, The Strand, London WC2R 1DH</p>
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Both Masses followed by refreshments
For further information, or to indicate your attendance, please contact
Wg Cdr (rd) Jem Wynne
jeremy.wynne109@mod.gov.uk

Annual Masses for the RAF - 2025

We hold 2 Masses each year for the RAF RC Community. The first, held at the Military Cathedral in Aldershot, will take place on Sun 6 Apr at 1100. The second Mass will take place at the Central Church of the RAF, St Clement Danes, on Thu 9 Oct at 1400. Bishop Paul Mason, RC Bishop of the Forces, presides at both Masses.

These are great occasions and allow us to celebrate our common bonds of friendship. Open to all, it would be wonderful to see you there in 2025.



Year of Jubilee



Find out more about the [Jubilee Year](#).

Jubilee of the Armed Forces: Rome 8 - 9 Feb 2025

5 members of the RAF joined with Bishop Paul Mason, Bishop of the Armed Forces, military chaplains, and personnel from the RN and Army on pilgrimage to Rome over the weekend of 8-9 Feb. Their visit allowed them to take part in many Jubilee activities which included Holy Mass with Pope Francis in St Peter's Square. Read more about it [here](#).



Please contact jeremy.wynne109@mod.gov.uk to express an interest in any events mentioned in this Newsletter.

International Military Pilgrimage (IMP) to Lourdes 15 - 19 May 2025

Bishopric of the Forces Retreats Are you in need of stillness and sanctuary?

The ever-popular retreat series offered by the Bishopric of the Forces will continue in 2025. A retreat offers the opportunity to step into a place of prayer and reflection. There will be 3 opportunities for retreat in 2025. Places are filling up fast so please get your application in to secure your place:

- **Douai Abbey, near Reading 10 to 13 Jun**
- **St Beuno's, North Wales 13 to 16 Oct**
- **Ampleforth Abbey, Nth Yorks 10 to 13 Nov**

2025DIN01-011 HM Forces Bishopric Roman Catholic Retreats 2025 has more information and includes an application form. These retreats are open to all.



2025 may be the year you consider attending the IMP along with the other 40,000 military personnel from across the world. Serving personnel may obtain details from their military chaplain or from the Pilgrimage Organiser, Fr Nick Gosnell: stmichael.stgeorge@live.co.uk. **2025DIN01-020** 65th International Military Pilgrimage also has further info.

And finally...

If you would like to know more about or take part in any of the events mentioned in this newsletter, or about Catholic life in the RAF, or should you wish to be added to our database and receive future updates, get in touch with Wg Cdr (rtd) Jem Wynne, Pastoral Administrative Assistant to the RAF PRCC. Contact the RAF Principal Roman Catholic Chaplain, Padre Dave Skillen, to say hello, request prayers, or to know more about Catholic life in the RAF.

Wg Cdr (Rtd) Jem Wynne Jeremy.wynne109@mod.gov.uk
Rev(Sqn Ldr) Dave Skillen David.skillen100@mod.gov.uk

Check out the Bishopric of the Forces [Website](#) for the latest news and information.

