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"The Lord gives strength to his people; The Lord blesses his people with peace" Psalm 29:11



Army Roman Catholic Newsletter



Welcome

*From
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Welcome to Issue 15 of the
Army Roman Catholic Newsletter.

Recent weeks have been tinged with sadness due to the death of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The longest-reigning and oldest monarch in British history, and quite a remarkable person. We give thanks for her great diplomacy, wise leadership and guidance in an ever changing world and entrust her soul to the Lord. May she rest in peace. It is also a time of hope, with a new King bringing forth a new era. We pray that King Charles III will reign with enduring wisdom and renewed vision for his people.



Saint Luke the Evangelist

(Feast Day - 18th October)



St Luke, along with Mark and Matthew's version of the Gospel is often known as the Synoptic Gospels - seen through one eye.

St. Luke is believed to be the author of the Gospel that bears his name as well as of the Acts of the Apostles. According to Eusebius, he was probably born in Antioch, Syria of a prosperous Greek family and was trained as a physician.

His gospel is considered the most poetic and beautiful of all. He uses the best grammar and the most eloquent and correct Greek of the New Testament. He shows Jesus not as the Jewish Messiah, but as the world's Savior and Lord. He was a man of prayer, for this gospel is pre-occupied with the power of prayer. He had a high regard for the dignity of women

for they played an important part of his writings. He accompanied Paul on his second missionary journey and doubtless had the care of Paul's health. Luke was with Paul in his last days and final imprisonment in Rome.

After writing those famous words to Timothy, "the time of my dissolution is at hand, I have fought a good fight; I have finished my course, I have kept the faith....Paul goes on to say, only Luke is with me.

What happened to Luke after Paul's martyrdom, have no certain knowledge. But according to a fairly early and widespread tradition, he was unmarried and wrote his Gospel in Greece at Boeotia, where he died at age 84.

Because the gospel which bears his name was believed to be an accurate account of the life of Christ and especially of Christ's birth, Luke was taken as one of the patrons of notaries.

He is also the patron of the medical profession. He was reported to be a fine painter and is also patron of artists, painters, sculptors, craft workers and lacemakers.

His symbol is the ox. This may account for his also being patron of butchers. In art, Luke is represented by a winged ox. This is especially appropriate because in the Gospel of St. Luke, the priestly and sacrificial work of Jesus is emphasized. The ox represents the sacrificial aspect of Jesus' ministry and the wings remind us that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is to travel throughout the world.

Paul spoke of Luke as the beloved physician. Together they evangelised Greece and Rome.

All Saints' Day

(1st November - Solemnity)



All Saints' Day is a solemn holy day of the Catholic Church celebrated annually on November 1. The day is dedicated to the saints of the Church, that is, all those who have attained heaven. It should not be confused with All Souls' Day, which is observed on November 2, and is dedicated to those who have died and not yet reached heaven. Although millions, or even billions of people may already be saints, All Saints' Day observances tend to focus on known saints, that is those recognised in the canon of the saints by the Catholic Church. All Saints' Day is also commemorated by members of the Eastern Orthodox Church as well as some protestant churches, such as Lutheran and Anglican churches.

Generally, All Saints' Day is a Catholic Holy Day of Obligation, meaning all Catholics are required to attend Mass on that day, unless they have an excellent excuse, such as serious illness. Other countries have different rules according to their national bishop's conferences. The bishops of each conference have the authority to amend the rules surrounding the obligation of the day.



All Saints' Day was formally started by Pope Boniface IV, who consecrated the Pantheon at Rome to the Virgin Mary and all the Martyrs on May 13 in 609 AD. Boniface IV also established All Souls' Day, which follows All Saints. The choice of the day may have been intended to co-opt the pagan holiday "Feast of the Lamures," a day which pagans used to placate the restless spirits of the dead.

The holy day was eventually established on November 1 by Pope Gregory III in the mid-eighth century as a day dedicated to the saints and their relics. The May 13 celebration was subsequently abandoned. In Ireland, the Church celebrated All Saints' Day on April 20, to avoid associating the day with the traditional harvest festivals and pagan feasts associated with Samhain, celebrated at the same time.



Following the establishment of the Frankish Empire, and following the reign of Charlemagne, the holy day, which was already celebrated on November 1, became a holy day of obligation by decree of Pope Gregory IV and Louis the Pious, who was king over a portion of Charlemagne's former empire.

Following the Protestant Reformation, many Protestants retained the holy day, although they dismissed the need to pray for the dead. Instead, the day has been used to commemorate those who have recently died, usually in the past year, and to remember the examples of those who lived holy lives. The Catholic practice however, celebrates all those who have entered heaven, including saints who are recognized by the Church and those who are not.



Holy day customs vary around the world. In the United States, the day before is Halloween and is usually celebrated by dressing in costumes with themes of death commonly associated. Children go door-to-door in costume, trick-or-treating, that is soliciting candy from their neighbors. The holiday has lost much of its connection to its religious origins.

Although nearly everyone celebrates Halloween for the fun of the secular holiday, the following religious solemnity, is not widely practiced or acknowledged by most Americans unless they are Catholic.



In other countries, such as Portugal, Spain and Mexico, traditional practices include performance of the play, "Don Juan Tenorio" and offerings made to the dead. All Saints' Day occurs on the same day as the Mexican "Día de los Inocentes" a day dedicated to deceased children. Across much of Europe, the day is commemorated with offerings of flowers left on the graves of the

dead. In Eastern Europe, candles are lit on graves instead of offerings of flowers.



In some places, such as the Philippines, graves can be painted and repaired by family members. Many of these practices blur the distinction between All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. These celebrations often blur the distinction between All Saints' Day, which is properly dedicated to those who are in heaven, and All Souls' Day, on which prayers are offered for all those who have died, but have not yet reached heaven.

In Mexico, the Day of the Dead holy days extend from October 31 through November 2. The Day of the Dead is a Mexican holiday that has spread in popularity into parts of the United States and across Latin America. It is celebrated from October 31 through November 2, to coincide with both the American tradition and the Catholic holy days. Those three days are dedicated to all of the dead.



BISHOPRIC CAMINO PILGRIMAGE 2022

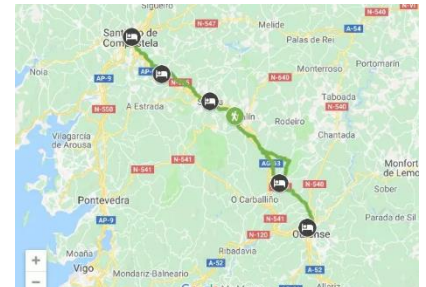


A REFLECTION BY FR. DAVID BURKE

'As the old saying goes, every journey begins with a single step....'

And so this September, Bishop Paul, a number of intrepid Military Padres (including our own Fr. Ian Stevenson) and personnel from across the three services set off to walk 110 kms of the Camino way in northern Spain.

If you haven't heard of it, The Camino de Santiago or The Way of St James, is a pilgrimage which began in medieval times to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela (<http://catedraldesantiago.es/en/>) in Galicia, in the north west of Spain.



The original pilgrims journeyed to visit the remains of the Apostle Saint James which are buried in this spectacular Cathedral after being discovered by a shepherd in the 9th century. The city itself - Santiago de Compostela - is named after the apostle: meaning St James of the Field of Stars.

Since the discovery, people have journeyed to this sacred place, attracting thousands of people each year from all over the world. Last year, 350,000 pilgrimage certificates were distributed to people who had completed parts of the pilgrimage: People of faith, People of no faith and People somewhere in between.

The Camino de Santiago has been depicted in several films, including one a few years ago entitled 'The Way' starring Martin Sheen. It has also been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site for its important role in encouraging cultural exchanges between people from all over Europe and the world for many centuries.



Our pilgrimage, the first of the Bishopric, consisted of 25 strangers who through the ups and downs (and blisters!) of the journey became fellow pilgrims who in turn became new friends. Friends sharing in faith, hope and maybe the odd glass of vino tinto!!!



When Jesus sent the 12 apostles on their first pilgrim journey, he did so, with the following instruction:

'Take nothing for the journey: neither staff, nor haversack, nor bread, nor money; and do not have a spare tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there; and when you leave let your departure be from there.'

I'm not suggesting we went unprepared on a pilgrimage (far from it) but, I think Jesus highlighted to the disciples and indeed to us on the Camino, that a journey is not just about the destination BUT the journey itself also has an important part to play. That the experiences we encounter, the people we meet along the way are also significant... and rather than just head down to our end point, we need to be open to what's along the way, to the signs in front of us that we may miss out on in our pursuit of the destination.

You see, the Camino for many is not just simply a walk to a destination but rather a unique experience, offering time and space to reflect on our lives; on our previous journeys and perhaps what may be coming around the corner in our future. So what are you waiting for: get your boots on and come and join us next year on the Camino taking a journey of faith, one step at a time...



Military Pilgrims September 2022

'Around the Churches'

The Cathedral of the Forces, St Michael and St George,

On the 19th June 2022, at the Cathedral of the Forces, 14 young people received their First Holy Communion.



Our prayers go to: Hugo, Amelia, Declan, Henry, Oscar, Jake, Teddy, Alyssa, Jack, Lee, Gregory, William, Harrison and Alicia for their continued journey of faith. Many thanks go to the catechists: Mrs Yvonne Spreadborough, Mrs Pauline Rossiter, Mrs Paula Ryan and Mrs Pamela Brooks who have spent many months preparing them all. And last but not least, thank you to the clergy who celebrated the Mass on the day; Fr. Nick Gosnell, Fr. Pip Smith and Deacon Tony D'Mello.



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 [here!](#)



Patron Saints Quiz

Name the Patron Saints of the following causes/occupations/vocations:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Accountants | 9. Dentists |
| 2. Athletes | 10. Firefighters |
| 3. Orphans | 11. Mentally ill |
| 4. Basketmakers | 12. Military chaplains |
| 5. Silversmiths | 13. Television |
| 6. Music | 14. Wine Growers |
| 7. Cancer patients | 15. Seminarians |
| 8. Comedians | 16. Policemen |

Answers to Newsletter Issue 15 will be published in Issue 16 or email Karen at: ArmyRCPAA21@gmail.com

Answers to Newsletter Issue 14: 1. Jesus, 2. St Therese, 3. Justice, 4. St Paul, 5. 3500, 6. Yellow and White, 7. Arianism, 8. Jesus' Resurrection, 9. Mount Sinai, 10. Holy See, 11. Swiss Guard, 12. St Frances, 13. Fortitude, 14. 2nd Vatican Council, 15. 33ad

Bishopric of The Forces Retreats

Are you in need of stillness and sanctuary? Scripture gives us many examples of our Lord Jesus withdrawing from noise and bustle to pray and to gain respite (Mark 3:7, Luke 5:16). Subject to Government restrictions, there is the opportunity to find that same peace at one of the Bishopric of the Forces Retreats planned for 2022:

To express an interest or to receive an application form, contact:

rafprccpastoralassistant457@outlook.com

For further information see: DIN 2022DIN01-013



Worth Abbey, West Sussex
3 - 6 Oct 22

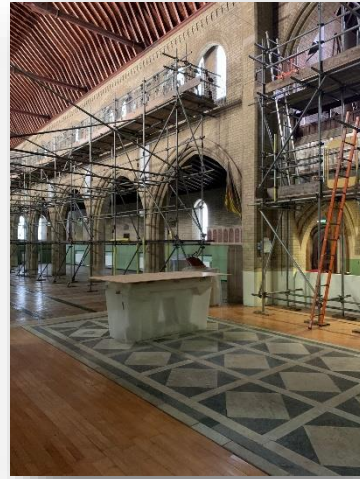


Ampleforth Abbey, North Yorkshire
14 - 17 Nov 22

LATEST UPDATE

The Cathedral of the Forces, St Michael and St George, closed on 1st August for 3 months due to some planned internal refurbishment.

Progress is being made with the renovations.



The Celebration of Mass and general liturgies will continue at St Andrew's Church in Aldershot, whilst building work continues. Sunday Mass will be at: 0930 hrs with mid-week Masses as advertised in the Cathedral Newsletter (midday on Wednesday & Solemnities, midday & 1900 hrs on Holy Days of Obligation); the plan is to be back in St Michael & St George's for Remembrance.



The Garrison Church of Our Lady, Queen of Peace is currently closed in Bulford due to structural difficulties. Work is very much ongoing as to determine the way forward regarding its repairs. The worshipping community are being accommodated at St Patrick's in Tidworth and a 2nd Mass is being celebrated to support both congregations. Mass times are 0900 hrs and 1030 hrs.



Key Dates in October & November

St Luke, Evangelist (*Feast*) – 18th October

St Simon & St Jude, Apostles (*Feast*) – 28th October

All Saints (Solemnity) – 1st November

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

(*Feast*) – 9th November

Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe

(*Solemnity*) – 20th November

St Andrew, Apostle, Patron of Scotland

(*Feast*) – 30th November

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