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**"But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him" Jeremiah 17:7**



## *Army Roman Catholic Newsletter*



### *Welcome*

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



Welcome to Issue 14 of the Army Roman Catholic Newsletter. Our last Issue showed that our faith communities and the Bishopric are very busy and this most recent issue will present that vibrancy and enthusiasm again. The word of God is clearly alive and active within us all. It has also been a busy time for our churches' physical state. There are two notices of information:

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 2<sup>nd</sup> Mass is being celebrated to support both congregations.

The Cathedral of the Forces, St Michael and St George, will close on 1<sup>st</sup> August for 3 months due to some planned internal refurbishment. The Celebration of Mass and general liturgies will continue at St Andrew's Church in Aldershot during this time. For more specific timings please see page 14.

*Bishopric CPD*  
*The Royal English College, Valladolid, Spain*  
*3 - 8 July 2022*



In early July chaplains and pastoral assistants from all three services joined Bishop Paul for our annual professional development conference, this year at the Royal English College in Valladolid, Spain. The college was founded in 1589 under the patronage of King Philip II of Spain, at a time when the English reformation made it impossible for priests to be trained at home. (Similar colleges were founded in Douai, now in northern France, and Rome.) Young men studying at the college would return to England after ordination where, if discovered, they were faced a death sentence. Many of the college's alumni from this era died as martyrs. The college has continued forming men for priesthood since its foundation, and today provides a one-year programme focussing on spirituality and discernment before men move to major seminary (typically a six-year programme).



The college opened a year after the defeat of the Spanish Armada, and the conflict continued for several years. In 1596 a fleet of English and Dutch vessels raided the port of Cadiz, destroying the Spanish fleet. They dragged the statue of Our Lady from one of the churches and hacked the child from her lap. This disfigured statue was recovered by local aristocrats and given pride of place in their chapel, and in 1600 the college asked that the statue be given to them for the community to pray in reparation for the damage done by the English. Since then, Our Lady Vulnerata (The Wounded Our Lady) has been a focus of devotion in college, her statue prominent in the chapel.

The students had left for the summer when we arrived in Valladolid, but we were warmly welcomed by Fr Paul Farrer, the rector, and Fr Damian Cassidy OCarm (vice-rector). Without doubt, the college lived up to its reputation for warm hospitality.

For the first day, we were joined by Fr Michel Remery, author of "Tweeting with God" and a number of other catechetical resources. With him we explored the Catholic Military Connect app (available for Android and Apple devices) and how it related to the other resources available. In discussion we considered how these could be useful for those we serve in the military community.



Fr Damian provided the input for the subsequent days, focussing first on psycho-social development and the new (to some of us) concept of emerging adulthood. Drawing on the work of Prof Jeffrey Arnett, we considered how changing social circumstances may have led to a new developmental phase for 18 to 29 year olds. This group are more likely to be exploring their sense of self than in earlier generations and face lives that are less stable and secure, taking (and being allowed) longer before arriving at a settled adult life. As most of our service personnel will be in this age group, there are obvious connections to our work for us to take away and develop. Fr Damian's second day focussed on Carmelite Spirituality.

The Carmelite's have a rich tradition in northern Spain, particularly in St Theresa of Avila and St John of the Cross. We reflected on the seasons of the heart, stages of spiritual growth that we move between in life.

Our final day in Spain took us the Scots' College in Salamanca. The college has a similar history to the English College but, moved to Salamanca (and modern buildings) in the twentieth century to access the pontifical university in the town.

Overall, the week provided a great opportunity to build and restore the connections between the chaplains in the Bishopric of the Forces. Getting away from the day-to-day business to spend time with each other and with God, taking time to reflect on the situations we find ourselves in and that of those in our care, and the richness of our tradition and history all contributed to our development.





**Army led Mass at the Scot's College, Salamanca**



**Inside Scot's College, Salamanca**



**Salamanca Cathedral**

Our thanks go to Fr. John Moriarty who wrote this article.

# 'Around our Churches'



## *First Holy Communions - St Patrick's Tidworth*

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June, 4 of our younger parishioners from St Patrick's Tidworth and Our Lady Queen of Peace, Bulford received their First Holy Communion. After months of preparation, Dimtry, Stella, Nana and Joseph joyfully received Jesus in the Holy Eucharist for the first time at our 10:30 Mass.

As well as our usual mass congregation our young people were also supported by many family members and friends - some whom have travelled great distances to be with us on the day.

May I express a word of thanks too for the catechists Ann Birch (pictured) and Zena Byrne who prepared our children throughout the year. Let us keep these children, their families and friends very much in our prayers - Fr David Burke.



## *St Pius X Church, Episkopi, Cyprus*

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June, Bishop Paul celebrated Mass at St Pius X Church in Episkopi, Cyprus. During this Mass 5 young people received the sacrament of Confirmation and 1 received First Holy Communion.



From Left to Right:

Eilidh Matheson Photiou, Ellen Photiou, Damien Mastroieni, Bishop Paul, Lucy Marsden (1<sup>st</sup> Communion), Tobias Marsden, Joseph Marsden, Msgr John Nelson



**Celebrations!**

## *'All in a day's work'*

The next articles are provided by Deacon John Power who is based at Catterick Garrison with The Royal Lancers.

Part of my role as an Unit Chaplain involves leading Field Services either in Camp or on Exercise and Deployments. It is great way of leading people in prayer and evangelising through thought provoking scripture readings and homilies. People seem sincere in their comments and questions afterwards and I find their response both uplifting and affirming.

Over the last couple of months, I have been asked to lead different services on behalf of the regiment and the Ministry of Defence. In May of this Year, I had the honour of leading a rededication service for 2nd Lt Piers Richard Edgecumbe.

2nd Lt Edgecumbe was a member of the on the 12<sup>th</sup> Royal Lancers when he was traveling in an armoured vehicle, tasked with a dangerous role to conduct a reconnaissance mission and scout out enemy positions during the huge, allied evacuation to Dunkirk in May 1940. 2nd Lt Edgecumbe was killed alongside his Lance Corporal when a German tank opened fire on them.

After eighty-two years and painstaking work by the MOD's Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC) and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Edgecumbe's family, I had the privilege of conducting the Service of Rededication at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's (CWGC) Esquelbecq Military Cemetery, near Dunkirk.



*Members of the Royal Lancers and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Edgecumbe's family at the Service.*

More recently in June, I was asked to be part of a weekend of celebrations for the restored statue of Field Marshall Haig who commanded the British Army during the First World War. The original statue was erected by the French in 1931 in the town of Montreuil-sur-Mer but, was later damaged by the Germans and has been restored back to its former glory.

The weekend began with a Gala Dinner on Friday 17th June and the following day a ceremony in which the restored statue's new plaque in the company of senior representatives from many regiments associated with the life of Field Marshall Haig was performed. On the Saturday evening I was able to lead a Service of Thanksgiving at the Church of Abbatiale Saint-Saulve and the evening concluded with a Civic Reception. On Sunday 19 June I conducted a moving service at Commonwealth Graves Cemetery in Etaples.

I am conscious of the huge privilege that is afforded to us as Army Chaplains in being able to provide spiritual support, pastoral care, and moral guidance to those in our care each day. However, we are also given a unique stage to conduct remembrance and commemoration services where we are ambassadors for the Church and we are provided with the opportunity to 'go to the ends of the earth to spread the Good News.'



**Restored statue of Field Marshall Haig**



**Representatives of The Royal Lancers**



**Service at Etaples**



**Etaples War Grave Cemetery**



## Farewell, adieu....

In June we said farewell to Fr. David Smith after 20 years of Ministry within the Army. Fr. David commissioned into the RACHD on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2002. His 20 years within the army has seen him serve 2 operational tours on Op Telic in Iraq, postings in Northern Ireland, Kosovo, a further 2 operational tours in Afghanistan, the Army Foundation College, Harrogate, Lichfield, Royal Centre for Defence Medicine and latterly Catterick Garrison. Although he is leaving regular military service, he will still be involved with military ministry as he has just taken up a Reserve Commission.



Earlier this month, we also said farewell to Fr. Daren Brown and Msgr. John Nelson who leaves in September.



Fr. Daren Brown was in the TA prior to becoming a priest, having completed P-Company in Aldershot. He served 17 years having joined the RACHd in 2005. His service has seen him posted to Larkill, Germany (twice), Catterick, Abingdon, Northern Ireland and Cyprus. He served on 3 operational tours, 2 in Afghanistan and 1 in Iraq. Fr. Daren's interests include; Motorbikes, flying light aircraft, scuba diving, fine dining/cooking, tennis and singing. Many will know him as a quiet man and caring priest.

Monsignor John Nelson Joined as a Reserve Chaplain in 1990 with 308 Evacuation Hospital that later became 306 Hospital Support Regiment. Although in the reserves for a long time, 4 years ago he joined as a regular Chaplain and has served in Cyprus for the last 4 years. During his time with the reserves, he did 5 operational deployments. In 2001 he served in Pristina, Kosovo, 2 Op Telics in 2004 and 2007 as a hospital Chaplain and 2 Op Herricks in 2011 and 2014. The first as a hospital Chaplain and the other as a Roman Catholic Chaplain. Msgr John returns to a parish appointment in Bournemouth.



Bishop Paul wishing Msgr. John Nelson and Fr. Daren Brown a fond farewell

We are grateful for all that these three chaplains have contributed to our soldiers, their partners, and families over the last 2 decades and wish them well as they engage in a new chapter in their ministry.

## *Royal Army Chaplains Department (RACHD)*

Our sincere congratulations and prayers go to the new Chaplain General (Rev. Michael Parker) and Deputy Chaplain General (Rev. David Barrett) to Her Majesty's Land Forces. Both Chaplains are Methodist and it is the first time, Methodist Ministers have occupied the two most senior chaplaincy positions in the British Army.



**Chaplain General, Rev Michael Parker & Deputy Chaplain General, Rev. David Barrett**

Their installation took place on 12<sup>th</sup> June in a service at St Michael's Garrison Church in Tidworth. The service was presided over by The Secretary of the Methodist Conference, Rev. Dr. Jonathan Hustler.



## 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!](#)



## Catholic Trivia Questions

1. In St John's Gospel, who is called the "Word of God"?
2. Who is called the patron saint of missions, even though she never left her convent?
3. According to Catholics, there are three theological virtues. Which of these is not one of them? Faith, Justice, Hope, Charity.
4. What future apostle stood by watching the stoning of the Church's first martyr, Stephen?
5. How many dioceses does the Catholic Church have around the world?
6. What colors are the papal flag?
7. What prominent heresy did the First Council of Nicaea condemn?
8. What station is the most recent added to the Way of the Cross?
9. According to the Book of Exodus, where did Moses receive the Ten Commandments?
10. Which of these words refers to the area over which the Pope has jurisdiction as its bishop? St. Peter's Cathedral, Holy See, Roman Curia, Lateran Palace
11. Who are the men in colorful costumes who have been responsible for the personal safety of the pope since 1506?
12. Who is the saint who supposedly tamed a wild wolf?
13. According to the Catholic Church, which of these is NOT a Fruit of the Holy Spirit? Patience Fortitude, Modesty, Goodness
14. Which council addressed the relationship between the catholic church and the modern world?
15. According to the Catholic Church, in what year was it founded?

Answers to Newsletter Issue 14 will be published in Issue 15 or email Karen at: [ArmyRCPAA21@gmail.com](mailto:ArmyRCPAA21@gmail.com)

Answers to Newsletter Issue 13: 1. St Ann & St Joachim, 2. Jerusalem, 3. 15 August, 4. 386, 5. Immaculate Conception, 6. 1981, 7. Virgin Mary, Mary Magdalene, Mary of Cleofas, 8. 16, 9. Gabriel, 10. John, 11. Luke 1:28, 12. 8 September.

# Camino de Santiago

The Camino de Santiago, known in English as the Way of St. James, is a network of pilgrims' ways or pilgrimages leading to the shrine of the apostle Saint James the Great in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia in northwestern Spain, where tradition holds that the remains of the apostle are buried.

## RC Bishopric of the Forces Camino de Santiago Pilgrimage 15 - 22 September 2022



For more information or to request an application form please contact  
Padre Neil Galloway.

**Neil.Galloway101@mod.gov.uk**

## *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:

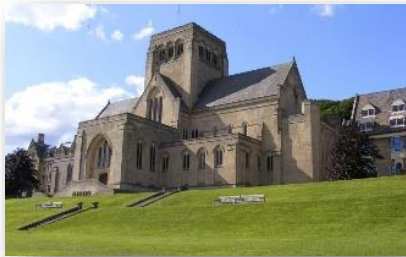
To express an interest or to receive an application form, contact:

[rafprccpastoralassistant457@outlook.com](mailto: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**

As mentioned in the welcome, the Cathedral of the Forces, St Michael and St George, will close on 1<sup>st</sup> August for 3 months due to some planned internal refurbishment. The Celebration of Mass and general liturgies will continue at St Andrew's Church in Aldershot during this time.

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.





## Key Dates in August & September

Transfiguration of the Lord (*Feast*) – 6<sup>th</sup> August

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
(*Solemnity*) – 14<sup>th</sup> August

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
(*Feast*) – 8<sup>th</sup> September

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross  
(*Feast*) – 14<sup>th</sup> September

Ss Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels  
(*Feast*) – 29<sup>th</sup> September

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)