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"Communication is not only the transmission of information, but it is also the creation of a culture." Pope Leo XIV.



Army Roman Catholic Newsletter



Welcome

From

*The Revd. Fr. Stephen Sharkey CF
Principal Roman Catholic Chaplain (Army)*



Welcome to Issue 38 of the Army Roman Catholic Newsletter.

In these uncertain times, when the world seems weighed down by conflict, suffering, and division, our hearts are called more than ever to turn toward God. As followers of Christ, we are not strangers to hardship, but neither are we without hope. Our faith teaches us that prayer is not a passive act, but a powerful force that unites heaven and earth. It strengthens our hearts, uplifts those in need, and invites God's grace into even the darkest situations. As we witness the turmoil across nations and communities, let us remember that prayer is our first response, not our last resort. In this issue, we reflect on the power of prayer, the peace of Christ, and how we can be instruments of hope and healing in a troubled world. Let us remain steadfast, united in prayer, and ever faithful in love.

Anchored in Christ: Prayer, Peace, and Purpose for Troubled Times

In the face of our world, which is currently burdened by war, division, and uncertainty, it is natural to feel overwhelmed or even powerless. Yet as Catholics, we know that we are never without purpose or hope. Christ calls us not to withdraw in fear, but to stand firm in faith, rooted in the unwavering peace He offers.



Prayer is where this begins. It is through prayer that we align our hearts with God's will, draw strength from His presence, and intercede for those in need. Scripture reminds us: "*The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective*" (James 5:16). Whether spoken softly in solitude or offered together as a community, prayer becomes a lifeline, a quiet but powerful act of trust that can bring light into even the darkest places.

From prayer flows **the peace of Christ**, a peace that surpasses understanding, one the world cannot give. As Jesus tells us, "*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid*" (John 14:27). This peace doesn't always remove the suffering, but it transforms our response to it. It gives us the courage to forgive, the patience to endure, and the grace to act with compassion when others are in despair.



In this way, **we become instruments of hope and healing.** As St. Paul encourages: "*Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up*" (Galatians 6:9). Every kind word, every act of mercy, every prayerful moment offered for another becomes a seed of the Kingdom of God. In a world aching for meaning and direction, our quiet faithfulness becomes a testimony to a love that never fails.

A Call to Action

In the coming weeks, we invite you to take three intentional steps:

1. **Pray daily** for peace in the world—especially in places of violence and unrest.
2. **Reach out** to someone who may be struggling, isolated, or in need of comfort.
3. **Join together** and pray within communities where we will lift up our world in unity.

Together, let us be bearers of Christ's peace, grounded in prayer and moved to action. May the Lord strengthen us to be His hands and heart in a world longing for healing.

For the gift of Peace

Let us ask from the Holy Spirit the gift of Peace. Peace begins in our hearts, for only a peaceful heart can spread peace in the family, society, and international relations. May the Spirit of the Risen Christ open paths of reconciliation wherever there is war. May He enlighten those who govern and give them the courage to take steps toward de-escalation and dialogue. Amen.



Pope Leo XIV

St Barnabas's Church Dhekelia



Fr. John Moriarty, the Catholic Chaplain currently based in Cyprus, baptised Rfn Cooper Hopcroft and received Cpl Tom Williamson into the Catholic Church on Sunday 8th June.

On Sunday 22nd June (Solemnity of Corpus Christi), Shontelle and Lilianne made their First Holy Communion. Fr. John Moriarty and Fr. Stephen Sharkey - PRCC(A) celebrated the Mass. Shontelle and Lilianne's family attended the service.



Please pray for Cooper, Tom, Shontelle and Lilianne as they move forward in their journey of faith.

British Forces Cyprus (BFC)



Mrs Georgia Christoforou has served as the Chaplaincy Clerk in British Forces Cyprus (BFC) for over 25 years, she recently received a commendation from the Commander of British Forces Cyprus for her loyal work to Chaplaincy and wider British Forces Cyprus. Georgia has always supported the Roman Catholic communities in BFC and has been of great help to all the RC Chaplains serving in Cyprus over the years, her knowledge of BFC and commitment to all the Chaplains she has assisted over the years has been invaluable, she well deserved the award of the Bishopric Medal in recognition of her service and as a way of saying 'thank you' from all Georgia has helped over the years.



Photo: Left to Right - Fr. John Moriarty, Mrs Georgia Christoforou & Fr. Stephen Sharkey - PRCC(A)

All Saints (St. Pius X) Episkopí

On Sunday 22nd June, Fr. Stephen Sharkey, PRCC(A) and Fr. John Moriarty celebrated Mass in Episkopi, Cyprus.



65th International Military Pilgrimage

Lourdes, 15 – 19 May 2025



From 15th to 19th May, the 65th International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes brought together military personnel from around the world under the theme "With Mary, Pilgrims of Hope." Throughout the pilgrimage, the UK delegation engaged in a range of spiritual and cultural activities, including processions, Masses, and moments of reflection. These events provided a profound sense of unity and renewal, allowing participants to deepen their faith while honouring the sacrifices and service of military personnel across the globe. This annual gathering continues to serve as a powerful reminder of the shared values and commitment to peace upheld by armed forces worldwide. For many, the experience not only strengthened personal faith but also reinforced the bonds of mutual respect and camaraderie that transcend national boundaries.

The following reflections are written by cadets (CCF) who are students at St. John Henry Newman Catholic College in Oldham, Greater Manchester.



Throughout Lourdes, I really enjoyed how we had the opportunity to integrate into all the Masses, even as cadets, it allowed me, as a student at a religious school, to have more of an insight into how the Mass works and work on my own religious beliefs, allowing me to develop my own sense of religion. Seeing everyone praying together as one big group doing the same prayer but all having different reasons for individual prayer allowed me to develop my spiritual connection to God. - Veya

Going to Lourdes was a real eye-opening experience, it made me think more about my religion and how lucky I am that Jesus died for our sins. Being there helped me feel closer to God and made my faith stronger. I was peaceful and allowed me to pray to develop my spiritual connection with God. -wisdom





I really used my second time in Lourdes to reinforce my spiritual connection with God; it allowed me to develop a closer connection to my religion allowing me to focus on self-improvements within myself. I deeply connected with the idea of the main focus on Lourdes being reflection and reconciliation which I really focused on throughout my time in Lourdes, allowing me to frequently think about how my actions affected others within cadets and outside of cadets. It was welcoming to be able to take part in the Mass with the rest of the British contingent, it allowed me individually and our cadets to be seen as part a close part of the pilgrimage. I found multiple occasions where I had a chance to talk to an important religious character, who was also on the pilgrimage which then allowed for further insight into the religion I am a part of. I found it nice as a more senior end of cadets on my second time in Lourdes, it allowed me to mature my relationship with religion overall. - Alfie

Going to Lourdes was a really great experience. It really helped me with my spiritual journey. Coming to Lourdes allowed me to Pray much more freely and even though it is a religious sight for Catholics it is welcoming to all religions. I felt culturally fulfilled and really missed it when I came home. The importance of seeing different people from different countries really has an impact. Overall, Lourdes has been a great experience and id hope to be able to do it again - Lidia



I found the religious aspect in Lourdes rather riveting as I found it very calming when we would have Mass together with the whole British contingent and all of us as a collective would sing and worship in harmony. I found that being in Lourdes helped me to strengthen my faith. - Wemi

Lourdes is an amazing experience, and it enables you to develop your thoughts spiritually because you are around people who pray, and most areas are about praying and Mary. It's also good because you learn about how Mary is a role model and why people may pray to Mary. The atmosphere in Lourdes is good, it creates a feeling that is religious and makes you feel welcome no matter what religion or differ in beliefs you have. Before I went to Lourdes, I didn't have much belief but since going to Lourdes I have learnt the importance of prayer and how to pray. - Lexi



Lourdes made me feel deeply connected to a greater spiritual family. Thought the celebration of Mass where we prayed as one. I experienced the sense of belonging with the rest of the contingent, moments like the candlelight procession and the shared events like the BBQ evening. I enjoyed how the way everyone, like the soldiers were treated with equal kindness just how most Catholics should be. - Isaac

Fr. Daren Brown provides us with an article of his recent pilgrimage to Lourdes as part of the HCPT (Hosanna House and Children's Pilgrimage Trust) 507 Group.

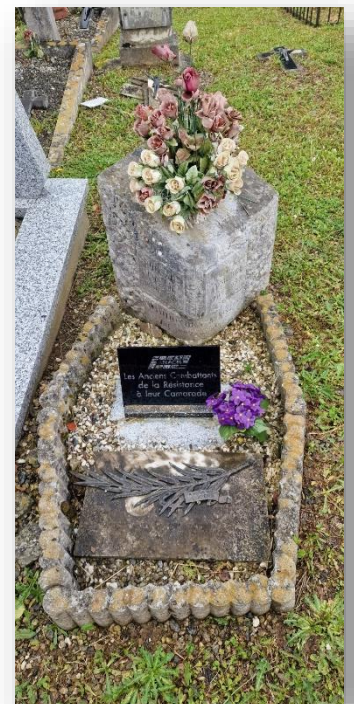


Since leaving the Army, I have had the pleasure of becoming Chaplain to HCPT Group 507 (Armed Forces Region): an eclectic group of Veterans, family members and volunteers attending the IMP followed by a further three days in Hosanna House (HH) being together and visiting various places in the region. Mass is celebrated each day, either in HH or during a trip out. Two specific Masses are enhanced to include a healing element and a Remembrance theme so that the Veterans, family members, and volunteers can experience the spiritual healing of the Sacrament of the Sick in Lourdes and remember those who died in war.



The Remembrance Mass is celebrated in HH and immediately following that there is a trip to Haut Nistos to conduct the Act of Remembrance in front of the plaque commemorating the RAF Halifax crash on the night of July 13/14, 1944, on the Pic du Douly area in the hills. The Halifax had flown from Algeria with 7 Airmen from 624 Squadron in order to parachute weapons, munitions and equipment to the Maquis of Nistos resistance group, which were an organisation of bands of resistance guerrillas.

Further up the road from the plaque, which is embedded in a rock, is the Eglise de Haut Nistos (Church) built in 1625 and in the small graveyard is buried a French Resistance Fighter with a small sign that says "Les Anciens combattants de la Resistance a leur comarade" ("The Veterans of the Resistance to their Comrade").



Healing is of course the principal message of Lourdes, and on this military pilgrimage special focus is given to those injured either physically or psychologically due to their military service, but also for all those in attendance who are from military families or our volunteers. In Lourdes healing is always a spiritual experience, and those who may feel distant from God can seek to heal that relationship through the Sacraments of the Sick and Reconciliation and prayer. Daily Eucharist enables the penitent to cement this healing through the real encounter with the Living Christ, who is the source of both spiritual and physical healing.

Social activity and encounter are also important elements of the HCPT military pilgrimage, and there is a large living space with a bar and outdoor seating where the group can socialise and have a drink together. For many this activity is also very important and can be quite cathartic, especially being around fellow Veterans who can empathise with each other due to their common military service.

In conclusion, the HCPT military group is a unique element of the wider International Military Pilgrimage and serves to maintain both a military and spiritual encounter for Veterans. Being in the military develops a strong sense of identity that is frequently carried on into post-Service. Camaraderie is never forgotten and for the Veterans, coming together is always like a 'coming home' experience which is also healing, especially with regard to mental health. Like the small sign on the Resistance grave to their fellow Fighter, the HCPT military group is a living sign given to each other by way of their collective presence, common military-life-experience and mutual support.

Our Lady of Lourdes, Pray for us



Armed Forces Day

28th June 2025

Fr. Kevin Dow, Chaplain to The Royal Lancers based in Catterick, attended two events within 24 hours to celebrate Armed Forces Day on 28th June.

Richmond Town Council organised a service and flag raising ceremony in the Friary Garden, Richmond to honour our Armed Forces.



The Royal Lancers exercised their freedom marching through Nottingham with Lances born. In attendance were the Sheriff of Nottingham, The High Sheriff of Nottingham as well as the Lord Mayor and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of the county.





Fr. Pip Smith, currently serving with the US Army in Germany has written the following article for this issue of the newsletter.

“A Sacred Trust: Honouring 250 Years of the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps”



This summer, fellow chaplains across the Atlantic commemorate a remarkable milestone: the 250th anniversary of the United States Army Chaplain Corps. Since its founding on 29 July 1775, just days after the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War, the Chaplain Corps has stood as a symbol of spiritual endurance, pastoral courage, and the enduring presence of God amid conflict.

The U.S. Army Chaplain Corps was born of necessity and conviction. General George Washington, recognising the vital role of faith in the morale and well-being of soldiers, insisted that the fledgling Continental Army include ordained clergy. Since then, chaplains have accompanied American troops into every major conflict, from the War of Independence to the global operations of today. Today, the Chaplain Corps is a vast network of clergy from a diverse range of religious traditions, providing pastoral care to more than a million active-duty soldiers and their families.

Catholic chaplains began serving formally in the U.S. military in the early 19th century, and by the time of the Civil War, their numbers were growing steadily. The 20th century saw Catholic military chaplaincy come into its own, particularly during the World Wars, when priests were a visible and vital presence in the field. They heard confessions in foxholes, celebrated Mass on makeshift altars, and, in many cases, gave their lives alongside the men they served.

Bravery and courage have been the standard for all members of the Corps since its conception. Some have been awarded the Medal of Honor, the United States most prestigious military decoration for valor. Among them are three Catholic priests whose courage and devotion continue to inspire chaplains across the world:



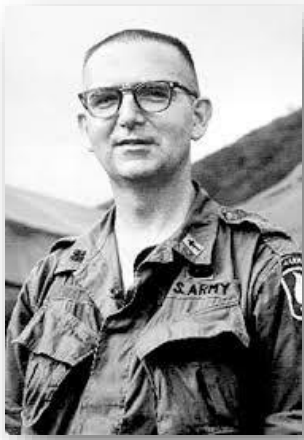
Fr. Joseph T. O'Callahan (Second World War)

The first Catholic chaplain to receive the Medal of Honor, Fr. O'Callahan served aboard the USS Franklin when it was struck by a Japanese bomber in 1945. Amidst blazing fires, exploding ammunition, and chaos, he led firefighting efforts, comforted the wounded, and coordinated damage control, saving countless lives. President Truman presented him with the Medal of Honor in 1946.



Fr. Emil J. Kapaun (Korean War)

A U.S. Army chaplain and diocesan priest from Kansas, Fr. Kapaun served with the 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment. During the Battle of Unsan in 1950, he refused to leave wounded soldiers behind. Captured by Chinese forces, he ministered tirelessly to fellow prisoners of war in brutal conditions, stealing food for the sick, leading prayers, and tending to the dying. He died in captivity in 1951. In 2013, President Barack Obama posthumously awarded him the Medal of Honor. After being declared Venerable by Pope Francis in February of this year. His cause for canonization is underway.



Fr. Charles J. Watters (Vietnam War)

An Airborne chaplain, Fr. Watters served with the 173rd Airborne Brigade. During the fierce Battle of Dak To in 1967, he moved fearlessly across the battlefield to aid the wounded and administer last rites, repeatedly exposing himself to enemy fire. He was killed while aiding the wounded in close combat. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity."

These men embodied the highest calling of chaplaincy, not merely accompanying soldiers in battle, but becoming beacons of Christ's love in the most harrowing circumstances. Their legacy echoes in the mission of every Catholic chaplain who wears the uniform today.

Although separated by an ocean, the Catholic military chaplaincies of the U.K. and U.S. have long served side by side. Whether in the fields of Normandy, the hills of Korea, or the deserts of Afghanistan, our chaplains have prayed together, shared the sacraments, and ministered to troops in joint operations. That bond continues to this day, as our nations work in coalition forces across the globe.

The 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps is not only a moment for American reflection, but also a reminder to us all of the enduring importance of faith in the military. The need for spiritual care, moral guidance, and sacramental presence is as pressing now as it was in 1775.

As fellow chaplains in the British Army, we offer our heartfelt congratulations to our American brothers and sisters. Your 250 years of faithful service have left a profound legacy—not only in the hearts of soldiers, but in the life of the global Church. We stand in admiration of your commitment, and in solidarity with your mission.

In the words of St. John Paul II, who himself lived through war and totalitarianism: "Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors to Christ." The chaplains of the U.S. Army have done precisely that for two and a half centuries. May the next 250 years be marked by the same courage, compassion, and commitment to Christ.

Ad multos annos.



Bishopric of the Forces - CPD - Paris

6 - 11 Jul 2025



This year's Bishopric of the Forces CPD conference was held at Cercle National des Armées in Paris. The Cercle National des Armées (CNA) is a unique institution, occupying a building on Place Saint-Augustin, built exclusively for it by Charles Lemaesquier in 1924. Today, the 'Maison des Officiers de France (its second name) still welcomes, as a priority, active officers from the three services and armies as well as loyal member who all share the values conveyed by the institution.

The Cercle National des Armées finds its origins in a presidential decree of February 5, 1887, and in a law of April 16, 1924, authorising its establishment on the grip of the barracks of the Pépinière. It was built from 1925 to 1927 on land liberated by the destruction of part of the Pépinière barracks, including its facade. The President of the Republic Gaston Doumergue inaugurated it in 1928. The Cercle National des Armées de Terre et de Mer, which had previously been located on Avenue de l'Opera, moved to Place Saint-Augustin. The neoclassical-inspired building is the work of Charles Henri-Camille Lemaesquier, chief architect of the national palaces, born in Sète on October 16, 1870, and died in Paris on January 6, 1972 (he is buried in the marine cemetery of Sète). He is the son of Louis Lemaesquier, a famous poster artist of the 19th century.

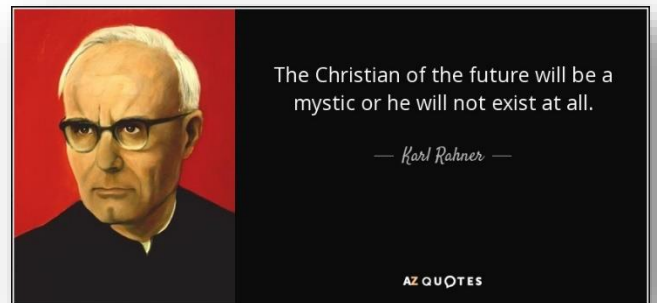




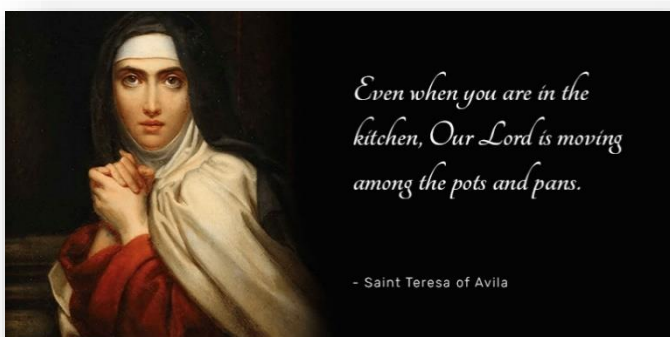
The annual gathering and CPD (Continuing Professional Development) of the Roman Catholic Chaplains to the Armed Forces took place in Paris this July. Spirituality is an integral part of their CPD and formed the core of the first two days' input. This was provided by Fr. Jim Walls, a Scottish priest from the Diocese of Dunkeld presently based in Dundee. Fr. Jim had previously served as Spiritual Director for the Scots College, Rome.

Fr. Jim's presentations on "Mysticism" explored the evolving role of mysticism in Christian life, particularly within the Catholic clergy, and emphasised the need for a deeper, experiential relationship with God in a secularising world. It begins by posing a central question: how can clergy stoke a hunger for God in themselves and others? The answer, he suggests, lies in embracing mysticism—not as something esoteric or reserved for the spiritually elite, but as a lived, interior experience of God's presence.

Drawing on theologian Karl Rahner's famous assertion that "the Christian of the future will be a mystic or will not exist at all," the presentation unpacks what it means to be a mystic. Mysticism is described not as a pursuit of extraordinary experiences, but as a deep, interior communion with Christ, cultivated through silence, stillness, and awareness. It is about recognising God in the ordinary and allowing His presence to transform daily life.



The presentation contrasts past cultural Catholicism—where faith was inherited as part of ethnic or social identity—with the present, where such external markers have faded. In this context, mysticism becomes essential: an inner experience of God that sustains faith when cultural supports fall away.



Saint Teresa of Avila is highlighted as a model of mysticism grounded in humility and service. Though known for mystical phenomena like levitation, she emphasised that true spirituality lies in loving God and neighbour, even amid mundane tasks. Similarly, Bernard McGinn and Rowan Williams stress that mysticism is a lifelong journey into God, not a fleeting experience. Contemplation, they argue, is central to Christian life, offering freedom from the chaos of modern culture.

Fr. Martin Laird's teachings on contemplative prayer are central to the presentation. He emphasises silence, stillness, and awareness as the foundation of mystical life. Laird teaches that we are never truly separated from God; rather, our distractions create the illusion of distance. His practical guidance includes breath prayers, sacred words, and metaphors to help practitioners anchor themselves in God's presence.

Evelyn Underhill's critique of modern religion is also explored. She warns against a shallow, service-focused faith that neglects awe and prayer. Her solution: a more prayerful clergy who embody the awe of God's presence. This theme is echoed in reflections on Eucharistic Adoration, presented as a form of mystical prayer that fosters silent communion with Christ.

The presentation concludes with Fr. Scott Detisch's model of priestly spiritual development through three stages: the Hero (living for Christ), the Servant (ministering with Christ), and the Mystic (living in Christ). The Mystic stage is marked by deep interior union with God, Eucharistic spirituality, and contemplative prayer. It is a call to let go of ego and live a life shaped by Christ's self-giving love.

Ultimately, the presentation affirms that mysticism is not optional but essential for the future of Christian life. It is about experiencing and sharing the love of God—a love that remains constant amid a changing world.



We sincerely thank Fr. Jim Walls for his thought-provoking and spiritually enriching presentations.



Fr. David Smith, currently a reservist chaplain with 306 Field Hospital, provided us with an overview of Moral Injury. Thank you for delivering such a compelling and enlightening presentation.

Last year Fr. David submitted a thesis: "A qualitative study exploring how moral injury might affect the functioning of the moral conscience in UK military veterans formed by a virtue approach to military ethics education" for his PhD.

The following is a brief overview of Moral Injury.

What is moral injury?

Moral injury is the emotional, psychological, and spiritual distress that arises when an individual engages in, fails to prevent or witnesses' actions that either undermine their deeply held ethical values or, in other words, that conflict with their moral compass / conscience. It is a newly emerging concept that has its roots in ancient themes of the moral un-doing or disintegration of character (Homer: Iliad).

Moral injury is not a mental disorder like PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder). Conventional psychiatric treatments for PTSD (drugs and talking therapies) do not seem to work with people suffering with Moral Injury. At its root, Moral Injury is an assault on a properly formed and sound moral conscience - whereas PTSD is a fear-based reaction to experiencing a traumatic incident such as an Improvised Explosive Device. Although it can share some presentational symptoms with PTSD such as Depression, Moral Injury's hallmark presenting symptoms are Guilt, Shame, Anger, Betrayal and loss of trust in individuals and societal structures (such as politicians or leaders). Through non-medical, arts-based repair interventions, the aim of treatment for Moral Injury is: *"transforming 'patients' back into citizens and 'diagnoses' into dialogue"* (Boudreau, 2011).

Moral injury can occur within the military, healthcare, law enforcement, first responders, and social work but can impact anyone whose moral conscience is assaulted or violated.

Examples of moral injury are:

- A soldier who kills civilians in combat, even accidentally.
- Being given an illegal order by a superior or someone holding legitimate authority.
- Feeling forced to provide substandard care within a health setting due to lack of resources or staffing.
- Experiencing betrayal by a loved one.
- A humanitarian worker witnessing atrocities they cannot stop.

Effects of moral injury:

- Deep inner or spiritual crisis arising from an assault on one's moral conscience.
- Isolation and loss of meaning.
- Depression, anxiety and potential suicidal ideation.
- Avoidance of moral reflection of conversations about the event due to a feeling of shame or self-loathing.

Repairing Moral Injury:

- Exclude any mental pathology (e.g. clinical depression) by medical referral.
- Narrative reconstruction - recounting one's story with honesty and support.
- Moral deconstruction of the moral act: where does blame lie / how responsible was I personally for the incident / what could I have done differently / who put me in this position in the first place?
- Spiritual counselling, therapy or peer support.
- Reconnecting with ethical values arising from Natural Justice.
- Moral repair - engaging in restorative acts such as atoning for the incident that sparked the moral distress / injury.
- For Catholics, Examination of Conscience, Sacramental Confession and Penance are particularly helpful in recalibrating one's ethical worldview after Moral Injury, with the help of God's grace.

Future Directions

- Inter-disciplinary cooperation / respect between professional groups
- Further conceptual distinction between PTSD and Moral Injury
- Aspiration to develop a repair / healing intervention programme that is not medicine-based. The Royal Army Chaplains' Department has a Community of Interest that is exploring this issue, working collaboratively with the Australian Defence Force who have developed their "Pastoral Narrative Disclosure" programme: an 8-stage chaplain-led intervention that has received very positive reviews.



This year's Bishopric Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme offered a rich and comprehensive schedule, encompassing a variety of spiritual, educational, and diplomatic engagements. The programme included a series of lectures, facilitated discussions, formal meetings, and the celebration of several Masses.



Masses were held at St Augustin Church, with a particularly notable celebration taking place at the Cathédrale Saint-Louis-des-Invalides. This Mass was graciously hosted by Bishop Antoine de Romanet, the Bishop of the Military Diocese of the French Armed Forces.



One of the highlights of the programme was a visit to the British Embassy in Paris. The delegation was received and hosted by Lt Col Elisabeth Sedgwick, Assistant Defence Attaché; Col David Hannah, Chief of Staff; Col Sean Cuniff, Military Attaché; and Ms Anne-Claire Deseilligny, Political Officer at the Embassy. The visit included an informative tour and provided valuable insights into the diplomatic and defence cooperation between the United Kingdom and France.



Annual Meeting with Moderators of Associations of the Faithful, Ecclesial Movements and New Communities, New Synod Hall, Vatican, 4 - 6 June 2025

Written by Colonel Paolo Capanni, Regional Clinical Director, Wolverhampton & Deputy Secretary of the Apostolat Militaire International.



[Apostolat Militaire International](#) President, Vice Admiral Matthieu Borsboom (Royal Netherlands Navy, retired) and Deputy Secretary General, Colonel Paolo Capanni (British Army) attended the [Annual Meeting with Moderators of Associations of the Faithful, Ecclesial Movements and New Communities](#) at New Synod Hall in the Vatican, 4 - 6 June 2025.

Expertly organised by the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, the conference was attended by around 250 delegates representing 95 of the 115 organisations connected to the dicastery.

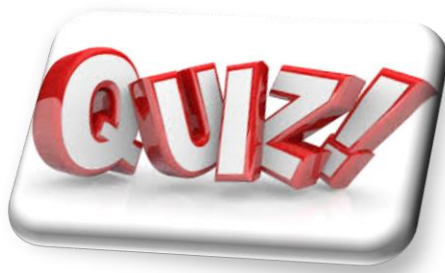


The Prefect of the Dicastery, Cardinal Farrell, began by saying that, as Camerlengo, organising the recent conclave had definitively been a 'once in a lifetime' experience.

Eminent speakers included Cardinal Tagle of the Dicastery for Evangelisation, who spoke about 'rethinking mission in the light of hope'. Other speakers presented real life examples of putting this mission into practice.

Other events included a private tour of the Sistine Chapel and dinner in the Vatican Museums. The highlights were Mass in St Peter's Basilica celebrated by Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Parolin, and a private audience with the new Pope Leo XIV on the final day.





A Quiz About the Bible

1. How many books in the Bible?
2. How many in the Old Testament?
3. How many in the New Testament?
4. How long did it take to write the Bible?
5. What is the longest book in the Bible?
6. What is the shortest book in the Bible?
7. What is the Love Story of the Bible?
8. What is the Hymn Book of the Bible?
9. What book is a census report?
10. Where do we find the story of Moses?
11. What two books do not mention the name of God?
12. What book is the Drama of the Bible?
13. Where do we find the ten commandments?
14. Where do we find the Lord's Prayer?
15. Where do we find the Beatitudes?
16. What is the greatest sermon ever preached?
17. Name the Gospels. What does Gospel mean?
18. Which Gospel contains the most parables?
19. Where do we find stories of the Early Christian Church?
20. What book is full of wise sayings?

Answers to Newsletter Issue 38 will be published in Issue 39 or email Karen at: ArmyRCPAA21@gmail.com Answers to Newsletter Issue 37: 1. Jesus on the Cross, 2. Jesus to the lame man he helped, 3. Daniel to Belshazzar, 4. John the Baptist when Jesus appeared at the Jordan, 5. Job to his friends, 6. Jesus to the thief on the cross, 7. Jesus to his mother at the cross referring to John, 8. The 3 women on the way to the tomb, 9. Jesus to those who rebuked the little children pressed about him, 10. King Agrippa to Paul, 11. Voice from the burning bush to Moses, 12. David (Author of 23rd Psalm), 13. John the Baptist to the people, 14. Peter to Jesus, 15. Jesus to the disciples at the last supper.

66th International Military Pilgrimage Lourdes 2026



The UK Contingent will depart for the International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes on Thursday 21st May 2025, returning Monday 25th May 2026.

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 Tangney Tours, Pilgrim House, Station Road, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8AF. Tel: 01732 886666

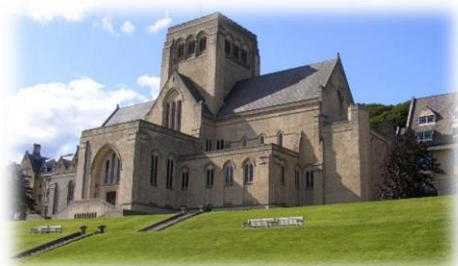
Bishopric of The Forces Retreats

Are you in need of stillness and sanctuary? The Bishopric of the Forces is offering 3 opportunities to go on a retreat in 2025. 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 2025, St. Beuno's Centre in North Wales, and Ampleforth Abbey in North Yorkshire.



ST. BEUNO'S CENTRE 13 - 16 OCT 25

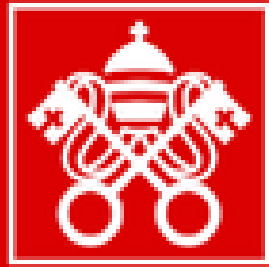


AMPLEFORTH ABBEY 10 - 13 Nov 25

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 2025DIN01-011
Alternatively, please make 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: Jeremy.Wynne109@mod.gov.uk



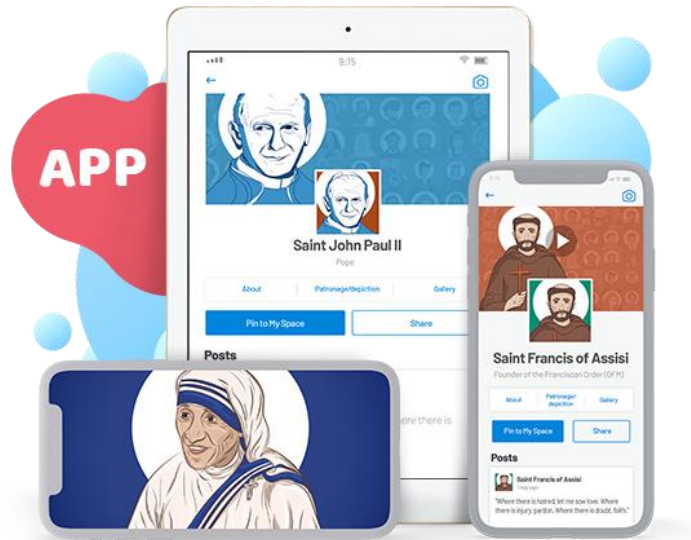
VATICAN NEWS

Vatican News is the portal for Vatican information where you can find the latest news on Pope Leo, the Holy See, the Church in the world, and international news.

Please follow the link to access the site: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html>



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.



Key Dates in Jul, Aug & Sep

St Mary Magdalene (Feast) – 22nd July

St James, Apostle (Feast) – 25th July

Ss Joachim & Ann, Parents of the Blessed
Virgin Mary (Memorial) – 26th July

Ss Mary, Martha & Lazarus
(Memorial) – 29th July

The Transfiguration of the Lord
(Feast) – 6th August

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
(Solemnity) – 15th August

The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
(Memorial) – 22nd August

The Passion of St. John the Baptist
(Memorial) – 29th August

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
(Feast) – 8th September

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