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"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" - Psalm 46:1



Army Roman Catholic Newsletter



Welcome

From

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



Welcome to Issue 47 of the Army Roman Catholic Newsletter

As we come towards the end of summer and continue our journey through Ordinary Time, we are reminded that faith calls us to remain steadfast in hope, even amid the uncertainties and challenges of our world. We place our trust in Christ, our sure foundation, and seek the grace to persevere in our daily lives and responsibilities. For those who serve in the Armed Forces, this call to courage, faithfulness and service has a particular meaning. Let us continue to pray for peace, for our Armed Forces and all who serve, and for those who suffer throughout the world. May we remain steadfast in faith, generous in service, and united in prayer.

"Be steadfast and persevering, fully devoted to the work of the Lord." - 1 Corinthians 15:58

Bishopric CPD
The Royal English College, Valladolid, Spain
5th - 10th July 2026



Written by Fr. David Burke

Our hearts are restless, until they rest in you....



At the beginning of July, the Bishop of the Forces, Bishop Paul Mason, brought together the Roman Catholic military chaplains from across the British Armed Forces for a time of Continuing Professional Development at a truly remarkable location; the historic English College of St. Alban in Valladolid, Spain.

Founded in 1589 to train English Catholic priests during the Reformation, the English College is one of the oldest English seminaries established overseas and has a long and proud association with the Catholic mission in Britain. It was, for us, the perfect setting for a gathering focused on professional development, spiritual formation, and not least, padre fellowship.

During our time away we were treated to a guided retreat by Abbot Hugh Allan O. Praem, a Norbertine priest based at the Priory of our Lady of Sorrows, Peckham and the former Apostolic Administrator of the Prefecture of the Falkland Islands and the Mission *sui juris* of St. Helena, Tristan da Cunha and Ascension Island.

This scribe in such a short article is unable to give true justice to the content of the retreat, but I hope the following extracts give some sense of the talks delivered by Fr. Abbot. The Abbot began the retreat with the opening line of the Rule of St. Augustine: "Before all else, dear brothers, love God and then your neighbour, because these are the chief commandments given to us." A strong reminder at the beginning of our time together of the foundation of our ministry as Chaplains. Indeed, the rule of St. Augustine shaped the content of all the talks we received from Fr. Hugh.

Fr. Abbot through the prism of St. Augustine expertly delved into the core themes of Discipleship, Discernment and Direction. Themes which Fr. Abbot skillfully, gently and playfully challenged his audience to reflect deeply upon. With thoughtfully crafted reflections, interspersed with insights from his time as a Norbertine and his subsequent travels as Apostolic Administrator, Father encouraged us to consider our unique ministry as Catholic Padres in the Armed Forces. Going one step further, we were tasked to reflect upon our own continuous need for God which can often get overlooked when ministering to others. To paraphrase Augustine to "seek him out in order to find him, and when we find him, let us continue searching for him. We must search for him, because he is hidden from us. And when we have found him, we go on searching because he is without bounds." Some challenging insights delivered by Fr. Abbott but done so with great humour, humble musings and from a generous heart.

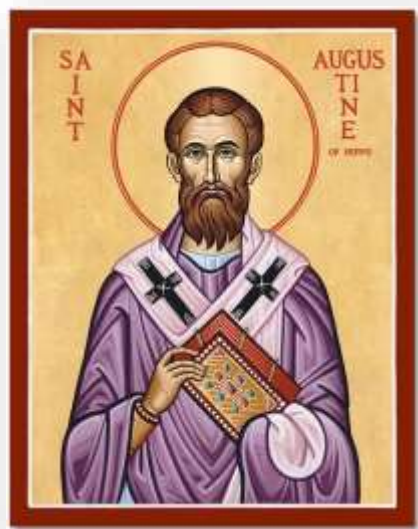
An insight that continues to challenge me, was given in response to how we might minister in the military, in this present time of conflict in an ever increasingly secular world. St. Augustine provided us with a simple yet defining answer "If you are silent, be silent out of love. If you speak, speak out of love." Food for thought was served on our retreat at the English College as well as at the dining room table.





Thank you to the formation team for hosting our stay after a busy year of pre-seminary students. Playfully, the staff continued the theme of the retreat by encouraging us to eat up, regaling us of the words of Augustine possibly aimed at Military Chaplains: "Take care of your body as if you were going to live forever; and take care of your soul as if you were going to die tomorrow."

This precious time of being together as the Bishopric gave our Chaplains from across the services an opportunity to reflect on contemporary chaplaincy ministry, share best practice and strengthen relationships with one another. A meaningful few days in a place of deep historical significance which gave time for us to reflect, pray and to listen to the advice of St. Augustine. St. Augustine who still speaks to the disciples of today, who try to serve God's people. St. Augustine of Hippo, Pray for us.



St. Gerard Majella Relics Visit Catterick Garrison

Written by Fr. Kevin Dow



On Sunday 19th July 2026, St. Joan of Arc Garrison Memorial Church, Catterick Garrison, welcomed the relics of St. Gerard Majella as part of the celebrations marking the 300th anniversary of the saint's birth. St. Gerard, one of the Catholic Church's most beloved saints, is the patron of expectant mothers, families, and those longing for children. The visit offered a rare opportunity for the faithful to venerate his relics and reflect on the witness of a life marked by humility, compassion, and unwavering trust in God.

The nationwide tour of the dioceses of England and Wales has been organised by the Redemptorist Order. Fr. Royston Price, CSsR, accompanied the relics and led the devotions throughout the morning. Following a period of prayer, the Sacrament of Reconciliation was available before the celebration of Holy Mass. Afterwards, individual blessings were offered, with many people bringing their personal intentions and family concerns before this much-loved saint.

Throughout the visit, members of the Catholic Military Association (CMA) maintained an honour guard around the relics and also assisted during the liturgy by serving at the altar and proclaiming the readings. Their participation reflected the close relationship between the military Catholic community and St. Joan of Arc Garrison Memorial Church.



A Time of Prayer and Grace

The veneration of relics has long been part of the Church's spiritual tradition. Far from being objects of devotion in themselves, relics remind the faithful of the holiness to which every Christian is called. They encourage prayer, deepen faith, and direct hearts towards Christ, whose grace transforms ordinary lives into extraordinary witnesses of the Gospel.

For many who came to Catterick, the visit provided an opportunity to pray for loved ones, seek healing, ask for guidance, or simply spend time in quiet reflection before God. Others entrusted prayers for children, family life, and future parenthood to the intercession of St. Gerard, whose patronage has brought comfort and hope to countless people over the centuries.

The Church teaches that God often works through visible signs. Just as water, oil, bread, and wine become channels of God's grace in the sacramental life of the Church, relics remind us that holiness is lived out in real people and real places. They point beyond themselves to Christ and to the communion of saints who continue to inspire and intercede for the faithful.



St. Gerard Majella

St. Gerard Majella (1726-1755) was an Italian lay brother of the Redemptorist Congregation. Although he died at just twenty-nine years of age, his life left an enduring legacy of holiness. Renowned for his obedience, humility, charity, and deep life of prayer, he faithfully carried out the ordinary duties entrusted to him within his religious community.

He is best known as the patron saint of expectant mothers, mothers, families, and those hoping for the gift of children. However, his example continues to inspire all who seek to live faithfully in everyday life. His holiness was found not in extraordinary achievements but in quiet fidelity to God's will and loving service of others.

St. Gerard is also honoured under three traditional patronages: **Friend of Workers**, **Patron of Making a Good Confession**, and **The Mother's Saint**; titles that continue to reflect the breadth of his compassionate intercession and enduring appeal throughout the Church.



Our Lady of Victories' Icon

Mass at St. Wilfrid's Garrison Church, Strensall, York



Our Lady enthroned in Strensall

Written by Fr. David Smith

Saturday 27th June saw a happy and blessed celebration of two of Our Lady's lovely feasts: of Perpetual Succour and of Victories. To mark her arrival on the first instalment of her UK tour, the Catholic Military Association's Ukrainian Icon of Our Lady of Victories was enthroned in the Garrison Church of St. Wilfrid, York during a Solemn Pontifical Mass celebrated by Bishop Paul Mason. The Archbishop of Westminster, Bishop Richard Moth, sent a beautiful message of support. We were honoured with the presence of our friend, the Mitred Archpriest, Very Rev. Fr. Mykola Matwijiwskyj MBE, who regularly visits the Ukrainian trainee medics here at Strensall for confession and the Divine Liturgy. Fr. Mykola blessed the Icon at the end of Mass, accompanied by a hymn to the Mother of God in Ukrainian. Fr. Kevin Dow RChD was on hand with his extensive experience as a Diocesan Master of Ceremonies to keep us all in order!

In his homily, Bishop Paul spoke of icons in general and then in detail about Our Lady of Perpetual Succour (patroness of the Diocese of Middlesbrough) and Our Lady of Victories (patroness of the Catholic Military Association). Our Lady of Victories is depicted with her foot crushing the head of the serpent, as foretold in the story of the Fall (Genesis: Ch 3). In this way, she rejoices in her ancient title of the "New Eve" who, unlike the old Eve, was perfectly docile and obedient to God's will. Here is a lesson of trust in God and of Our Lady's help for all her children who struggle against the temptations of daily life.

Bishop Paul described how in the icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, the Archangel Gabriel is holding some of the instruments of Our Lord's Passion, in particular the nails that would fasten her

Son to the Cross. Our Holy Mother is looking at the Archangel, in full knowledge of where her journey would lead - as foretold by Simeon at Our Lord's Presentation in the Temple (St. Luke: Ch 2 vv.33-38). And yet she still remained determined to accept whatever God's holy will for her would bring. This is a wonderful antidote for any thoughts of Mary seen through the lens of weak sentimentality that we can sometimes get stuck on; Our Lady was as hard as nails in her faith! That's also a great message for us in the Armed Forces and if Mary is really as hard as nails, then, as Bishop Paul reminded us, the good news is that she's on our side!

Supported by Major James Rieder RAMS and other members of the Catholic Military Association, we were blessed to receive the Lord Mayor and the Sheriff of the great city of York at the Mass, as well as both civilian and military guests from far and wide. Father Daniel Seward Cong Orat of the York Oratory was in choir.

The Rudgate Singers of York (an *ad hoc* choir specialising in singing liturgical music at Mass) provided the music for the Mass with Palestrina, Victoria and Byrd items and two Ukrainian hymns to Our Lady. Our Lady's icon will remain in Strensall for a while in support of the Ukrainian INTERFLEX-MED students who next arrive in September and beyond.





Dear brothers and sisters,

On this occasion when the icon of Our Lady of Victories comes to the Garrison Church at Strensall, I take this opportunity to assure you of my prayers.

The work of Op INTERBOW is a significant element in the provision of medical care for those on the front line and I am conscious of the support being given by the Catholic Military Association to this important training.

I assure you all of my prayers on this day of celebrations.

With every Blessing,

+ Richard

✠ Archbishop Richard Moth
Archbishop of Westminster

The Royal Lancers (Queen Elizabeth's Own)

Exercise the Freedom of Richmond



On Saturday, 6th June 2026, **The Royal Lancers (Queen Elizabeth's Own)** formally exercised their newly granted Freedom of Richmond, North Yorkshire, in a proud and colourful ceremonial parade through the town. With bayonets fixed, colours flying and drums beating, soldiers marched from Nuns Close Car Park along Victoria Road and King Street, through Richmond's historic Market Place and onwards to Richmond Castle. The occasion was a wonderful celebration of the strong and enduring relationship between the Regiment, Catterick Garrison and the local community.



The parade culminated in a special Drumhead Service at Richmond Castle, conducted by Chaplain, Fr. Kevin Dow, providing a fitting opportunity for reflection, remembrance and thanksgiving. The Freedom of a town is a historic honour, granting military units the privilege of marching through its streets "with drums beating, colours flying and bayonets fixed" a tradition which represents the trust, respect and close bond between the Armed Forces and the communities they serve. The occasion in Richmond was a particularly significant moment for the Royal Lancers and was warmly supported by residents, veterans, military families and visitors, all coming together to witness and celebrate this important chapter in the Regiment's history.



St. Edward the Confessor Church Pirbright



Sunday, 26th July, saw Fr. Pip Smith confer the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation for 2 Army recruits at St. Edward's church.



Alfie Young and Alex Whittaker received the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. Please hold them in your prayers as they continue their journey of faith.

The 66th International Military Pilgrimage - Lourdes 2026



Continuing Reflections from the International Military Pilgrimage

Following the UK Contingent's participation in this year's International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes, we are pleased to share a further personal reflection from one of our military pilgrims. The IMP is an experience that continues to resonate long after the journey home, with each participant bringing their own perspective of faith, fellowship, service, and the unique sense of comradeship experienced in Lourdes. In this issue, we hear from one of our soldiers as they reflect on their own experience of this year's pilgrimage.

An experience at the International Military Pilgrimage (IMP), Lourdes

Written by Cpl Andrew Wallace, 104 MWD Sqn

This year, I had the privilege of attending the International Military Pilgrimage (IMP) in Lourdes, France. I was fortunate to be one of five service personnel attending from 1st Military Dog Working Regiment. The experience profoundly impacted both my personal faith and my understanding of military service worldwide.



Lourdes is a remarkably beautiful town nestled at the foot of the Pyrenees in southwestern France. Surrounded by green hills and mountain scenery, it combines natural charm with a peaceful, spiritual atmosphere. The town's elegant streets, riverside walks, historic architecture, and the famous Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes attract visitors from around the world. Whether admired for its stunning landscapes, serene environment, or rich cultural heritage, Lourdes offers a unique beauty that leaves a lasting impression on all who visit.

A common misconception is that the pilgrimage is exclusively for Catholics. While Lourdes is a significant Catholic pilgrimage site, the IMP welcomes people of all faiths and backgrounds. One of the pilgrimage's highlights was meeting service personnel from numerous nations. It was fascinating to exchange stories, learn about diverse military traditions, and hear unique experiences. Despite differences in language, culture, and uniform, a shared sense of service, commitment, and camaraderie united us all. The event offers a space for reflection, fellowship, and mutual understanding, regardless of religious belief. Witnessing individuals from different faith traditions come together in respect and friendship was truly inspiring.

For me, this pilgrimage came at a particularly significant time. As a practicing Catholic, I had been wrestling with an important question: *"Why do I still believe?"* What followed felt like divine intervention. Less than 24 hours after asking that question, I was guided to a fellow service member in need of support and encouragement. Through that encounter, I felt God's answer, not in words, but through action and service to another. This experience reminded me that faith often reveals itself through our willingness to help others. Sometimes, the answers we seek come not as direct responses but through the opportunities we have to make a difference in someone's life.



The International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes was far more than a journey to a religious site. It was an opportunity to forge international friendships, strengthen bonds between armed forces, reflect on personal beliefs, and witness the power of service and compassion. I returned home with a renewed appreciation for the global military community and a deeper understanding of my own faith journey. It is an experience I will always cherish and one I encourage others to consider—regardless of their faith background.

Shepherds in Uniform

SUEZ PADRE
Fr. Michael Casey CF
16th Independent Parachute Brigade
Egypt 1956

Written by Dr. James Hagerty

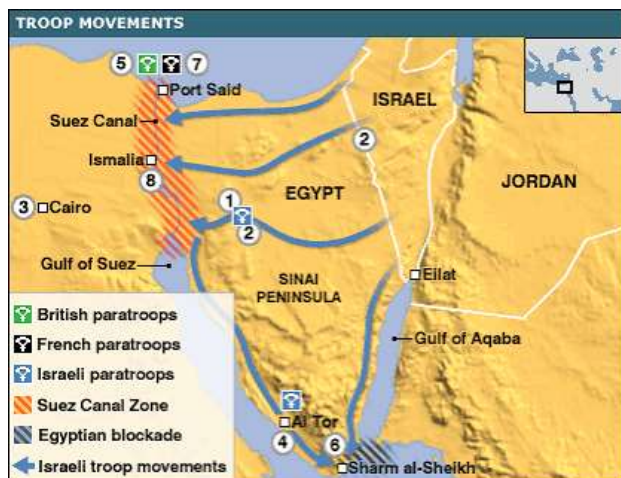
2026 marks the 70th anniversary of the Suez crisis an event, which shook the British political establishment, led to the resignation of Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden, and lowered Britain's standing in the world. The Suez crisis was the result of failed diplomatic manoeuvres and the subsequent military invasion of Egypt by British, French, and Israeli forces. The British and French objective was to regain control of the Suez Canal after its nationalisation by Egypt's Colonel Nasser, while Israel wished to strengthen its boundaries and gain freedom of movement through the streets of Tiran and the Gulf of Aqaba. The invasion was condemned by the United Nations aroused the ire of the United States and strengthened Soviet Russia's relations with Egypt. Such was the divisive nature of the invasion that some British Army chaplains resigned their commissions in protest.

The British assault codenamed 'Operation Musketeer' began on 31st of October 1956. The Tri-service contingent of 45,000 men included three battalions of 16th independent Parachute Brigade. 3 PARA were to be dropped in the canal zone while 1 PARA and 2 PARA were to be part of the amphibious invasion.

The number of Catholic chaplains was well below World War 2 levels, but their number and worldwide deployment was still substantial. In 1955 there were 24 commissioned Chaplains plus 32 on short service commissions and 10 with East African, West African and Mauritian troops. Since 1945 there had been Catholic Padres with Middle East Land Forces in Libya, Egypt and the Canal Zone.

One Catholic Padre who ministered throughout the Suez crisis was Fr. Michael Casey of Cloonacool, County Sligo. Born in 1914 and educated at Upholland college he was ordained for the Archdiocese of Liverpool on 3rd of June 1939. After a curacy in Ashton in Makerfield, he was commissioned in the Royal Army Chaplains Department on 27th of March 1945. His initial posting was to Colchester followed by deployment to MELF at Tel El Kabir near Cairo as Chaplain to 5 Ordnance Depot and a nearby Military Hospital. Fr. Casey ministered to REME personnel and also to German prisoners of war whose assistance he sought to build a small church for the Garrison. His congregation included army personnel, Basuto, Sudanese and Indian units, prisoners-of-war Polish refugees and locals.

In 1947 Fr. Casey was appointed Chaplain to 1 Irish Guards ("the Micks") at Nethanya in Palestine where British Forces attempted to keep Israelis and Arabs apart and in doing so became the target of both. The Padre ministered to Irish and Grenadier Guards in the Garrison and the more dangerous outposts until 1948 when he moved with the Irish Guards to Tripoli. In 1949 the battalion returned to England where the Padre completed parachute training at Aldershot before re-joining them at Llanelly Barracks near Dusseldorf. Fr. Casey was now part of BAOR - the British Army of Occupation on the Rhine - an outcome of Germany's defeat in World War 2 where he ministered to veterans and National Servicemen.



In September 1954 Fr. Casey transferred to 16th Independent Parachute Brigade and in January 1955 was posted to 3 PARA in Cyprus as part of counter-insurgency operations on the island against EOKA terrorists. After establishing a chapel in a large tent between 2 and 3 PARA and Fr. Casey ministered to them and other units through frequent terrorist activities. It was from Cyprus, on 5th of November 1956 that the three PARA battalions left the Suez. Fr. Casey had celebrated mass and was busy hearing confessions before the drop and the Padre, face blackened, went to confession heard by Fr. Willie McBride, an Army Chaplain of Lancaster Diocese. Rev. Horace McClellan, the Anglican Padre was to drop with 3 PARA whilst Rev. Brian Dougall, the Methodist Padre with 2 PARA, and Fr. Casey with an Advanced Dressing Station were to be part of the amphibious landing.

The landing zone for 3 PARA (who conducted the first and last battalion size operational parachute assault since World War 2) was the El Gamil airfield West of Port Said while 1 and 2 PARA landed by sea the next day. On landing they were mortared, shelled, strafed and sniped at and Padre Casey was with them wearing his red beret. One soldier wrote: "His presence on the ground tending the wounded on both sides was both moving and invaluable." The Padre worked with the medics as they evacuated the wounded by helicopter to Royal Navy ships offshore or flown to Cyprus. He was called upon to bury the dead, sometimes in communal graves and care for wounded soldiers and civilians in a dressing station at the Casino Palace Hotel, Port Said. There 1 PARA came across an ice cream van full of corpses. Fr. Casey called for volunteers for a burial party, but he received none. He then ordered: "All Roman Catholics take one pace forward. You are the burial party." And they were! When British forces withdrew on the 22 December 1956 their casualties were 22 killed and 96 wounded. 3 PARA's casualties were 4 killed and 32 wounded.

Fr. Casey's final deployments were to Jordan and Cyprus before he passed to the Army Reserve 1958. He joined the St. Patrick's society of Kiltegan and served in Nigeria through, the Biafran war until 1974. He returned to the Archdiocese of Liverpool where he was made a Canon of the diocese and retired in 1996. Canon Casey died on 26 June 1999. Numerous personal testimonies paid tribute to Canon Casey's many inspirational qualities as a priest and Padre in peace and in war. Like other Chaplains he was the Church's presence for those involved at another seminal point in history.

A medal was not issued at the time for Suez but after pressure from Veterans' groups a clasp 'Canal Zone' was issued in 2003 to be worn with the General Service Medal 1918 - 1962. The General Service Medal was issued for campaigns that fell short of full-scale war such as Palestine, Malaya and Cyprus.



For Canon Casey's biography see M. Whittle, *He Walked Tall: The Story of Canon Michael Casey*. The illustration is taken from Whittle's book. Thanks, are also due to David Blake, Curator, Museum of the Royal Army Chaplain's Department for information on Fr. Casey's Army career and to Fr. Tim Bywater on the Suez campaign award.

Understanding the Catholic Church: Its Signs, Symbols, Traditions, and Ministry

This new regular feature aims to deepen our understanding of the rich life and heritage of the Catholic Church. In each issue, we will explore different aspects of Catholic faith and practice, including the meaning of sacred objects such as the monstrance, the structure and hierarchy of the Church, the role of chaplaincy, vocations, liturgical traditions, and other topics that help shape Catholic life and worship.

The information presented in this series is drawn from a range of reliable Catholic sources, including resources published by Catholic Dailies and Ignatius Catholicum and is intended to support faith formation and understanding within our Army Catholic community.



WHAT ARE ACTUALLY VOCATIONS?

TYPES AND SPIRITUAL IMPORTANCE IN THE CHURCH



A vocation is a calling from God. It is not merely a career, preference, or personal ambition. It is **God's invitation to love, serve and be holy in a particular way of life.**
Every Christian shares the universal vocation to holiness, but the Church recognizes different states of life through which this call is lived.



REMEMBER:
Every vocation is different, but the goal is the same: **HOLINESS.**

THE MAIN TYPES OF VOCATIONS IN THE CHURCH

1

VOCATION OF MATRIMONY



- A sacred covenant and sacrament between a man and a woman.
- Spouses help each other grow toward holiness.
- They build the domestic church, raise children and witness God's love in daily family life.

 Marriage is a lifelong mission of love, faithfulness and service.

2

VOCATION TO HOLY ORDERS



- Includes Deacons, Priests and Bishops.
- They are ordained to preach, teach, sanctify and shepherd the People of God.
- This vocation is lived in service through the sacraments, the Word and pastoral care.

 It is a call to serve, not to be served.

3

VOCATION TO CONSECRATED RELIGIOUS LIFE



- Includes Religious Sisters, Brothers, Monks, Nuns and Religious Priests.
- They profess vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.
- Some live active apostolic lives in mission and service.
- Others live contemplative lives centered on prayer and intercession.

 They witness that God alone is sufficient.

4

VOCATION TO DEDICATED SINGLE LIFE



- Not everyone is called to marriage or religious life.
- Some are called to live as dedicated single persons.
- They may serve in ministry, care for family, or dedicate their lives to God and the Church in many beautiful ways.

 This vocation is hidden but deeply fruitful.

ALL VOCATIONS ARE SACRED AND NECESSARY.

God calls each person uniquely. Whether married, ordained, consecrated or single, each vocation is a path to holiness and a response to His love.

THE CHURCH NEEDS:

- ✓ holy priests
- ✓ holy religious
- ✓ holy families
- ✓ faithful disciples in every state of life

MANY PATHS. ONE CHURCH. ONE MISSION: TO GLORIFY GOD.



CATHOLIC TITLES EXPLAINED

Diocesan, Religious, Priestly & Consecrated Life

Different titles. Different vocations. One Church. One Mission.

1. DIOCESAN PATH – From Seminarian to Pope



i Deacons may be transitional (preparing for priesthood) or permanent (lifelong deacons). They do not celebrate Mass.

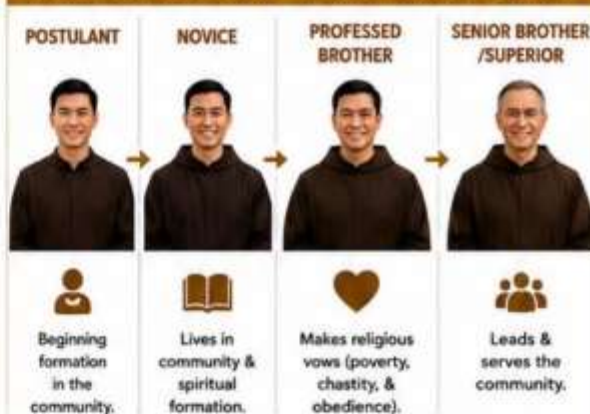
@CATHOLICDAILIES

2. RELIGIOUS (MEN) – From Postulant to Superior General



★ A religious priest can also become Bishop, Cardinal, and even Pope. Example: Pope Francis was a Jesuit (Religious Priest).

3. RELIGIOUS BROTHERS – From Postulant to Superior



👥 Brothers are consecrated religious men but not ordained. They serve through education, missions, administration, healthcare, manual work & many other ministries.

4. RELIGIOUS SISTERS (NUNS) – From Postulant to Mother General



★ Some contemplative communities use the title Abbess for their leader.

5. OTHER IMPORTANT TITLES

- CHAPLAIN** – Priest appointed to serve in a specific ministry (hospital, school, prison, military, etc.).
- VICAR** – Assists the pastor or bishop in parish/diocesan work.
- RECTOR** – Head of a seminary, school, or institution.
- ABBOT/ ABBESS** – Leader of a monastery (male/female).
- PROFESSED** – A religious who has made perpetual vows.
- TERTIARY / SECULAR MEMBER** – Lay people living the spirituality of a religious order in the world.



REMEMBER
Titles in the Church reflect vocation, responsibility, and service—not personal status.



In the Church, the greatest title is the one that serves the least.

– Matthew 23:11



Pray for all who serve in the Church. They carry the mission. Let us support them with our prayers.

Catholic Church Clergy Hierarchy

POPE (Bishop of Rome)	CARDINAL (Prince of the Church)	ARCHBISHOP (Metropolitan)	BISHOP (Diocesan Bishop)	MONSIGNOR (Honorary Title)	PARISH PRIEST (Pastor)	DEACON (Servant of the Church)
						
The Pope is the supreme leader of the Catholic Church and the Bishop of Rome.	Cardinals advise the Pope and elect a new Pope. They are the highest-ranking members after the Pope.	An Archbishop oversees an archdiocese, which may include several dioceses.	A Bishop governs a diocese and is responsible for its spiritual and pastoral care.	A Monsignor is a priest given this title for distinguished service to the Church.	A Parish Priest leads a local parish, administers the sacraments, and guides the faithful.	Deacons assist priests in liturgy, preaching, and charity. They are the lowest rank in the clergy.
MEANING OF CLOTHING: White symbolizes purity and holiness. The white zucchetto (skullcap) signifies his role as shepherd of the universal Church.	MEANING OF CLOTHING: Red symbolizes their readiness to shed their blood for Christ and the Church.	MEANING OF CLOTHING: Purple (violet) represents penance, leadership, and spiritual authority.	MEANING OF CLOTHING: Purple (violet) signifies their role in teaching, sanctifying, and governing the diocese.	MEANING OF CLOTHING: Black with purple trim indicates their priestly status and honorary position.	MEANING OF CLOTHING: Black symbolizes humility, simplicity, and dedication to God.	MEANING OF CLOTHING: The dalmatic (or stole) symbolizes service, charity, and humility in assisting the Church.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A DEACON AND A SEMINARIAN

Both deacons and seminarians are important in the life of the Church.
The difference is in their vocation, role, and stage of formation.

DEACON

WHO HE IS
A deacon is an ordained minister who has received the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

VOCATION
He is called and ordained to serve the Church and the people in a permanent or transitional diaconate.

ROLE AND MISSION
He serves in Word, Liturgy, and Charity.
• Proclaims the Gospel
• Assists at the altar
• Distributes Holy Communion
• Leads prayers, baptisms, weddings, and funerals
• Serves the poor and those in need

FORMATION
He has completed his formation for the diaconate and has been ordained.

STATE IN THE CHURCH
He is a cleric and has sacramental authority to carry out his ministry.

SEMINARIAN

WHO HE IS
A seminarian is a man who is in formation and preparing to become a priest.

VOCATION
He is discerning and preparing for the priesthood through prayer, study, and formation.

ROLE AND MISSION
He is a learner and discerner.
• Grows in human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral formation
• Studies theology and Church teaching
• Participates in community life, prayer, and apostolic activities

FORMATION
He is currently in seminary formation for the priesthood.

STATE IN THE CHURCH
He is not yet ordained. He is a candidate for Holy Orders.

VS



IN SUMMARY:

A deacon is already ordained and serves the Church. A seminarian is still in formation and preparing to become a priest. One has been sent to serve; the other is being formed to be sent.



BOTH ARE CALLED BY GOD TO SERVE THE CHURCH AND LEAD OTHERS TO CHRIST.



THE GREAT AMEN
FAITH. HOPE. LOVE. AMEN.

IGNATIUS CATHOLICUM

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A BISHOP AND A CARDINAL

WHO HE IS
A bishop is the head of a particular diocese. He is a successor of the Apostles.

JURISDICTION
He has authority, care, and leadership over one diocese.

ROLE AND MISSION
He teaches, sanctifies, and governs the faithful in his diocese.

TITLE
He is addressed as "Bishop" or "Your Lordship" (My Lord).

DISTINCTIVE SIGN
He wears a pectoral cross, a mitre, and carries a crozier as signs of his office.

WHO HE IS
A cardinal is a bishop who has been elevated by the Pope to a higher rank of service.

JURISDICTION
He may lead a diocese or serve in the Roman Curia assisting the Pope in governing the Church.

ROLE AND MISSION
He has the same role as a bishop, with additional responsibility in helping the Pope in the universal Church.

TITLE
He is addressed as "Eminence" or "Your Eminence" (His Eminence).

DISTINCTIVE SIGN
He wears red vestments, a red biretta (hat), and a pectoral cross as a sign of his rank.

IN SUMMARY:

- Every cardinal is a bishop, but not every bishop is a cardinal.
- Cardinals are chosen by the Pope to be his closest collaborators, especially in service to the Universal Church.
- Bishops focus on their dioceses; cardinals also assist the Pope in guiding the whole Church.

BOTH ARE CALLED TO SHEPHERD, SANCTIFY, AND SERVE THE PEOPLE OF GOD WITH FAITH AND LOVE.

ORDAINED MINISTERS VS INSTITUTED MINISTERS

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

ORDAINED MINISTERS



Receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders through the laying on of hands and the prayer of ordination. They are ordained for sacred ministry and belong to the clergy.

WHO THEY ARE (THREE DEGREES OF HOLY ORDERS)



DEACON

PRIEST

BISHOP

THEIR MINISTRY

- Receive Holy Orders and are configured for sacred ministry.
- Exercise sacramental ministry according to their order.
- Proclaim the Gospel, preach, teach, and shepherd God's people.
- Celebrate the Sacraments according to the Church's discipline.
- Serve the Church through apostolic succession and pastoral authority.

INSTITUTED MINISTERS



Are officially instituted or entrusted by the Church for a specific ministry of service. They are lay faithful serving in a specific role, not by ordination.

WHO THEY ARE (EXAMPLES)



LECTOR

ACOLYTE

CATECHIST

THEIR MINISTRY

- Lay faithful officially instituted or entrusted by the Church.
- Serve the Church through specific ministries, not through ordination.
- Assist in the liturgy, proclamation of the Word, and faith formation.
- Support the mission of the Church through service and dedication.
- Their ministry is important, respected, and essential to the life of the Church.

BOTH SERVE THE CHURCH

Different ministries, one mission:
TO BUILD UP THE BODY OF CHRIST AND LEAD SOULS TO HIM.



Instituted ministers are not ordained clergy. Only deacons, priests, and bishops receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

— 1 PETER 4:10

catholicdailies



THE ROLE OF LAY MINISTERS

Lay ministers are baptized members of the faithful who, though not ordained, are called to serve God and the Church in various ministries. They assist in the / the parish, and bear witness to Christ in everyday life.

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." — 1 Peter 4:10

ALL CAPS ASSISTING IN THE LITURGY

Help during Mass and liturgical celebrations as lectors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, altar servers, choir members, ushers, and greeters.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

Read Sacred Scripture and spread the Gospel through catechesis, teaching, and evangelization.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Assist in outreach, charity works, prayer groups, youth ministry, and parish activities that strengthen the faith of others.

QUALITIES OF A GOOD LAY MINISTER

- Faithful and prayerful
- Humble and willing to serve
- Responsible and trustworthy
- Respectful during worship
- Loving and compassionate toward others

Prayer for Lay Ministers

Lord Jesus, thank You for calling ordinary people to serve Your Church. Bless all lay ministers with wisdom, humility, faith, and joy in their service. May they always serve with love and become instruments of Your peace. Amen.

SUPPORTING THE PRIEST AND PARISH

Work together with clergy and leaders to help parish ministries run smoothly and spiritually.

BEING WITNESSES OF CHRIST IN DAILY LIFE

Live as examples of Christian faith in homes, schools, workplaces, and communities.

Ignatius Catholicum

DID YOU KNOW: MAIN ROLE OF THE CHURCH CHOIR

A Church Choir plays an important role in the liturgy by leading the congregation in sacred music, prayer, and worship. Through their voices and talents, choir members help create a prayerful atmosphere that inspires the faithful to participate more fully in the celebration of the Holy Mass and other Church services.

"Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth."
— Psalm 96:1

MAIN ROLES OF THE CHURCH CHOIR

- LEAD THE CONGREGATION IN SINGING**
The choir helps the faithful actively participate in the Mass by leading hymns, psalms, acclamations, and other liturgical songs.
- ENHANCE THE SACRED LITURGY**
Through vibrant and appropriate music, the choir helps make the celebration of the liturgy more prayerful, solemn, and meaningful.
- PROCLAIM THE WORD THROUGH MUSIC**
Sacred music is a form of prayer and evangelization that communicates God's message and strengthens faith.
- SUPPORT THE WORSHIP OF THE COMMUNITY**
The choir serves the entire congregation by encouraging unity in worship and praise of God.
- PREPARE AND PRACTICE LITURGICAL MUSIC**
Choir members dedicate time to rehearsals to ensure that music is performed prayerfully and appropriately for the liturgical season and celebration.
- SERVE AS MINISTERS OF MUSIC**
Choir members are not performers but ministers who use their gifts to glorify God and help others pray.

QUALITIES OF A GOOD CHOIR MEMBER

- Faithful in prayer and worship
- Humble and willing to serve
- Committed to rehearsals and preparation
- Respectful and cooperative with fellow members
- Dedicated to glorifying God through music

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord."
— Psalm 150:6

The Church Choir is a ministry of service, helping God's people lift their hearts and voices in praise, worship, and thanksgiving to the Lord.

SERVANTS OF GOD

WHO ARE THE EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS?

(Redemptionis Sacramentum):

Their History, Role and Liturgical Importance in the Catholic Church

1. WHO ARE THEY?

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are baptized members of the faithful who are designated by the Church to assist in the distribution of Holy Communion in specific circumstances.

They are not "vicars of the Eucharist." Only a validly ordained priest or bishop can consecrate the Eucharist.

2. ORDINARY MINISTERS

According to Canon 910 §1, the ordinary ministers of Holy Communion are the bishop, priest, and deacon.

They act in virtue of Holy Orders and are primarily entrusted with distributing Holy Communion.

They have the proper right and duty to distribute Communion in the Mass.

3. A BRIEF HISTORY

- Early Church: Communion was distributed by bishops, priests, and deacons.
- 5th Century: Pastoral needs led the Church to allow lay faithful to assist in distributing Communion in special circumstances.
- 1971 - Second Vatican Council: Instruction on the Holy See provided norms for the use of Extraordinary Ministers.
- 1988 - Code of Canon Law: Canon 910 §2 officially established this ministry in Church law.
- 2004 - Redemptionis Sacramentum: Affirmed the proper name, purpose, and limits of this ministry.

A BEAUTIFUL REMINDER

The Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion serves Christ and His Church in a real and meaningful way, not for recognition, but for the glory of God and the good of souls.



They assist when circumstances require help beyond what the ordinary ministers can provide, so that the faithful may receive Communion reverently, devoutly and in good order.

5. WHAT THEY DO NOT DO

- They do not consecrate the Eucharist.
- They do not consecrate Mass.
- They do not hear Confession.
- They do not preach the homily.
- They do not become priests or deacons.
- They are not "vicaripriests."

7. WHY THIS MINISTRY IS IMPORTANT

- It expresses the Church's care for the faithful so that all may receive the Body of Christ with reverence and devotion.
- It supports the sacred ministers in fulfilling their duty, especially in large communities or difficult situations.
- It strengthens the faithful's love for the Eucharist by involving them in a service of great dignity and responsibility.
- It remains faithful to the Church's teaching that the Eucharist is primarily the ministry of those in Holy Orders.

3. WHEN ARE THEY USED?

- When there are not enough priests or deacons to distribute Communion.
- When the priest or deacon is absent, sick, elderly or physically unable to distribute Communion.
- When the number of the faithful is very large and would make distribution excessively prolonged.
- If there are enough ordinary ministers, they should not be appointed or used. (RS 150)

4. WHAT DO THEY DO?

- Distribute Holy Communion during Mass when permitted.
- Bring Holy Communion to the sick, the elderly and those who cannot attend Mass.
- Help in the care and purification of sacred vessels and linens.
- Serve with reverence, faith, humility and love for the Eucharist and the Church.

5. WHO CAN BE APPOINTED?

- A devout Catholic, with strong faith, proper catechesis and love for the Eucharist.
- Approved, trained and deputed by the bishop, pastor or competent authority.
- Witnesses to a life of prayer, humility and service.
- Understands the dignity of the Eucharist and the rules for distributing it.

"Whatever you do, do it heartily, as for the Lord and not for men."
— Colossians 3:23

LET US ALWAYS RECEIVE THE EUCHARIST WITH GREAT FAITH, REVERENCE AND LOVE. The Eucharist is Jesus. Let us treasure Him.



SAVE A STORY OF FAITH & SERVICE

Help Restore a Rare Boer War Portrait

At the heart of this painting is a Roman Catholic Army chaplain who served with distinction during the Boer War, a quiet but powerful witness to faith, duty, and compassion amid conflict. Decorated for his service, he represents the often-unseen spiritual courage that sustained soldiers on the battlefield.

Time, however, has taken its toll.

Cracking across the surface, dulled pigments, and a weakening canvas now threaten to erase irreplaceable details; not only of the sitter's likeness, but of the story he carries. Without professional conservation, this extraordinary work risks being lost forever.

Why Restoration Matters

Your support will allow specialist conservators to:

- Stabilise the fragile canvas
- Repair surface cracking
- Revive the original depth, colour, and presence
- Preserve this historic tribute for future generations

This is more than a painting. It is a testament to service, sacrifice, and moral courage in wartime.

How You Can Help

Every contribution, large or small, brings this portrait closer to renewal. Donate today and be part of preserving history.

👉 **Donate via PayPal:**

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=R3AGWCJ3B286J

📱 *Or scan the QR code to contribute instantly*





1. Which Saint was captured by pirates?

- Saint Anthony of Padua
- Saint Francis of Assisi
- Saint Patrick
- Saint Brendan the Navigator

2. Why is Saint Anthony of Padua the patron saint of lost things?

- Because he was notorious for losing track of his homily notes before Mass.
- Because someone's lost psalter was found following his prayer.
- Because he found the Gilded Chalice after it had been missing for 100 years.
- Because he went after lost sheep and would not rest until they were returned to their flocks.

3. Who was the youngest person to be canonised as a saint?

- St. Jacinta de Marto
- St. Maria Goretti
- St. Stanislaus Kostka
- St. Dominic Savio

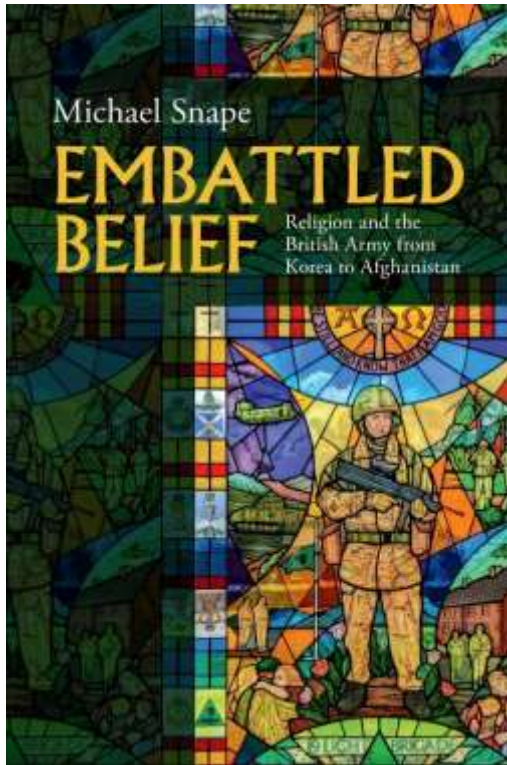
4. Which of the following is true about the ministry of St. Damien de Veuster?

- He was the founder of the first mendicant religious order.
- He founded the first orphanage in South America.
- He received the devotion of the scapular.
- He moved to the island of Molokai to care for the leper colony there.

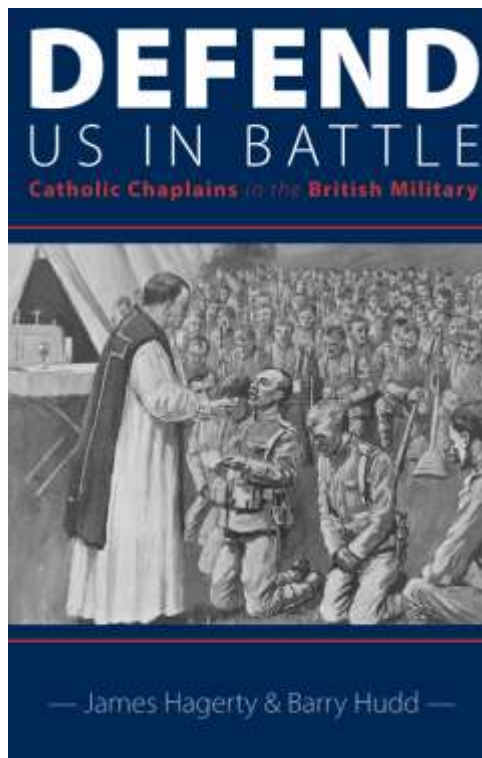
5. What is St. Ignatius of Antioch known for?

- Banishing the snakes from Antioch
- Serving as a "Knight for the Glory of God"
- Destroying the Arian heresy
- Coining the term "Catholic Church"

Literature of Interest



This landmark study of religion in the modern British Army, written by the museum's historical consultant, will be published next month. Drawing in part on the museum's archives, the book will be an indispensable guide for anyone interested in faith in the forces. https://assets.cambridge.org/97810096/09982/frontmatter/9781009609982_frontmatter.pdf



The Catholic Church has always had regard for the spiritual and pastoral welfare of those in the military and for centuries priests have ministered to armed forces personnel in war and in peace. The Old Testament records that priests accompanied those in battle and in the Christian era military chaplains have nobly carried forward this duty of service.

Historians have begun to examine in more detail the concept and conduct of military chaplaincy and *Defend Us In Battle* traces the growth and development of Catholic chaplaincy to British armed forces from the seventeenth to the twenty-first century.

Taking as its starting point the emergence of a recognized system of military chaplaincy established by the Society of Jesus in Reformation Europe, this wide-ranging survey considers the ministry of chaplains through succeeding centuries. It relates the struggles that Catholic soldiers and sailors endured with British officialdom before being granted their own chaplains.

Chaplains have served and continue to serve all branches of the British armed forces. The size and organization of the military and the nature of warfare has been transformed but the chaplain's vocation remains unchanged.

Defend Us In Battle describes the ministry of priests who over the centuries and across the world have voluntarily provided Catholic service personnel with the solace of religion far away from home and frequently in danger. There emerges a powerful narrative of priestly service not always known or recognized by those outside the military. <https://www.sacristy.co.uk/products/catholic-military-chaplains?pos=1&psq=Defend+us+in+Battle+&psid=ad341bee3&ss=e>



CATHOLIC MILITARY ASSOCIATION

The Catholic Military Association (CMA) is the official network for Defence Catholics. We support Catholics in the UK Armed Forces and have membership for serving personnel, veterans and other supporters. As a lay association of the faithful and registered charity (1205467) we cooperate to advance the faith across HM Forces. We work to inspire one-another in the Faith, growing through prayer and friendship. Find us at: catholicmilitaryassociation.org.uk and join for free to be included in our events and activities.

Vocations

Ready to Serve?

If you believe God may be calling you to this extraordinary form of ministry, we encourage you to contact the Vocations Director for the Bishopric for a conversation. Explore the possibility of serving both the Church and our armed forces with faith, courage, and compassion.

Vocations Director:

Fr Kevin Dow CF

email: Kevin.Dow101@mod.gov.uk

For further information on chaplaincy in the different services please see:

www.royalnavy.mod.uk/careers/roles/chaplain

www.jobs.army.mod.uk/roles/royal-army-chaplains-department/chaplain/

www.recruitment.raf.mod.uk/roles/roles-finder/chaplaincy/chaplain

The Bishopric of the Forces exists to provide for the spiritual, sacramental and pastoral well-being of Catholic servicemen and women, and their families, within the British Armed Forces. Unlike any other diocese, the Bishopric of the Forces has no geographical boundaries but encompasses anywhere in the world that United Kingdom military personnel are serving or deployed.

ANSWERING THE CALL: BECOME A CATHOLIC MILITARY CHAPLAIN



*Roman Catholic
Bishopric
Of The Forces*



O Lord Jesus Christ, instil in the hearts of priests and deacons the desire to dedicate their lives to you as chaplains to our Armed Services. Give them wisdom and strength, to hear your call. Give courage and compassion to those who serve you as Forces Chaplains. May their hearts be filled with zeal and love of you so that your name may be better known and loved, for you live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

Lay Chaplaincy at Waterways

Why Consider Waterways Chaplaincy as a Lay Chaplain?

Military life trains people to look out for others. Whether in barracks, on exercise or deployed, many of us recognise when someone is struggling, isolated or just needs a decent conversation. Waterways chaplaincy is a simple, practical way of using those instincts beyond work, without needing to be an expert or have all the answers.

Waterways lay chaplains spend time alongside people who live and work on canals and rivers boat owners, marina staff and volunteers. The role is mostly about being present: listening, checking in, and offering support when life feels heavy. There is no script and no pressure to "fix" anything. For anyone who has worked in welfare, leadership or supported others in the Military, this will feel familiar.

There are real benefits. It's a chance to develop listening and people skills in a very different setting, build trust with individuals who may not engage with formal services, and gain experience working with people from all backgrounds. It can also be a healthy contrast to the pace and structure of military life, while still feeling purposeful.

That said, it is not for everyone. The work is quiet and often unseen. There is no rank, no quick wins and no clear end state. The time commitment is a minimum of 3-4 hours a week, which needs to be managed sensibly alongside service commitments and approval from your Chain of Command.

Lay chaplains also need a strong sense of their own faith, as the role involves supporting others spiritually while respecting a wide range of beliefs. Comfort with working independently and knowing when to signpost is essential.

For serving personnel who value people, conversations and quiet impact and who are grounded in their faith, Waterways chaplaincy can be a rewarding way to give something back while still fully serving. It is not about preaching; it is about being human, consistent and trustworthy.

Full training provided.

Interested in finding out more? Get in touch with Corinna at corinnawwc@merciamarina.com.



SPIRITUAL DIRECTION?

 Got Questions

Are you feeling stuck or not sure what to do next?

Spiritual direction is a special time where you can talk to someone about your thoughts, feelings, and faith. It's a bit like having a guide who helps you listen to God and notice how God is working in your life.

The person you talk to is called a *spiritual director*.

You can talk about anything, things that make you happy or sad, things that confuse you, or big questions about life and faith.

Please contact Karen - ArmyRCPAA21@gmail.com for more details if this is something you would like to explore.

67th International Military Pilgrimage Lourdes 2027



The UK Contingent will depart for the International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes on Thursday 20th May 2027, returning Monday 24th May 2027.

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

**You are invited to
take part in a
Walking Pilgrimage
to Assisi**

**10 - 17
October
2026**



Join with the Rt Rev Paul Mason, Roman Catholic Bishop of the Forces, and personnel from the Whole Force, to commemorate the 800th Anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi. We will walk 105 km of the Via di Francesco or Way of St Francis. Starting at the Umbrian town of Terni and finishing at the Shrine of St Francis in Assisi.

To express your interest to take part
and for further information contact:
jeremy.wynne109@mod.gov.uk



From: The Reverend (Wing Commander) David E Skillen MA QTS BA (Hons) RAF



Principal Roman Catholic
Chaplain (RAF)

The Chaplaincy Centre
RAF Cosford
Wolverhampton
WV7 3EX

Email: david.skillen100@mod.gov.uk

19 Mar 26

BISHOPRIC OF THE ARMED FORCES WALKING PILGRIMAGE TO ASSISI – 10 TO 17 OCT 26

2026 marks the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi. Pope Leo has proclaimed a Franciscan Jubilee Year for 2026. This holy year invites the faithful to pilgrimage, particularly to Franciscan sites, offering special grace on the pilgrim, and focusing on peace, the ecology, and Franciscan spirituality.

To mark this Franciscan Jubilee Year, and to respond to the call of Pope Leo for pilgrimage, the Bishopric of the Forces is organising a walking pilgrimage along the Via di Francesco or Way of St Francis. We will start in the Umbrian town of Terni and walk 105km over 6 days through beautiful Umbrian Countryside finishing at the shrine of St Francis in Assisi. The paths we walk, and the villages we walk through, will have been familiar to St Francis. Daily walking distance will range from 8.2 to 24km. Our final day will be at leisure in Assisi.

Accommodation will be provided on a shared room, bed and breakfast basis in the Casa Nazareno Religious House in Spoleto. A packed lunch will be provided on each walking day. Casa Nazareno is run by the nuns of the Holy Family of Nazareth. The accommodation is ~~en~~ suite but simple, fitting for a pilgrimage of this type. The website of Casa Nazareno is www.casanazareno.it/en/welcome-cas-nazareno/

We will fly from London Stansted with Ryan Air to Perugia on Sat 10 Oct at 0600. We will return from Perugia to London Stansted on Sat 17 Oct at 0945. We will be transported to our accommodation and to the start of each day's walk by minivan, which will return us to our accommodation each evening. The evening meal on the first and last night will be taken as a group. On the other evenings, meals are on a self-help basis. We are limited to 16 pilgrims and we would like a mix of RN, Army, RAF and MOD civil servants.

Bishop Paul Mason, Bishop of the Armed Forces, will lead the pilgrimage as he did on our similar successful pilgrimages to Santiago de Compostela in 2022, to Lisbon in 2023, and to Walsingham in 2024. There will be the opportunity for daily Mass and other devotions offered for peace in the world.

It is envisaged that you will need to take annual leave to take part in the pilgrimage, that you will need to arrange your own transport to and from the airhead, and arrange your own travel insurance. It is not envisaged that you will be able to make a claim against the public purse for T&S. That said, an Admin Order and JIs will be produced. Individuals are at liberty to approach their own chain of command and budget holder to discuss leave and funding options.

The overall cost of the pilgrimage per person is in the region of £800 to include flights, daily transfers, bed and breakfast accommodation on a shared basis, daily packed lunch on the walking days, Pilgrim Credential, and pilgrim T-shirt. The Service Roman Catholic Trusts have agreed to generously subsidise Whole Force personnel such that a personal contribution of £300 per pilgrim to take part is being sought.

For further information, or to register your interest to take part, please contact Jeremy.wynne109@mod.gov.uk. Deadline for expressions of interest is cop 19 Apr.

Yours sincerely

Reverend Dave Skillen





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 everyone.

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.

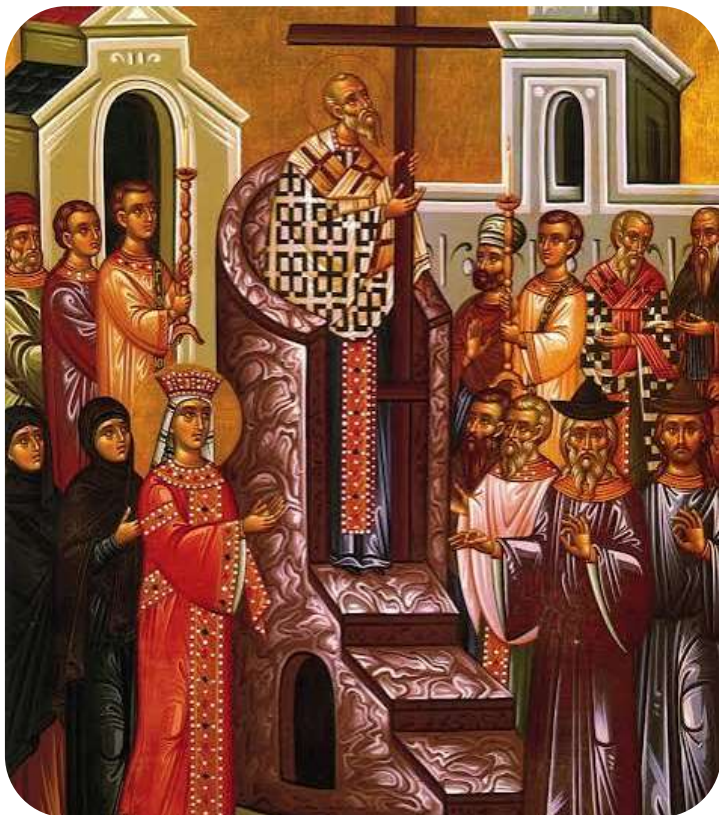
- ❖ It offers:
- ❖ Strong Catholic prayers, all downloaded so they can be accessed easily whilst on ship/ops/ex etc.
- ❖ Answers to 200+ questions about faith and the military.
- ❖ Prayers specifically for the military.
- ❖ Testimonies from serving Catholics.
- ❖ Inspiring military Saints and quotes.
- ❖ 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 September

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8th September (Feast)

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

13th September

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

14th September (Feast)

Our Lady of Sorrows

15th September (Memorial)

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

20th September

St. Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist

21st September (Feast)

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

27th September

Ss Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels

29th September (Feast)

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