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"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else" C.S. Lewis



ARMY

Army Roman Catholic Newsletter



Current topic >>>



Welcome

From

The Revd Fr Paschal J Hanrahan CF
Principal Roman Catholic Chaplain (Army)

This month's newsletter has the theme of Faith. Faith is a gift from God which enables us to know and love him through our relationship with him. I do hope you enjoy and find our articles useful. Please feel free to send any comments or feedback to us.

Faith

What is the real meaning of faith and why is it so important to us as Catholics? Faith means belief, assurance, faithfulness, trust, devotion and conviction. It is the confidence in what we hope for and the assurance that the Lord is working, even though sometimes we may not think we can physically see it. For all of us, no matter what the situation, God is there for us. It is the energy that fuels our Christian life. Last month we talked about connections and relationship, faith is that personal individual relationship with God but, it is also communal. When we come together at Mass we profess our faith together. Our personal faith brings us into a relationship with God's people and the faith of the entire people strengthens us in our relationship with God. Faith ensures that we persist in our connection with God.

Having faith is having trust. Trust is the faith we have in someone and having the confidence that they will always remain loyal and loving, and knowing that you can totally rely on them. Trust is the fundamental foundation to any relationship. There are three central strengths that make up trust: honesty, openness and transparency. In our relationship with God, honesty requires us to be true to ourselves and with him. Openness requires us to share our vulnerabilities with him, those things that we find difficult to talk about and transparency requires us to be in tune with our emotions and understand our feelings so that we can adjust our behaviour. This can help us to have a healthier bond. Following and observing these elements can lead to a deeper and more fulfilling relationship with God.

In you,
LORD MY GOD,
I put my
TRUST.

Psalms 25:1

Faith can help us in our daily lives in many ways. It inspires us with positivity and hopefulness that things will turn out ok and sometimes when they do not go the way we had hoped, faith supports us in the acceptance of that and in things we have no control over. Faith unites us with others, establishing a sense of community and belonging and enabling us to be supportive to and of each other. Faith infuses humanity, offering a moral and ethical compass which we can use for our life's journey. It gives us the strength to "Keep calm and carry on".



God, our Father, you conquer the darkness of ignorance by the light of your word. Strengthen within our hearts the faith you have given us; let not temptation ever quench the fire that your love has kindled within us. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Chaplain's Spotlight



Father PJ,

Q: What were your favourite subjects at school?

A: My favourite subject in school at all levels had to be history, especially in relation to the two World Wars

Q: How do you keep yourself fit?

A: Keeping fit is very important to me and I do this by getting out and running around the Tidworth area or on base. But, I also head to the gym and take advantage of the machines in the Super Gym that Tidworth has to offer.

Q: Give 3 words that would describe you.

A: There are many words that can describe me, some may not be printable! But, 3 that come to mind are: STUBBORN, FAITHFUL and PASTORAL.

Q: What is your favourite quote or words of wisdom?

A: 1: "Whoever comes in the front door, always treat them with HUMANITY and RESPECT. They are putting a roof over your head" From my mother Margaret, about the customers who used to come into our bars back in Ireland.

2: "I do the praying, they do the soldiering and we look after each other inbetween". This is in regard to my Padre Ministry with the soldiers I deal with on a day to day basis.

*Roman Catholic Bishopric of the Forces
Tri-Service CPD (Continuing Professional Development) Conference
5th - 8th July 2021*



On Monday 5th July, Bishop Paul gathered his RC Chaplains and Bishopric staff together for a Tri-Service CPD conference which, was held at St John's Seminary, Wonersh. The CPD's aim was to promote cohesion and unity in the delivery of Sacred Ministry. In recognizing the constantly evolving challenges within the Military and its faith community, the conference focused on both the practical and theological issues in meeting the needs of their congregation. Those gathered, participated in a full programme of topics such as, planning and policy, well-being, transition and single service (RN, Army & RAF) matters, as well as reflection and recollection. The day of Recollection was

lead by Fr. John Hemer, an experienced missionary priest and full-time lecturer at Allen Hall Seminary. Fr. John inspiringly addressed the subjects of St. Peter's faith and Conversion, St Paul's conversion, turning away from a persecuting God and conversion being the transformation of the whole person. During one evening, the Benedictine Community welcomed the CPD cohort to Vespers at St Augustine's Abbey in Chilworth. Following the conclusion of the conference, the group and guests attended the Mass of Investiture as Knight of the Pontifical Order of St Gregory the Great for Commander (Retd) Ian Crabtree RN. Ian received this award of appreciation for his notable work as PAA to PRCC(RN). Our heartfelt congratulations go to Ian and his family. Our sincere thanks go to Fr. Gerry Ewing (Rector of Wonersh Seminary), the Seminarians and staff who so wonderfully hosted us during our stay.



Cdr(Retd) Ian Crabree RN,
Right Reverend Paul Mason



PRCC(RN) Rev David Conroy, Mrs Janet Crabtree
Cdr(Retd) Ian Crabree RN, Right Reverend Paul Mason



Right Reverend Paul Mason

PQO Course – Army RC Chaplains May – Jul '21



Fr. John Moriarty



Dcn John Power



Fr. Kevin Dow

The Passing out Parade for Commissioning Short Course 212 took place at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) on Saturday 17th July 2021 and our newest 3 chaplains, Fr. John Moriarty, Dcn. John Power and Fr. Kevin Dow commissioned and completed their training. The course lasted for 8 weeks and saw a total of 89 Officers commissioned, 16 of whom were PQOs; 6 Chaplains, 1 Plastic Surgeon, 1 Doctor, 3 Nurses, 1 Pharmacist and 4 Lawyers. The other officers who were all commissioned as 2Lt and came from UOTCs and Reserve Regiments. There were also 5 international cadets; 2 from Bermuda, 2 from Cayman Islands and 1 from Bosnia & Herzegovina. Fr John Moriarty was 1 of 3 chaplains in 38 platoon and Dcn. John Power and Fr. Kevin Dow were 2 of 3 chaplains in 37 platoon. The course was arduous in training individuals to be "future platoon commanders", with instruction in the field and classroom based lectures. Matt tests (training standards in basic military skills) were carried out, including Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear training. The rite of passage of completing the casevac and wishstream was done at the end of the final exercise. Sadly due to covid restrictions there was no post lunch or ball. Guests were not allowed to attend the commissioning ceremony in the chapel either. However, there was a Company Mess Dinner during the previous week. Many thanks to Fr. Kevin who provided the facts and figures for this article and many congratulations and prayers go with our 3 new chaplains for their future ministry.



'Around Our Churches'

It has been a very busy time at The Cathedral Church of St. Michael and St. George in Aldershot.



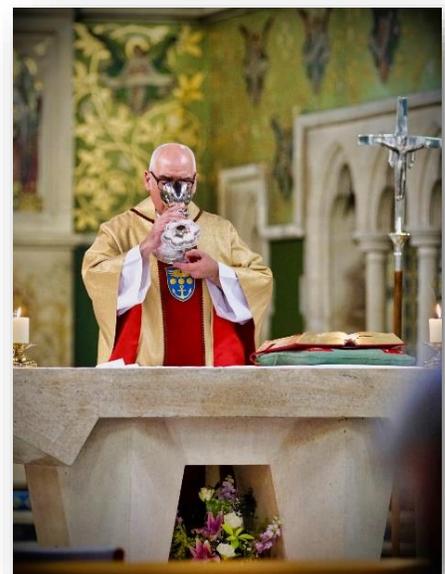
The weekend of the 17th & 18th July saw 13 children make their First Holy Communion.



On Sunday 18th July, Fr. Nick and his wife, Alison, celebrated 40 years of marriage. Our sincere congratulations and prayers are offered to them both.

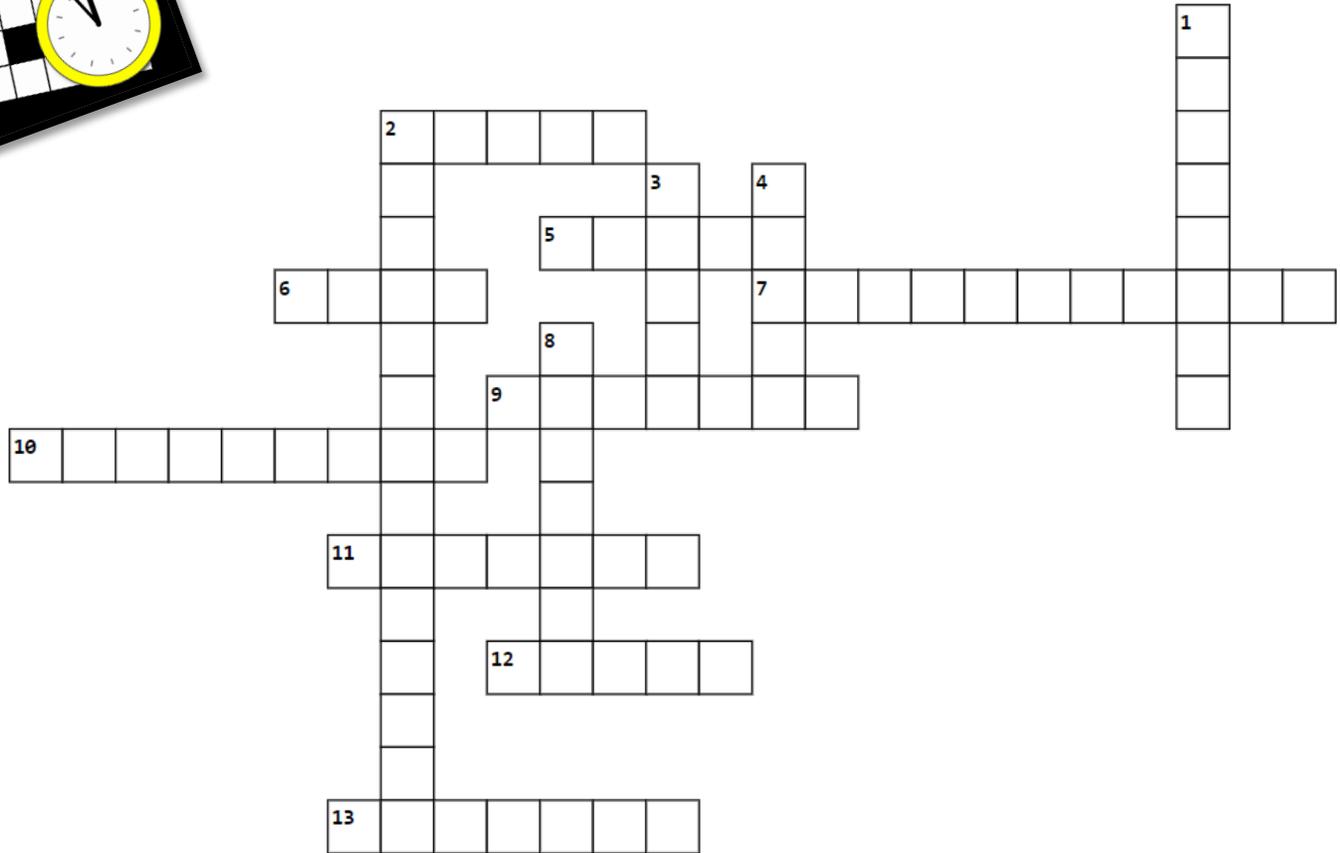
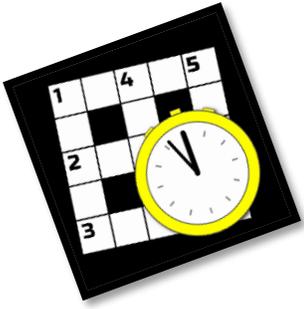


On Wednesday 21st July, Mass was celebrated for the Feast of Dedication of the Bishopric.



Crossword Number 1

How well do you know your bible?



Across

2. Which disciple betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver? (5)
5. What type of tree is Gethsemane famous for? (5)
6. What plant did Jesus say he was? (4)
7. How many old testament books bear the names of men? (6, 5)
9. In Luke 13, what type of seed did a man plant in his garden? (7)
10. What sort of angel is Michael? (9)
11. What is the name of the angel in Daniel 8? (7)
12. Who said "I am the good shepherd"? (5)
13. Who was the first Christian Martyr? (7)

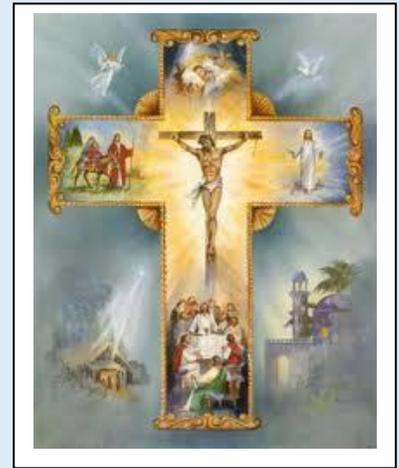
Down

1. If you have faith, what type of tree can you tell to be uprooted and planted in the sea? (8)
2. Who was the only person to call Jesus "the Lamb of God"? (4, 3, 7)
3. In the account of creation, what does God call the darkness? (5)
4. Who did the risen Jesus tell to feed his lambs? (5)
8. According to Amos 5, what should "roll on like a river"? (7)

Bishopric of The Forces Retreats 2021

Are you in need of stillness and sanctuary? Scripture gives us many examples of our Lord Jesus withdrawing from noise and bustle to pray and to gain respite (Mark 3:7, Luke 5:16). Subject to Government restrictions, there is the opportunity to find that same peace at one of the Bishopric of the Forces Retreats planned for 2021:

Worth Abbey, Sussex 4 - 7 Oct 21 Ampleforth Abbey, North Yorkshire 29 Nov- 2 Dec 21 DIN Reference 2020DIN01-124 gives more details. In the meantime, to express an interest or to receive an application form, contact Caroline.Routledge475@mod.gov.uk or rafprccpastoralassistant457@outlook.com



Key Dates in August & September

The Transfiguration of the Lord – 6th August
The Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary –
15th August
St Bartholomew – 24th August
The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary – 8th
September
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross – 14th September
St Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist – 21st September
Ss Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels –
29th September



An excellent website with weekly reflections on all the upcoming Sunday readings can be found at: <https://www.tarsus.ie/>



CATHOLIC MILITARY ASSOCIATION the official network for Defence Catholics

We exist to support Catholics in the UK Armed Forces.

We are a lay association of the faithful whose members cooperate to support Catholicism in the UK Armed Forces. We strive to inspire one-another in the Faith, to grow through prayer and the sacraments, and to offer up our sufferings, persevering together in the universal call to holiness.

We are the official Defence Catholic Association, formally approved by the Right Reverend Paul Mason, Bishop of the Forces. We are a member of the Defence Christian Network.

We are serving personnel, helping others.

Find us at: <https://www.catholicmilitaryassociation.org.uk/>

Information.....

If you wish to know more about Roman Catholic matters within the Army Faith Community, please contact: **Mrs Karen Horn** MBE Pastoral Administrative Assistant (PAA) to PRCC(A) at: ArmyRCPAA21@gmail.com