

# RAF ROMAN CATHOLIC

## LENT 2022 | UPDATE

*Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity let us do good to all (Gal 6: 9-10)*



**Welcome to the Lent 2022 update for the RAF Roman Catholic Community. I hope that you find the newsletter informative and that you will be able to join with one of the many events planned this year.**

Just as we were moving through the pandemic with some hope we have all been affected by the terrible events in Ukraine. Our immediate thoughts and prayers are with all those that are affected by this catastrophic course of action. Many of us will have concerns for ourselves and for family members at this time. This Lent, may we remember those in Ukraine, but also members of the RAF on deployment or about to deploy; let these thoughts for others inform our approach to the whole Lenten period.

**Rev (Sqn Ldr) Deacon Dave Skillen,**  
**RAF Principal Roman Catholic Chaplain (PRCC)**

### Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal



At least 3 million people have fled their homes to escape the war in Ukraine. Your donations to the CAFOD Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal will reach families who are in urgent need of help.

**[DONATE HERE](#)**

## Masses & Events 2022

### Annual Mass for the RAF

**1100, Sunday 3 April at the RC Cathedral of St Michael & St George, Aldershot**

The Annual Masses for the RAF provide an opportunity for those from the whole RAF RC family to gather to worship and share the Eucharist in the presence of Bishop Paul Mason, the RC Bishop of the Forces, and the RAF PRCC, alongside his Chaplains and the faithful. All are invited to attend, in no. 1 uniform should you wish. The Mass will be live-streamed with details [here](#).

### Chrism Mass

**1200, Tue 5 April at the RC Cathedral of St Michael & St George, Aldershot**

The annual Chrism Mass brings together the Bishop, priests, deacons and lay people of the Armed Forces to celebrate the blessing of the oils of catechumens, chrism, and the sick. All the faithful of the Armed Forces are invited to attend. For those unable to attend, the Mass will be live-streamed with details [here](#).

### Annual Mass for the RAF

**1400, Thu 20 Oct at the Central Church of the RAF, St Clement Danes, London**

Further details to follow.





### **International Military Pilgrimage (IMP) to Lourdes – 12 to 16 May 2022**

After an enforced break of 2 years, it is with great joy that the 62nd IMP to Lourdes will take place this year with a theme of *Pacem Meam do Vobis* – My peace I give unto you.

The IMP started in 1958 when the French Armed Forces invited the German military to join them in Lourdes as a gesture of post-war reconciliation. The British contingent will, once again, travel with Tangey Tours. For more information, and to make an on-line booking to attend, please visit [here](#).

### **Community of the Cross of Nails**

The RAF Chaplaincy is a member of the Community of the Cross of Nails, a worldwide network of over 200 churches, charities, and peace-building centres inspired by the Coventry story of destruction, rebuilding and renewal. A Service of Reconciliation, expressing the RAF's partnership with the Community of the Cross of Nails, will take place at St Clements Danes, the Central Church of the RAF, on Sunday 26 June at 1100. This is a non-ticketed event and all are welcome.

### **Bishopric of the Forces Retreats 2022**

The Church has a long history of inviting the faithful to spend periods of time in stillness and quietness on retreat. The retreats offered by the Bishopric of the Forces have been run successfully over many years. This year 3 opportunities are offered:

- **Douai Abbey, Berkshire 7 to 10 June**
- **Worth Abbey, West Sussex 3 to 6 Oct**
- **Ampleforth Abbey, Nth Yorks 14 to 17 Nov**

DIN Reference 2022DIN01-013 provides more information and includes the application form, should you wish to attend. Alternatively, contact the Pastoral Administrative Assistant to the RAF PRCC, Wg Cdr (Rtd) Jem Wynne at [rafprccpastoralassistant457@outlook.com](mailto:rafprccpastoralassistant457@outlook.com) to register your interest.



### **Bishopric of the Forces Camino Pilgrimage 2022**

There is an exciting opportunity for 30 pilgrims from across the Whole Force, to accompany Bishop Paul Mason on a walking pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, Northern Spain, from 15 to 22 Sep. Walking distances up to 15 miles daily, the pilgrims will be following in the footsteps of thousands of others on this historical and spiritual route. A personal contribution of £300 will be required which will cover flights, transfers in Spain, and half-board hotel accommodation. Only a few places remain. For more information, or to secure a place, contact Padre Neil Galloway, [neil.galloway101@mod.gov.uk](mailto:neil.galloway101@mod.gov.uk) or Jem Wynne, [rafprccpastoralassistant457@outlook.com](mailto:rafprccpastoralassistant457@outlook.com)



### **The RAF Catholic Church is here for you...**

If you would like to enquire about becoming Catholic, or Baptism, First Holy Communion or Confirmation for your child, or wish to get married in the Catholic Church in the RAF, feel free to get in touch with Jem Wynne for an initial friendly chat:

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



### **And Finally...**

If you would like to know more about Catholic life in the RAF, or wish to be added to our database and receive updates, get in touch with Jem Wynne. Contact the RAF PRCC, Padre Dave Skillen, to say hello, request prayers, or to know more about Catholic life in the RAF:

Wg Cdr (Rtd) Jem Wynne [rafprccpastoralassistant457@outlook.com](mailto:rafprccpastoralassistant457@outlook.com)

Rev(Sqn Ldr) Dave Skillen [David.skillen100@mod.gov.uk](mailto:David.skillen100@mod.gov.uk)

**Check out the  
Bishopric of the  
Forces website for  
news and  
information.  
[HERE](#)**

