

Our Lady of Walsingham,
pray for us.



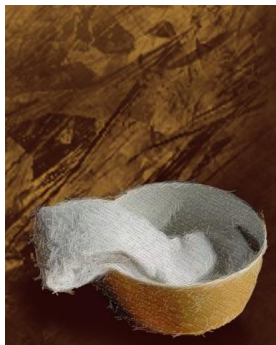
Home Mission Briefing

A monthly mission news roundup for the Catholic community in England and Wales

June 2011

DIOCESE:

Northampton is offering a summer school themed 'Ministries in the Church', 26 - 28 July:
www.nores.org.uk



INITIATIVE:

Annual Justice and Peace Conference with the theme of 'Justice at work- a place of safety, fulfilment and growth?', 15 - 17 July: <http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference.html>



MEDIA:

Eucharistic witness in the centre of Preston, organised by the Capuchin Franciscans on Ascension Thursday 2011: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZ5aYoSr3Hg&feature=youtu.be>

ECUMENISM:

Being Church for the Boomer Generation? Engaging with the spirituality of those born between 1946 and 1964, 23 - 25 November: www.baptist.org.uk



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Antidote to individualism

Pope Benedict XVI said during his homily for the feast of Corpus Christi:

'St. Augustine helps us to understand the dynamics of holy Communion when referring to a kind of vision he had, in which Jesus said to him: "I am the food of the mature: grow, then, and you shall eat me. You will not change me into yourself like bodily food; but you will be changed into me"(Confessions, VII, 10, 18). Therefore, while the bodily food is



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assimilated by the body and contributes to sustain it, the Eucharist is a different bread: We do not assimilate it, but it assimilates us to itself, so that we become conformed to Jesus Christ and members of his body, one with him.

'This is a decisive passage. Indeed, precisely because it is Christ who, in Eucharistic communion, transforms us into him, our individuality, in this encounter, is opened up, freed from its self-centeredness and placed in the Person of Jesus, who in turn is immersed in the Trinitarian communion. Thus, while the Eucharist unites us to Christ, we open ourselves to others making us members one of another: We are no longer divided, but one thing in him.

'Eucharistic communion unites me to the person next to me, and to the one with whom perhaps I might not even have a good relationship, but also to my brothers and sisters who are far away, in every corner of the world. Thus the deep sense of social presence of the Church is derived from the Eucharist, as evidenced by the great social saints, who have always been

great Eucharistic souls. Those who recognize Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, recognize their brother who suffers, who is hungry and thirsty, who is a stranger, naked, sick, imprisoned, and they are attentive to every person, committing themselves, in a concrete way, to those who are in need

'So from the gift of Christ's love comes our special responsibility as Christians in building a cohesive, just and fraternal society. Especially in our time when globalization makes us increasingly dependent upon each other, Christianity can and must ensure that this unity will not be built without God, without true Love. This would give way to confusion and individualism, the oppression of some against others. The Gospel has always aimed at the unity of the human family, a unity not imposed from above, or by ideological or economic interests, but from a sense of responsibility toward each other, because we identify ourselves as members of the same body, the body of Christ, because we have learned and continually learn from the Sacrament of the Altar that communion, love is the path of true justice.' <http://www.zenit.org/article-32931?l=english>

'Fresh Wind In Our Sails'



16 - 18 September the Catholic community in the UK will celebrate the anniversary of Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the UK. The theme of the celebration is 'Fresh Wind In Our Sails' which is what the Holy Father is reported to have said that his visit to the UK gave him.

During the past year we have experienced many blessings as a fruit of his coming. Each of us will have our own stories and memories to share. Across our parishes there has been evidence of renewed confidence, with many people being inspired to share and live out their faith in new ways.

The visit of the Pope was first and foremost the beginning of a fresh outpouring of grace on our nations. One year on we are invited to reflect on and decide what comes next. Inspired by the Holy Father's words and example, the Bishops of England and Wales invite you to put up your sails afresh and guided by the Holy Spirit seek new ways of sharing the joy of your faith every day.

A leaflet has been created to support you in that task, particularly focussing on the anniversary weekend. Do consider inviting those who are not practicing members of your parish to join your celebrations. See: <http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/Catholic-Church/Home-Mission>

Thank you and God bless you,

*Bishop Kieran Conry
Chair of the Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis*

Post a prayer and message of thanksgiving for the life and ministry of His Holiness on the Papal Visit Facebook wall in the ten days leading up to the anniversary of the Pope's Visit to the UK (18 Sept): <http://www.facebook.com/papalvisit>

Archbishop's call to witness

Archbishop George Stack was installed as seventh Archbishop of Cardiff on 20 June. In his homily he spoke of the importance of Christian witness:

'On the cross, Jesus goes on revealing, goes on loving, goes on forgiving. In doing so, he breaks through the barrier that separates us from all that is good and true and holy. He conquers suffering, sin and death.'

'As members of the Body of Christ, we are called to witness to those truths, not just in what we say, but by what we do



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and who we are. We are challenged to give an account of the faith which gives us hope both in the public sphere and in our private lives. Pope Benedict

XVI gave us an inspirational example in his speech at Westminster Hall when he explored the essential partnership between faith and reason. He set out a path to help us navigate the social, economic and financial crises being faced by the western world.' Full transcript: <http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/Catholic-Church/Media-Centre/Press-Releases/Press-Releases-2011/Installation-Homily-Archbishop-George-Stack>

Apostleship of the Sea

Apostleship of the Sea chaplains and ship visitors welcome seafarers to our shores - regardless of their colour, race or creed and provide them with pastoral and practical assistance: They serve and evangelise the people on the 100,000 ships visiting British ports each year. Ahead of Sea Sunday on 10 July the Bishops of Menevia and Aberdeen wrote: 'However far our parish communities may be from the sea, each of us benefits from the work of seafarers and each of us has a part to play in supporting the Church's outreach to seafarers. This is why, as Bishops and promoters of the work of AoS, we strongly encourage you to pray for seafarers.' <http://apostleshipofthesea.org.uk/cms/>

Exclusive interview

The recently appointed Secretary to the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelisation, Archbishop Jose Octavio Ruiz Arenas, has shared in an exclusive interview his understanding of aspects of the teaching underpinning the creation of the new Council.

Interviewed during the recent Alpha International Conference in London (6 - 10 June); the Archbishop highlighted the importance of speaking a language that people can understand. He said: 'If we wish to reach out to people in our task of evangelisation we must know how people think. Pope John Paul II talked of "new expressions", but what did he mean by this? He meant that we must transmit our message in a different way. We must keep our core values and the essence of the Gospel, but we need to find a modern language.' Full transcript: <http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/home-mission>

Sport and prayer

If you're a fan of sport and are glued to the television watching Wimbledon at the moment, this piece of research might be of interest to you.

'Atheists will regard the idea that religion can make a difference to outcomes in sport as fanciful. But it is possible to put aside the issue of whether or not God exists and just examine the impact of faith on performance. This is what Jeong-Keun Park of Seoul University did ... by studying the performances of Korean athletes.' <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-13575702>



www2.warwick.ac.uk

Catholic Voices

A team created to put the Church's case during Pope Benedict XVI's UK visit will mark the anniversary of his trip by launching a new project designed to equip the Church for a larger role in public life. Phase II of Catholic Voices will include a new speakers' programme, a Catholic Voices 'Academy' and two books to share the project's fruits. <http://www.catholicvoices.org.uk/autumncourse2011>