

THE PORTICO

Celebrating our Faith

Communal celebration of Mass in Church has been suspended during the new lockdown, although our Bishops have made strong representations to the Government and appear hopeful that the ban may soon be lifted.

Sadly, this year's First Holy Communion Service which was due to take place in Our Lady of the Portal Church this weekend was again postponed because of the restrictions. Please pray for the children and their families.

Nevertheless, the celebration of our sacraments continues in various forms despite COVID-19, and we are pleased to congratulate the Shute family on the recent baptism of their latest family addition, Elliott Andrew Shute. Andrew (Senior) writes: "Afterwards we celebrated with a Ganges take away! Please pray for Elliott and our family, who are visiting from the USA."



Month of the Holy Souls

During November we especially remember those loved ones who have gone before us. The new COVID-19 lockdown, with its ban on public worship in churches, makes it particularly difficult for us to do this in the traditional manner, but perhaps we could take a few moments of prayer to recall some of our past parishioners.

On this Remembrance Sunday, we acknowledge the courage and sacrifice of those who served their

country in two World Wars and later conflicts; but let us also remember in our prayers the many people who have lost relatives and friends to the virus

Half-Term School Meals

Restaurants, cafes, deli's, food retailers and other organisations around Cornwall have been stepping in to provide free meals for children and families, to make up the shortfall caused by the government's failure to provide for vulnerable young people during

Messages

We remember Joyce Crosby who died last weekend. RIP, reunited with husband, Tony.

Thank You! A little bird tells us that Andy Stayne is taking over as Parish Treasurer. Well done Andy and a big THANK YOU also to David Roper who has held the fort over the last several years.

Best wishes to Janet from both Jennie and Wyn

I think the photo of the church was taken on Good Friday. *Mary*

I really enjoyed Paul's article about the walk in St Allen - and so nice of him to remember those of us who are housebound. *Jennie*



Sue and I managed to get my mother to mass on this beautiful morning and after mass the sun was shining through the stained glass window giving this lovely coloured spot light effect on the cross above the altar. Very atmospheric! *Paul V.*

Half Term. From fish and chips to packed lunches, pasta to food boxes, local businesses have done their best to ensure our kids were all well fed in the week's holiday - well over 100 Cornish businesses, groups and individuals took the initiative to help, several of them in Truro. One of these was the



Photograph: Jonny Weeks/The Guardian

Truro Refill Store, co-owned by Alice Bane, which provided 70 food parcels. It's good to know that some of our Catholic community here are involved in these efforts

(Thanks to Tony and Yvonne)

Parish Children helping the Homeless

Last year's initiative with our children was a great success so we've twisted Maggie's arm to do something similar this year. Using



a zoom meeting to bring the children and their parents together to chat about why the items in the bags are needed, she hopes to overcome the difficulties of our current lockdown and still provide essential items - plus a few Christmas treats - for homeless people in Truro. The current plan is to hold the zoom event on 29th November so that the bags can be delivered to St

Petroc's in good time for Christmas. As well as the usual

items on the shopping list which will go to parents, there will be patterns for making face masks and drawstring bags for the more craft-orientated to use.



If you and your child would like to get involved, email Maggie for more details at: maggiemcw@hotmail.co.uk

Month of the Holy Souls: a reflection

Belief in Purgatory that our imperfections may be purified to enter the Divine Presence was challenged by the Reformers. Dismissed as a medieval invention, absent in the Gospels, in one sense it is, finally defined only in the Council of Florence 1438-53.

But prayer and sacrifice for the dead is present in Old Testament tradition, see 2 Maccabees 12: and in very early Christian practice. St Paul, 2 Timothy 1, asks prayers for Oresiphorus 'the Lord will that he should find mercy.' And after his death the creed tells us that Jesus descended among the dead, (not hell in the understanding we normally have of it,)

Isn't Purgatory a logical necessity? Though 'there are many rooms in my Father's house' few of us could equate our lives with St Paul, or Stephen, or thousands of martyrs down to our own day? And Purgatory is a suburb of heaven, not hell.

(from Francis)

I will be 80 on Sunday and thank all those who contributed to 32 years of many happy memories of my life in Truro. *Paul B*

A **££++@@ squirrel has taken every one of the acorns I planted a few weeks ago!!! 🥺 *Jenny*

I am saddened that an ill-informed controversy about same sex marriage has distracted from Pope Francis' key message that homosexuals "are children of God" and so have a right to be loved and in a family. *Peter*

Perhaps we could re-start Andrew's Evening Prayer sessions on Mondays now we're in lockdown again? *Mary*

Cornwall Christmas Box Appeal 2020

Parishioners have responded so enthusiastically to this Christmas appeal in recent years, and we do hope that we can do so again this year despite the present restrictions. Containing seasonal food and treats for a family of 4 - 6 for Christmas Day, 1200 Cornwall Christmas boxes were donated last year and distributed by Cornwall Social Services to the poorest families in the County. Item checklist and details are their website [here](#).

If you wish to donate part of a box or want help with box collection, call Truro SVP on 07474-941099 or write to svp.truro@gmail.com.

A Franciscan Blessing

May God bless you with discomfort....
At easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships,
So that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger....
At injustice, oppression and exploitation of people,
So that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears...
To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war,
So that you may reach out your hand to comfort them,
To turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness...
To believe that you can make a difference in the world,
So that you can do what others claim cannot be done
To bring justice and kindness to all God's wonderful children.

(Sent by Molly)

Lockdown 2:

"The church is essentially community"

With this latest setback to a return to (some kind of) normality, the evidence is clear that we must strive to strengthen our church community, to help and support those who are most affected by illness, isolation, separation from family and friends, by loss of earnings, loss of purpose. No-one is immune to the impact of this pandemic but if we hold together and help each other, we can come out of it stronger.

Canon John Deeny, our Diocesan Vicar General, has circulated an inspiring Caritas Case Study about Okehampton parish and digital outreach. See the study on the Diocesan website [here](#).

Let us know what would help you, your friends or your family members feel more connected -

Regular telephone calls? Study and/or prayer events?

Send your ideas and suggestions and let's see what we can achieve -. Email the PORTICO at jenny.kwee@me.com

Elsewhere, across the pond

"It is time for our better angels to prevail."



Joseph Biden has won the US presidential elections to become only the second practicing Catholic President of the USA. He will take over a divided country at a tumultuous and troubled time, and in his first speech as President-elect, he spoke about restoring the soul of the nation, saying "It is time for our better angels to prevail." Let us pray that God will help and guide him to work for the common good.

Get Connected:

we can help

The Truro SVP group is running a trial video communications support and equipment loan service. If you know anyone who would like help or advice on any basic aspect of getting online, how to video chat, message, Zoom, watch online masses etc, Contact the PORTICO, or call Truro SVP on 07474-941099 - no question is too silly!

**Celebrate:
Back to Basics**



Last Monday

we had an amazing 20 minute talk by Yinka Oyekan about CELEBRATE's third key value: "Unity: The Importance of Unity for the Kingdom". Yinka is a Baptist Minister in Reading and President of the Baptist Union. He recounted that Pope John 23rd opened Vatican 2 by praying for the Holy Spirit to come down on the Church as if by a new Pentecost. He reminds us that Unity is precious to the Lord and precious to the Catholic Church. That unity is essential in marriage, in the home, in the Church and in nations. He wants us to be a strong Catholic Church for the benefit of all the churches!

See their website [HERE](#) for details of the next session. "Formation" on 16 November 2020

(from Andrew S)



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