

THE PORTICO

National Day of Reflection & Prayer

Tuesday 23rd March

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales are supporting this government initiative to mark the anniversary of the first national lockdown with a minute's silence at midday and doorstep vigils of light at 8pm.

Additionally, they have asked us all to make this not only a Day of Reflection but also a Day of Prayer.

Here in Truro, Our Lady of the Portal Church will be open exceptionally for private prayer between 10-12noon on that day. No pre-booking needed.

We reflect on, and pray for those who died, who suffered, and who have given so generously of themselves in this time.

We also pray in hope that we will gather in the lessons we have learned and build our society into a better shape, more compassionate, less marked by inequalities, more responsive to needs and deprivation. We ask for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen us in this endeavour.

(Bishops' Statement in full [HERE](#).)



Messages

Greetings and thanks from many, including *Jane, Jean, Andrew, Sam and Gill*

Please pass on my best wishes to everyone in your next issue.
Jean

"The Portico of great price" i.e. priceless?

"Gosh, what an interesting read from David. Thank you for sharing it with us."

"David Roper's memoirs make very interesting reading indeed."

Well done with the gardening, I've hardly done any so far this year.
Sam

"made for a very interesting read"
Gill

Fairtrade Easter Eggs

Buy your Easter eggs online from [The Real Easter Egg Company](#) this year. It is the only one which has a copy of the Easter story in its box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and supports charitable projects. It is not available from ANY supermarket this year.

Fairtrade Easter Eggs are also available at Lidl's and the Co-op.

(thanks to *Mary B*)

G7 Conference in Cornwall

22 March application deadline

Do you want to join CAFOD's young adult delegation to Cornwall for the G7?

This June, world leaders from the wealthiest nations in the world will meet in Cornwall to agree how we build back better from coronavirus and create a greener, more prosperous future.

CAFOD is taking a small delegation of young Catholics, aged 18-35, to Cornwall from 10-13 June 2021 to ensure that our voice is heard by world leaders.

This will be a tremendous opportunity to learn about the G7 forum, the UK government's agenda for recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and its effort to address climate change.

Apply to CAFOD now [HERE](#)



needs long-life milk;
breakfast cereals incl
porridge; jams and
marmalades



Truro Group

Our family in Christ
helping each other
07474-941099

Need help getting online?

If anyone needs any help going online, using ZOOM or finding an online mass etc, SVP Truro can help

Keep in Touch

Join our mailing list.
Send greetings, news etc.
WRITE to us at:
theportico@icloud.com

Lent Talks:

Tuesday, March 23, 7:30 - 8:30pm

Lorna Gold: "Francis on Ecology"

Tuesday, March 30, 7:30 - 8:30pm

Gemma Simmonds:

"Francis on Women in the Church"

Facebook: [Edinburgh Jesuit Centre](#)

ZOOM link: [HERE](#)

Peace be with you!



Margaret S

Telephone Signposting

Now, maybe more than ever, people need to turn to someone for advice and support.

Transformation Cornwall has produced a new signposting list containing telephone numbers for a number of support groups, locally and nationally, that will offer help to people in Cornwall.

The list and poster can be downloaded from [Transformation Cornwall](#).

Alternatively, if you come across anyone in that situation, you can ask (or refer them to) the SVP Truro Group also keeps this information to hand.

A New Look on the Family

Pope Francis inaugurated "*Amoris Laetitia Family*" year on the 5th anniversary of *Amoris Laetitia* last Friday by sending a message to participants in a webinar on "Our Daily Love".

"Today a new look at the family is necessary on the part of the Church." Pope Francis said, stressing that we must become "custodians" of the beauty of the family, and take care of its fragilities and wounds "with compassion".

He said that there are two aspects at the heart of all family ministry: "the frankness of the proclamation of the Gospel and the tenderness of accompaniment". When she proclaims the Gospel of the family the Church must do so by "immersing herself in real life, knowing firsthand the daily struggles of spouses and parents, their problems, their sufferings, all those small and large situations that weigh down and sometimes hinder their journey.... It is in this context that daily love is lived, the love generated by the simplicity and the silent work of the life of a couple, by that daily and sometimes tiring commitment carried out by spouses, mothers, fathers and children".

The Gospel should not be simply proposed as a "doctrine from on high". Rather, "We are called to accompany, listen, and bless the journey of families," said the Pope. Not only to chart the direction, but to make the journey with them.

The Pope invited everyone to "approach this mystery of love with wonder, discretion and tenderness. And let us commit ourselves to safeguarding its precious and delicate bonds: children, parents, grandparents... We need these bonds to live and to live well, to make humanity more fraternal."

Full text: [Vatican News](#)

Pause for thought

Pentonville prison is considered the most violent of English prisons. Yet reforms and practices introduced to meet the demands of Covid 19 have resulted in a new very positive atmosphere, with prisoners and staff working harmoniously, with humour & good will. As Pope Francis says in *Let Us Dream*, crisis forces us to change.

Truro's Walk for Water



Paul V

Help CAFOD bring water to Abdella's village so that he can dream of a life beyond walking for water.

About eight readers have been logging their steps every few days, (some even through the spring gorse?) but if you haven't added yours so far, don't forget to keep track and add your steps / miles to the parish total for the 40 days of Lent. Do it online [HERE](#).

Also, it's not too late to donate via the Truro CAFOD [justgiving page](#).

Samantha's personal Walking for Water challenge is still going strong. You can still sponsor her by going [HERE](#).



THE PORTICO is an independent publication. It does not represent any official RC Parish policies. All Information and views given are those of its contributors only.

Write to us at theportico@icloud.com