

THE PORTICO

Back to ... the Future?



A group of masked parishioners gathering socially recently in a "transitional" phase

Tomorrow, 19 July, sees the official end to the latest series of laws and regulations that have governed our lives since March 2020.

However, although popularly nicknamed "Freedom Day", it seems rather to be the start of a period of further uncertainty about how to cope with Covid's refusal to be beaten since now we are only advised, not required to wear masks in shops and social distance.

The role of the Catholic Church as an institution is to lead by example and in this crisis, Pope Francis has consistently sought to do exactly that. A year ago, Pope Francis was already saying that we should not be hoping to return back to the normal we were used to, but rather looking to build a better future. He established the COVID 19 Commission to start preparing to build that future.

A member of that Commission said "In his two encyclicals *Evangelii Gaudium* and *Laudato Si* the Pope has laid out not just nice ideas about a better future but has given us the tools to deconstruct the current model that has brought us to this crisis in order to build anew. Others are asking how to get going again. He is saying getting going again is to go backwards. His message is to challenge, change and create anew."

(Martin Palmer, CEO FaithInvest, UK - September 2020)

Perhaps we as a Cornish community could do far worse than to adopt this same attitude...

Messages

Andrew and Margaret thank you for your kind wishes for their special anniversary celebrated on the top of Cotehele tower. Margaret says, "We also had a special blessing from Fr John Deeney at Mass on Friday. He called us to the front of the church and made it extra special. We are most fortunate."



Greetings, thank you's, and blessings also from Margie, Francis & Mary, and Sam .

"I like keeping in touch even when we are not all together hoping to see everyone again soon!" *Margie*

"Again, astonishingly relevant, spiritual, friendly, newsy and hopeful" *Andrew*

Community Fridge

Free and open to everyone on Wednesdays at Cafe Chaos, Harrison House Threemilestone Industrial Estate.



SVP
Truro Group

Our family in Christ helping each other
07474-941099



Truro Foodbank needs:
tins of potatoes, spaghetti and fruit + jam.

Keep in Touch

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

The God Who Speaks Through Creation: update



Sr Margaret at Zoom event

On Saturday (17 July) morning, Caritas Plymouth held an online event, opened by Bishop Mark, to begin our reflection on what the Diocesan Environment Policy requires us as individuals, as communities, as churches to change in our lives.

Sr Margaret Atkins spoke of how Creation affects us - we are filled

with awe at its beauty; we wonder at how we have learned to understand something of its complexity; we are filled with joy at the interconnectedness of life and our part in it. She suggested our spiritual response to these should be characterised by gratitude, humility and generosity, and that these should condition the way we behave towards our Environment and all in it. It was emphasised in the event that the Diocesan Environmental policy is just the beginning and we are all encouraged to read it, reflect on it, pray about it and give feedback to strengthen and improve it. More events will be held over the coming months, which all are encouraged to attend.)

Care for the Environment: a Parish Policy?

Our Christian responsibility for the planet begins with appreciation of the goodness of all of God's creation: "God saw everything that he had made, and behold it was very good" (Gen 1:31).

Bishop Mark has approved an Environmental Policy, which can be read on the Plymouth Diocese website, following on from Pope Francis' encyclical letters *Laudato Si'* and *Fratelli Tutti*. He commits us to prayer and study of the Scriptures and to educate ourselves about the effect we have on the vulnerable people in the world and the earth's fragile ecology. The Church's mission is to proclaim the Gospel in support of the stewardship of the earth.

Bishop Mark suggests ways in which we can embody the policy at Diocesan and Parish level by, for instance: managing our buildings with care for the environment, minimising waste, purchasing and investing ethically, enhancing biodiversity.

Our Lady of the Portal church in Truro was built at a time when energy efficiency was not thought important. Whilst over the years we have reduced its environmental impact (double glazing throughout; low power lighting) surely there is more that we in the parish can and must do to implement our share of the Diocesan Environment Policy

(Tony Barber)

Editor's Note: At the Caritas event (see above) we were all invited to comment on and contribute to development and implementation of our Environment Policy. If you would like to do so, please write to Deborah.Fisher@prcdtr.org.uk

Catenian BBQ:

"I found it funny that Deacon John referred to Cornwall Catenians as 'hooligans' in his homily." *Sam*

Here's what Deacon John actually said!

"I referred to the fact that in the three readings the Israelites in Babylonia. a faction of the Church in Corinth and the people of Nazareth had behaved like Hooligans.

And then went on to emphasize to the Chairman of the Catenians (Peter Houlihan) that I did say Hooligans and NOT HOULIHANS!!" *Dcn. John Sanders*

(Editor's Note: we have of course apologised to Deacon John that our inaccurate reporting failed to convey his play on words.)

Alice - and the liner!



Alice was swimming in a relay of 6 from Lands End to Scilly in aid of Surfers against Sewage.

She had dolphins for company on one of her stints but then this liner appeared!

The SAS support boat skipper radioed the liner, in case they hadn't spotted Alice, and the captain altered course - thank goodness!

Grandparents' Day!

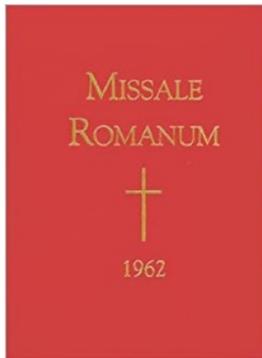
Sunday 25 July

The first World Day for Grandparents & the Elderly will be celebrated next Sunday. In his Message for this day Pope Francis writes: "What is our vocation today, at our age? To preserve our roots, to pass on the faith to the young and to care for the little ones. Never forget this.

"It makes no difference how old you are, whether you still work or

not, whether you are alone or have a family, whether you became a grandmother or grandfather at a young age or later, whether you are still independent or need assistance. Because there is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel and handing down traditions to your grandchildren. You just need to set out and undertake something new."

"Guardians of Tradition": Pope restricts Latin Mass



Pope Francis' new decree (Guardians of the Tradition) on 16 July 2021 has revoked the general permission for priests to celebrate the Latin Mass, and restores the authority of the diocesan bishop "to regulate the liturgical celebrations of his diocese" stating that "it is his exclusive competence to authorise the use of the 1962 Roman Missal in his diocese, according to the guidelines of the Apostolic See." Clear guidelines are included in the decree.

Pope Francis explains in his accompanying letter that the permission to continue celebrating the Latin Missal was given with the intent to promote unity in the church, but it has on the contrary lead to usage that contradicts communion and nurtures divisive tendency.

Francis reminds us that the intent of Vatican II Council was that "the faithful would not assist as strangers and silent spectators in the mystery of faith, but, with a full understanding of the rites and prayers, would participate in the sacred action consciously, piously, and actively." He reaffirms the teaching of Vatican II as the teaching and the Tradition of the Church: "To doubt the Council is to doubt ... the Holy Spirit himself who guides the Church."

Francis expresses sadness that "the instrumental use of the Roman Missal of 1962 is often characterised by a rejection not only of the liturgical reform, but of the Vatican Council II itself, claiming, with unfounded and unsustainable assertions, that it betrayed the Tradition and the 'true Church.'" It is a usage that contradicts communion and nurtures the divisive tendency. For this reason, he decrees that:

"In defence of the unity of the Body of Christ, I am constrained to revoke the faculty granted by my Predecessors."

The decree is on the Vatican website: [here](#)

Butterfly Count



At the Caritas event yesterday, Fr Mark Skelton made a plea for the Big Butterfly Count (which started on 16th July) You can join in [by signing up HERE](#) There's an app to download and a chart showing the most common butterflies.

Why not get your children and grandchildren involved in this fun activity with a serious purpose?

Called to Mission: a Portico Supplement

Many parishioners probably know Mary Bradley by sight if not by name, from her visits and talks to us in past years. Today, we publish a supplement to The Portico, containing some reflections of her time spent in Nigeria, and what it meant to her.



A guerrilla garden: self-sown poppies

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