

# THE PORTICO

## Correction: “Speak Boldly and listen carefully”

### Diocesan online event on Tuesday 16 November, 7pm

In our last issue, our published link to register for the online Austen Ivereigh talk was broken, so here is the correct [link](#). Thanks to eagle-eyed readers who pointed this out, and apologies for any frustration caused. The right address is quite difficult to find from scratch, so please register now while you still have time (just!).



The talk is entitled *“Behind the global synod: why Pope Francis wants you to speak boldly and listen carefully.”* It is a free Plymouth Diocesan online event to which all are invited.

To attend, please REGISTER now for this free online talk on the [Eventbrite website here](#)

## Parish Pastoral Council for Our Lady of the Portal

As announced in this week’s bulletin, Fr John has appointed a Parish Pastoral Council, which has held its first meeting. This seems to be part of a spate of new Parish Councils being formed across Cornwall, some via calls for volunteers and others by appointment. They follow the strong [recommendations](#) from the Vatican and more recently from Bishop Mark’s The Precious Place initiative. No doubt the Synod has also lent further impetus to this development, which is to be welcomed as a start of our journey towards greater lay participation and co-responsibility in the life of parishes.

## The Synod Listening Journey in our Parish

Our parish facilitators (Pat McGovern and Jean Anderson) spoke briefly after Sunday Masses to say that 4 x 90-minute meetings will be held after Wednesday morning mass in each of the weeks of Advent, to share our views about needed church reforms. Zoom meetings will also be set up on the same Wednesday evenings for those who cannot attend during the day. Each meeting will follow one of the 4 themes selected by the Diocese from the 10 themes in the Synod Office documents. Each meeting will include time for prayer, reflection, gospel reading, and listening to each others’ thoughts on the week’s chosen theme. Briefing materials will be available to all from the office on request. Check the bulletin for updates.

The Diocesan team is also preparing an online mechanism for anyone who wishes to submit their thoughts on any of the themes and questions raised by the Vatican.

In this synodal exercise, Pope Francis has called on each of us to be open to the Holy Spirit and to speak the truth boldly, with love and courage.

## Messages

Thanks for the Lanherne Update, which I found very interesting.  
*Josianne*

The information about Lanherne was interesting - I know about the Arundel family from volunteering at Trerice.  
*Angela*

## 2020 - What have we Achieved? CAFOD Year in review

Thursday 25 November, at 7 to 8pm  
CAFOD's Director, Christine Allen, invites you to join her and her team for an online event, to share the real difference your help has made, and answer any questions you may have on what CAFOD has achieved over the past year.

Register for the event [here](#)

## “Thanks for the Rain”



This film was very well received when it was screened last week in Falmouth.

We have temporary access to it courtesy of Christian Aid, and will host a “private screening” in a Truro home, with coffee and a chat, if anyone is interested. If you would like to see the film, please contact us at [theportico@icloud.com](mailto:theportico@icloud.com)

## Reflections of a Cornish Parish facilitator

I'm a parish facilitator for the synod, and I do think it will be helpful to connect with other facilitators and interested people in the local parishes and the diocese, to share ideas, knowledge, and practical advice and suggestions.

I personally think we'll have to be very outgoing, and perhaps follow our own knowledge to some extent. For instance, I would like to speak with members of the evangelical churches locally.

I also think it will be important to speak with children and families, perhaps concentrating on families who attend churches, and, through them, speaking with their friends.

Another group are people who have left the church, or have had childhood experiences which put them off. I think it's important to listen to these people, and feed back from them. I've heard strong views from many friends, just in normal conversation, completely unrelated to the Synod.

I'll probably follow personal knowledge to gather responses, and make myself available to everyone, more generally, as well, certainly through the parish.

There's an issue of how openly people will be willing and able to speak in a group setting. If people aren't used to group spiritual discernment (which is most of us!), I think it's going to be hard to get anything useful from group sessions, ie, it will take some care, and some time building trusting relationships. It's a bit easier one-to-one.

It's also natural that there will be some caution about opening up in a more public setting on important issues which will be passed on to more people in the diocese and wider church, especially with nuanced and difficult subjects. I think people may be left with anxiety if they open up in a way they afterwards consider to be "too much" in a group setting. This can happen even if trust has been built and there is a promise of confidentiality. Anonymity and confidentiality are likely to be important for many people, and the safest way to go about this for people will be one-to-one.

I think is a good idea to ask people to get directly in touch with their facilitators in confidence, to pass on their individual responses. It may encourage people to speak more openly if they are doing so privately.

The Diocesan team has said that there will be an online feedback form which will be useful to direct people to.

I'm not sure how the diocese plans to collate the information, and whether there is any safeguard about how many times someone could submit the same or similar views -- which could potentially happen -- if someone felt something very strongly, and they were speaking anonymously.

*(from Ruth)*

## Red Wednesday November 24TH

A day to remember those persecuted for their religious beliefs, especially Christians. The Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey will be lit up in red that day.

Falmouth is holding a short service for the many thousands of people persecuted for their faith.

Join them in the Church Hall at St Mary Immaculate, Killigrew Street Falmouth at 1 pm, and wear something red.

### Monday Evening Prayer:

via ZOOM on Mondays at 6pm.

Contact Deacon [Andrew Shute](#) for joining instructions.



Shopping List and drop-off points are on the website [here](#).

you can also contribute to communal boxes from our parish by donating via the Church office by 30 November please.



### SVP Truro Group

Our family in Christ helping each other 07474-941099

### News & Events to Share?

Please write to us at [theportico.icloud.com](mailto:theportico.icloud.com) if you have news to share.

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