

THE PORTICO

Celebrating First Reconciliation!



A special occasion took place for fourteen of our children and their families on 12th March when the First Holy Communion group celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Afterwards, everyone had a celebration in the Hall, with cakes and other goodies in plentiful supply! Our thanks as always to Samantha and Kay for leading our young children on this beautiful journey.



one of our 1st Holy Communion group

CAFOD Hot-X Bun event



some of congregation enjoying the CAFOD event after Mass

On the feast of the Transfiguration, a large congregation turned up to attend Sunday morning Mass. Afterwards the CAFOD group held a Hot Cross Bun coffee morning in the Church Hall, and many churchgoers stayed behind for a tea/coffee and a natter, despite the absence of the CAFOD group's traditional bacon baps, enthused both by the glorious sunshine, and the welcome opportunity to exchange greetings and news with fellow parishioners in our first social gathering for a long time!

Messages

Thanks for Portico 62 from Francis, Jean, Fr David, Mike, Paul and Sam.

Greetings from the cold North West! *Paul*

I didn't know of the Mylor Ukrainian memorial; an interesting read. *Jean*

Bumper edition this time, so much to think about. *Francis*

It's time to sow my box of wildflower seeds in the church garden (*Sam*)

[Jenny: hopefully we can do that in early April.

Proud Raffle Winner!

Sam tells me he loves his raffle prize from the CAFOD event last week, now proudly positioned in his back garden!

LENT SOUP LUNCH



FRIDAY 25 March, 12-2PM

St Piran's Church Hall

All are welcome!

Yes, the famous Soup Lunch is back! Come share some home-made soups at the first parish soup lunch in what seems like years (hmmm - it has literally been years...)

Truro's Green Fair



On Saturday 19th March, Truro Cathedral held its first Green Fair, inviting groups from around the county to showcase the initiatives in Cornwall and beyond aimed at keeping our carbon emissions under control and maintaining diversity in the living world. Transition Truro, Eco-church, Community Supported Agriculture, Traidcraft, Christian Aid and many more were represented. There were short talks from the stall holders throughout the day to provoke thought and discussion.

Walking against Hunger



Liz Ffrench-Constant has taken on the CAFOD Challenge to Walk Against Hunger during Lent this year. Last we heard, she was achieving more than her target almost every day. Join us in wishing Liz well with her target of 5 kilometres a day. You can sponsor Liz on the CAFOD giving page by clicking on the link [here](#).

Urgent SVP Campaign: Nationalities and Borders Bill

Currently, the UK Parliament is debating the proposed Nationality and Borders Bill, which will effectively criminalise many of the people who travel to the UK to seek safety, and which shows no respect for human dignity, justice or compassion. If this Bill was law today, many of the Ukrainians reaching the UK for protection would be criminalised. They could be denied the right to seek asylum and could be sent to offshore detention facilities. The Bill will be debated in the House of Commons tomorrow Tuesday 22 March. Please urgently write to your MP today. It only takes a few seconds with this link: [Please click here to email them in 60 seconds.](#)

Lent Talks



Last week, as part of a series of online Lent Talks, Fr Anthony O'Gorman led an interesting discussion about Young People in the Church. "We can't expect to think like them, understand them, or be their friends - they don't want us to be their friends!" he said; but they do want us to accompany them. Led by the Holy Spirit, we should be there for them on their journey, listening and being ourselves. A recording is not yet available, but see box opposite for more talks in this series.

EARTH HOUR

Saturday 26 March, 8.30pm



Be prophetic! Turn off your lights to show care, wonder and respect for God's amazing creation.

Please join supporters in over 190 countries and territories on the last Saturday of March, uniting in action to show that we care, and to raise awareness of the issues facing our one home.

It's not only a symbol of solidarity — it's a catalyst for change, harnessing the power of the crowd.

Monday Evening Prayer:

Join Monday Evening Prayer at 6 pm. All are welcome. Contact Deacon [Andrew Shute](#) for more information.

LENT TALKS

Thursday 24 March, 7pm

Sr Bernadette Reis (A nun working as a journalist and commentator for Vatican News) will speak on The Will of God.

You can watch the remaining Lent talks has been organised by Fr Mark Skelton on ZOOM using the following details:

meeting ID: 896 2546 2101

password: 146545

5th Station of the Cross:

'Simon of Cyrene is made to carry the cross of Jesus' is one of the nine scripturally attested Stations of the Cross. It is mentioned in the three synoptic Gospels, most graphically in Luke 23:26. 'As they were leading him away they seized on a man, Simon from Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and made him shoulder the cross and carry it behind Jesus.'

Simon is grabbed and made to carry the cross of a convicted criminal to the scene of his execution, an unwelcome shock - just as we have to bear shocks in our own time - to our health, or family, or, as recently, in political events.

St Therese of Lisieux, along with many of our martyrs of every land and age have embraced the cross. Few of us could imitate them, and Simon, unwillingly compelled, is historically unique in his manner of sharing the cross of Jesus.

(from Francis)

Synod: Update



The Plymouth Diocese held a pre-synodal meeting of Parish representatives last week, and is now in the process of preparing the Diocesan 'synthesis' to go forward for discernment by the Conference of Bishops. Guidance from the Vatican suggests that the synthesis should indicate "how the Holy Spirit's call to the Church has been understood in the local context" and pay attention not only to common

trends but also to discordant points of view and voices "because the process of discernment could recognize them as prophetic voices that indicate what the Spirit is asking of the Church." This is not an easy task and the Diocesan team have asked for our prayers and support as they seek to do this.

SUPPLEMENT: UKRAINE Refugees: A View from Poland

We are now constantly deluged with news of the seemingly endless violence and destruction in Ukraine. In the midst of all this fear, our attached Supplement offers a heartwarming first-hand account from one of our own Truro community, of her experience of dealing with Ukraine refugee women and children in Poland.



"Preach the Gospel"

Pope Francis has issued a new constitution for the Roman Curia, *Praedicate Evangelium*, or "preach the gospel" which introduces wide-ranging and fundamental changes to the Vatican's administration and bureaucracy. Some of the most important changes include new departments responsible for Evangelisation (headed by the Pope himself), as well as Charity (a welcome signal of its importance in the Church's work) and Safeguarding. The constitution also gives laymen and women the right to be heads of Curial departments, a role previously reserved for bishops and cardinals.

Synod: "Quo Vadimus?"

"Is this it, now we've had our say? I have no sense whatsoever of 'Where do we go from here as a parish community', of any kind of Diocesan lead?" (*name given*)

The above reader's comments echo those of other readers in both Truro and other parishes, reflecting a sense of unease at the prospect — after all the prayer, discernment and effort expended in examining our local situations so far — of being left in limbo for 2-3 years. The PORTICO is not privy to any plans at diocesan or parish level, but we recall Bishop Mark saying that the Diocese is already making a start on our synodal journey via his "A Precious Place" initiative which both he and Canon Deeny have stressed remains a key point of reference. We pray that what we have done is but the first tentative step in a brisk thousand-mile synodal journey!



SVP Truro Group

For a friend in need

Call us on 07474-941099 for help, a chat, or to join

PLEASE SEND US YOUR NEWS, EVENTS, PRAYERS

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