

# THE PORTICO

## Our New Diocesan Administrator



Canon Paul Cummins

Canon Paul Cummins was elected as our new Diocesan Administrator by the Cathedral's Chapter of Canons in Plymouth last week. This followed immediately on the installation of Archbishop Mark in his new ministry in Cardiff. Canon Paul will serve us in this capacity while we await the appointment of a new Bishop for our Diocese. We still do not know when that might be.

Canon Paul was ordained in 1988 and is a priest with strong pastoral experience, having served as parish priest in Sidmouth since 2011; he is also our Episcopal Vicar for Clergy, leading the diocesan team responsible for vocations, formation and care of the clergy in the diocese.

Canon Paul asks for our prayers during this transitional period. He points out that his role is to provide continuity and leadership to ensure that we carry out our mission of the Gospel, rather than to launch any new major programmes or initiatives that might pre-empt or prejudice the priorities of our next Bishop.

His full Pastoral Letter can be found [here](#)

## Sea Sunday: 10 July a Gospel Meditation

So, who is our neighbour? Our neighbour does not just mean someone who lives near us; it also means strangers we meet. And when seafarers arrive in a port, they are strangers in a foreign land. Their home can be thousands of miles away.

They do not know the locals. Often, they do not speak the



language. And they do not know how to do many of things that we take for granted where we live. Where can I find a shop where I can buy toiletries? How do I get there? How can I access the internet to contact my family? Where is the nearest church?

The Gospel calls us all to help the stranger. Stella Maris chaplains and ship visitors do this in our neighbouring town of Falmouth and in ports around the world.

You can donate to Stella Maris using [this link](#)

## Prayer Requests

### Antoinette Gallagher RIP

Please pray for Antoinette Gallagher RIP whose funeral takes place on 7th July, and for all her family.

### Freedom of Religion

Please pray for International Ministerial Conference to promote *Freedom of Religion or Belief for all*, 5-6 July:

- That positive decisions will be put into place re the worldwide persecution of Christians and also those who have specific beliefs that cause others to persecute them.
- That freedom of thought, word and belief will be acknowledged in reality as a basic human right for all
- That there will be a worldwide effort to bring relief to the many who are being persecuted, imprisoned and tortured purely because of their beliefs.
- That the United Kingdom will lead the world as an example of a nation where Freedom of belief is known to be a basic human right.

(Pat Fitzpatrick)

### Grow: Cornwall by Alpha UK July 6, 2022 | 10:00 am - 2pm

Join the Alpha UK team and special guests at The Church Centre, Liskeard PL14 3AQ to look at how to shift the culture and fully adopt Alpha as a key part of your ministry.

Register [here](#)

## Cost of living support for Energy costs support

With energy prices skyrocketing, many if not most readers will have had demands for increased payments, and are no doubt looking forward to the Government's promised rebates later this year, including at least a £400 discount off energy bills, and an extra £300 winter fuel allowance for pensioners. If you need a reminder of the government's support arrangements, you can find useful information here, on the [Cornwall Council's webpage](#).

If you know of anyone at all in difficulty please contact the SVP's Truro group - see side box opposite.

## New Apostolic Letter:

"I have ardently longed to eat this Passover with you" (Lk 22:15)

The Pope has just issued an Apostolic letter "Desiderio Desideravi" on the liturgy that we might all find relevant and worth reading. Francis reminds us that our faith is "either an encounter with Him alive, or it does not exist", and that the Liturgy provides us with the possibility of such an encounter. Therefore, Francis re-affirms the centrality of the sacred liturgy that has emerged from the Vatican II Council. His letter seems like an earnest plea for both radical traditionalists or reformists in the church not to let the Liturgy become a weapon and a victim of culture wars; he urges bishops and priests to discourage and avoid personal styles of celebration that distract from the true purpose of the

liturgy, and to help the faithful to rediscover, to safeguard, and to live the truth and power of the Liturgy.

"I want the beauty of the Christian celebration and its necessary consequences for the life of the Church not to be spoiled by a superficial and foreshortened understanding of its value or, worse yet, by its being exploited in service of some ideological vision, no matter what the hue."

[Full Apostolic Letter is here](#)

## SEASON OF CREATION 2022



Listen to the  
Voice of Creation  
SEASON OF CREATION 2022

The Burning Bush  
Ex 3.1-12

What local events would you like to see during the Season of Creation in September, to reflect on Care for Creation and what practical steps we can all take to make a difference? Write to us with your family's ideas for events in Truro (funding may be available to make these happen). More on the [Diocesan website](#)

## 'The Rise of Global Christian Persecution'

### Truro Conference reports

A conference on global persecution was held recently at Truro Methodist Church. There were seven excellent speakers representing aid and advocacy organisations.

The aim of the conference was to highlight the plight of 360 million people for whom discrimination and persecution are a daily experience.

## Patronal Picnic in the Park Saturday 16 July at 2pm



Meet at Boscawen Park & Bring Your Own picnic. See poster in church porch for details.

## AFTERNOON TEA

Friday 15th July 2 till 4pm

Come and enjoy tea, cucumber sandwiches, cakes and good company, at Our Lady of the Portal Church Hall. All are welcome, so bring a friend

## Climate Change Workshop Saturday 1st October

Falmouth & Penryn Justice & Peace Group will host a Caritas all day ecumenical Climate Change workshop at St Mary's Church Falmouth on the last day of Creation tide.

Everyone most welcome. so make a note in your diary



## SVP Truro Group

For a friend in need  
Contact us on 07474-941099.

In her conference report, Pat Fitzpatrick asks us all to urgently pray for this week's International Conference on this issue - see above. Full proceedings [here](#)



## Synod 2021-2023: National Synthesis

(Note: This article is also posted on THE PORTICO website: [the-portico.com](http://the-portico.com). Readers' Comments: "Astonishing!", "A good read", "I felt encouraged.")

The Synod national synthesis for England and Wales, published on 28th June, reflects the Synod Reports from each of the Dioceses across England and Wales. These in turn summarised the contributions of an estimated 30000 submissions from across the dioceses in England and Wales.

**A Wounded Church:** The Synthesis acknowledges that the Church is "significantly wounded in its ability to act according to its own mission, to let its goodness shine out, and to live its life in a way that expresses the beauty of the faith". It needs healing and conversion, particularly in the way it fails to welcome; the relationships between clergy and laity; the widespread perception of "the church" as something belonging exclusively to the clergy; the absence of any culture of participation and collaboration; the lack of formation of laity and clergy alike in mission-critical issues; and the failure to communicate effectively.

These wounds all hamper the Church in its ability to fulfil its mission.

**Truth, Mercy and Welcome:** *"The vision of a Church that does not firstly judge and exclude but unconditionally embraces"*

The synthesis records strong critiques of the way the Church teaches, presents itself, and operates. There is a strong desire shining through, for a Church that performs God's mercy as well as proclaims His truth — "to live better the tension of truth and mercy, as Jesus did". This is manifested in these key facets of Church behaviour causing widespread unhappiness:

- the perceived inconsistency and hypocrisy in the way some Church teachings are enforced (e.g.

- matrimony, divorce, Holy Orders and the Eucharist)

- the perceived failure to welcome, and in particular to recognise and integrate various groups or categories of people, especially women, young people, LGBTQ+, the divorced and remarried, the traveller community, people of colour or with additional needs, and traditionalists.

**Towards a synodal church:** *"If there is a single, overriding melody in the synod symphony, it is in the desire for a more fraternal and sororal Church in which God's overflowing, universal love can be more palpably felt and lived"*

The Synthesis affirms that our mission is deeply bound up with our communion in Jesus Christ, and that this communion gives the church "the face of synodality."

Although the process has been stumbling, uneven and very limited so far, participants have found the experience both novel and transformative. There is a widespread enthusiasm for synodality as "the way of being church", and a call for church authorities to take the necessary steps now to embed the processes, structures and the cultural changes into dioceses and parishes.

A number of recommendations are set out to move us forward on the path of synodality, including development of parish councils, mechanisms for listening and consultation, communications, small groups to promote personal conversion, formation in discernment and synodal processes.

The Synthesis concludes by declaring that the Spirit has, through the Synod, awakened a new sense of responsibility in the faithful here for the conversion of the Church, which we must respond to with confidence without waiting on others to enact this change or that new structure.

The full [National Synthesis can be found here](#).

### THE PORTICO

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