



TOGETHER IN THE SPIRIT

Bi-monthly Catholic Magazine

February 2021—Issue 7

TOGETHER IN THE SPIRIT

WELCOME to the seventh edition of our bi-monthly magazine. We hope 2021 will be a much better year for all of us. The Healing Prayer Ministry Team have continued to meet regularly, in the Spirit, keeping you all in our prayers and praying for your various petitions.

Its great to receive feedback on the magazine; we thank those of you who have let us know you have enjoyed it and forwarded it on to others, as well as those who have commented on particular articles. This encourages us to continue the magazine and helps us to understand what topics you enjoy. Please continue to send your comments.

You may contact the Healing Prayer Ministry Team on the numbers below:

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We would like to hear from you, anyone who needs help. or. who would just like someone to chat to. The need to care for and support each other will, of course, continue, and we are just a phone call away.

Contributions to the magazine this month from: Deacon Dave, Maria, Trish, Margaret, Ken and Andy. Your ideas and suggestions are always welcome.

"A new year is unfolding—like a blossom with petals curled tightly concealing the beauty within. Lord, let this year be filled with the things that are truly good—with the comfort of warmth in our relationships, with the strength to help those who need our help and the humility and openness to accept help from others. As we make our resolutions for the year ahead, let us go forward with great hope that all things can be possible—with Your help and guidance."



Anonymous



RECOMMENDED VIEWING AND LISTENING



Fr. James Altman, Pastor, St. James the Less, La Crosse, Wisconsin, USA, recently shot to fame, creating ‘huge’ controversy and division, after issuing a video statement in which he said, among other things, “You cannot be a Catholic and a Democrat. Period.” So sudden was his rise to fame we cannot find any personal information about Fr Altman but we invite you to view two homilies of his on YouTube. The first is ‘Fatima: The Error That Spreads Throughout the World and the second is ‘The Stunning Prophecy of Our Lady of Good Success.’ Both are well worth watching.

Highly Recommended viewing: Fr Mike Schmitz - ‘Struggle is Necessary’ on YouTube, Ascension Presents.

Highly Recommended listening: ‘Through it all’ by The Living Stones Quartet on YouTube.

RECOMMENDED READING:

We have accessed some great resources which enable us to produce items for the magazine. Listed below are some of the books and magazines we use that you might like to acquire for your own enjoyment.



The Bible: A collection of 36 books, **NOT**, as many might assume, a historical document **but the actual living Word of God!** A rich source of nourishment for mind and soul. Every home should have one.

The Incredible Catholic Mass. Book. Written by Fr. Martin Von Cochem. Reveals the essence of Holy Mass. Published in 1997 by Tan Books, California. ISBN978-0-89555-608-0.

The Secret of the Rosary. Book. Written by Saint Louis de Montford. Printed in Great Britain by Amazon.

Calx MARIAE. Magazine. A Voice of the Family Publication. Editorial Office in London. The magazine is sponsored by the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children with thanks to LIFESITE. Published quarterly. Visit: voiceofthefamily.com/calx-mariae to subscribe or purchase online. More information from any Team Member.

Catholic Daily Refection

BE MADE CLEAN:

A leper came to him and kneeling down begged him and said, “If you wish, you can make me clean.” Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched the leper, and said to him, “I do will it. Be made clean.” Mark 1:40–41



If we come to our divine Lord with faith, kneel down before Him and present our need to Him, then we also will receive the same response given to this leper: “I do will it. Be made clean.” These words should give us hope in the midst of any and every challenge in life.

What is it that our Lord wills for you? And what is it that He desires to make clean in your life? This story of the leper coming to Jesus does not mean that our Lord will grant any and every request we bring to Him. Instead, it reveals that He wills to make us clean of that which afflicts us the most. Leprosy in this story should be seen as a symbol of the spiritual ills that afflict your soul. First and foremost, it should be seen as a symbol of the sin in your life that has become habitual and slowly does great damage to your soul.

At that time, leprosy not only caused grave physical damage to a person, but it also had the effect of isolating them from the community. They had to live apart from others who did not have the disease; and if they came near others, they had to show they were lepers by certain external signs so that people would not come in contact with them. Thus, leprosy had both personal and communal ramifications. The same is true with many habitual sins. Sin does damage to our souls, but it also affects our relationships. For example, a person who is habitually harsh, judgmental, sarcastic or the like will experience the ill effects of these sins on their relationships.

Returning to the statement of Jesus above, consider that sin which not only affects your soul the most but also your relationships. To that sin, Jesus wishes to say to you, “Be made clean.” He wants to strengthen your relationship by cleansing the sin within your soul. And all it takes for Him to do that is for you to turn to Him on your knees and to

present your sin to Him. This is especially true within the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Reflect, today, upon your closest relationships in life. And then consider which of your sins most directly hurts those relationships. Whatever comes to mind, you can be certain that Jesus wants to rid you of that spiritual leprosy within your soul.

My divine Lord, help me to see that which is within me that most harms my relationships with others. Help me to see that which causes isolation and hurt. Give me the humility to see this and the trust I need to turn to You to confess it and seek Your healing. You and You alone can free me from my sin, so I turn to You in confidence and surrender. With faith, I also await Your healing words, "I do will it. Be made clean." Jesus, I trust in You.

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What are you going to do this Lent?

As a child, Lent meant denying myself a biscuit at playtime in the infant school and donating the penny instead for the 'black babies'. It was a time of giving up something in order to help focus our minds on Jesus and the sacrifice He made for us and a way of showing repentance for our sins. Every year I gave up sweets and chocolate. To this day, I still give up sweets and chocolate, but that is only the beginning.

Lent is usually thought of as a time of repentance, of renewal of faith and of looking forward with hope to the joyful celebration of Easter. It is a time when we attempt to change for the better.

Over the years we have been presented with different ways of giving thought and time to God during the Lenten Season. It is important to place the emphasis on performing spiritual works such as, attending Holy Mass, making the Stations of the Cross, keeping Our Blessed Lord company for an hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament, spending time in personal prayer and spiritual reading and receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation. Acts of charity can be undertaken and offered up. Our Blessed Lady exhorts us to pray and fast. She tells us that, prayer accompanied by fasting is very powerful.

St. Faustina lived Lent in a simple but holy way by being obedient to Our Lord. We could choose to imitate her by asking ourselves some simple questions. Am I obedient to the teachings of the Holy Catholic Church? St. Therese of Lisieux pledged to obey not only her superiors but also all her sisters. Do I deny myself and put others first or do I insist upon my needs and ignore others? Could I choose to do little penances? St Faustina records some of her little penances in her diary like, leaving herself feeling a little hungry after a meal and sleeping without a pillow. Could I meditate on the Passion of Christ? Jesus taught St. Faustina that there is more merit to an hour of meditation on His Passion than a year of mortification. She learned that Lent is a time to be conformed to Christ in His Passion so that we might share in His resurrection.

Let us desire then, to be obedient to Christ since our salvation came about through His obedience to His Father.

SOUL PURPOSE by Lorcan Brennan

Come and see. Find me here in the light and shallows. Open your heart to the waiting gifts of My peace, healing and love. Rest on My paths.

Travel My pilgrim road with a praying heart and find through My way all you need for healing and life to the full. I go with you always. You are never alone.

Tell me again the story of your heart and soul. Pour out your life into My life. Allow Me to refill your heart with heart with all you need for your path ahead.

PRAYING FROM THE HEART

by Mirjana Soldo

What does it mean to pray from the heart? For me its when I feel everything I want to say instead of merely thinking it, when every word passes through my heart before it comes out of my mouth.



When I say *Hail Mary*, I try to feel like I am truly greeting Mary with love. When I say *full of grace*, I marvel at how much grace Mary gives everyone. I talk to her in prayer – its not that I can see or hear her, but I can sense her voice within. When I reflect on Mary's Assumption into heaven, for example, I ask her how she felt and what she thought in that moment. Prayer never seems like repetition to me because I always feel new and different things. "With prayer and fasting we can turn from all material things that bind us to contemplating God," said Fr. Slavko. The more we contemplate God and our Lady the more we become like them. And the more we become like them, the easier it is to open our hearts to them.

It takes practice, perseverance and a clean soul to feel God's presence when you pray. If you don't know what it means to pray from the heart, consider trying this: Confess your sins and give everything over to God. Fast on bread and water. Pray the rosary and then speak to God in your own words, as if you are talking to your best friend or loved one. Continue with your fasting and prayer. Soon you will discover what it means to pray from the heart. You will recognise God's unmistakable presence when you feel it and you will never want to stop.

Printed with permission from 'My Heart will Triumph' by Mirjana Soldo. (2016) CatholicShop Publishing. www.CatholicShop.com

KEN'S CORNER:

You can't lose a homing pigeon— if it doesn't come back you've just lost a pigeon. I've been learning the hokey-cokey—I haven't mastered all of it— just the ins and outs.



ST FAUSTINA AND D-I-Y ABORTION

In issue 5 of ‘Together in the Spirit’ we wrote about the introduction of D-I-Y abortion in England. The decision on whether or not to make this permanent was to be decided after a Consultation, which is currently in progress, and which will end on **26th February 2021**. You may take part in this consultation in either of two ways:

- Write to the Ministerial Correspondence and Public Enquiries Unit at the Department of Health and Social Care,
- Go online to the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children and complete an online questionnaire.

Details of both these options are available at www.SPUC.org.uk



Not well-known about the “Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska” (1276) are the pangs of abortion she suffered on behalf of souls who experienced this tragic occurrence. It’s quite obvious from Saint Faustina’s entry that abortion is not just an issue with Catholicism or the Pro-Life movement, but is also an issue with God Himself.

Saint Faustina was a victim soul. God called her to experience suffering on behalf of the world’s sins. As Christians, God calls all of us to pray for mercy on behalf of our own sins and the sins of the world. Saint Faustina’s Diary is God’s instrument to express His thoughts to the world but this diary is a diary of mercy not judgment. It is the mercy of God we seek in prayer, not the judgment of God. Jesus gave us the Divine Mercy Chaplet as a means to seek His mercy for all souls. And certainly, it is no coincidence that Jesus arranged that the Divine Mercy Chaplet could be prayed using His Mother’s beads.

In a video posted on YouTube on 28th January, 2021, Fr. Chris Alar* describes how St Faustina and her Confessor both said that the Divine Mercy Chaplet was given by Jesus mainly to counter abortion. The devil hates Jesus’ Mercy but cannot attack Him, and takes human life instead. The above Diary entry, read together with entry 39, and the sworn evidence given during her beatification process indicates the Chaplet was given to counteract abortion.

Please consider responding to the Consultation on D-I-Y abortion.

*Fr. Chris Alar, ‘Did Jesus Give the Chaplet of Divine Mercy to Stop Abortion’?

TRIALS TRANSFORMED INTO VIRTUES

At times God imposes trials upon us. This is done out of love to strengthen us and to deepen our love of Him. Look at what it is that you experience as a trial. Ask God if this is from Him and what good He wants to bring from that trial. Trials always have the potential of making us stronger. If you are experiencing a certain internal trial in life, know that it is in this moment, more than any other, that God wants you to renew your trust in Him. Do it even if you do not feel like doing so. Trials are the greatest opportunity for our faith, hope and love to grow. (St. Faustina's diary no. 24).

What is your greatest trial right now? Pinpoint it and know that Jesus understands. Reflect on Him coming to you at this moment, embracing this trial with You. His strength is perfect and will lead you through all things. He will fill you with a greater faith, hope and love. (Divine Mercy Reflection No. 27, My Catholic Life).

Finally, think of His DIVINE MERCY constantly poured into you. Total, forgiving mercy and love. Say often: JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU.

Also, you will receive many graces by nurturing a humble way of life. Think of Mary's total humility, trusting completely in God's Will for her. People are lifted in spirit when they meet a humble, loving person and many a person has experienced total conversion on meeting such people.

God Bless, Deacon Dave ✠

The Conversion of St. Paul

Paul the apostle, known as Saul, was born in the Roman city of Tarsus. When Saul was very young he was sent to Jerusalem where Gamaliel taught him Mosaic Law. He was an excellent student and well respected for his intellect.



Saul had a great zeal for Jewish law and traditions and so he was very upset that some of his Jewish brethren were following the New Way. He began persecuting Christians in order to

‘please God’. He dragged them out of their homes, imprisoned them and even had some of them killed. Saul witnessed, and may even have ordered, the stoning to death of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. Stephen called out to God to forgive those who were stoning him. According to St. Augustine, it was Stephen’s prayer that planted the seed in Saul which helped his conversion.

Saul’s conversion happened when he was travelling to Damascus with the intention of arresting many Christians and taking them back for trial in Jerusalem. When he and his men were very near the city, Saul was struck down by a very bright light. In Acts Chapter 9 it says that Saul heard a voice saying, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ It was Jesus who spoke to him and he told Saul to go into the city where he would be told what to do. The men who were with him heard the voice but could not see Jesus. When Saul got up, although his eyes were wide open, he could not see anything and so had to be lead into the city. During the three days of blindness Saul fasted from food and drink.

Ananias, who lived in Damascus, had been told in a vision that Saul was coming to the city. He was instructed to meet Saul and lay hands on him and pray that his sight would be restored. Ananias, having heard about Saul, how he had treated the Christians in Jerusalem and that he was coming to Damascus to arrest the Christians there, was very reluctant to do as the Lord said. As soon as Ananias laid hands on him, Saul could see again and was baptised there and then. He spent a few days with the disciples in Damascus and then, to the amazement of all who heard him, Saul began preaching in the synagogues. Some time later Saul changed his name to Paul.

After spending some time in Damascus, God called Paul to Arabia where he spent two years or more in the desert. It is believed that this is where Paul had visions much like the vision St. John writes about in his book of Revelation. The Lord prepared Paul to teach the Gospel, and when Paul returned from the desert, after a short stay in Damascus, he went directly to Jerusalem where he met with Peter, the first pope, to receive Peter’s blessing before he started on his ministry. Paul spent the rest of his life travelling and spreading the Gospel of Jesus, establishing churches and teaching others to lead in his absence. Paul’s epistles to the churches he established make up over a quarter of the New Testament. He is the greatest missionary in the history of the Church. (Feast Day - 25th January)

CONSOLING THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS



In our world today we are looking for answers to so many problems: abortion, euthanasia, loss of religious freedom, plummeting morals. This all leads to the loss of God and the loss of souls. God is not going to remain silent if we carry on like this. But God works with humanity and we must do what His Will asks of us.

But what are we to do? Well, we know the war is won – Jesus has the victory – but we have to go into battle. But don't worry, we are not alone. Our Mother, Mary, is our Colonel in Chief. We need to defeat this culture of death that threatens our world right now. We have faith, belief in our Blessed Mother who has told us that Her Immaculate Heart will triumph.

So, God has won the war but there are battles to be fought in the meantime, the battles for souls. Victory is guaranteed but our job is to limit the casualties. The Battle Plan is the First Nine Fridays and the First Five Saturdays.

The First Nine Fridays are about making reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for ourselves and for others and to pray for the conversion of sinners. Jesus asked St. Margaret Mary to do this and Our Lady asked at Fatima that we do the First Five Saturdays. There is a complementarity between the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. To help in the battle also, we can offer up our sufferings and little penances to help change our world and bring peace. And with Lent fast approaching, it's a great time to start.

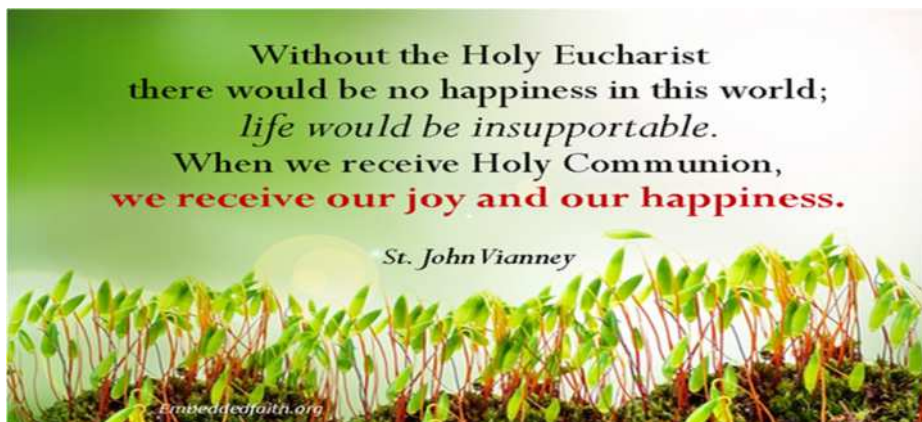
Sister Margaret Mary Alacoque, received a series of visions. Christ himself directed her to foster devotion to His Sacred Heart. One of these devotions was to make the first Friday of each month a special day of observance. Specifically, the devotion involved receiving Holy Communion on nine consecutive First Fridays with the intention of making reparation to “the Heart that has loved men so and is loved so little in return.”

Jesus told St. Margaret Mary of His great love for souls and His desire to shower His mercy on those who were devoted to Him. He revealed several promises for those who lovingly practiced the First Friday devotion. Among the promises were: final perseverance in the Catholic faith, reception of the sacraments before death, and death in the state of grace, as well as the consolation of Christ's love at the time of death. But the devotion is done in order to **console the Heart of Jesus**, and our Lord does not say that those who make the nine Fridays will be dispensed from any of their obligations or from exercising the vigilance necessary to lead a good life and overcome temptation; rather He implicitly promises abundant graces to those who make the nine Fridays to help them to carry out these obligations and persevere to the end. We must practice the devotion to the Sacred Heart and have a great love for our Lord.

In case you are wondering, the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary lead us to Divine Mercy.

We are beginning the First Nine Fridays at St. Mary's Lowe House on Friday 5th February at 3.00 p.m. We will begin with the Divine Mercy Chaplet, a time of Adoration where we can express our sorrow for our sins and reparation to the Sacred Heart for ourselves and others. We will finish with a Eucharistic Service and blessing with the Blessed Sacrament.

We will look at the First Five Saturdays in our next magazine.



CATHOLICS COPING WITH CORONA VIRUS

‘The Coronavirus, Church & You’ report was commissioned by Catholic Voices, and was part of a wider survey of Christian responses in the UK to the COVID-19 crisis.

Over 2,500 Catholics were surveyed, between 19th May and the 26th July, about their experiences and attitudes towards lockdown. The survey was part of a wider survey of UK Christian responses to the present crisis.

Some of the main findings were:

- ♦ Of those polled 93% accessed Church services online during COVID19. This high figure naturally reflects the fact that this was an online survey circulated directly by Bishops, clergy, religious orders, lay and diocesan networks.
- ♦ While there was a high level of engagement and appreciation of online worship (66%) the results suggest that there is little danger of a mass exodus to the virtual world, with only 4% thinking they would worship mainly or entirely online in the future.
- ♦ A majority (61%) felt that closing church buildings during the lockdown was the right decision.
- ♦ 80% think that church buildings are central to faith witness in the community and 84% disagreed with the suggestion that church buildings are an unnecessary burden and expense.
- ♦ Just over half of Catholics felt that their church, at a national level, had responded well (53%) to the crisis.
- ♦ Many Catholics polled (63%) had had some contact with clergy or a lay representative during lockdown ranging from pastoral support, practical help, prayer, church admin, or just checking up.
- ♦ Catholics surveyed said that lockdown had helped them to feel closer to God (50%) and more prayerful (54%).

Perhaps this last point indicates the way forward for us. Maybe, at the beginning of Lent we should resolve to pray that we may come closer to God and each other, so that when the churches finally reopen, we are ready and eager to begin rebuilding our church communities.

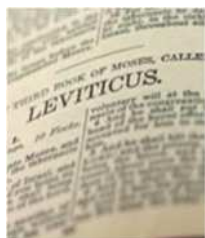
We can pray individually or pray together in the Spirit with friends in small groups online at a regular prearranged time. The Rosary is an ideal prayer for this. We can use our new technology skills to Skype, Zoom or WhatsApp small groups for prayer. This would give added purpose to our meetings and help us grow in friendship with God and each other.



**BECAUSE, TOGETHER
WE ARE CHURCH,
THE BODY OF CHRIST!**

The full Survey/Report, 'The Coronavirus, Church & You,' can be accessed at www.catholicvoices.org.uk - an organisation created in 2010 to improve the representation of the Church in the Media.

BIBLE WISDOM...



These laws were given to the nation of Israel 3,500 years ago - look it up in the Bible...

Leviticus 13 : 4, 5, 46 - If you have symptoms, keep your distance, cover your mouth and avoid contact.

Leviticus 13 ; 4, 5, - who is infected must remain in quarantine for 7 to 14 days.

Exodus 30 : 18 -21, Wash your hands so that they will not die.

FAMILY AND FAITH



We ended 2020 and started 2021 celebrating family, that which we refer to as the cornerstone or building blocks of society. The Word became flesh and the ultimate mission given to all families was to welcome and nourish the Truth of God.

At this time of great crisis of faith and the family, this is the never-failing reason for us to take heart, for just as the fruits of Christian faith and civilisation were nourished in the family, they are to be restored through the family. Many Catholic parents today are struggling with the daily reality of countering mounting and insidious threats to life and family. Today's attacks on the innocence of children are targeted at the Truth of God which illuminates their immortal souls.

Sex education in schools corrupts children and grooms them for the contraception and abortion industry. Parents who wish to fulfil their mission as primary educators would never want such education to enter their family. By such programmes, made compulsory outside of the family, parents' trust in educational institutions is abused and their children are alienated from them.

Countless ordinary Catholic parents can confidently say that the commandment "Honour thy Father and thy Mother", reaffirmed in the Gospel, establishes for all time, that parents are the primary educators and protectors of their children. Today this fact is contradicted and parents can easily feel overwhelmed by powerful forces ranged against them

The hope for this fallen world, however, comes from God. To rebuild our Christian civilisation, we must learn to know and love our Catholic faith anew. To help with this the **Voice of the Family*** has launched an entire online video catechism course for children and families, **Our Lady of the Rosary Family Catechism**** as we choose how we will respond to the Truth incarnate that dwells within us.

*Voice of the Family. A lay initiative formed to defend Catholic teaching on the family. Visit: voiceofthefamily.com

****Our Lady of the Rosary Family Catechism.** An entire online video catechism course which is completely free of charge. Visit: www.olrfamilycatechism.com

OF FISH AND TREES....



When GOD wanted to create the fish, HE spoke to the sea, when GOD wanted to create the trees, HE spoke to the earth but when GOD wanted to create Man, HE spoke to Himself. Then GOD said, "Let US make Man in Our image, according to Our likeness.

If you Take a fish out of the water, it will die and when you take a tree off the ground, it will also die. Similarly, when Man is disconnected from GOD, he dies. GOD is our natural environment. We were created to live in HIS presence. We must be connected to HIM because only in HIM there is Life. STAY CONNECTED TO God.

Remember - GOD without Man is still GOD but Man without GOD is Nothing.

Author not identified

THE INCREDIBLE CATHOLIC MASS

When Christ was upon Earth, by His Divine omniscience, He foresaw that, in spite of His bitter passion, many millions of mankind would not participate in the Redemption He purchased for them and consequently would be doomed to perdition. In the infinite love which He, as our elder brother, bore to us and in His desire for our salvation, He offered Himself to His heavenly Father, declaring Himself willing to hang upon the Cross, not three hours only, but to the End of Time in order that the tears He shed, the Blood that flowed from His veins, His fervent prayers and sighs, might assuage the severity of divine justice and move the divine compassion



and loving kindness to ordain some means whereby the loss of so vast a number of souls might be prevented.

St Bonaventure, (1221-1274) in his Meditations, also says that Christ was ready to remain upon the Cross until the End of the World, and other theologians concur in this opinion. Our Lord, Himself, has revealed to many Saints that for the sake of one sinner He would suffer over again all that He suffered for the whole world.

The Eternal Father did not accept the offer made by the Savior to prolong His Passion upon the Cross until the Last Day; the three hours of His Crucifixion were amply sufficient; and in His omniscience He knew that whosoever failed to share in the merits of the Sacred Passion would only have Himself to blame for the loss of his soul.

Far from quenching the ardour of Christ's love for man, this sentence only kindled it the more and strengthened His desire to rescue us unhappy sinners from eternal damnation. Therefore, in His Divine wisdom, He devised a means whereby He could remain on earth after His death, continue His saving Passion, unceasingly plead with God for man, as He did when nailed upon the Cross. What was this wondrous means? None other than the Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, wherein He daily, continually, suffers mystically upon the Cross, suffers for us, pleads for us, calls upon God for grace and mercy on our behalf with irresistible urgency.

Thus, Christ fulfils His office of mediator; He cries from the altar at every Mass, in a voice so powerful, so persuasive, it pierces the clouds and reaches the heart of the Eternal Father, 'Father forgive them, for they know not what they do'. (Luke 23:34)

Taken from 'The Incredible Catholic Mass' by Fr. Martin von Cochem. (originally published 1704). Tan Books, Nt. Carolina.

“Man should tremble, the world should quake, all Heaven should be deeply moved when the Son of God appears on the altar in the hands of the priest.”

-St. Francis of Assisi



How often do we pray and pray ... and then give up because our prayers don't seem to be answered?

In 2017, some of the Healing Prayer Ministry Team were privileged to meet up with John Gillespie at Pantasaph. John's was a wonderful story. At 18 he was diagnosed with a hip problem. Working on building sites made it worse till eventually his whole body, back, knees and muscles became destroyed and he was in excruciating pain. He prayed for over 15 years for healing and was praying 20 novenas a day and other prayers for the Lord to save and heal him, but it just wasn't happening. He knew God could heal him, but he didn't know how.

He was led to a book by Canon Jim Glennon called 'Your Healing is Within You'. This suggested that to be healed you need to seek forgiveness, pray in faith, fast and use scripture as a form of prayer. John started to do this and felt strongly led by the Holy Spirit in doing so. Two days after the end of a novena to Our Lady at a local Church, John's hip unlocked and the pain left him. This was healing through persevering in faith.

Several years later someone asked John to pray with them and were healed by Jesus. Word spread and that was the start of his healing and deliverance ministry. John teaches us that we need to pray with faith. We often pray to ask for things, begging God for an answer. What we should do when we pray is ask and believe that we have received. That is Faith.

John says God doesn't respond to pity, pain or our needs, He doesn't tune in to our feelings. What does move God is FAITH. We cannot please God without Faith. Whatever you ask for in prayer full of faith, you will receive (Matthew 21:22). In other words, 'Ask and believe that you have received. Believe and you will have life through His Name (John 20:31)'.

As well as faith, we need patience. We can have all the faith in the

world, but we must also have the patience to wait on God's timing and keep claiming that our prayer has been answered. Don't give up. No matter how tempting it is, don't throw away all the hard work and fervent prayers because you can't wait. If it looks like things aren't working out, give thanks that God is working this out for your own good, claim the blessing and have faith and trust that the prayer has been answered.

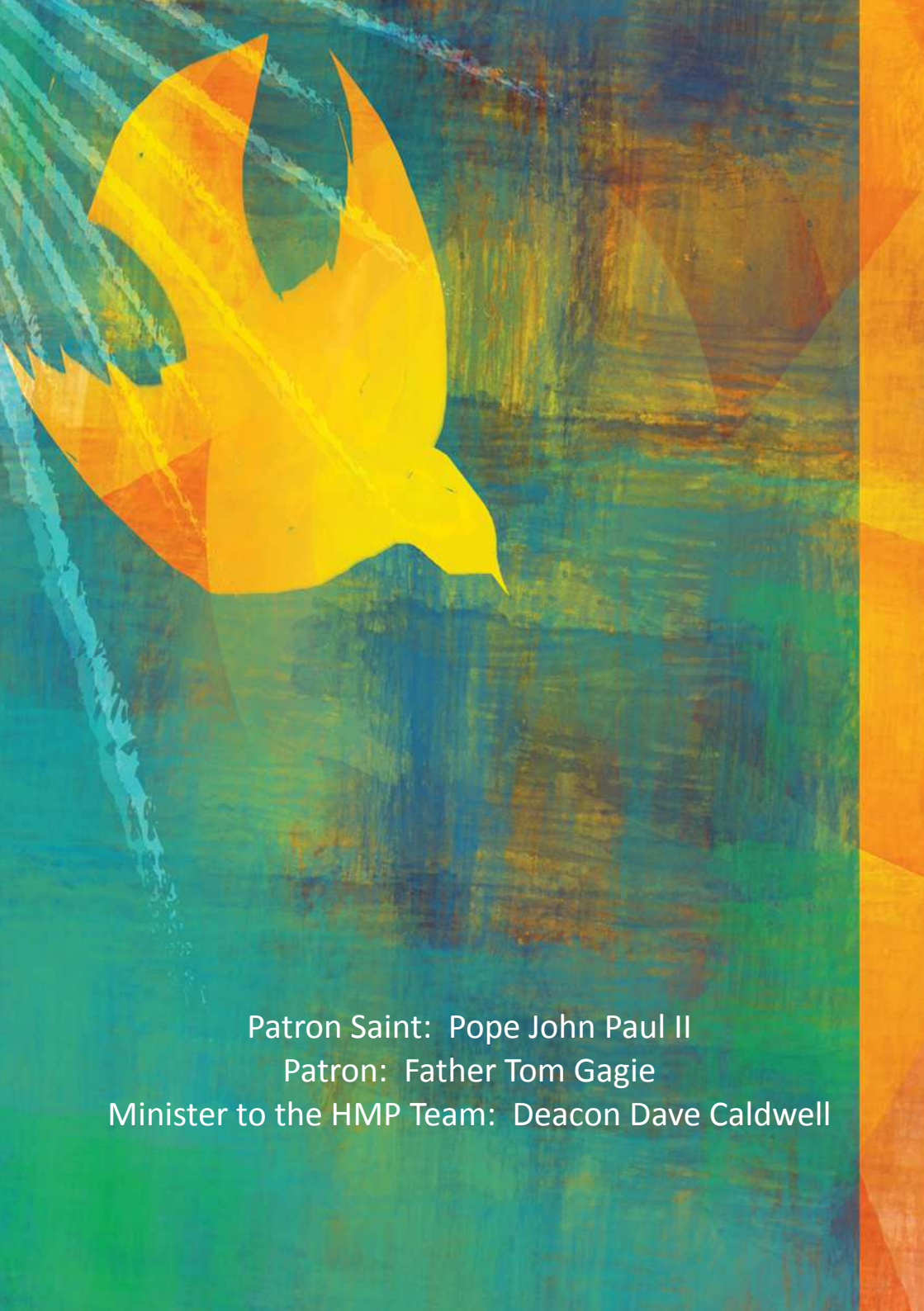
Back in Pantasaph, as part of the retreat we had healing prayer ministry with John. There were about 200 people there and he prayed individually with us. I'd like to share the story of my healing that day and perhaps others in our team will share their stories in future magazines.

John prayed over me, and I can't remember what, if anything, he said to me. I felt no sudden healing of anything but I did believe that Jesus had healed me through John, I just didn't know what from!

I found out 3 days later. I suddenly realized that I hadn't taken a painkiller for these 3 days. So? Well the issue was, though I wasn't admitting it, I knew full well that I was addicted to them; so did Dave my husband. It was soluble paracetamol and I was at the point where I was taking the full amount per day every day and I was even watching the clock to see how soon I could take my next dose. Really silly and how could that happen to me? Well, that's what Satan wants to do to us, to mess us up. So on that Tuesday I realized that not only had I not taken any, but I hadn't even thought about taking any! In fact, when I was getting slight headaches, which is why I started taking them, I started praying them away in the way John taught us. Job done! Praised be Jesus!

I remain cured. I have no idea why Jesus chose to heal that but perhaps it was for my benefit spiritually.. Whether John saw that in me when he was praying, because he had phenomenal gifts from the Lord, I don't know. But I share it to give glory to God and to show you what can happen when we believe.

More next time about John, his ministry and the wonders of God! (Material taken from 'The Key to Powerful Prayer' by John Gillespie).



Patron Saint: Pope John Paul II

Patron: Father Tom Gagie

Minister to the HMP Team: Deacon Dave Caldwell