



TOGETHER IN THE SPIRIT

Bi-monthly Catholic Magazine

October 2020—Issue 5

TOGETHER IN THE SPIRIT

WELCOME to the fifth edition of our bi-monthly magazine. We hope you continue to enjoy it. Call or text any of the numbers below to share your news and views or to suggest items you would like to see in the magazine.

No doubt we are all coming to terms with new restrictions as we face a second battle against COVID-19. Thank God our churches remain open so far this time and, with God's help and prayer, we will ride out this second storm. For information/help contact St Mary's Lowe House on <http://www.stmaryslovehouse.org/> website and **Holy Cross and St Mary's, Lowe House, St Helens** Facebook page posts notices from St Mary's Lowe House and St. Thomas of Canterbury Churches.

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

Deacon Dave: **07523425540**
Margaret: **07716152552**
Maria: **07730413283**
Email: **thecaldwells32@live.co.uk**

We would like to hear from anyone who needs help or 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. None of us, however, is altogether alone—Jesus is always with us! Keep in touch.

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

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”.

Philippians 4:4-7

RECOMMENDED VIEWING AND LISTENING



DR. BRANT PITRE; If you are looking for some easy to understand, well delivered Bible Study, check out Dr. Brant Pitre on YouTube. He gives short (10/15 minute) teach-ins on the Sunday Gospels and indeed the Scriptures in general. He is Distinguished Research Professor of Scripture at the Augustine Institute, Graduate School of Theology. He earned his Ph.D. in Theology from the University of Notre Dame, where he specialized in the study of the New Testament and ancient Judaism. He has written various best-selling books and of course his Bible studies (both video and audio) in which he explores the biblical foundations of Catholic faith and theology. His wife is Elizabeth and they have five children.

We cannot read the New Testament without reference to the Old Testament, of course, and Dr. Pitre wonderfully explains the connections between the two. Well worth watching. His website is www.brantpitre.com. You can also find him at Catholic Productions www.Catholicproductions.com or on You Tube.

A Reader recommends: "If Jesus is just 'another' way, forget about celibacy. Fr. Mark Goring - YouTube.



Pope Francis has added three new invocations to the beautiful prayer of the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, otherwise known as the Litany of Loretto. The new titles are Mother of Mercy. Mother of Hope and Solace of Migrants – a beautiful gift to Our Lady and the world on the Feast Day of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.



KEN'S KORNER: I went into a store to buy some books about turtles. "Hardbacks?" asked the shopkeeper. "Yes," I replied. "And they have little heads, too."



A Mystical Rose Tree

Good and devout souls, who walk in the light of the Holy Spirit, I do not think you will mind me giving you this little rose tree which comes straight from heaven and which is to be planted in the garden of your soul. It cannot possibly harm the sweet-smelling flowers of your contemplation, for it is a heavenly tree and its scent is very pleasant. It will not in the least interfere with your carefully planted flower beds; for, being itself all pure and well ordered, it inclines all to order and purity. If it is carefully watered and attended to every day, it will grow to such a marvellous height, and its branches will have such a wide span that, far from hindering your other devotions, it will maintain and perfect them. Of course, you understand what I mean, since you are spiritually minded; this mystical rose tree is Jesus and Mary in life, death and eternity.



Its green leaves are the Joyful Mysteries, the thorns the Sorrowful ones and the flowers the Glorious Mysteries of Jesus and Mary. The buds are the childhood of Jesus and Mary, and the open blooms show us both of them in their sufferings, and the full-blown roses symbolise Jesus and Mary in their triumph and glory. A rose delights us because of its beauty; so here we have Jesus and Mary in the Joyful mysteries. Its thorns are sharp, and they prick, which makes us think of them in the sorrowful mysteries, and last of all its perfume is so sweet that everyone loves it, and this fragrance symbolises their Glorious Mysteries.

So please do not scorn this beautiful and heavenly tree but plant it with your own hands in the garden of your soul, by making the resolution to say the Rosary every day. By saying it daily and doing good works you will be tending your tree, watering it, hoeing the earth around it. Eventually you will see that this little seed which I have given you, and which seems so small now, will grow into a tree so great that the birds of heaven, that is predestinate and contemplative souls, will dwell in it and make their nests there. Its shade will shelter them from the scorching heat of the sun and its height will keep them safe from the wild beasts on the ground. And best of all, they will feed on the fruit, which is none other than our Adorable Jesus, to whom honour and glory be for ever and ever. Amen. *St Louis de Montford (1673)*



The month of **October** each year is dedicated to the Most Holy **Rosary**. This is primarily due to the fact that the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on **October 7th**.

On October 7, 1571, two navies engaged in a huge maritime battle that would determine who controlled maritime traffic in the Mediterranean, Adriatic and Aegean seas. The fate of western Europe depended upon the success of Christians in this navy battle, which involved more than 400 warships (it was the largest naval battle in Western history for centuries).

Pope Pius V knew he needed more than just military strength to defend Christian Europe, so he asked that all the faithful pray the Rosary, requesting the intercession of the Blessed Mother. At the end of the Battle of Lepanto, the Holy League was victorious and the maritime expansion of the Ottoman Empire was permanently prevented.

The next year, Pope Pius V established a feast on October 7 in honour of the Blessed Mother, originally called Our Lady of Victory. After a few centuries, the name was changed to Our Lady of the Rosary to more clearly recognize that prayer was the greatest power at work that day on the seas.

We have, no doubt, all experienced the power of the Rosary in our own lives but it can do no harm to remind ourselves of some of the benefits of saying the Rosary to encourage us in this devotion practiced by so many holy people. The Rosary recited with the meditation of the mysteries brings about the following marvellous results:

1. It gradually brings us a perfect knowledge of Jesus Christ.
2. It purifies our souls from sin.
3. It gives us victory over all our enemies.
4. It makes the practice of virtue easy.

5. It enriches us with graces and merits;
6. It supplies us with what is needed to pay all our debts to God and to our fellow men, and finally,
7. It obtains all kinds of graces from God.

From “the Secret of the Rosary” by Saint Louis de Montfort.

Soul Food — Daily Deliveries by Father Jim Cogley.

Chasing our Tails: A story is told of a wise old alley cat and a kitten. The kitten is playing as a kitten tends to do by going round in circles chasing its tail but is unable to catch it. “Why are you doing that?” asked the older cat. “Because my mammy told me that everything I will ever need in life is contained in my tail. All joy, happiness and fulfilment is to be found there so if I can just catch hold of it and never let it go, I will be happy for the rest of my life!”



The old cat smiled knowingly and said “I too believe that happiness lies in my tail but I don’t spend my life going after it. I just keep looking out and going forward and then it just follows me wherever I go.”

The pursuit of what we want in life is often the biggest obstacle to receiving what we need. So often when we pray, we may first need to let go of it before we are truly ready to receive the answer.

- ◆ Fr Cogley is a Priest from Our Lady’s Island, Wexford and his homilies can be accessed almost daily on Facebook page. Search for Our Lady’s Island Wexford and click on ‘follow’.



Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.



The Power of Eucharistic Adoration

St. Thomas Aquinas once said that, what Jesus did for all of humanity 2000 years ago, He does for the individual soul through His Eucharistic Ministry. He applies the graces of His passion to our souls through the mystery of the Eucharist.

When we do Eucharistic Adoration, we lift up the Lord, we glorify Him and the evil one is cast out. There is a driving out of our hearts, the things that are not of Him, the things that are the effect of the evil one. The more powerfully we lift Him up, the more powerfully we are drawn to Him, the more powerfully does the liberation from evil happen through Eucharistic Adoration. We have to let ourselves be drawn to Him in the Eucharist. When we go to Adoration, we have to go with all our hearts, with great joy and with great fervour. St. Teresa of Avila said that, we have Jesus now, in the Blessed Sacrament, just as much as people did when He was on earth. What more could we want? We see Jesus in the Eucharist whenever we want. We don't just glimpse Him and we can take him into our own bodies. That is an extraordinary privilege.

When we go to Eucharistic Adoration, let's go as if it was for the first time. Jesus is truly there. We should be like little children on Christmas Day. If we let ourselves be drawn with childlike wonder, Jesus will cast out of our lives whatever is not meant to be there. We should be filled with wonder. Feel the intensity of the love for us in the Eucharist. Blessed Dina Belanger, who was very close to Mary, was told by Jesus, that He wanted to take up a reign of love in our hearts through the Eucharist.

When you do your Eucharistic Adoration, pray to Jesus to rid your heart, your mind, your life, your family of all of the works of the devil. You might have an attachment to some sin or be filled with discouragement. Then, ask Jesus to fill you with His love. Jesus also told Blessed Dina Belanger that, if only she knew the intensity of His love, then He would

take His life again if He could.

(Taken from a talk given by Fr. Sean Davidson at the New Dawn Conference 2020. Fr. Sean belongs to the Missionaries of the Most Holy Eucharist, a new community formed, in 2007, to promote adoration of the Eucharist.)

Diary of St Faustina Kowalska – 1698



“I often attend upon the dying and through entreaties obtain for them trust in God's mercy, and I implore God for an abundance of divine grace, which is always victorious. God's mercy sometimes touches the sinner at the last moment in a wondrous and mysterious way. Outwardly, it seems as if everything were lost, but it is not so. The soul, illumined by a ray of God's powerful final grace, turns to

God in the last moment with such a power of love that, in an instant, it receives from God forgiveness of sin and punishment, while outwardly it shows no sign either of repentance or of contrition, because souls [at that stage] no longer react to external things. Oh, how beyond comprehension is God's mercy! But-horror!-there are also souls who voluntarily and consciously reject and scorn this grace! Although a person is at the point of death, the merciful God gives the soul that interior vivid moment, so that if the soul is willing, it has the possibility of returning to God. But sometimes, the obduracy in souls is so great that consciously they choose hell; they [thus] make useless all the prayers that other souls offer to God for them and even the efforts of God Himself...

Reflection

God is outside of time, which is one big eternal moment. God sees everything in one instant – He sees everything instantaneously and without compromising our free will. Our prayers are eternal and the grace given by God from these prayers, because it is not constrained by time or space, can go in any direction, past, present or future. Christ's sacrifice is eternally present before the Father and so are our prayers if we unite them to the Cross of Christ.

So, when St Faustina says (Diary 1698, above) that Jesus will give us

several opportunities to accept Him, no matter what the circumstances, our prayers for the salvation of souls will at that moment give those souls the grace and strength to accept Our Lord. Even a soul so far removed from Christ that they may not recognise Him, through our prayers and the intercessory grace allowed by the mercy of God, may be saved.

Our Lady said at Fatima that many souls are lost to hell because there is no one to pray for them but our prayers, in the hands of Mary, can be carried by the mercy of God, outside time, to where they are needed.

The Church tells us to entrust souls to the mercy of God, and our prayers, even years later, can make a difference. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is one of the most powerful of prayers we can say for someone in need of God's mercy.

Adapted from an interview by Fr. Chris Alar, (MIC) Marians of the Immaculate Conception. https://www.marian.org/imh/issue/Fall_

SOUL PURPOSE by Lorcan Brennan.

“I believe that now, more than ever, we are invited to live in light and be a grace and blessed presence to one another in many creative, practical ways. I hope these small reflections will warm your heart, calm your soul and open your eternal spirit in hope”. LB.



‘Remember, you carry within you a piece of heaven. For I live within your soul. Yes, I am your eternal loving friend, through all life’s ups and downs. There is no need to fear. Your life is already gathered in for love. My eternal embrace surrounds all your precious days. Be joyful in this soul knowledge. Begin all your days under the care and light of My love. Be My joy and peace to others’.

These and other similar reflections by Lorcan can be accessed almost daily on Facebook. Search for Our Lady’s Island Wexford and click on ‘follow’.

PRAYER TO OUR LADY QUEEN OF ANGELS

(This prayer brings angels to earth to oppose those of Satan and should be said as often as possible as there are hundreds of billions of Satan's angels in the world.)

A Bernadine Sister was shown in spirit the vast desolation caused by the devil throughout the world and at the same time she heard the Blessed Virgin saying that it was true. Hell had been let loose upon earth and that the time had come to pray to her as Queen of the Angels to ask of her the assistance of the heavenly legions to fight against these deadly foes of God and of Man.

"But my good Mother" she replied, "You are so kind could you not send them without our asking?" "No" Our Lady Answered, "Because prayer is one of the conditions required by God Himself for obtaining favours." Then the Blessed Virgin communicated the following prayer bidding the Sister to have it printed and distributed.



PRAYER: ‘August Queen of Heaven, Sovereign Mistress of the Angels, thou who, from the beginning hast received from God the power and mission to crush the head of Satan, we humbly beseech thee to send Thy holy legions, that, under Thy command and by Thy power they may pursue the evil spirits, encounter them on every side, resist their bold attacks and drive them hence into the abyss of eternal woe.’* Amen.

Alternatively: * And thus protect me/us from all evil and harm in the coming day. Amen.

SIX LITTLE STORIES WITH LOTS OF MEANINGS

Once all the villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer all the people gathered. but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is **faith**.

When you throw babies in the air they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is **trust**.

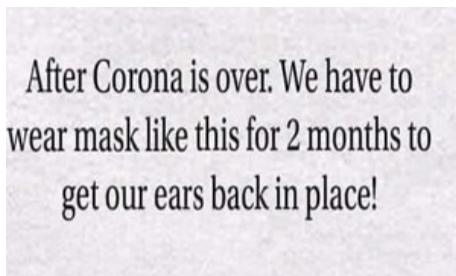
Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive in the morning but we all set the alarm to wake up. That is **hope**.

We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is **confidence**.

We see the world suffering but still we get married and have children. That is **love**.

On an old man's shirt was written a sentence "I am not 80 years old, I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience. That is **attitude**.

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories. Remember: Good friends are the rare jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace.
Deacon Dave. X



God had one Son on earth without sin but none without suffering.

St Augustine.

DANGEROUS DIY ABORTIONS INTRODUCED IN UK



In March 2020 a week after announcing there would be no change to the abortion rules, the Government announced the biggest change to abortion provision since 1967, introducing telemedicine abortions, where ‘DIY’ abortions will be performed at home by women on themselves without a doctor or other medical professional present.

The very substantial temporary change has been made without any public consultation, parliamentary scrutiny or debate. Additionally, the Department of Health made it very clear that there were significant safety and safeguarding issues for women and young girls with the proposal.

In September 2020, the UK’s largest Abortion Provider, the British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS) has declared the significant rise in the number of abortions performed so far in 2020 as “*one of the few healthcare success stories of this pandemic*”.

Statistics released by The Department of Health and Social Care last week revealed that 109,836 abortions were performed for English and Welsh residents between 1 January and 30 June 2020. This is an increase of 4,296 from the same time period in 2019. Over the full calendar year, abortion numbers for 2019 were ***the highest ever recorded*** in England and Wales at 200,608.

The significant rise in abortions coincides with the Government’s *temporary measure* allowing DIY home abortions earlier this year. However, significant problems and safety abuses have indeed arisen around their introduction. It is believed over 23,000 DIY abortions (both pills taken at home) were done during the first three months of the lockdown.

According to a leaked “urgent email” sent by a regional chief midwife at NHS England and NHS Improvement on the “escalating risks” of DIY home abortions, two women have **died** after taking DIY home abortion pills. One woman died “very quickly” with sepsis whilst seeking urgent care at a hospital’s A&E department after taking the abortion pills. A second woman was found dead at home the morning after starting the medical abortion process.

The email revealed police have opened a murder investigation into the death of a baby who they believe was born alive despite her mother taking DIY home abortion pills whilst 28 weeks pregnant. They are also investigating a further 13 cases of women taking the pills beyond the 10-week limit for medical abortion – maybe just the tip of the iceberg. A nationwide undercover investigation found evidence of abortion providers putting women at significant risk by not carrying out basic checks before sending them DIY home abortion pills. It is evident that lax monitoring and regulation inherent in the DIY provision helps child sex abusers and groomers to use abortion more easily to hide their criminal activities.

The UK Government recently announced it will launch a consultation on whether to end the temporary measure allowing DIY home abortions or make it permanent. The Pro-Life Groups are urging the Government not to cave in to the abortion lobby and their political allies and act to protect women and their unborn children by rejecting demands to make DIY abortions permanent.

The approval will expire *“on the day on which the temporary provisions of the Coronavirus Act 2020 expire, or the end of the period of 2 years beginning with the day on which it is made, whichever is earlier.”*

The Divine Mercy - Reflection 258:

The Closeness of God

Where is God? It's easy to think of God being in Heaven or some far off place, looking down upon us and guiding all of creation in accord with His holy Will. This is true, but it's not the full picture. God is perfectly “transcendent” in that He is way beyond us and beyond the created world. But He is also perfectly “immanent” in that He lives within us. When you pray, seek Him especially within your own soul. Remember that when you receive Holy Communion, God makes your soul a tabernacle. He enters in and remains within unless He is excluded on account of sin. Seek His divine presence within your soul and you will discover the intimacy of His abundant Mercy (See *Diary* #1302).

Reflect upon the image of a tabernacle. Within that sacred dwelling the

the full glory of God exists in veiled form. But He is there, alive, radiant and glorious. Now see your soul as this tabernacle. See Him coming to you to make His dwelling within you. God desires to fully live within you, making your heart the place of His gentle repose. Spend time today seeking our Lord within. Talk to Him, listen to Him, and commune with Him. Let your heart become alive and radiant with His holy presence. For within your heart is the presence of God.

“Lord, I thank You for coming to me and making my heart Your dwelling place. I thank You for Your perfect love and care and I pray that I may discover Your divine presence in my life more fully each and every day. I am Yours, dear Lord, make my soul radiant with Your eternal glory. Jesus, I trust in You

Reflection on Mary's Messages.

As we approach the 25th September 2020, and the hopes of a new message, it is always good to take a good look at the previous message. On August 25th, Our Lady said to us:

“Dear children! This is a time of grace. I am with you and anew am calling you, little children: return to God and to prayer until prayer will be a joy for you.

Little children, you do not have a future or peace until your life begins with a personal conversion and a change to the good. Evil will cease and peace will begin to reign in your hearts and in the world.

Therefore, little children, pray, pray, pray. I am with you and intercede before my Son Jesus for each of you. Thank you for having responded to my call.” (August 25, 2020)



I am always drawn to the words “pray, pray, pray.” Repeating the word “pray” three times is something Our Lady has done at least 73

Times in her messages. This repetition from Our Lady tells us that she really means it!! She really, really, really means it!! We need to pray.

Our Lady's Message | Sept. 25, 2020

"Dear children! I am with you for so long because God is great in His love and in my presence.



I am calling you, little children: return to God and to prayer. May the measure of your [way of] living be love and do not forget, little children, that prayer and fasting work miracles in you and around you.

May everything you do be for the glory of God, and then Heaven will fill your heart with joy and you will feel that God loves you and is sending me to save you and the earth on which you live.

Thank you for having responded to my call."



THE TEN VIRTUES OF MARY

Mary's Humility ... Mary's Love of God... Mary's Charity towards her neighbour

Mary's Faith Mary's Hope Mary's Chastity Mary's Poverty

Mary's Obedience Mary's Patience Mary's Spirit of Prayer

I have a great devotion to Our Blessed Mother and these 10 virtues of Mary can also be our virtues; to bring us closer to God our Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Spend time and prayer in trying to imitate Mary's virtues in your faith journey and you will experience many graces of the Lord poured upon you.

Mary is our Mother and our guide; let's walk with her and She will lead us always to her Son. Mary's 'Fiat' should be ours as well.

Mary tells us to pray the Rosary, fast, do penance, read Scripture, receive the Eucharist. If we do, we will receive the blessings that will lift us to Heaven.

From Deacon Dave ❖



The Divine Mercy

Reflection 246: Upon receiving Holy Communion

What do you do after receiving Holy Communion? Do you go back to your pew in a distracted way, with your mind wandering, paying attention to others around you, and failing to encounter our Lord on an authentic spiritual level? Or do you allow that moment to be a moment of true prayer and communion with God? If the truth is the former, just be honest with yourself and with God and use this realization for an opportunity to re-examine your approach to this most sacred Gift! The moment after Holy Communion is a treasured moment in which each soul is invited to be consumed by Him who was just consumed. In other words, the act of receiving Holy Communion is not just the physical act we do, it must also become something God does to us. We must choose to not only consume our Lord; we must also allow Him to consume us with His Mercy. There is no better time to do this than the moments after receiving this priceless Gift. This is accomplished by making your life an oblation to God. An “oblation” is an offering, and the reception of Holy Communion must become a moment in which we completely offer ourselves to our Divine Lord (See Diary #1264).

Reflect upon the last time you received Holy Communion. What was that experience like? Did you have a complete focus on what you were doing? Did you offer yourself to our Lord as an oblation of love? Did you place yourself into the hands of our Lord in a sacrificial way? Did you allow our Lord to consume you with His merciful love? Ponder these questions and commit yourself to this depth of offering. If you do, Holy Communion will become the greatest act of Mercy in your life.

My Lord and my God, I give myself to You with total abandon and surrender. My life is Yours, dear Lord. I give myself to You without reserve as an oblation of love. Jesus, I trust in You.

12 powerful quotes from PADRE PIO we need in our lives

“Today’s society does not pray... that is why it is falling apart.”

You must speak to Jesus also with the heart, besides the lips: indeed in certain cases You must speak to him only with the heart.

“My past, O Lord, to your mercy; my present to your love, my future to your providence!”

“Prayer is the best weapon we possess, the key that opens the heart of God.”

“Pray, hope and don’t worry. Worry is useless. Our merciful Lord will listen to your prayer.”

“To fail in charity is like wounding God in the pupil of His eye. What is more delicate than the pupil of the eye? To fail in charity is like failing against nature.”

“In the spiritual life, he who does not advance goes backwards. It happens as with a boat which always must go ahead. If it stands still the wind will blow it back.”

“God loves man with an infinite love and when he punishes he does so with reverence, almost fearing to hurt.”

“Do not worry over things that generate preoccupation, derangement and anxiety. One thing only is necessary: to lift up your spirit and love God.”

That which comes from Satan begins with calmness and ends in storm, indifference and apathy.”

“Do not fear. Jesus is more powerful than all hell. At the invocation of His name every knee in heaven, on earth and in hell must bend before Jesus: This is a consolation for the good and terror for evil.”

You must remember that you have in heaven, not only a father but also a mother... let us then have recourse to Mary, she is all sweetness, mercy, goodness and love for us because she is our mother.





Gospel Reflection

‘And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose’ - Romans 8:28.

This Gospel is taken from the second reading on September 8th, Our Lady's birthday. We hope you enjoy it - it's so easy to get down about things and this reading and the reflection inspire hope! The reflection is taken from Good News Ministries. They encourage us to share the reflections but ask that we 'please don't alter it or create your own mailing list. By giving credit where it's due, you protect Good News Ministries while also giving your friends the opportunity to discover more Good News'. Access Good News Ministries at <https://www.gnm.org>.

The reading from today's second reading reminds us that all things work together for the good of those who love God. Even the bad things that happen to us will get put to good use if we entrust them to the creativity of our all-powerful, mercifully loving God.

The Jews who read or heard the recitation of Jesus' genealogy in today's Gospel reading saw this spiritual principle illustrated. The list of Christ's ancestors demonstrated that the Messiah came from a long line of sinners. The point of this reading: Despite the errors of the people, God accomplished his salvation plans.

For example, everyone knew that Jacob tricked Esau into selling his birthright. If Jacob had behaved himself, Esau would have become the family's patriarch and the genealogical line would have gone off in a different direction. But Jacob became one of the founding fathers of Judaism. From his line came Joseph, the husband of Mary. If Esau had become head of the family, would Joseph still have been the foster father of the Messiah?

God's plans are always accomplished, eventually, one way or another. By putting God in charge of our lives, rather than taking matters into our own hands out of frustration and impatience, realizing that his timing is always perfect, and remembering that his plans are always good, we realize that we can and should have hope and joy, even while we suffer in the moment of today's trials.

God has fun making good come from evil. I can picture him smirking at Satan and saying (like we did as children when we tricked the bullies), "Nah-nah, nah-nah-nah! You didn't get your way after all. I'm bigger than you are!"

What mishaps have discouraged you? What sins have diverted your path from God's plans? What problems have other people caused you? What mistakes have you made that you strongly wish had never happened?

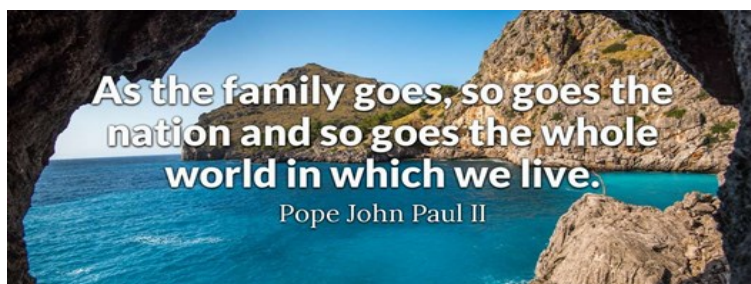
Is God bigger than these? Does he care about you enough to make them useful for your growth? Does he want to make them work as blessings so that he can achieve another victory for his kingdom? Of course yes!

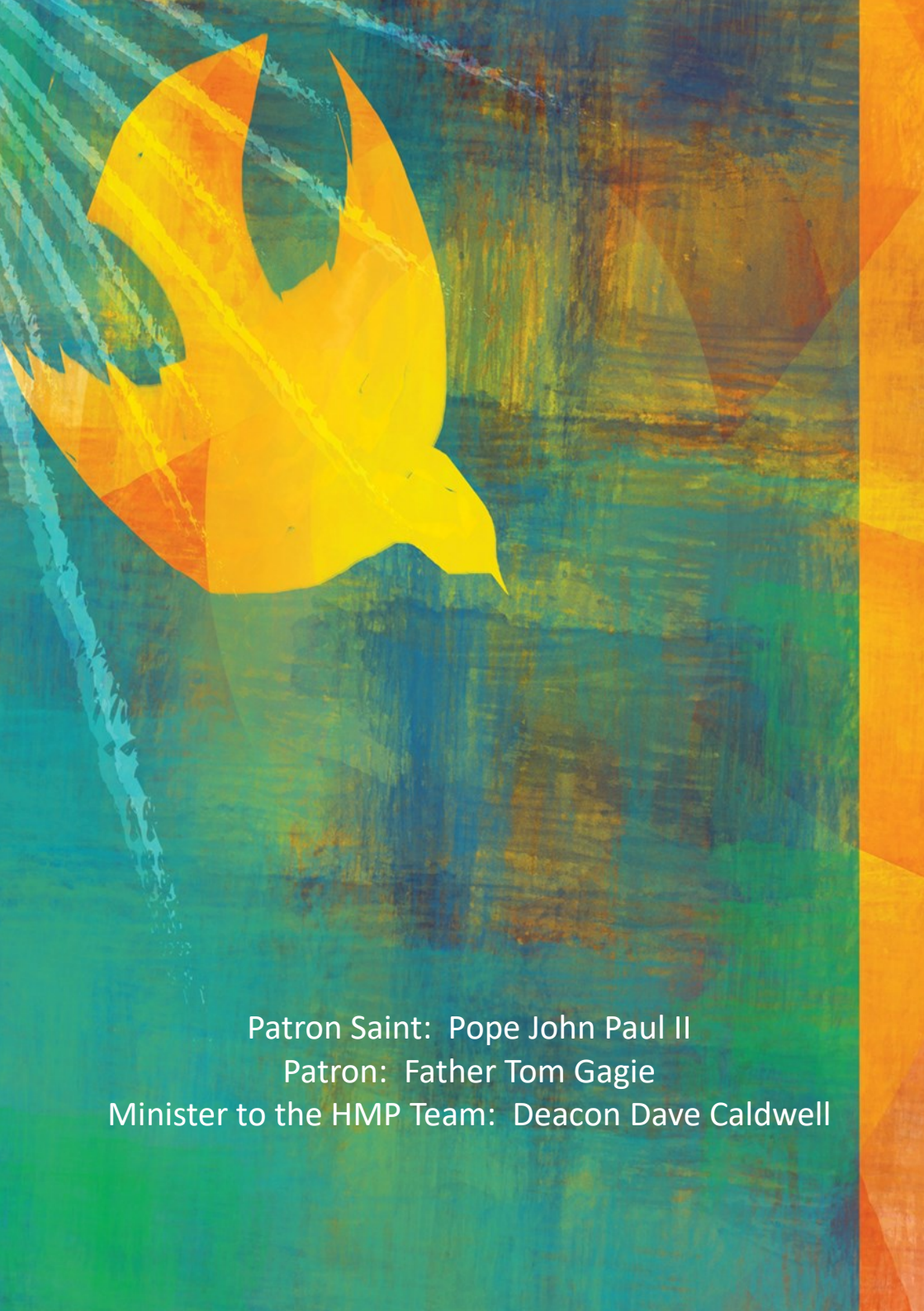
Is God imaginative enough to find a way to do what seems impossible? Of course yes!

So, why are you limiting your hopes to what only seems possible in your limited perspective? God enjoys doing the unexpected. He enjoys surprising us. And yet, we should not be surprised that he wants to turn bad times into blessings.

Consider what we celebrate today, September 8th. Mary was born without the effects of Original Sin so that she could later carry God in her totally human womb. If the Divine Father of Mary could do the impossible once for the sake of his salvation plan, he can do it again and again. And he wants to!

God makes all things work together for the good of those who love him and respond to his calling to serve his purposes. You have been called. Do not worry about things that go wrong, for God will develop awesome plans from them and despite them.





Patron Saint: Pope John Paul II

Patron: Father Tom Gagie

Minister to the HMP Team: Deacon Dave Caldwell