

Caritas Calling! August / September 2022

A Monthly Bulletin for our local parishes, charities and Catholic Agencies



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1. Bishops release initial reflections on Synodal National Synthesis

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/bishops-release-initial-reflections-on-synodal-national-synthesis/>

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have released a statement titled [Seeking Our Hearts' Desire](#) offering their initial reflections on the [National Synthesis](#) document. This in turn was the fruit of a discernment process in which the [National Synthesis Team](#) reflected on hundreds of pages of Synod reports received from the dioceses of England and Wales as well as Catholic organisations and individuals. They collated the material to give a picture of the synodal process in England and Wales.

Download - You can read or download both the *National Synthesis* and *Seeking Our Hearts' Desire* here:

[Bishops' Reflection on the Synodal National Synthesis / Synod: National Synthesis – England and Wales](#)

Listen - <https://soundcloud.com/catholicchurch/cardinal-talks-about-the-synod-process-and-the-national-synthesis>

Cardinal Vincent Nichols took part in a press conference to discuss the National Synthesis and the Bishops' reflection statement alongside Canon Christopher Thomas, General Secretary of the Bishops' Conference and Sarah Adams, Clifton Diocese's Director for the Department of Adult Education and Evangelisation.

2. Message of Pope Francis for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation – 1 September 2022

"Listen to the voice of creation" is the theme and invitation of this year's Season of Creation. The ecumenical phase begins on 1 September with the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and concludes on 4 October with the feast of Saint Francis. It is a special time for all Christians to pray and work together to care for our common home. Originally inspired by the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, this Season is an opportunity to cultivate our "ecological conversion", a conversion

encouraged by [Saint John Paul II](#) as a response to the “ecological catastrophe” predicted by [Saint Paul VI](#) back in 1970. [1]

If we learn how to listen, we can hear in the voice of creation a kind of dissonance. On the one hand, we can hear a sweet song in praise of our beloved Creator; on the other, an anguished plea, lamenting our mistreatment of this our common home... [Click here for the full Message <https://tinyurl.com/m8ebde29>]

3. A video message from Bishop John Arnold: It's time to sprint towards climate action

Bishop John Arnold, who is the lead on the Environment for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, sent this video message to the Catholic community in his diocese, Salford, on Saturday 23rd July 2022: https://youtu.be/CqkUbJhN_WM. The following extract is part of a message posted on the Salford diocesan website <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/bishop-john-climate-change/>

This week, we've witnessed temperatures never before reached here in the UK. Here in our own diocese [Salford], temperatures also saw record highs, as some parishes nudged 40 degrees and firefighters battled flames in nearby communities. But as the temperatures subside, Bishop John issues an urgent message, warning us that the threat has not gone away. He said: “This is not going to just peak and then we'll hear no more of it. It's going to get gradually worse. We are warming the globe and we're not reacting quickly enough to avoid the damage or to even begin to repair the damage that we've done. We've already been told that some of the damage is irreparable, so we've got to think and we've got to act.” Thanking the parishes and schools that are already carrying out fantastic work to live more sustainably and campaign for environmental justice, Bishop John also urges all of us to take this latest heatwave as a real wake-up call and to step up our efforts on taking climate action. He said: “I know that we're jogging along, showing an interest in climate change – but jogging's not enough. We've got to start sprinting at this stage to make sure we're caring for our common home.”

4. Season of Creation 2022 - Resources

The **burning bush** is the Symbol for the Season of Creation 2022. Resources are available here:

<https://seasonofcreation.org/>

5. Visitation of the relic of St Bernadette Soubirous

<https://rcadc.org/event/relic-2022/> - Cardiff: September 11 - 12; Menevia: September 12 - 13.

St. Bernadette Soubirous is famous as the young girl who experienced the apparitions (visions) of Our Lady in Lourdes, France. There were 18 visions in total that began on 11th February 1858. Since then Lourdes has become a famous shrine and site of pilgrimage. Since the visions there have claimed to be over 7,000 miraculous healings at the site with 70 being officially recognised by the Church so far. The relic, a section of St Bernadette's thigh bone, travels from the Basilica in Lourdes to visit every Catholic cathedral across the United Kingdom. On the 11th & 12th September the relic will be visiting Cardiff Cathedral, with the Cathedral open for private prayer and veneration. A full schedule of liturgical activities, prayers etc. will be made available closer to the time. In speaking of the visitation, Canon Christopher Thomas, General Secretary to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales said: *“The bishops saw this as not only something that will remind us of the importance of pilgrimage in our lives and the importance of the place of Lourdes in the life of many Catholics and dioceses in this country, but it will remind us of the centrality of the lives of the saints because this always points us to that greater degree of virtue that we are called to in our living of the Catholic faith.”*

Archdiocese of Cardiff - Metropolitan Cathedral Church of St David:

38 Charles Street, St David's Centre, Cardiff, CF10 2SF:

Arrive: 12:00 11/09/2022; Depart: 12:00 12/09/2022

Menevia Diocese - Menevia Cathedral:

Cathedral Church of St Joseph, SA1 2BX:

Arrive: 13:00 12/09/2022; Depart: 11:00 13/09/2022

6. Building the Future with Migrants and Refugees - World Day of Migrants and Refugees - 25 September

The Church has been celebrating the World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR) since 1914. It is always an occasion to express concern for different vulnerable people on the move; to pray for them as they face many challenges; and to increase awareness about the opportunities that migration offers. Every year the WDMR is the last Sunday of September; in 2022 it will be celebrated on **25 September**. As the title for his annual message, the Holy Father has chosen *“Building the Future with Migrants and Refugees”*.

Building the future with migrants and refugees: a new video from Pope Francis

In the **new video** released ahead of the 108th [World Day of Migrants and Refugees](#) (WDMR), which will be celebrated on the last Sunday of September, **Pope Francis invites us to grow together as humanity** by promoting the cultural and spiritual contribution migrants and refugees are making to communities welcoming them. Together with the Holy Father, **Bertrand Gorge from France explains how his family has been humanly enriched by the presence of refugees**, by opening the doors of their home to welcome them and sharing part of their lives with them. In the video, that is part of the communication campaign promoted by the Migrants and Refugees Section, **Pope Francis asks all of us: *how can we foster an enriching encounter with migrants and refugees?***

Video: <https://youtu.be/kLEb39X6x8>

We are all invited to **respond to Pope Francis' question!** Send us your own contribution by emailing a short video or photo to media@migrants-refugees.va, or follow us on social media and reply directly to the question posted on it. **The best answers will be part of the campaign.** All of the campaign material can be found on the dedicated page by clicking below and can be freely downloaded, published, used, and shared: [Download The Material](#). Throughout the preparation process, the Migrants & Refugees Section will be happy to receive written or multimedia testimonials and photos from local Churches and other Catholic institutions describing their joint effort for the pastoral care of migrants and refugees.

About the Migrants and Refugees Section

The Migrants & Refugees Section is a small pastoral office of the Holy See, personally directed by Pope Francis, working to help the Church worldwide to accompany vulnerable people on the move, including those who are forcibly displaced by conflict, natural disaster, persecution or extreme poverty, refugees and victims of human trafficking. More information at: <https://migrants-refugees.va/>

7. The Pope's Prayer intentions: [Visit: <https://thepopevideo.org/> each month for the latest video]

August - For small businesses

"We pray for small and medium sized businesses; in the midst of economic and social crisis, may they find ways to continue operating, and serving their communities."

September - For the abolition of the death penalty

"We pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country"

8. The Cycle of Prayer - <https://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Calendar/2022/Ordo-2022.pdf>

Throughout Ordinary Time: Summer we are asked to pray for the following intentions:

Prayer resource: <http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Calendar/Cycle/CPSummer.pdf>

- [A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews](#)
- [Those Who Suffer Persecution, Oppression and Denial of Human Rights](#)
- [Human Life](#)
- [Europe](#) - especially of the feasts of St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (9 August)
- [Seafarers](#) See also: <https://www.stellamaris.org.uk/>

Ordinary Time: Autumn - [Cycle of Prayer | Ordinary Time: Autumn \(liturgyoffice.org.uk\)](#)

Throughout Ordinary Time: Autumn we are asked to pray for the following intentions:

The Harvest, the Fruits of Human Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation; Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; Justice and Peace in the World; Prisoners and their Families; All Victims of War; Young People

- [The Harvest, the Fruits of Human Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation](#) - especially on World Day of prayer for the Care of Creation (1 September) and on last Sunday in September or whenever Harvest Festivals are held.
- [Students and Teachers](#) - especially on Education day — 2nd Sunday of September
- [The Spread of the Gospel](#) - especially on *Evangelii Gaudium* Day: 3rd Sunday in September & World Mission Day: the penultimate Sunday in October
- [Justice and Peace in the World](#) - especially on Harvest Fast Day: 1st Friday on October
- [Prisoners and their Families](#) - especially on Prisoners Sunday (2nd Sunday on October) and in Prisons Week (2nd Week in October)
- [All Victims of War](#) - especially on Remembrance Sunday (2nd Sunday in November)

- [Young People](#) - especially on Christ the King: 34th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

9. Evangelii Gaudium Sunday – 18th September 2022

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/evangelii-gaudium-sunday/>

Evangelii Gaudium Sunday is celebrated each year on the Third Sunday in September. We proclaim the unique message of the Gospel that brings joy to all people who receive it with an open heart.

A Call to Mission in England and Wales

In 2013, the first year of his pontificate, Pope Francis released an Apostolic Exhortation on the joy of the Gospel titled *Evangelii Gaudium*. In it, he encouraged the Christian faithful to “embark on a new chapter of evangelisation” marked by this joy, whilst striving to find new paths to proclaim the Gospel in today’s world.

We cannot forget that evangelisation is first and foremost about preaching the Gospel to those who do not know Jesus Christ or who have always rejected him. Many of these are quietly seeking God, led by a yearning to see his face... Christians have the duty to proclaim the Gospel without excluding anyone. *Evangelii Gaudium, §14*

This is the challenge and opportunity we take up on **Evangelii Gaudium Sunday**. Formerly known as Home Mission Sunday, *Evangelii Gaudium Sunday* is celebrated each year on the Third Sunday in September. The work of encounter and evangelisation is promoted through the Directorate for Mission. Through this directorate, the vision of the Holy Father is embraced in a fuller way and promotes the whole ideal of proclamation, evangelisation, dialogue and catechesis.

A New Direction

Pope Francis calls on the Church to embark on a fundamental change of direction when it comes to evangelisation, no longer relying on past structures and actions but to read the signs of the times and act passionately in proclaiming the unique message of the Gospel that brings joy to all people who receive it with an open heart. He says: “I dream of a ‘missionary option’, that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation.” EG, §27

10. A Call for Renewal in our Parishes through Promotion of the Poor and in Social Dialogue with Others

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis spends a considerable amount of time on the parish as he looks to see how a missionary impulse would change parish life.

“In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach. We must admit, though, that the call to review and renew our parishes has not yet sufficed to bring them nearer to people, to make them environments of living communion and participation, and to make them completely mission-oriented” (#28)

We all know that Pope Francis wants “a Church which is poor and for the poor.” The poor take up a huge section in the Apostolic Exhortation and his words deserve to be closely examined. Here are some significant quotes to help sum up his thoughts:

We know that “evangelization would not be complete if it did not take account of the unceasing interplay of the Gospel and of man’s concrete life, both personal and social” (#181).

Each individual Christian and every community is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor, and for enabling them to be fully a part of society (#187).

Inspired by this, the Church has made an option for the poor which is understood as a “special form of primacy in the exercise of Christian charity, to which the whole tradition of the Church bears witness” (#198).

“Without the preferential option for the poor, ‘the proclamation of the Gospel, which is itself the prime form of charity, risks being misunderstood or submerged by the ocean of words which daily engulfs us in today’s society of mass communications’” (#199)

Evangelii Gaudium - <https://tinyurl.com/sp7kavpu>

For more details on any of the items in this Bulletin, or, to consider forming a parish Caritas team, please contact: Jim Barnaville, Coordinator, Caritas Archdiocese of Cardiff. Email caritas@rcadc.org