



# St Mary's Magazine

Mar 2021

## Laudato Si'



**“Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last two hundred years... All is not lost. Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above**

**themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start.” For that, we need an “ecological conversion” - Pope Francis**

**“The fact is that no species has ever had such wholesale control over everything on earth, living or dead, as we now have. That lays upon us, whether we like it or not, an awesome responsibility. In our hands now lies not only our own future, but that of all other living creatures with whom we share the earth.” - David Attenborough**

*Laudato Si'* (meaning “praised be you”) is a ground-breaking papal encyclical (formal public letter) by Pope Francis. Published on 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2015, it is the second encyclical of our Pope and has the subtitle, *On Care for our Common Home*.

This Papal document has been widely dubbed, “the climate change encyclical”. This is mainly because within it, the Pope is keen to point out that the issues we are facing as a planet are, on the whole, ‘man-made’, and due to the relentless exploitation and destruction of the environment. This, Pope Francis laments, is the cause of environmental degradation, triggered by irresponsible development and ongoing consumerism. He also criticises the developed nations who consume the world’s resources at such a high rate that they rob not only the poor nations but also the future generations, of what they will need to survive.

**“We’ve done too much tilling and not enough keeping”**

In short, our Pope offers a clear overview of the environmental crises we face from a reli-

gious point of view rather than that of a scientific or political perspective. He directs this critical subject back to the Book of Genesis in which humankind was called to “till and keep” the earth, wistfully commenting on how we have “done too much tilling and not enough keeping”.

It is not all bad however, firmly interwoven throughout this encyclical is a positive message of ‘stewardship’ of our environment and a definite call to action. Pope Francis is steadfastly calling on, and encouraging, all people of the world to take both “swift and unified global action”, in order to fulfil their obligation towards one another and toward correcting the damage carried out to our environment.

## *Learning about Laudato Si'*

Since it was published, the church has created opportunities for lay people to learn about *Laudato Si'*. One of the latest was an online course called, *Living Laudato Si': Your Parish and Your Planet*. Led by the Augustinian sisters of Boarbank Hall, this took place over a long weekend in January.

## How we could do better?

Its aim was to explore how Catholics are already responding to the Pope’s call and how we could do better. It included talks, prayer (for example, every evening ended with the service of Compline), discussion in breakout groups and individual activities. There were talks from priests, consecrated sisters, bishops (including our own Bishop) and a variety of lay people from Cafod and Oxfam, as well as people who represented ordinary parishes in the UK.

The overall message was, as the Archbishop of Liverpool said, “We should see *Laudato Si'* as a call to action ... We are part of God’s creation and are entrusted with care of creation”. He also emphasised the Pope’s message that care for the planet is care for the poor because it is the poorest people, in the poorest parts of the world, who suffer most from the effects of climate change.



At the conclusion of the course, participants were urged to spread the word about *Laudato Si'* in our own parishes and to encourage parishioners to respond generously and wholeheartedly to the Pope's call for "swift and unified global action".

**Responding to Laudato Si'**

**"We should see Laudato Si' as a call to action ... We are part of God's creation and are entrusted with the care of that creation" - the Bishop of Liverpool**

Sometimes the problem of looking after our common home looks too big for us to make any difference, but as St Theresa said, doing little acts of kindness can make an enormous difference. If we accept what we are being told by two great wise and highly respected elderly men, Pope Francis and David Attenborough, we ALL need to do our bit to protect our planet. Little acts of kindness to God's creation might include some or all of the following:

**Individual Action**

**Walk instead of using the car**

**Buy Free range food**

**Buy eco friendly and or Fairtrade products**  
**Don't waste food**  
**Reuse instead of throwing away**  
**Learn about the damage we have done**



**When shopping, buy an item for the Foodbank**

**Have a veggie day each week**

**Parish Action**

**Support another parish**

**Be a Fairtrade Parish**  
**Sign up for 'Live Simply'**  
**Hold a town 'litter-pick'**  
**Have a parish audit to improve our carbon footprint**  
**Pray for 'Our Common Home'**  
**Have a Fairtrade shop**  
**Share our surplus fruit and veg**



**Join with other local groups**

**What about us?**

Father James and the Parish Pastoral Council have agreed to setting up a *Laudato Si'* group within our parish. Initially this will meet on Zoom, once per month. The aim will be to find ways to spread the word about *Laudato Si'* and to find practical ways for the parish to respond well to the Pope's call.

Everyone is welcome to join – in the first instance you should send a text, stating your interest, to Tim Cain on [drtimcain@gmail.com](mailto:drtimcain@gmail.com)

**For more information ...**

The following ideas come from the parish of Our Lady and St Edmund in Abingdon:

There are three main websites to go to and explore for sources of help. The first is [www.ourcommonhome.co.uk](http://www.ourcommonhome.co.uk). There are details there of Global Healing and Global Caring, film - based events for parish groups and individuals. They both inform, challenge and equip people to engage with Pope Francis' vital call to Care for Our Common Home. These excellent starting points have been produced by CaFE (Catholic Faith Exploration) on behalf of the Bishops' Conference.

The second website to explore is that of the *Global Catholic Climate Movement* ([www.catholicclimatemovement.global](http://www.catholicclimatemovement.global)). This is a tremendous source of practical ideas, short videos, discussion group material and ways of turning *Laudato Si'* into action. There is a particularly good section on liturgical, prayer and spiritual resources.

The third website is *The Journey to 2030* ([www.journeyto2030.org](http://www.journeyto2030.org)) which also has an excellent round-up of resources which are also very good as ecumenical events and actions. There is, as the website says, much common ground in our common home.

**Vagabond of God**

John Bradburne was born in 1922 in Cumbria. He served in WW2, first with the Gurkhas then in Burma. It was during this time he became closer to God through Our Lady.

He became a Catholic in 1947 and served in religious houses both at home and abroad. He travelled widely searching for silence and a place to live in contemplation of Christ.

He eventually went to Africa and visited a leper colony and spent the next 10 years looking after the lepers there. He led the

building of the church and taught the lepers a basic repertoire of Gregorian chant so that they might always have something beautiful at Mass.

Like Mother Teresa, he bathed the lepers, fed them when they lost limbs, held them as they died.

In 1979 The Rhodesian Bush War came to the region, John was captured and murdered by militants.

Now, every year 25000 people attend his memorial service and many say he has worked miracles on their behalf. He is now a candidate for colonization.

### **Ananias Training**

During the recent lockdowns I signed up for the Ananias Training course provided by Portsmouth Diocese which I had seen advertised in our parish newsletter. As Catholics perhaps we are not always confident in talking about our relationship with Jesus to others.

The training took place in a small discussion group on Zoom with a trained leader and people from across the diocese, using material that was sent out to us before the course began.

We began by exploring in the Gospel how Jesus drew people close to himself through his love and trust in conversation and from there looked at what kind of conversation would help us bring people close to Jesus in their lives. We must learn to listen to others as Christ listened and let people explore their own stories.

This course of five sessions was an opportunity for me to reflect on my own relationship with Jesus but also to learn from the journeys made by others. We considered how Jesus travels with us in our life journeys and discussed the different thresholds we arrive at in our lives with Christ. By sharing our own faith and listening to others we can help them to cross those thresholds. We are all at different stages and experience different obstacles.

However, we can all be Ananias for one another. We can come to a deeper relationship with God and a deeper understanding of our call to follow Jesus in a community of fellow believers.

Further Reading—*Sherry Weddell - Forming Intentional Disciples*

Jo Higgins

### **So Who Was Ananias?**

Ananias is mentioned only once in the Acts of the Apostles in connection with the conversion of St Paul. Everyone knows of this dramatic conversion on the road to Damascus, when Saul, on his way to persecute the Christians in Damascus, was blinded by God and heard the voice of Jesus asking why Saul was persecuting Him.

We read that Saul was brought to Damascus by his fellow travellers and spent 3 days in darkness, neither eating nor drinking, left to his thoughts and perhaps the realisation that what he had been doing was against God.

God also spoke to Ananias, a Christian living in Damascus. He told him to go to Saul and cure him. What must have been running through his head? He knew Saul's reputation, knew the danger he might be in, but still he went trusting in God.



When Ananias met Saul for the first time, his opening words were "Saul, my brother" how kind, how comforting that must have been. This was the voice of a friend. Did it build a bridge of trust between them?

Ananias cured Saul's blindness and cared for him while he told him about Jesus Christ. When Saul was ready he was baptized and so began his ministry.

Ananias is not mentioned again in the Bible. He had a small part to play in the life of St Paul, but what an important one.

All of us are called to be an Ananias. We may interact with someone for a while and then disappear from their lives forever. In that short time we can light their darkness with a kind word, with compassion and a listening heart.

### **What was good about 2020?**

- The ozone layer over the Antarctic closed
- Germany is changing 62 military bases into nature reserves
- Whales came back to the Atlantic ocean after more than 100 years
- Great Britain reported the smallest number of new HIV cases
- China committed to achieving zero emissions by 2060

- 48 animal species were saved from extinction
- Scientist discovered 20 new animal and plant species
- Kazakhstan became to 88th nation to abolish the death penalty
- Elephant population in Kenya doubled
- Saudi Arabia and Palestine banned child marriages
- Demand for oil decreased for the first time in history
- Scotland will provide menstrual aids to all women for free
- Polio has been completely eradicated in Africa
- The Covid vaccine became the fastest developed vaccine in history

### **Shops of Bygone Alton**

This instalment starts in the Market Square with Mifta's Indian dining. In my day it was Henry Adlam Bakery, all bread and cakes baked in the ovens at the rear. The large windows would be full of mouth-watering cakes from small to wedding cakes. It was later taken over by Paul Pouck.

The Citizen's Advice below the Town Hall was the Alton Fruit Market selling veg as well as fruit. Anything passed its best would be collected by an Alton character named Clary Grace, by way of his horse and cart. He kept several animals on waste ground just above Windmill Hill railway bridge on the left. I remember seeing his one-eyed cow.

Staying in this area, on the corner of Westbrook Walk and Cross and Pillory is the Unisex hair salon, this used to be the Rosy Café, which later became a Barber's shop. The café was in a good position for the livestock market on a Tuesday. Cattle, pigs, sheep etc were in pens in the square and also behind the Ten Tun Tap House, the latter replaced by a new row of houses.

Walking down Westbrook Walk to the High St, on the right was a separate area with all sorts of second hand goods for sale. The livestock market closed in the 1960s and Westbrook Walk was re-developed later into the present shops.

There was also an Abattoir at the top of Amery St, opposite the Salvation Army Hall. It was quite common on Tuesdays for a pig to be

running loose in the High St, which was trying to escape the chop, so to speak.

Our journey now takes us to the top of Market St and the site of Honey Lettings, this was Tricky's general hardware store, run by Mr Tricky and his daughter, Sheila. They sold household goods, i.e Blue Bags (Who remembers these? Use too much and you had blue sheets.) Pot menders for when your saucepan wore thin. (That really was make do and mend)

I have often spoken to Sheila in town and we have reminisced on the days of their shop. Sadly the way that the year 2020 has gone, I have not seen Sheila.

Taylored Beauty Bar behind Tricky's was an open front fruit and veg stall, run by old Frenchy, as my mother called him. He boarded up his stall every night. I've no idea if he was French but I guess so.

Pam Barbour

I remember Adlam's and when they opened a small café upstairs and you reached it by going up a spiral staircase.

Also, where Pizza Express was I am sure there was an large barn which seemed to sell practically everything from tools to mirrors to lawn mowers. Funnily enough there have been photos of it recently on Alton News Facebook page.

Anne

### **Round St Mary's Quiz**

Have you ever listened to the 'Round Britain Quiz' on Radio 4? If you have and found their cryptic questions too challenging, you might find the following a little easier.

WMH

### **Round 1**

What have (a), (b), (c) and (d) in common and what is the connection to (e)?

- Crusaders' opponents
- Aristophanes' comedy
- Royal porcelain
- ...bun or ...tub
- A change after an attempt

### **The Choir that can't stop Singing**

It hasn't been the best time for the arts but Alton choir, Luminosa, has been keeping alive its passion for music LUMINOSA throughout the pandemic, firstly VOICES on-line each week on Zoom and, more recently for 8 weeks before the subsequent lockdown, at their regular rehearsal quarters of The Malt-ings in Alton.



Inspired by its talented and charismatic choral director, Rebekah Abbott, who is currently Head of Voice with the Royal Marines Band Service, and its patron, Neil Ferris, Chorus Director of the BBC Symphony Chorus, members are always motivated to excel, and Covid-19 has not diminished the choir's ethos of singing captivating music at a high level of expertise.

The 'connectedness' of the Choir is one of the mainstays of its success. During the pandemic this has been a particular blessing, sustaining the emotional and mental health of its members, young and old, enriching self-esteem, confidence and community through singing.

The Choir was due to celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a landmark concert in Odiham in March 2020 with an exciting programme of music, including an inspiring commission. Plans are being made to celebrate Luminosa's decade of choral success as soon as possible.

For now, the main choir, Luminosa Voices, are rejoicing in Haydn's *Creation*, full of unsullied optimism expressed in some of the most lovable and life-affirming music ever composed.

This is in preparation for a summer concert which the Choir is optimistically planning, to include Haydn's magnificent oratorio and other positive music full of light and hope, with singing by the Chamber Choir, Luminosa Chamber Voices, along a similar theme.

Luminosa Rising Voices (ages 10-16) and Luminosa Young Voices (ages 6-11), the choirs creatively led and managed by youth music specialists, Jonathan Upfold and Josh Robinson, are working on an exciting virtual choir project in which young singers are collaborating in the composition of an original song which they will perform on-line later in the year. They will also perform in the summer concert.

Luminosa is grateful for the sponsorship of Polestar, local pension & investment advisers.

Luminosa is always keen to hear from new members and there is a collective warm welcome waiting! Why not come and trial a rehearsal for free? Information about the work of the choir, its ethos and how to get in touch can be found on the website [www.luminosamusic.com](http://www.luminosamusic.com).

Sue Greenhalgh

### **Going on an Errand**

A pound of tea at one-and three,  
A pot of raspberry jam,  
Two new laid eggs, a dozen pegs  
And a pound of rashers of ham.

I'll say it over all the way,  
Then I'm sure not to forget,  
For if I chance to get things wrong  
Mother gets in such a fret.

A pound of tea at one-and three,  
A pot of raspberry jam,  
Two new laid eggs, a dozen pegs  
And a pound of rashers of ham.

There in the hay the children play,  
They're having such jolly fun,  
I'll go there too, that's what I'll do  
As soon as my errands are done.

A pound of tea at one-and=three  
A pot of -er- new laid jam,  
Two raspberry eggs with a dozen pegs  
And a pound of rashers of ham.

There's Teddy White a flying his kite,  
He thinks himself grand, I declare,  
I'd like to try and fly it sky high,  
Ever so much higher than the old church spire  
And then... and then... but there.

A pound of three at one and tea  
A pot of new laid jam,  
Two dozen eggs, some raspberry pegs  
And a pound of rashers of ham.

Now here's the shop, outside I'll stop,  
And run through my orders again,  
I haven't forgot, no never a jot,  
It shows I'm pretty cute, that's plain.

A pound of three at one and tea,  
A dozen of raspberry ham,  
A pot of eggs with a dozen pegs  
And a rasher of new laid jam!

Tom Barbour

### **Round St Mary's Quiz**

#### **Round 2**

What have (a), (b), (c) and (d) in common and what is the connection to (e)?

- (a) Mughal throne
- (b) A turtle's carapace
- (c) A socialist sailor
- (d) An archaic prostitute

(e) Devil's island's innocent inmate

### **Guardians of Creation—ecological project**

The Diocese of Salford has launched a new research project that Bishop John Arnold hopes will spearhead the efforts of the Catholic community in England and Wales to tackle the current ecological crisis by paving the way to a sustainable, carbon neutral future.

### **The Hugging Prayer**

My mother taught me many prayers when I was young. Often they were prayers of comfort, in contrast to my father, who usually taught me prayers to meet life's challenges.

I didn't always think of my mother's prayers as prayers, even though that's what she called them. Sometimes, I just went through them with her to satisfy her. Nevertheless, because they were based on experience, many of them stuck with me.

This is one of my favourites. I was about 6 years old at the time. I was sitting outside on a block of concrete and I was crying. I don't even know why. I was just crying and crying. My mother came along and said, "What's the matter?" I said, "Nothing, leave me alone!" She did—and then I really started crying!

About 15 minutes later she came back and sat beside me. "You know," she said, "I have to tell you something. There are going to be a lot of times when you are going to cry, and you won't know why. You won't understand and neither will anyone else. You can marry the nicest man in the world but at times like this he won't know what to do to help you stop crying."

Then she said she was going to teach me a prayer for those times. She made me get off the cement block and stand up. She said, "Now, put your arms around yourself," I did but it wasn't good enough.

"You're just folding your arms," she said. "Put them all the way around yourself. Cuddle your body. Hold yourself the way you would hold a baby in your arms.

Now, after you have a real good hold of yourself, close your eyes and begin to rock yourself. Rock yourself real good, the way you would a baby and just keep doing it. When you grow up, no matter how old you are, and you're crying and don't know why, I want you to rock yourself just like this. And as you do it, remember that you are God's little girl and that God understands why you are crying even if

no-one else does. Remember, too, that God holds you close just the way you are holding yourself because God loves you very much. Then just keep rocking yourself and be comforted."

Isn't that a good prayer? I still say it today when I feel bad. I recommend it for you too. Just stand wherever you are—in the kitchen, the shop or the bathroom—and wrap your arms around yourself as tight as you can and rock yourself.

Before long you'll be able to feel God holding you in the same way you are holding yourself, and you'll be comforted the way you were as a child when your mother held you in her arms and rocked you.

Sr Jose Hobday

### **Sr Jose Hobday**

Sr Jose was born in Texas to a Seneca-Iroquois mother and a Southern Baptist father. She grew up on a reservation in Colorado, the only sister of 8 brothers. At the age of 7 she was chosen by her tribe to be the storyteller and shared many stories derived from her parents.



She had a Masters' degrees in theology, literature, architecture and space engineering, but she called herself a "Student of Life" and a "Missionary-at-large." She was a Seneca elder and a Sister of the Franciscan Order.

As a sought-after lecturer, Sr Jose travelled the world speaking about spirituality. It wasn't unusual for her to log 75,000 miles a year. She was known as a great storyteller, her stories drawn from her own experience growing up as a Native American Catholic in the American Southwest.

She died in 2009 at the age of 80.

Sr Jose was also an author, writing books of spirituality and living simply. Perhaps an appropriate quote for Lent is in her book on *Simple Living* she talks about fasting:

*...it is good for us physically and spiritually. Take the chance. It's a biological expression of your willingness to expose yourself to deprivation.*

### **Walking for Water**

Tim and Ann are walking 10000 steps each a day during Lent for Cafod's Walk for Water campaign. If any parishioner would like to donate to this cause the link is; <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/ann-and-tim-walk-for-water>

### **Sr Neelam**

For those who remember Sr Neelam, who came to stay at Anstey Convent for a short while and ended up staying quite a lot longer due to the pandemic. She eventually made it home to India and her new job in some of the villages.

### **Email from Neelam Kumari 29 January 2021**

The place where I am working is in the North of India. It is in Jharkhand under Bha-galpur Diocese. The village name is called Garhi. People of this area are Santhali and they speak santhali. People are not very educated and they are very poor. Life is very hard, they depend on rain water. We are involved in education ministry, Faith ministry, Teaching Home Remedies for health and empowering the women.

In the community we are 3 sisters, two are working in the school and I am doing pas-toral work and taking care of the other work too. [ Faith ministry, Health and empowering the women.] As a pastoral sister I have differ-ent work such as preparing children for Bap-tism, 1st Holy communion, and Confirmation.

We go for mass in the villages by walk-ing and villages are very far away. There are different groups in the parish such as Mahila Sangh,[I take care of the Mahila Sangh ] ,[ Ma-hila - Ladies group] Youth Sangh and Chil-dren's group.

Life is not easy, it is very challenging but there is cooperation from the people so life becomes easier. Here people are very caring and loving.

Sr. Helen please give my greetings to the school staff, evening staff, Fr. James and the parishioners. Sister, I miss all of you, please continue to pray for us. You all are in our prayers. Hope you all are fine.

Love to all those who ask about me.

### **Round St Mary's Quiz**

#### **Round 3**

What have (a), (b), (c) and (d) in common and what is the connection to (e)?

- (a) Isaac's amazement
- (b) Syncopated rhythms
- (c) A first find
- (d) A gourmet
- (e) The Garden of Eden

### **On the path to Sainthood**

An English priest, Fr Ignatius has been de-clared Venerable by the Pope recently. Born George Spencer, he was related to Lady Diana and Winston Churchill.

He scandalised some of Victorian society by converting to Catholicism and becoming a Pas-sionist priest. He spent much of his life work-ing for the conversion of England and is also known for his work amongst the poor.

### **Smile**

Smiling is infectious, you catch it like the flu,  
When someone smiled at me today, I started  
smiling too,

I passed around the corner and someone saw  
my grin,

When he smiled, I realized I'd passed it on to  
him.

I thought about that smile, then realized its  
worth,

A single smile just like mine could travel  
'round the earth.

So if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it  
undetected.

Let's start a better epidemic quick and get the  
world infected!

### **The Easter Lily.**

For many, the beautiful trum-pet-shaped white flowers symbolize purity, virtue, inno-cence, hope and life—the spiritual essence of Easter.

History, mythology, literature, poetry and the world of art are rife with stories and images that speak of the beauty and majesty of the elegant white flowers. Often called the "white-robed apostles of hope," lilies were found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane after Christ's agony. Tradition has it that the beau-tiful white lilies sprung up where drops of Christ's sweat fell to the ground in his final hours of sorrow and deep distress. Churches continue this tradition at Easter time by bank-ing their altars and surrounding their crosses with masses of Easter Lilies, to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and hope of life everlasting.



The pure white lily has long been close-ly associated with the Virgin Mary. In early

paintings, the Angel Gabriel is pictured extending to the Virgin Mary a branch of pure white lilies, announcing that she is to be the mother of the Christ Child. In other paintings, saints are pictured bringing vases full of white lilies to Mary and the infant Jesus. St. Joseph is depicted holding a lily-branch in his hand, indicating that his wife Mary was a virgin.

### **Martin Luther on the Plague**

Back in 1527, a deadly plague hit Martin Luther's town of Wittenberg and he wrote a letter to a friend (Volume 43, Pg. 132: Whether One Should Flee From A Deadly Plague – To Rev. Dr. John Hess), explaining how churches should deal with such complicated circumstances.

"I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence.

If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbour needs me however I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God."

### **LIMBO**

The ancient greyness shifted suddenly and thinned

Like mist upon the moors before a wind.

An old, old prophet lifted a shining face and said :

"He will be coming soon.

The Son of God is dead;

He died this afternoon."

A murmurous excitement stirred all souls.

They wondered if they dreamed -

Save one old man who seemed not even to have heard.

And Moses standing, hushed them all to ask if any had a welcome song prepared.

if not, would David take the task?

And if they cared.

Could not the three young children sing The Benedicite,  
the canticle of praise they made  
when God kept them from perishing in the fiery blaze?

A breath of spring surprised them, stilling Moses' words.

No one could speak, remembering the first fresh flowers,

the little singing birds.

Still others thought of fields new ploughed or apple trees all blossom-boughed.

Or some, the way a dried bed fills with water, laughing down green hills.

The fisherfolk dreamed of the foam on bright blue seas.

The one old man who had not stirred remembered home.

And there HE was, splendid as the morning sun

and fair as only God is fair.

And they, confused with joy, knelt to adore seeing that He wore five crimson stars, He never had before.

No canticle at all was sung.

None toned a psalm, or raised a greeting song.

A silent man alone of all that throng found tongue -

Not any other.

Close to His heart when the embrace was done, Old Joseph said,

"How is Your Mother,

How is Your Mother, Son?"

Sr Mary Ada

### **St Joseph**

*"Almighty God, at the beginning of our salvation, when Mary conceived your Son and brought him forth into the world you placed them under Joseph's watchful care....."*

From the concluding prayer from the Divine Office Solemn Feast Day of St Joseph.

*"Give us grace, by St Joseph's example and at his intercession, to finish the works you gave us to do,*

*And to come to the rewards you promise".*

From the concluding prayer from the Divine Office Memoria of St Joseph the Worker.

Saint Joseph has two Feast Days. The first on 19<sup>th</sup> March recalls his unique mission to be Foster Father to Our Lord and thereby

giving Jesus the lineage of his ancestor King David. Thus importantly, he was guardian of the Holy Family. Secondly, as the breadwinner, whose trade was carpentry, he presumably taught Jesus his skills. The Feastday of St Joseph the Worker coincides with the workers celebrations on 1<sup>st</sup> May that are held on the continent of Europe.

The incredible attributes of St Joseph in the Holy Scripture is that he does not say anything, yet even so, he is renowned for the person he is. As head of the Holy Family and as husband and father, he is an example and model for all human families. St Joseph is honoured as patron of the dying, Patron of the Universal Church and patron of workers.

St Joseph is mentioned in the Gospel of St Matthew when the writer concludes the genealogy of Jesus. “And Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary: of her was born Jesus who is called Christ.” Mt 1:16. The Evangelists goes on to recall how Joseph discovered that Mary was pregnant with Jesus, before they came to live together. He decided to divorce her informally. However the Angel of the Lord came down to him in a dream and said “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.” Mt 1: 18-22.

The Gospel describes Joseph as a man of honour, a just man Mt 1:19. His thoughts about separating from Mary have been given two interpretations. First is the “suspicion theory”, but since Mary was a pious and holy woman the second “reverence theory” has been put forward. Joseph possibly considered himself unworthy to be part of such an exalted family. However the angel was emphatic that Joseph should maintain the marriage and give his lineage to Jesus. A name gives a person his/her identity.

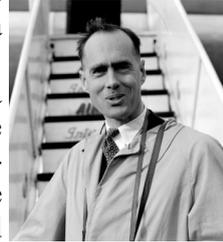
Jesus would be given his personal name as the ritual of circumcision on the eighth day of his life. This is an all-male ceremony so it would be Joseph who would pronounce the name. Both Mary and Joseph had been given the child’s name, by an angel, before his birth. Now it is through the NAME OF JESUS that all prayer is made to God the Father.

Jane Gillett

## Leonard Cheshire VC on the path to Saint-hood

Leonard Cheshire was well known as an outstanding war-time pilot, commander of the ‘Dam Busters’ and was awarded the Victoria Cross.

In 1948 he became a Catholic and became known for creating thousands of homes around the world to care for disabled people.



A memorial Requiem Mass was held on the centenary of his birth in 2017, which also marked the start of a campaign by the Diocese of East Anglia, to promote his Cause, the first step to canonization.

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a) Newton Wonder b) Jazz c) Discovery e) Epicure e) the  
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