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The JOURNAL

The newspaper of the Parish of St John the Baptist, Andover.
Including: St John Fisher, Whitchurch and
The Chapel of St Theresa of Lisieux, Farleigh

Issue No 385 November 2026

Visit by Bishop Philip



The parish received a visit from Bishop Philip on 28th October. The bishop was accompanied by Fr Mark Hogan who is the Episcopal Vicar for Mission Development. Several representatives of the parish joined Canon Chris for the meeting.

The meeting started with Bishop Philip giving a brief introduction on the Diocesan Mission Plan and he also shared some facts and figures about the area, such as level of poverty, number of refugees in the Diocese, number of practicing and non-practicing Catholics.

The bishop then asked what the parish was doing to implement the Plan and what were its plans for the future. In the discussion which followed, Canon Chris said that the parish hadn't done any work on the plan and neither was there much awareness of the wider mission plan. As a new priest to the parish, he hadn't done anything for his first year as he was wanting to get to know the parish.

Canon Chris thought it was odd that Andover had been separated from Basingstoke and wondered if we should rejoin. He also felt somewhat isolated being on his own as opposed to other parishes that were coming together and working in teams. It was pointed out that some parishes had to come together for financial reasons which wasn't an issue for Andover and that when the decision to separate was taken Andover was happy to become its own Pastoral Area and that the parish priest could reach out for support within the deanery or nearby parishes without formally joining.

Canon Chris said he planned to put together an evangelisation/leadership team to develop those aspects in the parish. There was encouragement for Canon Chris to create his team and start putting together an action plan.

The highlights of the recent survey (the one that came with Bishop Philip's letter) were given. These were not local comments but overall reactions. There seemed to be a consensus that people wanted more support for prayer, confessions and spiritual development. It was suggested that local responses might be more informative and these will be made available by the diocese. There was a suggestion that we should have a local and probably broader survey within the parish to get people's opinions. This was generally thought to be good idea.

Current pastoral activities were discussed, and Canon Chris was pleased that there has been an excellent response to the call for more Eucharistic Ministers, and that three young men have shown an interest in following a priestly vocation. It was felt that this sort of good news could be made more known widely within the parish.

There was a discussion about engaging young people and having a stronger online presence, as well as the value of in person discussions.

There was some discussion about Andover Foodbank and its potential benefit for outreach.

Clearly there were many aspects of the Mission Plan which were not touched upon, but the purpose of the bishop's visits to parishes is more about reviewing the plans written by parishes so that limited discussion somewhat. It was proposed that Bishop Philip, or a Diocesan representative will return in about four months to monitor progress.

The meeting ended with hymns and prayers. You can find the Diocesan Mission Plan at:
https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about/ten-year-plan

Vocations

Seminarian Nathan King



Seminarian Nathan King writes from Allen Hall:
Hello good people of God. I am now in my 6th and final year of seminary formation at Allen Hall in London. Time just seems to fly by. It feels like only yesterday I was leaving behind the filmmaking industry and discerning my calling, from God to the priesthood.

Looking back over these past years, from my placements, in prisons, homeless shelters, churches, and helping the Missionaries of Charity. I have been thinking a lot about the incredible goodness and patience of God. I have even had the privilege of finding the love in God through my intellectual study.

When I first started out, I used to think I had to have all the answers, be the hero of every situation, and do everything perfectly on my own. But God has been gently showing me that this is not what He asks of us. C.S. Lewis has a great line in Mere Christianity where he talks about humility, saying that taking off the "fancy dress" and stopping the tiresome pose is like taking off a pair of tight boots. I felt that so deeply this year. It is such an immense relief to realise we don't need to pretend anymore, and that God doesn't call us because we are strong or have all the skills, but because He loves us right in our weakness and our ordinary humanity.

Lately in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, God has been teaching me to keep things simple. When I sit in the chapel, instead of trying to say long, complicated prayers, I just mention the people I love by name like, my family, my brother seminarians, priest friends, my personal friends, and the parishioners across our diocese, and I simply ask the Lord: "Please give them Your love, Your joy, and Your peace". God already knows our hearts and what we need before we even ask, and it is so comforting to know that He is walking with each of us at our own speed, like the Good Shepherd searching for the one who has fallen behind.

I want to say a massive thank you to everyone in the Portsmouth Diocese for your constant prayers, kind support, and generosity over all these years. Through your support, you truly enable our minds to be full, our hearts to be full, and most importantly our stomachs to be full!

Please keep all of your seminarians, deacons, priests and bishop Philip held in prayer. Please pray that we grow in true humility, peace of heart, and trust in Jesus. Be assured of my daily prayers for you and your families before the Blessed Sacrament. Thank you and God bless!

(Nathan is the brother of Father Matthew King who was ordained to the priesthood at Portsmouth Cathedral in 2020. Nathan has been putting the expertise he acquired in his previous life in the world of filmmaking to good use by producing some excellent short films about life at Allen Hall, religious life, the symbolism of Catholic rites etc. Do have a look on YouTube, it is well worth your while).

Seminarian Farvin Gonsalves

Farvin is in his fifth Year of Formation (Third Configuration or Second Year of Theology). He is in Formation at Allen Hall Seminary, London, and his home parish is Christ the King in Reading.

(Continued on next page)

(Seminarian Farvin Gonsalves Continued)

As I look back over the past year, I am very grateful for the many ways God's grace has been at work. I would like to share a few moments that have shaped and encouraged me along the way.

Admission as a Candidate for Holy Orders: Last October, I was admitted as a candidate for Holy Orders. This was a special moment in my formation, as I formally expressed my desire to continue towards ordination as a deacon and, in time, as a priest. I was grateful that the Bishop accepted and affirmed this intention on behalf of the Church.

Hospital Placement in Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH): My placement at GOSH was deeply moving. In a hospital dedicated to the care of children, I encountered moments of both joy and sorrow. I was very grateful to learn from the Chaplaincy team, whose quiet presence, compassion, and prayerful support made a lasting impression on me. Being with families in vulnerable moments helped me to understand more deeply the gift of simply walking with others in suffering and hope.

House Job as Head of the Refectory: Serving as Head of the Refectory showed me how much community life is built through simple acts of care. Making sure that everyone was fed, and that different dietary needs were remembered, taught me attentiveness, organisation, and practical service. I also enjoyed working with a team of five, which helped me grow in collaboration, patience, and responsibility.

Assisting with Confirmation Catechesis in Christ the King, Reading: I was grateful to return to my home parish and help with Confirmation preparation over ten Sundays. Working with the catechists and 45 young people was a real joy and a formative experience. It reminded me that faith is shared not only through teaching, but also through witness, patience, and genuine engagement. It also deepened my appreciation of mission and evangelisation.

Ministry of Lector: In May, I received the ministry of Lector, which deepened my love for the Word of God and its place in the life of the Church. This ministry involves proclaiming Scripture at Mass, assisting with catechesis, helping with singing, and preparing others to read. Being presented with a Bible was a powerful reminder that God's Word is not only to be proclaimed, but also listened to, prayed with, and allowed to shape my life and service.

Summer Placement in Jersey: The summer of 2026 was unforgettable, and not only because of the heat. During my placement in Jersey, I was warmly welcomed into island life and the Catholic community there. I assisted at Mass, helped at the Foodbank, joined the Legion of Mary, and visited schools. Seeing two priests serve five churches gave me a deeper appreciation of the dedication, flexibility, and generosity needed in priestly ministry.

This year, I am in my fifth year at Allen Hall, with a placement at St Richard Reynolds School in Twickenham and the house job of Master of Ceremonies.

I would be very grateful for your prayers as I continue my formation to the priesthood. Thank you to all parishioners and supporters for your prayers, encouragement, and generosity. Your support means a great deal to me and is a real source of strength as I continue my formation.

Solemn Profession of Matthew Janvier

On Saturday 3rd October, there was great joy and thanksgiving at The Friars, Aylesford, as our brother Matthew Janvier O.Carm made his Solemn Profession as a Carmelite.

Surrounded his family, friends and members of the wider Carmelite family, Matthew made his lifelong commitment to God and to the Carmelite Order, professing the vows of obedience, poverty and chastity.

(Continued on the next page)

(Solemn Profession Continued)

Solemn Profession marks an important moment in the life of a Carmelite. Through his profession, Matthew commits himself to following Christ in the Carmelite way of life, rooted in prayer, community and service.

It was a wonderful occasion to celebrate with Matthew and to give thanks for his vocation, his journey in Carmel and all those who have accompanied and supported him along the way. We give thanks to God for Matthew and pray that he will continue to be guided and strengthened as he lives out his vocation within the Carmelite family. Please continue to keep Matthew in your prayers.

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Modern Day Slavery

There has been considerable focus recently on the subject of historical slavery. Certain factions and individuals have been calling for the United Kingdom to make reparations for its role in the slave trade which flourished during the development of the plantations on the American mainland and the Caribbean islands.

Attitudes to those calls will vary with individual consciences and perceptions, and this journal is not the place for making arguments for one side or the other. What many either ignore or are unaware of is the very real existence of slavery in our modern world.

Last month, between Monday 12th and Sunday 18th of October was designated as Anti-Slavery Week. Unfortunately, the October Journal went out before we had noticed the theme for that week, but certain aspects of the information, which was put out by Jenny LeLean, the Diocesan Head of Charity, make sobering reading and are well worth considering away from the artificial designation of the week.

Jenny's article began with a truly pertinent question:

Would you recognise someone trapped in modern slavery and know how to report it?

She went on:

Modern slavery is a crime that often exists in plain sight. Victims work in a variety of industries, including construction, agriculture, beauty (especially nail bars), car washes and domestic labour, as well as the sex and drug industries. It also exists in supply chains, a reminder that cheap goods often mean someone else is paying the price. Pope Francis described modern slavery as 'a crime against humanity'.

Everyone has a responsibility to report something that doesn't quite look right. Here are the signs that you might encounter.

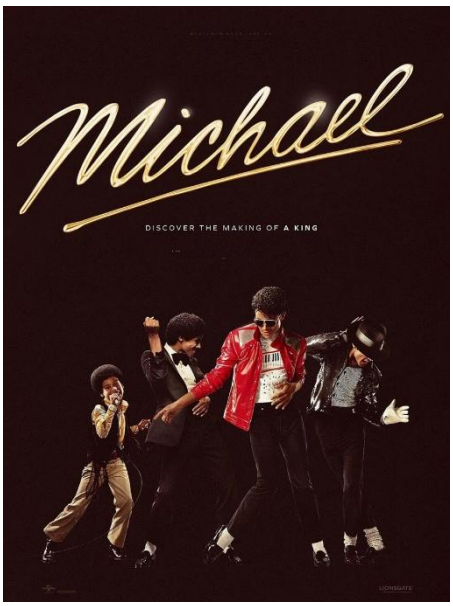
- Show signs of physical or psychological abuse and untreated injuries.
- Look underfed, unwashed, withdrawn and neglected.
- Seem under the control or in fear of others and do not want to engage.
- Inappropriately dressed, either for the weather or for the job.
- Works long shifts.
- Dropped off or picked up in crowded minibus.
- Little or no safety equipment.
- Someone speaks for them and/or holds their ID documents.
- They ask for help and need it now.

Not every sign will mean someone is a victim, but a few together are an indication. Unless you are asked for help directly, **do not** approach someone you are concerned about as this may place them in danger. Report your concerns.

- If someone is in immediate danger, call 999.
- Report non-emergency suspicious activity to your local police on 101.
- Or at the Modern Slavery helpline 08000 121 700.
- Download the Stop the Traffick App.

Caritas Portsmouth has a number of resources to raise awareness of modern slavery in your parish. Please get in touch for details at caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Michael (2026)



This is a bio-pic of Michael Jackson, American Singer and cultural creative. It's solid, highly enjoyable and very well-crafted – and, like Blackpool rock, crafted all the w ay through. Indeed; this is a prime exemplar just *how* to do a musical bio-pic and just *how* to get it right. It starts from when he was a young boy (with his older brothers and parents) in the Steel mining US city of Geary, Indiana, in the early 1970s and ends with him at the height of his solo career in the late 1980s.

At this point it then stops and correctly so. It therefore avoids having to deal with Michael Jackson's later years and the whole (ahem) "problematic" issues of the life and alleged events inside his personal enclave of *Neverland*. What, however, it does do and in quite a softly-softly yet "look at this!" manner, is to give plenty of straws in the wind to suggest that what is going on is not emotionally healthy. Pick up on these nuances, or not, you'll still enjoy this film.

So; why does this film work? It works, because, it ain't broke - and nobody tries to fix it. The primary reason for this is that it does not mess with the proven musical bio-pic format of concentrating half on the personal life and growing up and the other half on the creative side of the individual. The personal goes from the early days in Geary when the father pummels his sons into what became the *Jackson 5* group; to how his youngest son Michael (clearly the most musically gifted) attempts to employ his personal musical talents with his father controlling him (think Stalin) as much as he can.

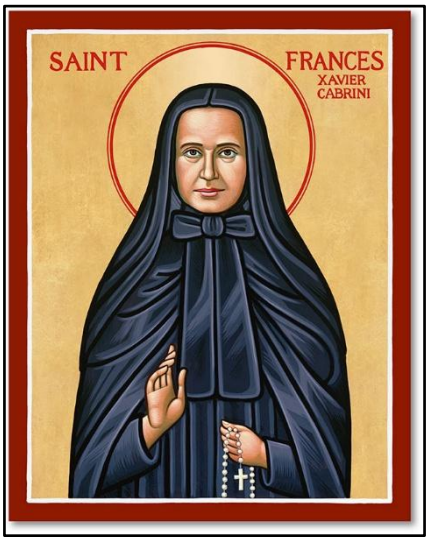
It is absolutely clear that without Mr Jackson Senior being the driving force behind his sons, then it is most likely they would have all ended up working in the Steel Mills in Geary. He was determined this would not be their fate. Through his "tough love" he gets them musically to where they can perform as a group at small venues. There, he and they are spotted by a record executive for a small company and they are on their way up. This is fine and hello, we have *The Jackson 5* and their string of popular hits.

All to the good and the Jackson Family now live in a swish mansion, a world away from Geary. Along with this new lifestyle and all the new money, growing-up Michael, with his obviously burgeoning musical talent, wants/needs, to strike out on his own. He arranges to do a solo album but still needs his father's permission. Mr Jackson Senior grants his permission. Well, sort of. His son can work on doing his solo album but only out of normal working hours. During working hours Michael belongs to him. Agreed. The album is a great success.

Then comes *Thriller*. This is what catapults Michael J into his own orbit. Full Disclosure: NOT a fan of Michael Jackson music, this Reviewer found this segment dealing with the making of this seminal album and the creative journey and process involved, worth watching the entire film for. The final break with his father comes when Michael refuses to do any further concerts with his brothers after being emotionally blackmailed by Mr Jackson Senior into doing an American Tour as a part of a wider world tour. The film ends in 1988 with Michael Jackson triumphant in London on his, now, truly solo career. For this type of film it's a good and fitting place to end. Good watch.

John Newland

Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini



Maria Francesca Cabrini was born in the Lombardy dis trict of Italy in 1850. Large families were common in those days, and she was one of thirteen children. She was born into a farming family and She studied at the school run by the Daughters of the Sacred Heart and at the age of eighteen qualified as a teacher. From an early age she desired to be a nun, but her health was not good. She stayed on the farm, helping her parents. Even after her parents had both died, she remained there working with her brothers and sisters.

A local priest, recognising her intelligence, diligence and depth of faith, asked her to help with the teaching in a girls' school, and she remained there for some six years. At the request of her Bishop, she took religious vows and rose to become Mother Superior of the House of Providence orphanage. When the orphanage was closed, she founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart to care for poor children in schools and hospitals. In just five years the order established seven homes, a free school and a nursery.

In 1889, Pope Leo XIII, recognising the need for missionary work among the Italians emigrating to the United States, urged her to undertake this work. She left her homeland and with six nuns headed for America.

Apart from a deep trust in God, Sister Frances Xavier also had a remarkable talent for organisation and administration. She founded schools, hospitals and orphanages which all flourished and helped to sustain the Italian communities. Her institutes spread across the United States to South America and back to Europe, where houses were founded in England, France and Spain.

She died in Chicago in December 1917, and her remains were eventually enshrined in the altar of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Shrine in the Mother Cabrini High School in Manhattan. She was beatified in 1938, and in 1946 Pope Pius XII raised her to sainthood. She was the first American citizen to be canonised. Although some countries celebrate her feast day on December 22nd, the day of her death, in England and Wales her feast is on November 13th. She is the patron saint of immigrants, and her name has been adopted by the organisation which used to be known as the Catholic Children's Society (of the diocese of Southwark, Arundel & Brighton and Portsmouth).



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The Pope's Prayer Intention for November

At the beginning of each year the Holy Father sets out the intentions for which he asks us to pray each month. His prayer intention for November is for the proper use of wealth: Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service of the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

Reflection on the Pope's Prayer Intention

All three synoptic Gospels tell us about an encounter Jesus has with a rich young man who asks Jesus what he must do to have eternal life.

The following verse best captures the exchange between them:
"And Jesus, looking upon him, loved him, and said to him, 'You lack one thing; go sell what you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come follow me'" (Mark 10:21).

Jesus looks on him with love. He offers a huge challenge, but it does not come from a place of envy or contempt. Out of love he tells him to give his possessions to the poor so he can gain eternal life.
Jesus challenges us to use our wealth and resources for greater good because he loves us and is for us. We share our resources with the poor, with Catholic ministries, and with our parish out of a response to God's love and goodness to us.

Jesus tells the rich young man to give his money to the poor, and then he makes an astonishing statement. He tells him, "You will have treasure in heaven."

When we give, we are not losing our money; we are transferring it. It is a paradox of the kingdom: in giving we receive. Jesus teaches us to give and bless others financially because ultimately it doesn't pay to be selfish.

We pray for the grace to use our means to give as Jesus calls us to give. Giving is a proper use of wealth for both the giver and for those who benefit from the gift.

By Tom Corcoran

Tom is the Co-Founder of Rebuilt Parish and the co-author of *Jesus, the Rich Young Man and the Meaning of Life*.

Pope Leo Recovers After Operation

Pope Leo XIV underwent thoracic surgery at Gemelli Hospital on Tuesday 23th October as planned, according to a statement from the hospital and released by the Holy See Press Office. The statement described how during the operation the surgeons removed the lower lobe of the Pope's right lung, "To ensure a radical resection, the lower lobe of the right lung was removed using a video-assisted technique,"

Professor Margaritora led the surgical team, assisted by Professor Elisa Meacci, Dr. Maria Teresa Congedo, and Dr. Leonardo Petracca Ciavarella. The anaesthesia team comprised Professor Massimo Antonelli, Dr. Giovanni Punzo, and Dr. Giuseppe Bello.

Tissue examined during the operation confirmed the diagnosis which had been suspected from tests which the pope had undergone beforehand. The surgeons' statement went on: "An intraoperative histological examination confirmed the diagnosis of lung adenocarcinoma, as suspected from the preoperative examinations."

The Pope was in the operating room for approximately three hours, while the operation itself lasted about 90 minutes. The doctors said it was successful and there were no complications.

Pope Leo awoke normally after surgery and, following a brief period of observation, returned to his room on the hospital's 10th floor.

The Pope rested comfortably after the operation. He enjoyed a meal in the company of his secretaries and other Vatican staff. He concelebrated Mass on the Thursday and in his homily, the Pope thanked all the staff—doctors, nurses, and orderlies—for the work they do every day caring for patients in their frailty, and especially for what they have done and continue to do for him. He was touched by the letters and cards drawn for him by children in the oncology ward.

As was expected, Pope Leo remained in hospital for a week. It was soon announced that he intended to carry out his planned visit to Uruguay, Argentina and Peru. His doctors declared they could see no reason why the tour should not take place.

Andover Foodbank
Together with Trussell

Andover Foodbank – Twelve Days to Christmas Appeal

Every year Andover Foodbank gives Christmas Hampers to families and individuals identified by local agencies. These hampers ease financial pressures, allowing people to celebrate the festive season rather than exist through it.

Here is our 12 Days to Christmas shopping list for 2026. You can shop in one go or have some fun and add the specified items to a bag for life on 12 days leading to your drop off date.

Please deliver your hamper to Andover Foodbank, open Monday to Friday 9.30am to 12.30pm by Sunday 22nd November when we will also be open 12.00pm to 2.00pm. Thank you.

Day 1 – Bag for life Day 2- Hot chocolate Day 3 – Savoury biscuits Day 4 – Gravy

Day 5 – Tin of ham (Small or large) Day 6 – Crisps or peanuts Day 7 – Chocolate

Day 8 – Marshmallows Day 9 – Sweet biscuits Day 10 - Stuffing

Day 11 – Mince Pies Day 12 - Christmas cake or Yule log

Andover Foodbank – Christmas Gift Box Appeal

Fill a medium-size shoebox with small gifts for either a boy or a girl. Decide what age group you have in mind: 0 – 1 Years, 2 – 4Years, 5 – 7 Years, 8 – 10 Years, 11 – 13 Years or
14 – 15 Years.

Suggested items could include:
Small Toys such as Dolls, Cuddly toy, Rattle, Small vehicle, Ball.
Sweets wrapped sweets, chocolate - check there is a clear "use by" date
Games such as Puzzles, Small jigsaw puzzle, Pack of cards
Stationary such as Felt pens, Crayons, Colouring book, Stickers, Craft kit
Fun Toiletries such as Bubble bath, Shower gel, Body spray, Nail varnish, Make-up
Accessories such as Scarf, Hat, Gloves, Belt, Jewellery, Wallet
Books such as Picture books, Joke book, Puzzle book, Novel
To pack your shoebox, wrap the lid and box separately. Attach a label showing if the gift is for a boy or a girl and what age range the gift is for. Fill with unwrapped gifts. Secure with an elastic band – please do not seal the box. Deliver to the Foodbank

Drop off date for the shoeboxes is 13th November

From the School

The Andover Foodbank thanked the families and children of St John the Baptist School for their generous donations. St John's is proud to support the wonderful work of the foodbank and to actively practice our faith and values through acts of service and compassion, making a positive difference to our local community. The school is planning to further support the Andover Foodbank by donating festive food for the Christmas Hamper Appeal and packing presents for the Christmas Gift Boxes for children.

Year 3 enjoyed a great day visiting Stonehenge. For most, it was their first visit to the stones, and they were amazed by the enormous size of the stones. During the visit the children took part in a Neolithic Workshop, enjoyed exploring a roundhouse, and learning of the food the people of the time ate, allowing them to experience what life may have been like thousands of years ago.

This term all the pupils are to take part in the NSPCC "Speak Out, Stay Safe" programme, which helps children understand how to stay safe, recognise worries and know who they can talk to if they have a concern. The programme includes a short film and classroom activities, with additional workshops during the Spring term.

Parents and pupils took a very active part in the recent Maths Week, completing the homework challenge together and parents joining in the children's maths lessons. As a follow-up, the school provided Maths Fact Sheets containing essential Maths information for each year group. The sheets included facts and language commonly used in primary school maths nowadays.

The school is taking part in *Walktober,* encouraging pupils, families and staff to walk, wheel, cycle, scoot, and use public transport more often. This can provide many benefits such as supporting well-being, having the opportunity for side-by-side tricky conversations, starting the day calmly and actively, talking and listening. As an extra incentive, participating schools also have the chance to win some great prizes.

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A Special Advent Healing Mass

In one of his pastoral letters a couple of years ago, Bishop Philip focused on the many forms of healing which can be received through the ministrations of the Church. He wrote of the salvation which Christ won for us by His Death and Resurrection, of the infinite mercy flowing from the heart of Jesus and of the obligation to care for the sick and the afflicted.

St James, in his letter (5:14) stated that if anyone is ill they should "send for the priests of the Church. Let the priests pray over them, anointing them with oil, and the prayer of faith will save the sick persons and the Lord will raise them up, and if they have committed any sins, their sins will be forgiven them." In other words, those in need of spiritual, psychological, mental, emotional and physical healing can turn to Jesus.

Canon Chris is planning to celebrate an Advent Healing Mass at 2.00pm on Saturday 19th December. This is a Mass for everybody. As the bishop pointed out, it is for those in need of spiritual, psychological, mental, emotional or physical healing. It is surely no exaggeration to say that each of us, in our own way, falls into those categories in one way or another.

A previous parish priest wrote in The Journal: "The Sacrament of the Sick does not just apply when someone is physically ill. It is for those who are suffering mentally and spiritually as well." Such services do, of course, also offer an opportunity for the sick and housebound to be brought to Mass and whilst there to receive the Sacrament of the Sick".

The sacrament is administered during Mass, after the gospel and homily. The sacrament consists of two main parts: the laying on of hands on the head of the person, and the anointing with Holy Oil, the Oil of the Sick, on the person's forehead and hands.

Everyone present at the Mass is entitled to be anointed. We are all in need of healing in one form or another. The Mass is open to everyone and offers a splendid opportunity to accept God's healing mercy in preparation for Christmas. If you know of someone who would like to participate but needs transport, please try to help them. If you are able to offer transport or would like transport provided for you, please contact the SVP and they will try to link drivers with passengers.

We are all invited to the Advent Healing Mass at 2.00pm on Saturday 19th December. There will be refreshments in the Parish Hall after the Mass

SVP - South Sudan

Through the St Vincent de Paul Twinning programme, we have been supporting local SVP Conferences and projects in Sudan and South Sudan for many decades. Sudan has been devastated by civil conflict which has had an impact on those most in need. An estimated 24.7 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. That number includes over 13.5 million children. Many of these have fled to South Sudan, increasing the difficulties there.

The local SVP in Sudan does not specialise in humanitarian emergency response, so this year the SVP in England and Wales has partnered with the international NGO *Concern Worldwide to* deliver lifesaving and life changing health and nutritional interventions to some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people, something made possible by the past donations of supporters in England and Wales. The SVP in Sudan continue with their work in local parishes.

In South Sudan there is still a major lack of food security, and it is reported that people are struggling more than ever before. Increased numbers of people face displacement, lack of medical care, poverty, and the threat of homelessness. By supporting the SVP appeal on behalf of South Sudan you will enable us to help the people of South Sudan recover and rebuild. Your donations will support the vital SVP projects including medical centres, vocational training schemes, and the vital baby feeding projects.

Donation forms will be distributed after the Saturday and Sunday Masses in November and donations may be returned to John Scicluna at 15 Lillywhite Crescent, Andover, SP10 5NA, or handed in to the Parish Office.

You can also donate online by going to the SVP Home Page and scrolling down to Helping Overseas and clocking the red button Support Our Overseas Work.

The SVP thanks you in advance for your continued generosity.

Pope's Legacy in Cameroon

Archbishop Andrew Nkea, the archbishop of our sister diocese of Bamenda in Cameroon, presented Pope Leo XIV with a copy of his new pastoral book inspired by the Pope's visit to Cameroon in April 2026. The book has the title: *Catechism of Pope Leo XIV on Peace*. It contains 100 questions on peace, with answers drawn directly from the speeches and the homily the Pope delivered in Bamenda on 16th April 2026.

Archbishop Nkea wrote the book with the objective of putting the Pope's message into a form that families, schools and parishes can use every day.

Each of the 100 questions addresses issues facing communities in the English-speaking regions of Cameroon where an ongoing civil war between government armed forces and rebels of the Ambazonia movement erupted in September 2017. The topics covered include forgiveness, dialogue, care for displaced persons, the role of young people, and responsible leadership. The answers to the questions are quotes/paraphrases from the Pope's own words spoken at St. Joseph Cathedral in Bamenda. Archbishop Andrew Nkea insists that *Catechism of Pope Leo XIV on Peace* is not his teaching, but the teaching of Pope Leo, given to the people of Cameroon in Bamenda.

During the visit to Cameroon, Pope Leo made repeated appeals for dialogue and reconciliation. According to Archbishop Nkea, *Catechism of Pope Leo XIV on Peace* is meant to keep that message alive. He said copies will first be distributed to parishes and Catholic schools in Bamenda, then to other dioceses in Cameroon. The Peace and Justice commissions of the different Catholic dioceses in the country will use the book for community formation.

Archbishop Nkea explained that the book is not the end of the papal visit, but the start of a way of life, underlining that for the people trapped in the war zones in Cameroon, peace is a daily choice.

Bishop Paul Swarbrick, Bishop of Lancaster and Lead Bishop for Africa, has issued a statement on behalf of the whole Bishops' Conference of England and Wales marking ten years since the beginning of the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon.

"Ten years of division and suffering is a deeply painful milestone: a decade marked by loss, trauma, insecurity, and limited access to healthcare. Schools have been targeted in the conflict, so children have missed significant periods of their education. The consequences, sadly, will be felt for generations to come. The visit of Pope Leo XIV to Cameroon in April brought renewed attention to the crisis and encouragement to those working for peace. This should give us hope that the situation can always change for the better. His call to young people to reject violence was particularly important: violence never solves anything and ultimately hardens hearts and deepens division.

I am encouraged that the Catholic Church in Cameroon has consistently offered itself as a mediator, despite the dangers faced by its clergy. As Archbishop Andrew Nkea of Bamenda has emphasised, the Church does not take sides but seeks to create the conditions for a peaceful resolution. In England and Wales, we have a part to play too. We need to amplify the voices of those suffering in Cameroon, pray for them, and renew our commitment to promoting dialogue, peace, and reconciliation.

Blessing of Graves

There will be the traditional Blessin of Graves at Charlton Cemetery 2.30pm on Sunday 8the November, and at St Mary's Cemetery on Sunday 15th November at 2.30pm. The graves in the Memorial Plot in the grounds of St John the Baptist Church will be blessed after Mass on Sunday 22nd November.

Please come along if you would like the graves of your loved ones to be blessed.

Please pray for those who have died recently

Mary Workman, Ann Matthews, Ron Charlwood
And those who have lost their lives in the defence of this country

Remember also those whose anniversaries occur in November

Bob Jones, David Allergant, Frances Cross, John Webster, James Fenyhough, Eileen Weatherly, William Dwyer, Thomas Cullen, Mary Sweeney, Michael Doyle, Emma Taylor, Pat Thornton, Mary Palmer, Leonard Biggs, Oliver Plunkett, Richard Morgan, Winifred & Maurice Creighton, Edward Davis, John Boland, Michael Kane, Romeo Bisson, John Gordon-Stables, Bartholemew Bruen, James Potter, Kathleen Fisher, Mary Glasspool, Francesco Segolo, Mrs Dobson, Ann Curry, John O'Neill, Adele Fisher, James Nash, Fr Liam Cosgrove, Cecilia Antrobus, Robert Laversuch, Mrs Mitchell, Margaret Murrell, John Nash, Stanley Bell, Patrick McCathy, Cathy Grey, Fr Tom Doyle, Jane Merrifield, John Hynes, Sadie Haughian, Katherine Houghton, Ken Loftus, Stan Evans, Ida McNeil, Fr Donald McDonald Benigno Mosquera, Anne Searle, Andrew Graham, Patricia Lona Kopka, Ethnea King, George Hill, Clive Richardson, Thomas Savage, Andrew Sharkey, Tommy Hynes, Tony Ryder, Catherine Futcher, Margaret Hassan, Michael Keegan, Eileen Flynn, John McGlynn, Tom Egan, Mary Broderick, Ellen Kemp, Catherine Morris, Thomas Wilmot, Michael Hughes, Patrick Pettigrew, Eileen Farbutt, Molly Hacket, Keith Bale, Mary Clarke, Fr. Jack Blaney SMM, Kay Watson, Mary Doonan, Annick Cremier, Isabel Thompson, Margaret Bystranowski, Daphne Fynn Fred Smith, Billy Kidney, Mary Gillespie, George Davis, Molly Ludlow, Olive Randall, Christina Savage, Molly Ravenscroft, Jacob Pearce, Adele Kilroy, Violet Conaghan, Hilda Mary Agnes Brown, Andrew Kladko, John Sexton, Moira Johnston, Harriet Crosby, Maureen Alland, Dennis Townsend, Lana Rose Fishwick, Simone Klukowicz, Christine Clarkson, Les Greenslade, Margaret Golding, Michael Burke, Fr Thomas Dunne, Dom Magnus Wilson OSB, Naria Barlow, Rose Plummer, Terry O'Kelly, Margaret Henry, Anne Brown, Lewis Theodoropoulos, Valerie Muir, Alan Daws, Paul Murray, Rita Binsley, Kathleen Ineson, Eileen Dickie, Durval Barreiros, James Murray, John Binsley, Joy Ling, Ruth Wheelright, Ann-Marie Kelly, Josephine Booth, John Valenzia, Jean Woodward, Gaige Binsley, Bill Mitford, Gertrude Powell, Joseph and Bridget Sarsfield, Patrick Moore, Mavis Niblett, Sharon Wood, John Foster, Michael Fisher, Patrick Colledge, Scott Thompson

During the month to come please remember in your prayers the following who are sick

Esme Coveney, Rita Lane, Margaret Williams, Patrick Arnold, Fiona Hilleard, Bernard Ivinson, Tony Fabian, Helen O'Connell, Douglas Manning, Diane Mahoney, Rita Casey, Carol Keenan, Eileen Wharton, Oran Keenan, Margarita Hardiman, Tom O'Regan, Robert Colledge, Eileen Price, Concepta Cuddihy, Frank Hinds, Clan Furtado, Lisa Rammage, Susanne Church, Sandy Saunders, Margaret Blair, Pat Middleton, Angelo and Angela Alvarez, Frank Saunders, and Lillian Da Silva.

Please Note

Articles printed in The Journal are printed in good faith and are not necessarily the views of the editors. Contributions must be accompanied by the full name and address, which may be withheld on request. The editors reserve the right to amend all contributions.

Endpiece

Many thanks to the various contributors to this month's The Journal. The next edition will be issued on the weekend of 12th & 13th December. Contributions should be with the editors by Monday 7th December. Please leave contributions at the Presbytery or email them to stjohnsjournal@gmail.com