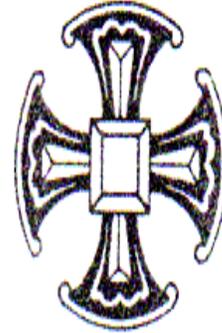


The Catholic Parish of Springfield

The Augustinian

St Augustine of Canterbury - Springfield
New Hall Chapel - Boreham
Church of Our Saviour - Chelmer Village
<http://www.staugustine-springfield.com/>



June 2011 –

Father Frank Writes

My dear friends,

It gives me great pleasure to present the June 2011 edition of *The Augustinian*. Many thanks to our hard-working and enthusiastic editor, Nigel Gardener.

Our Parish Magazine is always a good read – and, as I used to say, for only 50p! But now, thanks to the generosity of our sponsor Philip Manson, we can offer it to parishioners free of charge (see Philip’s advert on p.20). We are grateful for Philip’s sponsorship, but as this soon runs out we are looking for a new sponsor. Any ideas?

This month’s edition begins with a seasonal piece on the great June Feast of Ss Peter and Paul. Following on from this we have an article on The Holy Martyrs of Uganda, by way of preparing us, once again, for Fr Charles’s visit in August. In our Lent edition Nigel wrote a piece about the little known Basilica di Santa Prassede in Rome, this time he writes about the altogether more well known church of Santa Maria Maggiore. My own contribution is a brief article on St John the Evangelist – written in the hope of encouraging readers to explore more fully this rich gospel account. I enjoyed the article on Senior Citizens submitted by a ‘Senior Lady’, sadly I could identify with some of it too. We have the usual ‘funnies’, and the penultimate set of entries from the log book of Our Lady Immaculate school, this time covering 1948 to 1950. ‘The Delights of Teaching’ is entirely delightful, the crossword teasing and 2012 more than golden.

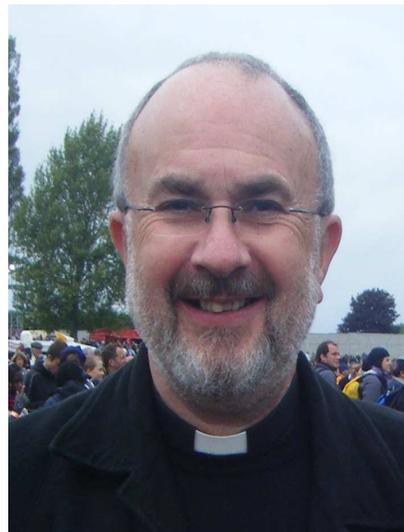
Most of the contents in this edition come from Nigel himself – just a few contributions from other parishioners. What happened to the recipes, to the children’s pages and many more possibilities? Do get your thinking caps on and let us have your contributions for the next edition. It is your magazine and is only as good as the articles we receive for publication. Don’t wait to be invited – do send in your articles, jokes, recipes etc. You can send them to me or to Nigel – by *Word* attachment to email is best...but any format will be welcomed.

Remember, as I always say, it is your magazine!

Happy reading!

With my blessing.

Father Frank



The Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul

The Feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul is at the same time a grateful memorial of the great witnesses of Jesus Christ and a solemn confession for the Church: *one, holy, catholic and apostolic*. It is first and foremost a feast of *catholicity*. The sign of Pentecost - the new community that speaks all languages and unites all peoples into one people, in one family of God -, this sign has become a reality. Our liturgical assembly, at which Bishops are gathered from all parts of the world, people of many cultures and nations, is an image of the family of the Church distributed throughout the earth. (Pope Benedict XVI 29th June 2005)

29th June - This feast day commemorates the martyrdom of the two great Apostles, assigned by tradition to the same day of June in the year 67. They had been imprisoned in the famous Mamertine Prison of Rome and both had foreseen their approaching death. Saint Peter was crucified; Saint Paul, a Roman citizen, was slain by the sword.



The Chief of the Apostles was a native of Galilee like Our Lord. As he was fishing on its large lake he was called by Our Lord to be one of His apostles. Peter was poor and unlearned, but candid, eager, and loving. In his heart, first of all, his conviction grew, and then from his lips came the spontaneous confession: *“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God!”* Our Lord chose him and prepared him to be the Rock on which He would build His Church, His Vicar on earth, the Head and Prince of His Apostles, the centre and indispensable bond of the Church’s unity, the unique channel of all spiritual powers, the guardian and unerring teacher of His truth.

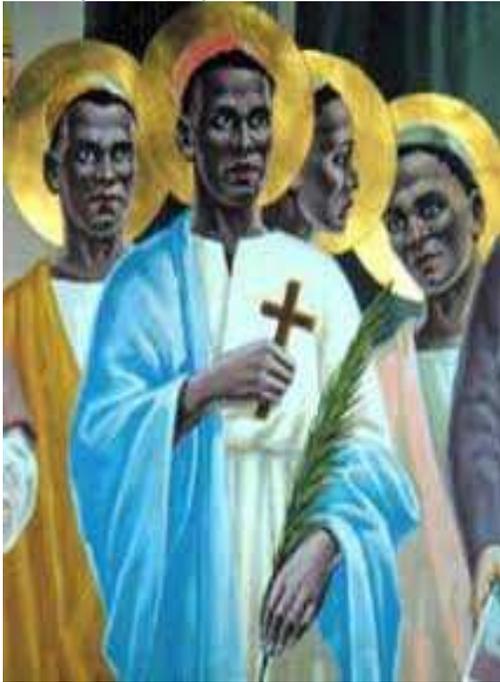
All Scripture is alive with Saint Peter; his name appears no fewer than 160 times in the New Testament. But it is after Pentecost that he stands out in the full grandeur of his office. He sees to the replacement of the fallen disciple; he admits the Jews by thousands into the fold and in the person of Cornelius, opens it to the Gentiles; he founds and for a time rules the Church at Antioch.

Ten years after the Ascension Saint Peter transferred his apostolic capital to Rome, going in person to the centre of the majestic Roman Empire, where were gathered the glories and riches of the earth, along with all the powers of evil. From there he sent Saint Mark, his valued secretary, to establish the Church of Alexandria in Egypt. In Rome Saint Peter’s Chair was placed; there for twenty-five years he laboured at building up the great Roman Church. He was crucified by order of Nero and buried on the Vatican Hill, where now the Basilica stands which bears his name. (Magnificat.com)

The Holy Martyrs of Uganda

It is always nice to welcome Father Charles to Springfield for the summer. The aim of this article is to help us to remember the long tradition of Christian fellowship that has been an integral part of Ugandan society for many years.

These Saints lived in the area of Central Africa we now call Uganda. Never had anyone spoken the name of God in that land and many evil traditions ruled there by means of slavery, sorcery and cannibalism. One day in 1879, Father Lourdel and Father



Livinhac, two members of the White Fathers' Society, arrived amid the native Ugandans. At once they introduced themselves to King Mutesa, who welcomed them peacefully and granted them permission to reside in his kingdom.

The dedicated missionaries were all to all, and they rendered service any way they could. Less than seven months after they opened a catechumenate, they selected some individuals worthy of preparation for Baptism. King Mutesa took an interest in what the Fathers were preaching, but before long their words aroused the anger of the jealous witch doctors and of the Arabs traders, who were engaging in slavery.

Anticipating a persecution, Fathers Lourdel and Livinhac baptized the natives who were already prepared and then withdrew south of Lake Victoria with a few young Christians they had bought out of slavery. A smallpox epidemic decimated the population of that area, and the missionaries baptised great numbers of dying children.

After they had been three years in exile, King Mutesa passed away. His son, Mwanga, who was in favour of the new religion, asked them to return. On July 12, 1885, the inhabitants of Uganda, who had not forgotten the multiple benefits they had received from the missionaries, gave Fathers Lourdel and Livinhac a triumphant welcome. The local natives they had baptised before their departure had baptised others in turn; their apostolate promised to be a flourishing one. However, the new king's minister felt intimidated by the Christians' success, especially that of the leader of the pages, Joseph Mukasa, who opposed the prevalent immorality.

This young man was the friend and confidant of the king and could easily have become the second most important person in the kingdom. His only ambition, however, was to fulfil the teachings of Christ in himself and in his companions. The minister convinced the young king that the Christians wanted to seize his throne; the witch doctors insisted that the supposed conspirators be punished by death at once. Mwanga yielded to these false accusations, and on November 15, 1885, he had Joseph Mukasa burned to death.

The tyrant boasted, “After I’ve killed that one, all the others will be afraid and will abandon the religion of the priests.” Contrary to this prediction, however, conversions continued to abound. On the night of Joseph’s martyrdom, twelve catechumens requested the favour of Baptism. Another 105 catechumens were baptised during the week following Joseph’s death, some of whom would later be numbered among the eleven future martyrs.

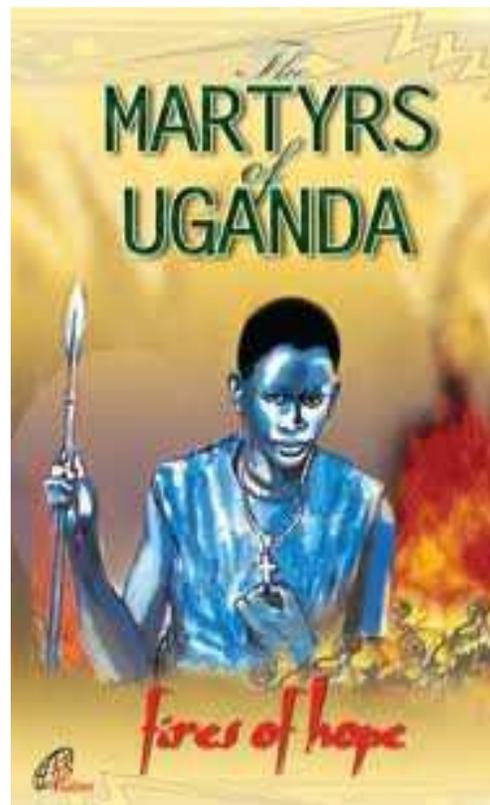
On May 25th, six months after the odious murder of Joseph, the king returned from a hunt and summoned one of his pages, Dennis, aged 14. Mwanga questioned him and learned that he was studying catechism with Mwafu, a baptised boy. He flew into a rage and thrust his poisoned spear through the boy’s throat. The executioners completed the task the following day, May 26th, on which the despot officially declared open persecution against the Christians.

The same day Mwanga had young Honoratus mutilated and tortured, and a neophyte named James, who had once attempted to convert Mwanga to Christianity, had a yoke hung around his neck. Then Mwanga assembled all the Christian pages and gave orders for them to be led to the pyre in Namugongo and burned alive. James died in that fire along with the other martyrs on June 3, 1886, on the feast of the Ascension. Father Lourdel later wrote:

“Those between 18 and 25 years old were tied together. The younger boys, bound tightly together, could hardly walk without jostling one another. I saw little Kizito laughing at all the scrimmaging as though it were some kind of a game he was playing with his friends.” There were fifteen Catholics in all, three of whom were released at the last minute. There are twenty-two officially canonized Catholic martyrs, whose deaths occurred between 1885 and 1887.

On May 26, 1886, on its way to the torture site, the condemned group encountered a young man named Pontian. The head executioner asked him, “Do you know how to pray?” Pontian answered in the affirmative; the torturer pierced him with a spear and cut off his head. When nighttime fell, each of the martyrs was immobilized in a yoke; the chief executioner’s son was forced to leave the group of victims and return home. After a long, exhausting trek in which they received untold mistreatment, the captives reached Namugongo on May 27th. A hundred or so torturers divided the prisoners among themselves.

The cruel executioners laboured until June 3rd to gather all the wood needed for the fire. Thus the prisoners had to wait six long days — long days filled with privation and suffering, and cold, sleepless nights filled with ardent prayer, while awaiting the death that would come to crown their heroic combat. The beating of the tom-toms throughout



the night of June 2nd told the languishing martyrs, bound in their huts, that the immense fire of their supreme holocaust would soon be lit.

Charles Lwanga, a young man of great strength and agility, had been appointed by the king to direct a group of pages; he had taught them catechism in hiding. He was now separated from his companions to be burned in an especially terrible manner. The torturer lit the fire in such a way as to burn the feet of his victim first. “You’re burning me,” said Charles, “but it’s like water you’re pouring to wash me.” When the flames reached the area of his heart, just before he expired, Charles murmured, “My God! My God!”

As the group of martyrs drew near the fire, a triumphant cry resounded: Mbagwa, the chief executioner’s son, had succeeded in running away from home to fly to his martyrdom. He was jumping with joy upon finding himself once again in the company of his friends. He was struck down with a hammer, and then rolled along with the others into reed mats as the executioners prepared to throw them into the fire.

After the torturers had burned their feet, they promised to release them promptly if they would give up praying. But these heroes did not fear the death of the body. Faced with a categorical refusal to apostatize, the torturers lit the fire. Above the roaring of the great fire and the clamour of the bloodthirsty executioners, the prayers of the holy martyrs rose up calm, ardent and serene: “Our Father, who art in heaven...” The executioners knew they were dead when they stopped praying.

The last of the martyrs was called John Mary. He had been obliged to live in hiding for a long time; finally, tired of his wandering life, he conceived an ardent desire to die for his faith. Despite the advice of his friends, who attempted to dissuade him from his project, John Mary decided to go and speak to King Mwanga. No one ever saw him again; on January 27, 1887, Mwanga had him beheaded and thrown into a pond.

Popular devotion to the Martyrs of Uganda took on a universal character after Saint Pius X proclaimed them Venerable on August 16, 1912. Their beatification occurred on June 6, 1920, and they received the honours of canonization on October 18, 1964.

A Visit to Rome

In February my wife and I had the opportunity of visiting Rome during the school half term. This was my first visit to Rome, although my wife had been to the city many years before when she was in school herself. One of the advantages of booking a “proper” visit with a travel company was the excellent guide



book they provided – ably supported by Father Stephen Myers of Holy Family Parish, Dagenham, who happened to be in the city at the same time. Our hotel was very near the Termini – the main station in Rome, and only a few minutes’ walk from one of the most impressive buildings in the city. In the previous issue of the Augustinian we

included an article about one of the less well know churches. With thanks to the Thomas Cook guidebook we've now added something about Santa Maria Maggiore.

Santa Maria Maggiore stands on the site of a temple to the goddess Cybele. According to a 13th-century legend, the first church was built here by Pope Liberius (352-66), on the site of an apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The legend has it that the Virgin appeared to Pope Liberius and the patrician Giovanni Patrizio on August 4, 352 (or 358), instructing them to build a church on the Esquiline Hill. That night, the floor plan was outlined by a miraculous snowfall.

Archaeological evidence, on the other hand, indicates that the church was probably first built in the early 400s and completed under Pope Sixtus III (432-440).

This was a time when churches dedicated to Mary were beginning to spring up all over the empire, prompted by an increasingly popular devotion to the Virgin and the official acceptance of her title "Theotokos" (Mother of God) at the Council of Ephesus in 431.



The church has had many names over the years: first *Santa Maria della Neve* (St. Mary of the Snow) after the snowfall, then *Santa Maria Liberiana* after Pope Liberius. After the basilica obtained a relic of the Holy Crib, it was called *Santa Maria Del Presepe* (St. Mary of the Crib). It was finally named *Santa Maria Maggiore* (St. Mary Major) because it is the largest of the 26 churches in Rome dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

Santa Maria Maggiore was fully restored and renovated in the 18th century - the facade and most of the interior decorations date from this period. Today, the basilica is served by Redemptorist and Dominican fathers and remains very popular with pilgrims and tourists alike.

The development of the city has taken away the impact of Santa Maria Maggiore's commanding position on the summit of the Esquiline Hill, but the church is still considered by many to be the most beautiful church in Rome after St Peter's.

Santa Maria Maggiore still retains its ancient layout, but most of the exterior dates from the 18th century. The only visible exterior part of the Early Christian basilica is a short length of the clerestory wall, seen from Via dell'Esquilino.

The interior of the basilica preserves its majestic Early Christian form, which was standard in Rome in the 5th century: a tall, wide nave with side aisles and a round apse at the end.

The 5th-century mosaics on either side of the nave depict scenes from the Old Testament. This was the first large-scale cycle of Biblical scenes in Rome. The left-hand side has scenes of Abraham, Jacob and Isaac; the right-hand side has scenes of Moses and Joshua.



Although most are original, not all the nave mosaics have survived. The cycle of Biblical scenes is thus interrupted several times and some panels were replaced by painted copies in the 16th century.

The golden mosaics of the triumphal arch are also from the 5th century and depict scenes from the early life of Christ. The imagery of these mosaics is rich and complex and the details have been interpreted in various ways; the second woman in the Epiphany scene, for example, has not been certainly identified. The scenes are as follows:

Left side: The Annunciation; Joseph doubting; the Epiphany, with the young Christ seated on a throne and attended by angels and Mary on the right (the woman on his left might be "Divine Wisdom"); the Massacre of the Innocents and Herod on a throne; sheep before the gates of Jerusalem.

Right side: The Presentation in the Temple; the Flight into Egypt, in which the pagan ruler Aphrodisius immediately recognizes Christ's divinity; Herod visited by the Magi; the city of Bethlehem.

Centre: A circle containing the apocalyptic throne of Christ with the Book of the Seven Seals, flanked by Sts. Peter and Paul and the symbols of the Four Evangelists. At the bottom is the inscription: XYSTUS EPISCOPUS PLEBI DEI, "Sixtus the Bishop to the people of God."

The apse mosaic, depicting the Coronation of the Virgin, is from the late 13th century, by Franciscan friar, Jacopo Torriti. The loggia above of the main entrance contains 13th-century mosaics, but is not always open.

The Athenian marble columns supporting the nave are the oldest parts of the church - they either come from the first basilica or from an antique Roman building. However, the shafts were reworked and the old capitals and bases were replaced during a restoration of the 18th century.

The medieval bell tower is the highest in Rome at 240 feet, (about 75 m). The floor of the church is paved in *opus sectile* mosaic, featuring the Borghese arms of an eagle and a dragon.

The high altar of this Patriarchal basilica is a papal altar, used only by the pope himself, or a priest given specific permission by him. It is traditional for the pope to lead a mass here on the Feast of the Assumption of Mary, every August 15. A porphyry urn on the altar contains the relics of St. Matthew and other martyrs.

Beneath the altar is a *confessio* with a kneeling statue of Pope Pius IX. Beneath this, St.



Jerome (d.420), Doctor of the Church and author of the Latin translation of the Bible, is buried in the Bethlehem crypt. The crypt is built to resemble the cave of the Nativity in Bethlehem.

In the right transept is the Sistine Chapel, containing the elaborate tomb of Pope Sixtus V (1521-90) and decorated with frescoes and reliefs of events from his reign. The chapel centres on a reliquary

containing part of the Holy Crib, which was carried to Rome by Christian refugees during the Muslim conquest of the Holy Land in the 7th century. Just outside the chapel is the tomb of Gian Lorenzo Bernini and his family.

Across the way, the Pauline chapel is sumptuously decorated and houses the tombs of Pope Paul V (1552-1621) and his immediate predecessor Clement VIII. It is also home to the famous icon of the Virgin Mary known as *Salus Populi Romani*, "Health of the Roman People." The name derives from a miracle in which the icon helped keep plague from the city. Legend claims that it was painted from life by St. Luke the Evangelist, but most scholars date it to the 13th century.

Another relic held by the church are pieces of the True Cross, housed in a 14th-century cross-shaped reliquary. According to a 14th-century manuscript (*Mirabilia Urbis Romae*), there were even more relics that have not survived: "There be also... some of the milk of the blessed Virgin, and Our Lord's blood in a crystal."

A museum below the church contains Roman remains that were found here in the 18th century, including a section of Roman road, a mosaic pavement, two wells, a series of arches and narrow passages cut into the bedrock.

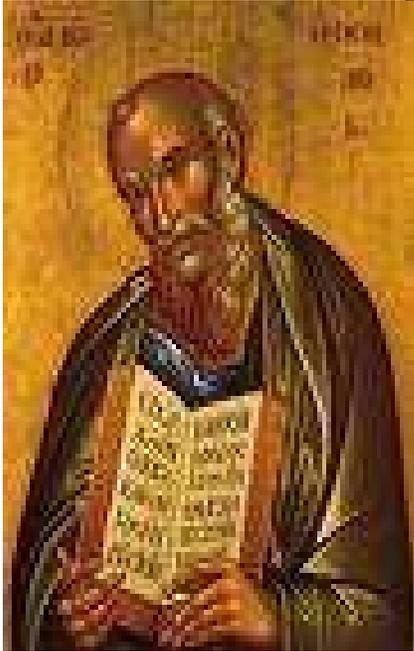
"A united humanity will be able to confront the many troubling problems of the present time: from the menace of terrorism to the humiliating poverty in which millions of human beings live, from the proliferation of weapons to the pandemics and the environmental destruction which threaten the future of our planet."

Pope Benedict XV11 – A Call for Unity



St John the Evangelist

I have a particular love of scripture, although I would never claim to be a scripture scholar. Each one of the Gospels is a great treasure, but I must admit to having a



particular fondness for St John's Gospel – for me it reaches real depths, reaches parts the others cannot reach. There is some dispute among scholars as to the identity of the writer of the Gospel. Some claim it is John himself, others that followers of John were responsible for putting together his teachings. I believe that the Gospel is substantially the work of John himself, but it is an article of faith with me – neither I (nor anyone else) can prove it one way or the other. Either way, the author (if not the writer) is none other than 'the beloved disciple'. We can all agree on that.

St John the Evangelist (or St John the Theologian as the Orthodox call him), not to be confused with St John the Baptist, was one of the Twelve – the brother of James. The two brothers are referred to as the Sons of Zebedee, and sometimes as the Sons of Thunder – we can only speculate as to whether this means they were hot tempered. Their mother was Salome, one of the women who stood at the foot of the Cross. Salome may have been the sister of Mary, the mother of Jesus. The Marys at the foot of the cross at the Crucifixion included, by agreement of all four evangelists, Mary, the mother of Jesus and Mary Magdalene. John says that there were three Marys, the third being the sister of Our Lady and wife of Cleopas. These lists can be reconciled only by supposing that John's third Mary is identical with the third woman mentioned by the other evangelists whom, however, they identify as the mother of the Sons of Zebedee, called, not Mary, but Salome. We cannot prove this one way or the other, but a family relationship between James and John and Jesus is accepted by many (including me, for what it's worth).

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke are known as the synoptic gospels. They follow a common pattern and have common roots – they give us a shared outlook or view (hence "synoptic").

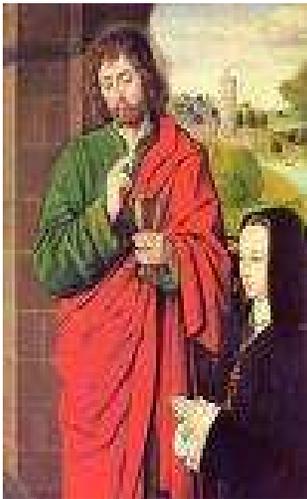
Scholars agree that of the four gospels, Mark is the oldest having been written shortly after St Peter's death, that is around 65AD (Mark was very much St Peter's amanuensis). Thus it was written within living memory of the events it describes. Before it was written down, of course, there would have been a strong oral tradition found in the preaching of St Peter and others.

Both Matthew (written in the last quarter of the first century) and Luke (written in the final third of the first century) share much of the material contained in Mark, together with a second common source, a lost document, which scholars refer to as Q (an abbreviation of the German Quelle, i.e. source). Mark and Q, for example, account for one half of Luke's Gospel.

St John's Gospel, on the other hand, developed separately. It comprises theological reflections on the person of Jesus and on the significance of the events surrounding his ministry. The writing in John's Gospel provides us with a mature reflection on all that the author, none other than the apostle John, witnessed – they present us with a lifetime of meditation, thought and prayer. As the Catholic biblical scholar Nicholas King writes:

As soon as you open John's Gospel you are aware that you are breathing a different air from that which you encountered in Matthew, Mark and Luke. It has often been described as 'a magic pool, in which an elephant may swim and an infant paddle'. My sense of it is that it is a journey into the mystery of who Jesus is, inviting us ever deeper, as the story unfolds. The reader will do well to remember that this is a very rich Gospel, whose meaning emerges slowly, over a lifetime of reading.

Whilst Mark roots Jesus' ministry in the prophecies of Isaiah, some 800 years before the first Christmas (see Mark 1:2), and Matthew traces Jesus' genealogy back to Abraham (Matthew 1:2-17), and Luke back even further to Adam (Luke 3:23ff), we know we are for something different, that we are in for a treat with John who makes it clear that Jesus is from no earthly descent. We read: "In the *beginning* was the Word" (John 1:1) and that it was this "Word that became flesh" (John 1:14). John's Jesus is majestic and mysterious – he is none other than the eternal Christ.



It is John who gives us the I AM sayings of Jesus (God giving Jesus his own name! [cf: Exodus 3:14]). I find these a constant source of inspiration: I AM the bread of life. I AM the vine, you are the branches. I AM the good shepherd. I AM the resurrection and the life, and so on. What a treasure-house!

It is John who gives us the "signs" – full of depth and layers of meaning. I particularly like the Wedding at Cana (Ch2) and the Woman at the Well (Ch4).

It is John who gives us an account of the feeding of the 5,000 which is monumental as he uses the occasion to teach us about the significance of the Eucharist (Ch6).

It is John who teaches us that the Eucharist can never be an end in itself. He points to the significance of the Dismissal (or Commissioning) at the end of Mass by making it clear that we receive from him so that we can go out and serve others (13:2-15).

It is John who makes use of powerful imagery (e.g. dark and light) and double meanings (e.g. "Destroy this Temple, and in three days I will raise it up [2:20]).

John's Gospel is a real treasure house, one we can never grow tired of reading. I hope I have inspired you to re-read this wonderful Gospel written by one who experienced the presence of Jesus – an experience that changed and defined the rest of his life. May his words change our lives too.

Thank you for reading some of my thoughts about this Gospel, which has become a sort of 'love-affair' for me over the years.

May the Word that became flesh bless you now and always.

Fr Frank

What Senior Citizens Are Worth

Did you know that we old folk are worth a fortune? We have silver in our hair, gold in our teeth, stone in our kidneys, lead in our feet and gas in our stomachs: I have become a little older since I saw you last and a few changes have come into my life.

Frankly I have become a frivolous old woman! I am seeing six gentlemen every day. As soon as I wake up Will Power helps me out of bed. Then I go to see Jimmy Riddle and it's time for breakfast with Mr. Kellogg. This is closely followed by the refreshing company of Mr. Tetley, or my other friend who I know only by his initials – P.G. Then comes someone I don't like at all – Arthur It is – he knows he is not welcome but he insists on being here and, what is more, he stays for the rest of the day. Even then he does not like to stay in one place so he takes me from joint to joint. After such a hectic day I am glad to get to bed – and with a Johnny Walker too!



What a hectic life! Oh yes, I am now flirting with Al Zheimer. The vicar came to call the other day and said that at my age I should be thinking of the hereafter. I told him I did all the time. For no matter where I am, the bedroom or the garden, I ask myself "Now, what am I here after?" Well I'll close now and hope that Will Power is your constant companion too, but do make sure that his friend, Emma Royd, does not creep up on you from behind! Watch out for the crafty one – Gerry Atric!

Submitted by a Senior Lady

Meeting God

A middle aged woman had a heart attack and was taken to the hospital. While on the operating table she had a near death experience. Seeing God she asked "Is my time up?" God said, "No, you have another 40 years, 2 months and 8 days to live."



Upon recovery, the woman decided to stay in the hospital and have a facelift, liposuction, and a tummy tuck. She even had someone come in and change her hair colour. Since she had so much more time to live, she figured she might as well make the most of it. After her last operation, she was released from the hospital.

While crossing the street on her way home, she was killed by an ambulance. Arriving in front of God, she demanded, "I thought you said I had another 40 years" Why didn't you pull me out of the path of the ambulance?"

God replied, "I didn't recognize you."

How Good Is Your Reading?

Accodrning to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttar in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoetnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be at the rghit pclae. The rset can be a total mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit porbelm.

Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe.

Amzanig huh?



The Burglar

A burglar broke into a house one night. He shined his torch around, looking for valuables, and when he picked up a CD player to place in his sack, a strange, disembodied voice echoed from the dark saying, "Jesus is watching you."

He nearly jumped out of his skin, clicked his torch out and froze. When he heard nothing more after a bit, he shook his head, promised himself a holiday after the next big score, then clicked the light on and began searching for more valuables.

Just as he pulled the stereo out so he could disconnect the wires, clear as a bell he heard, "Jesus is watching you!" Freaked out, he shined his light around frantically, looking for the source of the voice. Finally, in the corner of the room, his torch beam came to rest on a parrot.

"Did you say that?" He hissed at the parrot. "Yep," the parrot confessed, then squawked, "I'm just trying to warn you."

The burglar relaxed. "Warn me, huh? Who in the world are you?" "Moses," replied the bird.

"Moses?", the burglar laughed. "What kind of people would name a bird Moses."

"The kind of people that would name a Rottweiler Jesus."



Whole Lotta History!

The local Knights of St. Columba (Council 302) have enjoyed fantastic success in both regional and national quizzes. In fact the Ladies team successfully won the Provincial trophy recently. The following are actual quiz answers from a variety of shows that we're sure our local Knights would never offer.

The Biggest Game in Town (ITV)

Host: What was signed to bring World War 1 to an end?

Contestant: The Magna Carta

Sale of the Century (ITV)

Host: What is the name of the language used by the Ancient Egyptians and painted on walls?

Contestant: Hydraulics

Host: What was Hitler's first name?

Contestant: Heil

The Weakest Link (BBC)

Host: According to the Bible, what city was destroyed along with Gomorrah?

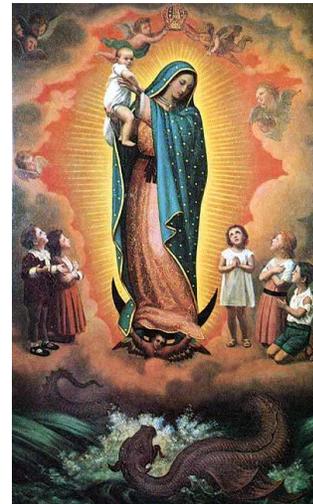
Contestant: Atlantis

Host: Which British Prime Minister famously said "we have become a grandmother?"

Contestant: John Major

Our Lady Immaculate School

The following items are Log Book entries from Our Lady Immaculate School. They provide a fascinating social insight into the history of Chelmsford and into the activities of the teachers and pupils who worked and attended the school. The Log Book covers random entries from 1890 through to 1959. These entries are taken from 1948 onwards. The information we have is now somewhat sparse and there are big gaps in the dates. It is anticipated that the next issue will bring the record to an end with 1951-1959 covered.



February 23rd 1948 – Infant attendance very low owing to illness and severe weather. Attendance low in all classes owing to snow and transport difficulties.

September 6th 1948 – Mrs. Pavill, Caretaker since 1941, has resigned. Mrs. Hymas appointed.

December 10th 1948 – At 3.30 pm a child from the Infants Department aged 7 ran across the London Road just outside the school premises and was knocked down by an Eastern National Express coach journeying to Braintree. The child was conveyed to hospital by the Police. The accident was witnessed by parents waiting for small children.

October 12th 1949 – Mr. Barry, who recently returned from the Falklands Islands survey gave a lecture on the Antarctic to the Senior and Upper Junior classes.

December 5th 1949 – Mrs. Offenburt gave lectures on Australia to Senior and Upper Junior classes. The children were extremely interested and the following day we received a letter from Mrs. Offenburt thanking us for the great pleasure it had given

her to speak to them. She wrote “they were such bright and happy children and so eager and intelligent in their questioning that I deeply regretted not being able to stay with you longer and see more of your work. It was a delight to go into a school where the manners of the children were excellent.”

December 19th 1949 – Open Day. Many of the parents visited the school during the morning: they showed keen interest in the children’s work. During the afternoon several of the classes performed short plays in the canteen.

January 17th 1950 – It was with great regret that we heard of the death of one of our pupils R.I.P. – she had been suffering from rheumatic fever since the middle of last term.

March 30th 1950 – 28 Senior girls accompanied by Mrs. Martin and Miss Ring visited the Ideal Homes Exhibition at Olympia.

September 5th 1950 – School re-opened this morning with 321 on roll. Mr. Butt replaced Mr. Barrell. Sister M. Mercedes and Sister M. Martha were both absent with permission of the Managers: both were on Pilgrimages.

The Delights of Teaching

Many secondary schools now see it as vitally important that they forge excellent working links with the primary and junior schools they take their students from. This is a true report of one such link!

St. Vincent’s is very much an urban primary school with 31 students in their Year 6 class – these are the pupils who are in their last year of primary school and will be transferring to secondary school as the new 11 year olds in Year 7. They visit their local secondary school every Thursday for a 3 hour session. They get lessons in specialist subjects with secondary school teachers who they are likely to meet when they transfer. This is a system that works with other primary schools in the locality and each visiting school decides what lessons they would like at the start of the year. St. Vincent’s chose Science, Physical Education and Information Technology as their 3 lessons.

The ICT lessons had gone particularly well. The pupils had opportunities to develop their IT skills using presentation software – PowerPoint – and to talk about their presentations. Spreadsheets’ was a topic that the class teacher had identified as important. The pupils were able to use Excel to work out the costs of running a zoo – although one pupil decided the best way of saving money on animal feed was to feed the zebra to the lions. They created graphs and pie charts, worked out calculations – adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing along with percentages and also used their findings to write a short report on the costs of managing the zoo. At Christmas they used Movie Maker to create their own versions of the Nativity – downloading pictures, putting them in sequence, adding titles and credits and finally adding their own Christmas Carol as a music file. Once again they got to share their work. At one point they were working on a project using Control Technology – making



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traffic lights go on and off, running a lighthouse with beacons and sound and finally making the motors work on a child's cot mobile. Hopefully you get the picture – they were good!

At Easter the project revolved around them designing an appropriate Easter “treat”. As you may well imagine we had designs involving Easter bunnies, Easter chicks – some designs involving both. The Easter chocolate theme really bedded in. The thought of a prize was really quite inspiring for them and so the voting for the best Easter idea was quite important. Eggs, bunnies, chicks – all were nicely described and displayed with the project brief – images, slogans and even some nice jingles. One young man offered the following idea:

My chocolate bar is an oblong shape of dark chocolate because it's the base for something that's actually not very nice. On the oblong is a white chocolate cross that goes right through the dark chocolate and there are 5 strawberry “Smarties” on the cross like little red dots. The wrapper for my chocolate bar is purple because Jesus was wrapped in a purple cloak before he was crucified. My slogan for my chocolate bar is “this bar is given up for you so think of me when you eat it.”

The teachers were amazed that a 10 year old could come up with this idea and when asked what the name of the bar was he answered “Salvation”.



The late Pope, John Paul II, has been beatified at a ceremony at the Vatican in front of hundreds of thousands of Catholic faithful.

Among those at St Peter's Square is French nun Marie Simon-Pierre, who says she was cured of Parkinson's Disease. Sister Marie, 49, said she and her fellow nuns had prayed for the intercession of the Pope after his death to cure her from Parkinson's Disease.

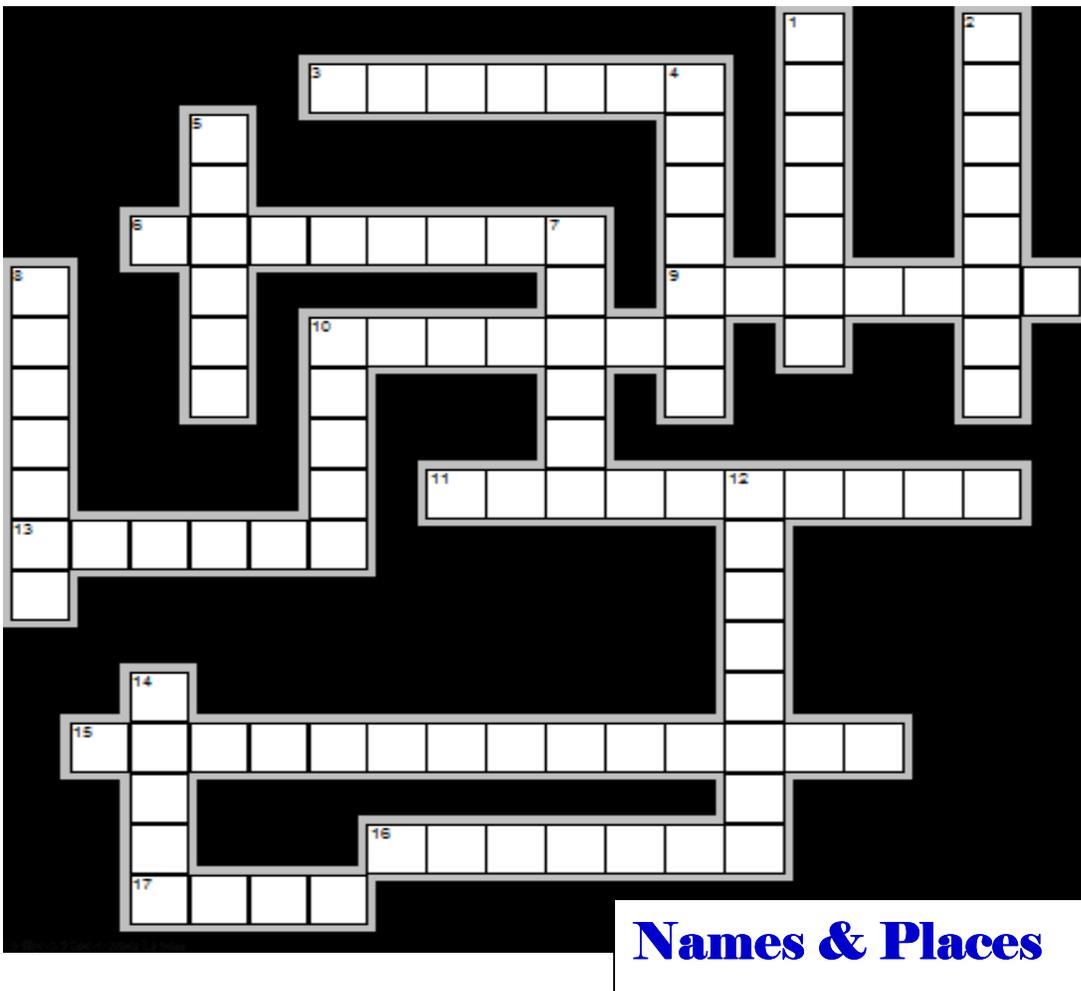
Her sudden cure had no logical medical explanation and she later resumed her work as a maternity nurse, the Vatican says.

God's love for us is freely given and unearned, surpassing all we could ever hope for or imagine. He does not love us because we have merited it or are worthy of it. God loves us, rather, because He is true to His own nature. As Saint John puts it “God is love and he who abides in love abides in God and God in him.”

(Address at Mission Dolores 1987)

The modern technological world can offer us many pleasures, many comforts of life. It can even offer us temporary escapes from life. But what the world can never offer is lasting joy and peace. These are the gifts which only the Holy Spirit can give.

(Meeting With Youth – New Orleans 1987)



Across

3. The first Book of the Old Testament
6. Runaway slave in Paul's shortest letter to Philemon
9. Tax collector chosen as a Disciple
10. City captured by Joshua
11. Blind man healed by Jesus in Mark 10:46-51
13. Prophet who appears with Jesus in Mark 9
15. Prepares the way for the Lord - Matthew 3
16. Raised from the dead by Jesus in John's Gospel
17. First King anointed by Samuel

Down

1. Philistine killed by David
2. Jesus' home town where people rejected Him in Luke 4
4. Builder of the Temple in Kings 1 6
5. He was thrown into a den of lions by King Darius
7. Samaritan town where Jesus meets a woman at a well
8. Father of James and John - Matthew 10
10. Had an encounter with a whale!
12. Takes the place of Judas in Acts 1 1:26
14. Leads the People of Israel out of Egypt in Exodus.

Catholics, Sport & the 2012 Olympics

James Parker (Catholic Executive Co-ordinator) – james.parker@cbcew.org.uk
The Olympic Games will be held in our Diocese from 27th July to 12th August 2012 with the Paralympic Games held at the end of August and into September. The following statistics are offered for your consideration!

- 46 Olympic and Paralympic sports will take place
- 22,800 athletes and coaches will be involved
- 25,000 Press/Media people with 4 billion viewers world-wide
- 14 million meals will be served – the largest refectory will hold 10,000 people
- 9 million tickets are available
- A total workforce of around 250,000 people
- Events will be held in 10 dioceses including events in Weymouth, Glasgow, Manchester, Cardiff, Newcastle and Coventry.



The “More Than Gold” project, established in 2007, aims for churches and schools to “reach their community in fresh and ongoing ways in Jesus’ name.”

To this end there are a number of programme teams set up to allow these aims to be achieved. They include teams to promote:

1. Intercession and prayer;
2. Festivals and performing arts – including the Olympic Peace Concert;
3. Sports Mission – with the aim of reducing teenage crime through running activities such as “night league” sports when crimes tend to be committed and to help to provide an outlet for young people;
4. Chaplaincy – to support not only teams of athletes but also opportunities for visitors and spectators to engage with their faith;
5. Athlete Family Homestay – a chance for people to stay in local homes and to support their Olympic teams when paying the cost of hotel accommodation would be impossible;
6. Social Justice – with the aim of developing initiatives that look at the issues of homelessness, fair-trade, the environment, anti-human trafficking, the sex trade and child labour.

www.morethangold.org.uk

Catholic Legacy

On Friday 17th September 2010 Pope Benedict XVI paid tribute to his athletic predecessor with the launch of a sports foundation at St. Mary’s University College. He said

“In view of London's forthcoming Olympic Games, it has been a pleasure to inaugurate this Sports Foundation, named in honour of Pope John Paul II.”

The Foundation for Sport will encapsulate the late Pope's vision that sport and faith could work hand in hand.

Names and Places Answers

Across

3. GENESIS—The first Book of the Old Testament
6. ONESIMUS—Runaway slave in Paul's shortest letter to Philemon
9. MATTHEW—Tax collector chosen as a Disciple
10. JERICHO—City captured by Joshua
11. BARTIMAEUS—Blind man healed by Jesus in Mark 10:46-51
13. ELIJAH—Prophet who appears with Jesus in Mark 9
15. JOHNTHEBAPTIST—Prepares the way for the Lord - Matthew 3
16. LAZARUS—Raised from the dead by Jesus in John's Gospel
17. SAUL—First King anointed by Samuel

Down

1. GOLIATH—Philistine killed by David
2. NAZARETH—Jesus' home town where people rejected Him in Luke 4
4. SOLOMON—Builder of the Temple in Kings 1 6
5. DANIEL—He was thrown into a den of lions by King Darius
7. SYCHAR—Samaritan town where Jesus meets a woman at a well
8. ZEBEDEE—Father of James and John - Matthew 10
10. JONAH—Had an encounter with a whale!
12. MATTHIAS—Takes the place of Judas in Acts 1 1:26
14. MOSES—Leads the People of Israel out of Egypt in Exodus

Fact or Fiction

In the 1400's a law was set forth in England that a man was allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb. Hence we have - 'the rule of thumb'

Many years ago in Scotland , a new game was invented. It was ruled 'Gentlemen Only...Ladies Forbidden'.. .. and thus, the word GOLF entered into the English language.

Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than the U.S. Treasury.

It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month, which we know today as the honeymoon.

The Association of British Travel Agents

and Thomas Cook published a list of genuine complaints they've had from holidaymakers on their return. They paint a truly fascinating picture of the British abroad....

“No one told us there would be fish in the sea. The children were startled.”

“We had to queue outside with no air conditioning.”

“I think it should be explained in the brochure that the local store does not sell proper biscuits like custard creams or ginger nuts.”

“It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England. It only took the Americans three hours to get home.”

Holiday Music

As the holiday season is fast approaching here are some ideas for music for that well earned break

California Dreaming	The Mama's & the Papa's
Echo Beach	Katrina & the Waves
London's Calling	The Clash
New York....	Frank Sinatra
Australia	Manic Street Preachers

You Know You Are Living In 2011 When...

You accidentally enter your PIN on the microwave.

You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.

You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three.

You e-mail the person who works at the desk next to you.

Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they don't have e-mail addresses.

You pull up in your own driveway and use your mobile phone to see if anyone is home to help you carry in the shopping.

Every commercial on television has a web site at the bottom of the screen.

Leaving the house without your mobile phone, which you didn't even have the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for panic and you turn around to go and get it.

You get up in the morning and go on line before getting your breakfast.



Weirdest Things Owned By Prince Charles!

- As Prince of Wales and Duke of Cornwall, Prince Charles owns rather more than the rest of us including:
- The Oval Cricket ground.
- Dartmoor Prison.
- The cargo of any ship wrecked off Cornwall.
- The village of Daglingworth in Gloucestershire.
- The estate of any Cornishman who dies without making a will.
- Any whale or porpoise washed up on a Cornish beach.



However, the current title holder of "Weirdest Thing" is that His Royal Highness is also entitled to an annual tithe of 300 puffins from the residents of the Scilly Isles!

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- Increase fitness



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