

Weekly Newsletter During the Covid-19 Pandemic 26th July 2020

Joint Parishes of St Joseph's and St Wilfrid's Gateshead

Parish Priest Canon Michael Brown

St Joseph's Presbytery High West Street Gateshead NE8 1LX

Telephone 01914771631

Email:- michaelbrown6@btconnect.com or shaunadevitt@tiscali.co.uk



Feast of Joachim and Anna 26th July

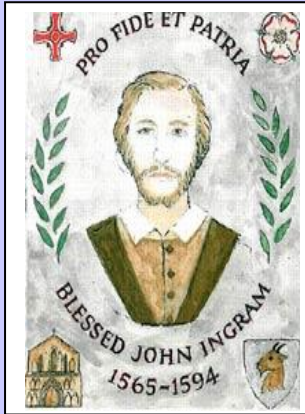


By tradition Joachim and Anna are considered to be the names of Our Lady's parents. We have no historical evidence, however, of any elements of their lives, including their names. Any stories about Mary's father and mother come to us through legend and tradition.

We get the oldest story from a document called the *Gospel of James*. The legend told in this document says that after years of childlessness, an angel appeared to tell Anne and Joachim that they would have a child. Anne promised to dedicate their child to God.

For those who wonder what we can learn from people we know nothing about and how we can honour them, we must focus on why they are honoured by the church. Whatever their names or the facts of their lives, the truth is that it was Mary's parents who nurtured her, taught her, brought her up to be a worthy Mother of God. It was their teaching that led her to respond to God's request with faith, "Let it be done to me as you will." It was their example of parenting that Mary must have followed as she brought up her own son, Jesus. It was their faith that laid the foundation of courage and strength that allowed her to stand by the cross as her son was crucified and yet still believe.

Traditionally the John Ingram Walk takes place on the nearest Sunday to
26th July



John Ingram was born at Stoke Edith, Herefordshire. While a student at Oxford he was reconciled or converted to Catholicism and soon after left England to study for the Priesthood under Cardinal William Allen.

Following his Ordination in Rome, he spent some time in Europe before leaving for the English Mission. Bad weather forced his ship off course and he was eventually put ashore near Dunbar. It was in this Border region that he ministered.

Following an outcry in Scotland against Catholics he was forced to flee across the Border into England. He rested for some five hours at Wark, near Berwick, before attempting to return to his mission. It was while crossing the Tweed at Norham, near Berwick, that he was arrested.

From Berwick he was sent to Newcastle, then to York and eventually to the Tower of London for examination by Richard Topcliffe. He suffered grievous torture while in the Tower, yet steadfastly refused to betray his friends and associates. From London he was sent to Durham to stand trial with two other Martyrs, St. John Boste and Blessed George Swallowell.

All three were convicted and condemned to be hanged, drawn and quartered. St. John Boste was executed that same day (July 24th) in Durham, Blessed George Swallowell in Darlington on Monday 29th July.

Blessed John Ingram was executed at Gateshead on Friday 26th July. He was only 29 years of age.

Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed John Ingram

**Lord God,
as you found Blessed John Ingram
worthy to testify to his faith
by the spending of his blood
so make us witness to our faith
by lives spent in your service.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.**

**O God,
You gave us Blessed John Ingram
to inspire and encourage us.
Grant that we may know the benefit of his prayers
so that we, your Church,
can give witness to his sanctity.
We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen**

The event began to pray for the canonisation of John Ingram. This year the 48th Annual Walk was cancelled due to Covid 19.

It is interesting to note that the very first walk was organised by SVP members of Corpus Christi Parish, and it continues to be organised by the St Vincent de Paul Society.



*The walk starts at **St Andrew's Church, Newgate Street** in Newcastle with an Ecumenical Service. There is always a warm welcome from the clergy and parishioners, and last year the newly installed Vicar, the Reverend Michael Hills joined the walkers as we went to St Edmund's.*



*The walk proceeds along Newgate Street, through the Bigg Market and goes down the steep bank known as **The Side** towards the **Swing Bridge** to cross the Tyne.*



*Once over the bridge there is the slow, steady climb up **Bottle Bank** towards Gateshead centre. We stop to pray at the grassy area at Swinburn Street, which was the site of the old Tollbooth where John Ingram was held in prison.*



We then proceed into **St Edmund's Chapel**, near the site of the execution, for an Ecumenical Service of prayers and readings together with the clergy and parishioners.



Last year the Rev Margaret Mackay together with Fr Jim Dunne led the service. Many people who are unable to participate in the walk meet at St Edmund's for the service, and when it concludes everyone shares a very generous buffet prepared by the community of St Edmund's.

A Personal Experience of the Walk (name Withheld)

“Over the years that I’ve done the walk several things have made a big impression on me. It is always a delight to see familiar faces among the people who turn up, and also to meet new people to share the walk with and to listen to their stories. I’m always grateful to have someone to chat to as we walk along.

I love being inside the beautiful, historic churches of St Andrew’s and St Edmund’s and I’m always impressed by the warmth and generosity of the welcome by the Anglican communities. The Ecumenical Services in both churches are powerful and moving. There is a great deal that unites us and it is a wonderful opportunity to spend time together in prayer and reflection.

I often feel uncomfortable, being part of a visible group of people following a cross and a banner, and walking through streets full of shoppers and those out with friends for a Sunday lunch or drink. At Swinburn Street we actually stop to pray at the site of the old Toll Booth and sing a hymn. I think it’s good for me to experience this and to give witness in this small way. It makes me grateful to live in a place where I am free to do this, and I think of those who have suffered in the past and who suffer now for their beliefs.

I love our River Tyne and its bridges, and the amazing buildings- old and new- on both sides of the river. As I cross the river there is so much to see and enjoy. It’s an area that attracts visitors from all over the world and I feel proud of all that it has to offer as a place of industry, commerce, history and culture. We are famous for our Geordie warmth and welcome. And as I cross over from Newcastle, I’m making my way home.

The walk up Bottle Bank can be quite trying for some. It is a steep climb and slows many down. We travel as a group, so wait for those who go slowly. The end of our walk is nearly in sight.

At St Edmund’s we are met by members of the church who provide us with hospitality every year. There are also several people who were unable to participate in the walking. They come to take part in the Service. Again we all gather, and many faces are familiar. If the weather has been wet, which it

sometimes is, we are glad to be inside and dry. If it was a hot, dry walk we are glad to be in the shade. We are all glad to sit down after the long climb up Bottle Bank and High Street.

After readings, prayers, hymns and words of thanks we are all treated to a wonderful buffet provided by the congregation of St Edmund's. How generous they are every year. It is important to share time, conversation and food with each other as well as to pray together.

We always part with words of thanks, promising to see each other for next year's walk and go our separate ways. Little did we know last year what this year would bring!

However, this year a couple of our parishioners did the walk and are kindly sharing some of their photographs with us.

Perhaps we can use these to help us to reflect on our current situation and to give thanks for all those people in Newcastle and Gateshead who have helped us or others in the difficult times of the pandemic."

- Our partnership is named after John Ingram. Let us pray that he will guide us as we try to follow Christ in our Gateshead community.
- Churches and other places of worship throughout the country have been closed for a long time. As they gradually start to open let us pray that we all work together to build communities that care for others.
- The walk passes through the streets of Newcastle and Gateshead, usually full of people and past shops, offices, cafes and restaurants, pubs, and clubs and all the busy places we know in our local area. Let us think about all these places, and all those who work in them, or who visit them and pray for them all.
- We pray for all who have helped us and our country in these difficult days. We give thanks for the front-line workers and for all those who have shown their care and concern for others in many ways.
- As we all 'journey' through each day of our lives, let us give thanks for those we meet along the way and for all they bring into our lives. We remember those who we have spent time with in the past and give thanks for their lives.
- Help us to remember the warm welcomes we have received and be generous in giving time, and hospitality to others.

Blessed John Ingram

Pray for Us



Today is the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

(OF) Readings for today are: -

First Reading	1 Kings 3:5, 7-12
Responsorial Psalm	Psalm 118
Second Reading	Romans 8:28-30
Alleluia	John 15:15 or Matthew 11:25
Gospel	Matthew 13:44-52

"The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls".

If we can find the pearl of great price, we will have access to the Kingdom of heaven. So, two questions: What is the Kingdom of Heaven? What is the pearl of great price.?

The Kingdom of Heaven begins on earth: -

It is freedom *FROM* stress, tension, worry, anxiety, pain, sickness and eventually death.

It is also freedom *FOR* love, joy, peace, friends, family, community, and a share in the goods of God's creation.

Jesus cured the sick and healed the broken hearted to show that the Kingdom had arrived with Him.

"I have come to bring life and life abundant."

"Come to me all who are overburdened, and I will give you rest".

Now the pearl of great price: the treasure hidden in the field, is precisely *the key* which opens that Kingdom. What is that key? Our first reading today gives the answer.

Solomon is daydreaming; Dreaming that God would give him whatever he asked for. We all have our daydreams. What if I win the National Lottery? I will give up work: pay off the mortgage: buy new homes for my children: go on a world cruise and settle for a villa in Spain.

But notice: Solomon did *not* ask for any of these things: not riches: not power, not to get even with his enemies. "Give me", he said "a heart wise and shrewd." He asked for WISDOM. *And in asking for Wisdom he got all the other things as well. Wisdom is the key.*

Because Wisdom is the ability to make the right decisions in life. *It is the pearl of great price: the treasure in the field.* It means knowing which choices will bring happiness: not stress and pain: the right choices for my well-being and health, the right choice for those I love. Wisdom is the key which opens the kingdom of Heaven. God said

"Because you have not asked for these things, I give you a heart wise and shrewd"

With hindsight we see that much of our problems arise from bad choices: often made in good faith. Wisdom is not the same as being clever, you can be a clever fool. Wisdom is more precious than Knowledge. Knowledge and Science can be misused. They can bring death and suffering.

Pray like Solomon for the gift of Wisdom, the gift to make the right decisions in life.

Notice further what he said:

"I am a young man unskilled in leadership, Give me a heart wise and shrewd."

He knew that wisdom does not come easily to the young. Yes, Knowledge comes easily to young

minds. The older we are the harder it is to learn new skills. Solomon knew that wisdom comes from experience. It is a practical virtue, the fruit of experience and *therefore belongs to those who have lived longer*: it belongs to our parents and elders. Young people take note!

Therefore: before making an important decision in life, consult parents and people with experience, and pray. I am a young man unskilled, show me the way.

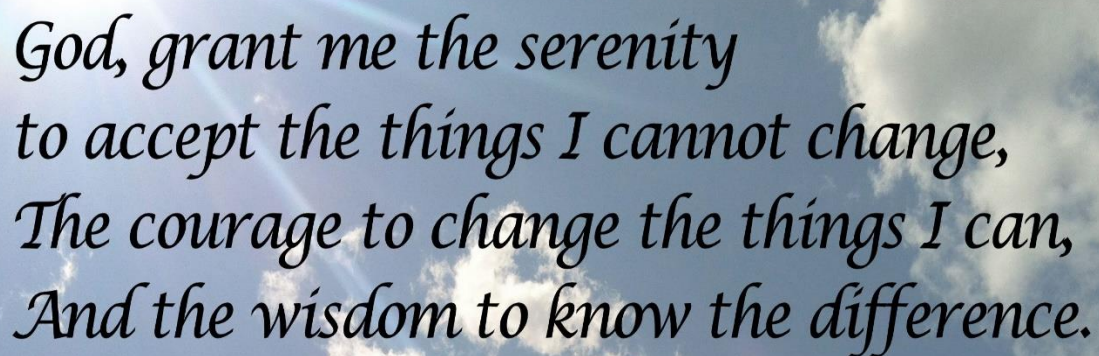
Unfortunately, society today puts too much pressure on our young people: they must make important choices ***far too soon***: choices which influence the rest of their lives. Parents teachers please help your children in those moments.

We must develop an education system which encourages the less able, while not overburdening the clever.

And of course, we are all young compared to Holy Mother the Church. She is a wise old mother who has been around for over 2000 years and seen it all before. Her teaching and wisdom will help each one of us to find God's will.

Before we make any life changing decision bring it to God in prayer: and be humble enough to seek professional advice from a wise counsellor: and keep close to Mother Church and her teaching : then we will forever remain young at heart, and life will be a string of pearls, one lovely experience after the other. As Jesus promised:

"Seek first the Kingdom of God and all other things will be added as well."



*God, grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change,
The courage to change the things I can,
And the wisdom to know the difference.*



Eighth Sunday After Pentecost
(E) Readings for today are: -

<i>Introit</i>	<i>Psalm 47, 10, 11</i>
<i>Epistle 1</i>	<i>Romans 8: 12-17</i>
<i>Gradual</i>	<i>Psalms 30, 3</i>
<i>Gospel</i>	<i>Luke 16: 1-9</i>

Bestow upon us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, the spirit to think and do always such things as are right; that we who cannot exist without Thee, may be able to live according to Thy will.

How much do we desire heaven? As Catholics we know we were made for heaven, and we want to be there one day. But do we boldly put all our efforts into doing what is necessary to make it to heaven? Today's readings touch on both what prevents us from attaining heaven, and the focus we should put into obtaining our final goal.

In the Epistle, St. Paul contrasts the "flesh" with the "Spirit." The "flesh" is that pull of Original Sin we all have that which causes us to put ourselves at the centre of the universe. It includes the sins of the flesh such as adultery or fornication or pornography, but the "flesh" is also anything within us which pulls us away from God and towards self. St. Paul writes that "if you live according to the flesh, you shall die but if by the Spirit you mortify the deeds of the flesh, you shall live" (Romans 8:13). Of course, St. Paul is not talking about physical life or death; he is speaking of spiritual life and death: heaven and hell. The primary way in which we lose our way on the path to heaven is by living according to the flesh.

Getting to heaven is also a theme of today's Gospel, in which Jesus tells an interesting and as usual, confusing parable. In it, the Lord appears to praise immorality, highlighting an unjust steward who uses questionable means for his own benefit. But Christ assumes his listeners understand that the steward's actions are immoral; his purpose is to highlight the single-minded focus of the steward. When facing a drastic situation—being thrown out in the streets with no means of support—the steward gives away his master's money so that he can make friends who will support him after he is fired. Ingenious!

Our Lord contrasts such behaviour with the "children of light," i.e., believers. As St. Augustine noted, "Why did the Lord set this before us? It is not because that steward cheated but because he exercised foresight for the future...He was insuring himself for a life that was going to end. Would you not insure yourself for eternal life?" (Sermon 359A.10). Instead of having a single-minded devotion to escaping from our dire predicament—potential eternal damnation—too many professed followers of Christ become content and even apathetic in their faith.

Such a situation is particularly apt in today's Church, in which we live with all the comforts of this world at our fingertips and allow those comforts to obstruct our path to heaven. Instead of mortifying the flesh, we are happy in our comfortable Catholicism. However, such complacency ultimately leads to slavery—slavery to sin and the flesh. Once we become content with the things of this world, we fall into bondage to them. Sunday's readings are urging us to stop being content and instead wage a continual battle against the flesh, having one purpose—and only one purpose—in life: to be with our Lord in heaven for all eternity.

Congratulations to: -

James Baxter who used to be a regular at the 12 o'clock Sunday Mass recently received the cassock and tonsure at the seminary of the Institute of Christ the King at Gricigliano, near Florence in Italy. Cardinal Burke conferred the tonsure as seen in the photo. His title is now *Monsieur L'abbé Baxter* as tonsure confers admission to the clerical state. James has completed his first year of seminary and has enjoyed it very much. He hopes to come to visit St Joseph's when possible. Please keep him in your prayers as he prepares to begin his second year of formation that he may persevere in his path to the priesthood if it be God's will.



And

John Morris and **Emma Bonnard** who got married at St Cuthbert's, Durham on Tuesday with a nuptial Mass in the Extraordinary Form celebrated by Canon Brown. John has been a member of the choir at the Sunday 12 o'clock Mass. We wish them every blessing and happiness in the years ahead. *Ad multos annos!*

Mass intentions this week

Monday: Avril Gordon

Tuesday: Intentions of the Shogren family

Wednesday Canonisation of John Ingram

Thursday: Canonisation of John Bradburne

Friday: Pat Wallace

Saturday: For the Watchorn family

Sunday: People of the Parish

Mass is said at approximately 10am each day.

The following Churches are preparing to open for private prayer

Amble, Sacred Heart and St. Cuthbert
Berwick, St. Cuthbert
Blackhall, St. Joseph
Crawcrook, St. Agnes
Crook, Our Lady Immaculate & St. Cuthbert
Darlington, St. Thomas Aquinas
Durham, St. Cuthbert
Gainford, St. Osmund
Gateshead, St. Peter
Houghton-le Spring, St. Michael
Jarrow, St. Bede
Lanchester, All Saints
Minsteracres, St. Elizabeth
Newcastle, St. John Vianney
Sacriston, St. Bede
Seahouses, St. Aidan
Stockton, English Martyrs & SS Peter & Paul
Stockton, St. Patrick
Whitley Bay, St. Edward
Wooler, St. Ninian

Churches Open for Mass (M) and Private Prayer (P)

Please note that each individual parish priest can choose how to offer Holy Communion during Mass.

You may find you are not able to receive Communion at all, or only on the tongue, or only in the hand, please respect the decision of each Priest, he is acting in everyone's best interests as he sees it and it is not fair nor helpful to anyone to judge.

(please note no young person under age 16 may attend unaccompanied)

It is essential that you consult individual parishes, via websites or phone, for regulations to attend Mass at any specific church as each has its own conditions. Please DO NOT just turn up for Mass, without checking websites first as you may be disappointed. Many churches are operating a pre-booking system.

OChu

- Cathedral Church of St. Mary, Newcastle upon Tyne (M & P) –
- Alnwick, St. Paul's Church (M)
- Ashington, St. Aidan (M)
- Bedlington, St. Bede (M)
- Billingham, Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary (P)(M from 3 August)
- Bishop Auckland, St. Mary (P)
- Consett, St. Patrick (M & P)

- Coxhoe, SS Joseph, Patrick and Cuthbert (P),(M from 1 August)
- Cramlington, St. Paul (M)
- Darlington, St. Augustine (P)
- Durham, Our Lady of Mercy and St. Godric (P, M)
- Durham, St. Joseph (P from 28 July, M from 29 July)
- Forest Hall, St. Mary (M)
- Gateshead, Immaculate Heart of Mary (P)
- Hartlepool, St. Joseph (P)
- Hebburn, St. Aloysius (M from 29 July)
- Hexham, St. Mary (M & P)
- Longhorsley, St. Thomas of Canterbury (M)
- Newcastle, St. Andrew (M)
- Newcastle, St. Bede (P)
- Newcastle, St. Charles' Church (M & P)
- Newcastle, St. Robert (P)
- Newcastle, St. Teresa (M & P)
- Newton Aycliffe, St. Mary (P)
- North Gosforth, Sacred Heart (M & P)
- North Shields, St. Cuthbert (M)
- South Shields, St. Bede (M)
- Stella, SS Mary and Thomas Aquinas (M)
- Sunderland, St. Joseph (M)
- Sunderland, St. Mary (P)
- Ushaw Moor, St. Joseph (P)
- Wallsend, Our Lady and St. Columba (M)
- Washington, St. John Boste (M & P)
- Winlaton, St. Anne (M & P)

VOLUNTEERING

Thank You to all those who have volunteered to help with cleaning and stewardship, you will be contacted about the meeting when Canon Brown is given a date by the Bishop.

Opening our churches is no easy task, Parish Priests have been given detailed and complex guidance notes on how safe opening can begin to take place, the Bishop makes the decision about which church will be next to open, once the Parish Priest has been told it is his turn he will contact those who have volunteered to help. These volunteers along with the Parish Priest will attend a meeting, held by the Diocesan Property Department, to undertake a risk assessment and training. The opening of churches for private prayer is a pre-requisite to opening for Mass.

Your continued patience, support and understanding are very much appreciated, and we ask that you continue to pray for the absolute best decisions to be made.



An Act of Spiritual Communion

When we are unable to receive Holy Communion, it has long been the catholic tradition to make an Act of Spiritual Communion. St. Thomas Aquinas defined a Spiritual Communion as "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and lovingly embrace Him as if we had actually received Him. One composed by St Alphonsus Ligouri in 1870 is: -

"My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen."

Act of Perfect Contrition

When we cannot get to confession the Catholic Church has made provision for our reconciliation with the Father through an Act of Perfect Contrition, Cardinal Vincent Nichols recently spoke these words, "What the Church teaches us, is that God in His mercy, forgives our sins when we are truly sorry for them. And when we turn to Him and express our sorrow in an Act of Contrition, it's called an Act of Perfect Contrition when its focus is on the mercy and the love of God rather than on the burden of our guilt. So to make an act of Perfect Contrition, we simply need to turn to God and be, as it were, overwhelmed by God's mercy, and then express in our own words or in the words of the traditional Act of Contrition, the sorrow we feel for our offences against the goodness of God. When we do that in all sincerity of heart, we may rest assured that God forgives our sins and that we come away from that Act of Perfect Contrition freed from those sins And, as I say, the only thing we have to remember is, when it is possible to make a Confession again, that we mention the grievous sins which were forgiven by this Perfect Act of Contrition.



Our Lady of Lourdes Garden

We need to raise funds to update this peaceful, prayerful area of our church grounds and are therefore appealing for donations large and small. If you could mark your donation 'Lourdes Garden' it would be helpful. As well as the statues, and the garden area, the fence needs to be repainted and the wording along the top re-done, also the mosaic on the wall below the fence is falling to pieces. All this will take time and money, we have set a target of **£5,000** and 10 months for the work to be completed, hopefully in time for Our Lady's Month of May.

Donations may be made in the same way as weekly/monthly offerings as set out below.

Thank You

To all those who have continued to make donations to Our Churches throughout the pandemic, your generosity is invaluable.

To donate via bank transfer:

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

Gateshead St Wilfrid's

Sort Code 40-34-18

Account Number 01164120

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

Gateshead St Joseph's

Sort Code 40-34-18

Account Number 31164066

Please use reference: - Weekly Income

OR

Donate using a cheque made out to either parish

'DHN St Joseph's Gateshead' or 'DHN St Wilfrid's Gateshead'

St Wilfrid's

Ford House

Sunderland Road

Gateshead NE8 3QR

St Joseph's

Presbytery

High West Street

Gateshead NE8 1LX

KEEP YOURSELF UPDATED AND INFORMED

- Parish Website and Facebook pages are updated regularly
- Parish Newsletter is available on our website each week
- Diocesan website www.rcdhn.org.uk
- Bishops' Conference website www.cbcew.org.uk

Keeping us updated with your contact information

During this time of social distancing and self-isolation, Canon Michael Brown has tried to keep in touch with as many parishioners as he can to offer support and comfort. He has been able to do this only with those parishioners for whom he holds up to date contact details.

Please ensure your contact details are correct. Use parish email addresses or telephone to update your information.

Access to the Newsletter

If you know of anyone from either Parish who cannot access this newsletter via the website and would like to receive it by email, please ask them to give their email address to Canon Michael Brown email michaelbrown6@btconnect.com or Shauna Devitt at shaunadevitt@tiscali.co.uk

Diocesan News

Please see individual websites for information about Live Streaming of Masses

live streaming may be in effect during Mass. If you do not wish to be at risk of being filmed, please inform your parish priest or designated person on visiting the church.

Pope Video

monthly thepopevideo.org

Community Support

Gateshead Council have a dedicated page on their website offering a network of support for those who need help: -

<https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/15181/coronavirus-COVID-19-Community-support>

Or phone 01914333000

Alcoholics Anonymous Call free on 08009177650 or email help@aamail.org

Pastoral Care

As part of the pastoral care of parishioners and others during this time several qualified counsellors and listeners have generously made themselves available to anyone who may be troubled by the negative effect of the situation. These counsellors and listeners can be contacted through St Mary's Cathedral Listening Service on 01912326953

EU Citizens

All EU, EEA and Swiss citizens living in the UK MUST apply through its Settlement Scheme to continue living, working, and accessing services here. The deadline is **30 June 2021**. Details and links to the application process can be found at: gov.uk/eusettledstatus Assistance is available at: gov.uk/help-eu-settlementscheme

Justice and Peace

Please visit the Parish and Diocesan websites for updated information about the Refugee Project helping those who need it most.

New Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has appointed Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti, until now Apostolic Nuncio in the Ukraine, as the Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain. Bishop Byrne will write to welcome the New Nuncio to Great Britain and invite him to visit the Diocese.