



Holy Family of Bordeaux Britain and Ireland Newsletter April 2024



Easter Message from Ana Maria Alcade



Dear all,

It is Easter! The Risen Jesus is in our midst and says to us: **"Peace be with you... do not be afraid"**.

Beyond, or rather, through everything that we, and all humanity is currently experiencing, the Risen One is our assurance that life is always reborn from self-giving love and that it lasts forever. Death has no power over it.

Only with Easter eyes will we be able to see life always being reborn, and like the disciple, "see and believe" that life steals in through the cracks of fragility, of suffering, of cries of pain... of solidarity, of compassion, of reconciliation, of unwavering hope....

The Risen Jesus, alive and living, embraces and reconciles all, gifting peace and new hope through unexpected and unimagined forms of presence to each person in all

dimensions of reality, inviting us to new beginnings. Nothing can arrest the flow of Life and the power of Love streaming from the luminous wounds of the Crucified and Risen One.

This is the reason for our hope in a "new heaven and a new earth" (Rev. 21, 1-5) that we are building together, as co-workers in God's Project.

May the peace and joy of the Resurrection be in each one of us.

HAPPY EASTER!



In her opening address to the Council of the Family (Meeting Point 7) Ana Maria ALCALDE (above) said:

'Our charism is one of inclusion (communion), which commits us to "taking charge" of today's complex reality and building bridges, breaking down borders, prejudices... welcoming without excluding.'

This reflection from the World Day of Prayer prepared this year by Christian women of Palestine is very relevant. Thank you, Elizabeth Grogan from Bradford, for highlighting this.

A reflection on the opening lines of Fred Kaan's hymn '*Put peace into each other's hands and like a treasure hold it*'



Put peace into each other's hands,
Put peace - it requires action Lord.
Prayerful action.

Not just hoping for something,
yearning for something,
even praying for something,
but actively doing something.

And *put* peace into each other's hand Lord?
But what about my viewpoint and opinion?
Because to put something into someone
else's hand means
giving it away
not holding on to what is mine
letting go.

It might be a bit easier
If I knew I would be giving it to those I know
and love,
those I trust.

But what about the 'other'?
those who are different to me?
those I don't agree with?
those I'm not sure I can trust?

My thoughts, viewpoint, hopes, prayers –
given away.

And as I stand, momentarily empty-handed,
how do I feel?
There is a vulnerability in giving, offering,
peace.
Will it be rebuffed? Mocked?
Or accepted? Welcomed?

*'Put peace into each other's hands and like a
treasure hold it'*

Like a *treasure* hold it.
A reminder, Lord, that this is something
precious,
this gift of peace we give each other.

Having given, can I now recognize its worth?
Can I treasure it?

Indeed, can I even accept it?

That's not so strange a question as it may
seem.

Because, again, it'd be easier from those I
know and love,
those I trust.

But can I receive from the 'other'?
those who are different to me?
those I don't agree with?
those I'm not sure I can trust?

Surely one of the most significant parts of
the Parable of the Good Samaritan lies in
the wounded traveller accepting help, care
and provision from one of the Samaritans,
who were so despised –
very definitely – the 'other',
the 'different'
the 'I don't agree with them'
the 'I never trusted them'

Giving and receiving peace
requires generosity of spirit,
openness and trust,
as well as the humility to accept.
It's a precious thing, then!

Lord, grant us the grace to
*Put peace into each other's hands and like a
treasure hold it.* **Amen.**
(World Day of Prayer 1st March 2024)

The Easter Rising

So, they didn't believe us!

"But we saw Him with our own eyes".

But they didn't believe us!

"He talked with us and told us to tell you".

But they didn't believe us,

They were frightened men,

Scared that they too would go down,

So they didn't believe us!

He told us not to be afraid,

To go back into Galilee,

But they didn't believe us.



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They huddled together, as men often do,
And waited and waited for a Sign,
Because they didn't believe us.
He came eventually in His time,
Not ours; because they didn't believe Him,
Showed them the Signs, His marks, His
side,
Because they hadn't believed Him,
But the women dispersed, one by one
To do His bidding!
Because, THEY BELIEVED HIM!
Sandra Harrington Rock Ferry
A Visitor to Rock Ferry



A surprise visitor to the Community Room in
Rock Ferry – waiting for the Easter
Chocolates to be opened!!

OPEN HOUSE - OPEN DOORS

When we opted to keep Wrexham
Community open, it was with the intention of
this being a house of Hosting and
Hospitality. Over the past six months, we
have opened up our house to different
groups who have expressed their desire to

hold meetings here. These are not only
parochial groups but others from the area.

Lenten Stations. This group has come
every Wednesday evening in Lent for a
reflective sharing on themes from the
Station of the Cross. After a short reflection
the group were invited to share a thought or
two, each one listening to the others using
the synodal process of Conversations in the
Spirit.

Spirituality Group. This group was set up
in the Parish in September 2023 with a view
to open up new avenues of spirituality, of
deepening the faith. They come once a
month to look at future possibilities.

Incredible Edible. This is an informal
network whose vision is to promote a
healthier and more resilient future, where
access to space to grow on public land is
made simpler. They promote growing food
for the community and the Foodbank, via
allotments and public spaces in and around
Wrexham. As well as growing, the
volunteers save seeds and cuttings to use
and give away. Many of the volunteers are
also involved with the Repair Café,
Wrexham.

Extinction Rebellion (XR) A group of
women come together monthly to discuss
and plan possibilities of protesting against
investing in fossil fuels. They are very keen
to promote Climate Change and have held
several protests in the city over the past
year. We sisters, often join them on such
demonstrations.

S.V.P and Newman Society. These two groups are well established in the Parish and hold their monthly meetings in our Chapel. In March the Newman Group invited Fr. Charles Ramsey, from Wrexham diocese, to give an input on the book, 'Tomorrow's Church,' by Donal Harrington. He gave a very interesting input through power point, as well as examples of how he had tried to implement this in his former Parish in Rhyl.

Lay members / Quiet Prayer. The Holy Family Lay Members meet monthly here in our house and have initiated a quiet hour of prayer on the last Friday of each month. This latter is open to people of other denominations, who welcome the space to be quiet and pray. Usually these get together are followed by a cup of tea and refreshments.

Eucharistic Ministers. On 16th March about 20 Eucharistic Ministers from the Deanery of the Cathedral came for a day of recollection. This was organized by Kay with the help of Maria. A short presentation of the story of how the Eucharistic Ministry began, was followed by a prayerful power point on the Eucharist as 'Sending Forth'. After a short break, we broke into groups to share on the Scripture passage of the Feeding of the 5000. (John 6: 1-15). The General gathering summed up each one's reflections. The day ended with 15 minutes of Adoration.

Wrexham Community.

IMPORTANT PRAYER DATES FOR APRIL 2024

April 3rd- 30th AGLT Meeting

April 5th Pray for our Sisters in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Paraguay, Peru

April 7th Quasimodo Sunday (Gospel seen by our Founder as giving the Scriptural Basis for our Foundation and Mission)

April 8th Annunciation of the Lord
April 8th – 10th ULT Meeting.

April 9th Foundation of Sisters of Hope (1836)

April 10th-May 6th Session in Martillac

April 11th International Administration of Goods Team Meeting and the AGLT

April 13th Foundation of the Agricole Sisters (1856)

April 13th International Formation Team meeting, for all Sisters, on Zoom

April 15th Meeting with Leadership Teams of Asia and Vicariate, International Twilight Team.

April 17th Meeting of ULT from Rwanda Uganda, Cameroon Tchad, Lesotho, Congo with International Twilight Team

April 20th On-Line meeting with the Units/ Vicariate information teams, with International Twilight Team

April 21st World Day of Prayer for Vocations also
Feast of the Good Shepherd—Our Founder's personification of Divine Providence

April 22nd Earth Day

April 23rd Feast of St. George Patron St. of England

April 29th World Day of Prayer for Europe

April 30th World Day of Prayer for Survivors of Sexual Abuse

April 30th Canonical Erection of the Association (1831)