



Holy Family of Bordeaux Britain and Ireland Newsletter May 2024



Monday April 22 was international day for Mother Earth. The theme for 2024 is:

“Planet vs. Plastics”

As we hear and respond to this call let us take Inspiration from Pope Francis’ invitation to all of us clearly and strongly expressed in Laudato Si.

As Christians, we are called “to accept the world as a sacrament of communion, as a way of sharing with God and our neighbours on a global scale. It is our humble conviction that the divine and the human meet in the slightest detail in the seamless garment of God’s creation, in the last speck of dust of our planet.” (L.S 9)

As a spiritual work of mercy, care for our common home calls for a “grateful contemplation of God’s world” (214) which “allows us to discover in each thing a teaching which God wishes to hand on to us” (85). **As a corporal work of mercy, care for our common home requires “simple daily gestures** which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness” and **“makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world”** (230-31)

Hope would have us recognise that there is always a way out, that we can always redirect our steps, that we can always do something to solve our problems. (61)

Teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of you.

Awaken our praise and thankfulness for every being that you have made.

Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is.

We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice. love and peace. Amen (extract from Pope Francis’ prayer for Earth)

(Margaret Muldoon)

A Graced Moment

It was a busy day,

A mix of this, that and the other,

Relentless activity to the rhythm of

Go! Go! Go!

Suddenly, a black bird sang,

From an unknown location.

It was a graced moment,

That drew me to a halt,

And etched the memory of it

In my soul forever.

Margaret Bradley (Sonas Christ)

Celebrations in Rock Ferry.

There were 2 important birthdays in Rock Ferry in April.
Sister Sandra Harrington celebrated her 80th birthday.



Sister Hilary Fitzgerald celebrated her 103rd Birthday!!



Seen here with Teresa Edwards and Mary Slaven.



Seen here with Staff.

“Glimmers”

I recently learned about a term called a “Glimmer”. A term not used very often today.

“Glimmers” are those micro moments in your day that you feel joy, happiness, peace, and gratitude. Examples are:

The turn on the road when you catch your first glimpse of the sea, the first birdsong you hear in the morning, the magnolia tree’s first buds after Winter.



All these are glimmers. Many of us call these “God given moments”. We see them appreciate them and give thanks for the moment of joy.

Once you train your brain to see and recognise these transitory moments the more they will appear.

Aileen Geraghty one of our Sonas Christ members describes one such moment that a whole group experienced recently.

“On Easter Sunday morning in the Parish Church the choir sang at 11.30 Mass. While the choir sang, a beautiful little boy aged about one and a half stood in front of us and watched with eyes wide open. When we finished the hymn to the amazement of everyone he stood in front of us all alone and started to clap. What a moment, what a little treasure - “a glimmer of hope for us all for the future.”

Edel Mulligan

Leader Sonas Christ group.



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Fr Philip Dyer-Perry, Parish Priest at Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Staines, West London, writes:

Last week we celebrated the Feast of St George, Patron Saint of England. Here at Our Lady of the Rosary we are an international and multi-cultural community, but we are also so very English. There is something uniquely English about how we are welcoming to all, about our 'live and let live' approach to things we don't always understand or agree with, and about our default attitude of politeness and discretion. Our Englishness is a direct result of being such a diverse community.

With this in mind, there is something incredibly un-English about the government's plan, revived last week, to forcibly remove asylum seekers, who have made a perilous and desperate journey to get to another country, namely Rwanda. In a matter of weeks, an as-yet unknown

airline will fly an aircraft from an as-yet not disclosed airport in order to remove people, against their will, to Rwanda. There are questions about whether Rwanda is safe or not, but the real issue is that even if we were flying them to sunny Spain, it is still immoral and wrong. This is not how we treat people; it is not how we protect some of the world's poorest citizens, it is absolutely shameful.

The best way to prevent small boat crossings is to establish safe and legal routes into the UK. Migration is and will always be a global phenomenon. Put simply, people move. Locally people move house to get into the catchment of a good school. Nationally people move to be close to relatives or to avail of new job opportunities. Internationally people move for similar reasons, but also to flee war, unjust regimes, or the effects of climate change. Most of us will have to move at some point in our lives. If we want a world where people don't migrate in such large numbers, we have to create this world. This means we don't export arms to unjust regimes, that we don't exploit cheap labour, and that we don't bury our heads in the sand when it comes to protecting our planet's future or investing in our children's education.

Those who vilify people who arrive here on small boats, who blame them for the problems our country faces, who think the solution is harder borders and tougher

measures are, to put it politely, deluded. Such measures may sound good in an election campaign, but they do nothing to build a safer and more prosperous Great Britain or to secure our future for our children and grandchildren. Chances are that neither the government nor the leaders of the opposition parties will be reading this part of the parish newsletter and it is unlikely to be picked up by global media networks - but we are the Body of Christ, the global network of Jesus' followers, the branches of the one true vine. We need to know where we stand on this. We need to be prepared to use our voice. This is where the mud hits the fan when it comes to our belief in the dignity of every single person.

(submitted by Margaret Muldoon)

Rock Ferry Community host a visitor!

A pheasant in the garden! The cook took this photo - she didn't cook it!



News from Britain and Ireland.

Anne Doyle, Lay Member from Newbridge has offered to be part of the new International Team that is being formed on Commitment 3: the Defence of Life.

Maureen Bowsley Lay member from Rock Ferry has offered to be part of one of the commissions that are going to work on the annexes of our Statutes to renew and update them.

Important Prayer Dates for May 2024

01 May: St. Joseph The Worker

06th May: St. Francis Laval (1623-1708) First Bishop of Quebec and the first bishop to celebrate a feast of the Holy Family in his diocese.

06th-11th May: International Administration of Good Team and AGLT meeting in Rome.

09th May: Feast of the Ascension

12th May Special Day of Prayer for World Communications.

13th-15th AGLT Meeting

18th-30th Sister Ana Maria visiting Oteiza.

18th May: Blessing of the Association and the Councillors' Crosses by Pius IX (1851)

19th May: Pentecost Sunday, Day of Prayer for the Church

International Formation Team meeting and on-line meeting Temporary Professed Sisters.

20th May: Mary Mother of the Church

20th -30th (5th June) Visit to Philippines, Srs. Veronica and Christa

23rd May: Our Lord Jesus Christ the Eternal High Priest

24th May: Our Lady Help of Christians

26th May: Trinity Sunday – Foundation Day

28th May: Actual date of the Foundation of the first community – Trinity Sunday 1820

31st May: The Visitation of Our Lady