



Be still, and know that I am God

Teams Newsletter

for the GB Regions.
October-December 2020



Equipes Notre Dame - Teams

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Need more Newsletters?

For extra copies of this newsletter contact Mark and Dympna at teams@mdedwards.co.uk Contact your regional couple for any ongoing change in the number of newsletters you need or who within your team you wish to receive the newsletters.

Please send all photos & articles for the Jan-March 2021 edition to Mark & Dympna Edwards by **1st December** to: teams@mdedwards.co.uk

Front Cover Photo: Side chapel. St Peter's Church, Market Bosworth by Mark Edwards

Seen the latest teams Literature?

Copies of all teams leaflets are available from the Teams GB literature couple Alan & Gaynor Hakes.

Regional Gatherings 2020

Book Now : www.Teams-transatlantic.org/2020gathering

Our Gatherings for 2020 will take place online. The three regions will hold gatherings on the Saturdays from 26th September to 10th October.

You are welcome to attend any or all of the regional gatherings- not just the one for your region.

Please register as soon as possible, (and at least 2 weeks ahead of the date) so that we can make arrangements.



Central Region 26th September

Southern Region 3rd October 10am - 3pm Speaker: Canon Gerard Flynn

Northern Region 10th October 1- 5pm Speaker: Fr Nick Kern

The gatherings will be online using Zoom. It will use the conference version and so may not be exactly the same as you might already have used. The meeting is closed and so prior registration is required. Couples are asked to make a small contribution, to the lower-than-usual costs, of £5 per registration.

Responsible couples are asked to check if the online Gathering is available to all their Team members, and if some are not familiar with this form of meeting, that we see how we may ensure everyone is included.

A programme for children will be available. This will be a video and activities that will be sent in advance, that can be done while parents are 'at the gathering' and that may provide opportunity for family conversation on the theme; Sacrament of Marriage; Grace and Mission.

Please register on the Teams-Transatlantic website and follow the link for contributions. <https://teams-transatlantic.org/2020gatherings/>

Regional Couple letter

Dear Friends in Teams

All Change!

None of us could have predicted the changes since our last time of writing in the newsletter. It has been a very difficult time for many and one of unprecedented change in all our lives.

For us, the start of lockdown was a chance to catch up with many jobs in the garden, some not done for years! We enjoyed the wonderful weather and achieving our endeavours became simple for the first time in our forty years in Teams!! Couple prayer, rule of life, sit down, meditation all worked well.



We developed a programme of connecting with family, friends and Team over Zoom and like many we appreciated the quiet, the clear skies, the bird song, insects (Paul's initial training is in entomology) and the many other gifts of our Creator that seemed to be with us more than before. Our planting went well, the flowers and veg grew and the days had a wonderful rhythm. We are grateful for this time but know that this was not the case for many, even in our own family, where parents worked and home educated their children often in difficult circumstances. In our parish community our parish priest grappled with IT and provided daily online Mass; this was very much appreciated, and we added part of the parish social dimension with online chat on Zoom (and everyone's own coffee) after Sunday Mass. We look forward to being able to be in The Real Presence and afterwards, sharing coffee and face-to-face chat routinely.

A high and a low, we were able to attend the first funeral in our church since lockdown. Ossie and his wife were not in Teams but their engagement in the parish life was a fantastic witness to all. When we were new parents, they engaged us to help with the Catholic People's Week children's programme; it was a great experience. We are sure that St Ossie, along with many others who have died during lockdown, will continue their intercessions with us for a Nineveh-type conversion. We will try to do our bit here and keep up contact with those bereaved; we pray that our short phone calls give some comfort. We reflect that they were, and perhaps us too in the future will be, great "influencers" and supporters for younger couples in our parish.

There's also been angst about the wedding celebrations that didn't happen, through our delivery of marriage preparation (now via Zoom) we've heard

about the stress of many couples in trying to make their decision to unset or reset a date. We find that reflecting on this challenges our usual mantra “I love what God gives me every day” (was that first coined by St Teresa of Calcutta?). We pray for the grace to respond or adapt to the changes we are given. In all of this we feel a sense of hope – hope that we will be able to move forward.

Personally, we celebrated 40 years of marriage at the start of August. We were able to celebrate with our children in our garden and then, at a mid-week Mass, we renewed our vows and our (newish) rings were blessed. Yes, fingers have widened, hair changed, shape altered and we have changed.... We hope, that by using our Teams endeavours and help from our Team, we will continue to change to become the couple God intended us to be.



A further change for us to look forward to, is our new role as Transatlantic Super-Regional couple from January. We thank our other GB regional couples, Paul and Janet, Paul and Sue and Treasurers, Chris and Dominique for their support in settling us into our Southern Regional Couple role. We thank Piotr and Dzidzia for all the super work they have done in their years as Transatlantic Super Regional couple, and we thank them for their good counsel in supporting us and we hope that we will be able to continue their great support to the Super Region.

We know that the shape of life and Church will continue to change in the next year or so, and for us, as committed married Christians we pray that we can continue to engage with our Church community, to support our priests to form evangelistic parishes supporting, particularly, marriage and family life and to be good ambassadors for Teams.

We pray that all is well with you and yours and we hope to meet many of you at the virtual Gatherings in October.

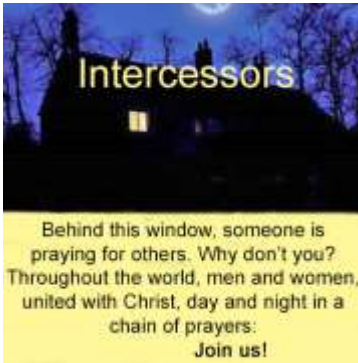
Annette and Paul O'Beirne

Regional Couple, Teams GB Southern Region

Intercessors

Jesus said to Peter

“So, you had not the strength to keep awake with me one hour” Matt 26:40



Sixty years ago, Fr. Henri Caffarel echoed these words as he sought volunteer couples to form a chain of prayer throughout the night. His aim was to have couples succeed each other continuously in prayer every night, between midnight and six in the morning. Fr. Caffarel's concern was that with the rapid increase in the number of Teams, it's continuing vitality needed the Spiritual food of Prayer.

The volunteers were to pray for the Movement, but also for other couples, especially those who depended on them as they faced difficult moments in their lives.

He urged the couples to unite their prayers with all those great Saints of Night Prayer, Carmelites, Trappists, Benedictines...who offer their prayer intentions for all of humanity. They, in their turn, would receive the Grace of Prayer. And so, the Teams Intercessors were born.

There are now three ways to be an Intercessor, participating in a continuous chain of prayer and offering and it is open to both 'Couples' and 'Singles'. You can either:

- Spend one hour of prayer each month, day, or night.
- Or a day of fasting each month.
- Or by daily offering up our joys and difficulties or suffering in union with the Intercessors.

Intercessors receive a Quarterly Newsletter, which includes an address by its Spiritual Counsellor, News and Prayer Intentions.

Our world still needs prayers of intercession. As Fr. Caffarel asked Teams sixty years ago, **“ Christ’s question to his apostles is perhaps addressed to you... If you think so, ah! Above all, do not disappoint his expectation.”**

If you would like to know more about Intercessors, you can watch a short video on YouTube at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sPXN5_KwYOk&feature=youtu.be

Contact your Regional Couple who will put you in touch with us or email: tonybanks18@btinternet.com .

God bless,

Tony and Pat Banks, Intercessor Liaison Couple UK



Watch and Pray

Intercession, Give it a Try!



1960 – 2020

60th Anniversary of Father
Caffarel's Call

*"I recommend that volunteers commit to
praying for an hour during the night once a
month."*

Father Henri Caffarel, 1960

December 8th, 2020

On the feast of Mary: the
Immaculate Conception, Mary
daughter of Israel, the one who
believed and who as our mother
accompanies us in our lives,

**the Intercessors, together with
Teams of Our Lady, will celebrate
a thanksgiving mass.**

- Gather Together
- Celebrate
- Pray
- Intercede



"Could you not keep watch with me for one hour?" Mt 26:40

International Animation Team for the Intercessors
EIAIFATIMA2018@gmail.com

New Sector Couple- North West

Hello from Mark and Carol,

We have been married for 24 years and been team members for approximately 10 years. We have a 22 year old son.



During our time in the teams movement we found much enrichment to our married life. A particular highlight was our participation in the Fatima gathering 2 years ago which gave us an appreciation of the worldwide nature of the teams movement and it's commitment to the sacrament of marriage.

We look forward to serving you as sector couple for the North West.

Carol and Mark Traynor
Wirral Team, North West Sector Couple

REFLECTION - The World Turned Upside Down

"The people who have been turning the whole world upside down have come here now" (Acts 17:6) This was the claim made by those who rejected the good news preached by Paul and Silas to the people of Thessalonica. And they were turning the values of the world upside down, following the teaching and example of Jesus whose apparent defeat on the cross conquered death and brought the glorious new live of the Resurrection. Would that we Christians were known for turning the values of our world upside down!

This quotation from Acts came to me as I was thinking of how our world is really upside down now. All sorts of quotes keep coming to me. The phrase "when will it ever end" from the folk song 'A day in the life of', a popular essay title given to use as children in school. None of my flights of fancy then come anywhere near what I would write now. And not from fancy but from fact.

I like to think, and I pray that at the end of this long pandemic journey, the world upside down gifted to us by Jesus life, death and resurrection, will be our brave new world. 'I come that you may have life and have it to the full'. (John 10:10)

Sr Regina McGarry



Remembering Chris Devereux

Chris Devereux (1946-2020)

Chris and his wife Jane joined Worcester Park 1 in 1983 and have been active members ever since, including time on the Sector Team. Chris passed away on Good Friday afternoon at St Helier Hospital, Carshalton as a result of Covid-19 and underlying health issues.

Having begun a career in teaching, he became a very successful management consultant and writer in the field of customer service. His real joy in life, however, was his family, wife Jane and daughters Claire, Hannah and Laura and grand-children Emily, Lucy, Sidney and Ivy.



Chris was a man of real warmth, a great character with an enormous sense of fun, who had a real zest for all that life offered. In Team Meetings he would frequently articulate his commitment to Justice and Peace, the Common Good and moral and political issues. His contributions were always passionate, enthusiastic and energetic. In 2006 Chris and Jane put words into action, by setting up the Nomntu Project, which has provided educational, social and practical support to those suffering from poverty, abuse, and HIV/AIDS in the Eastern Cape, South Africa.

Chris loved all things French and spoke it fluently. Chris and Jane owned a property in Salles-Courbatiers. The Tour de France was eagerly followed and indeed five times he cycled the L'Étape, which allows non-professional cyclists to cycle the same routes as the professionals. He also climbed Mont Ventoux, three times in one day and joined 'Le Club des Cinglés' – loosely translated as The Club of Nutters. He twice cycled from France, across the Pyrenees, following the Camino to Santiago, raising money for Nomntu. The last, two years ago, when he was 71 years. A diary extract gives a flavour of his experiences and the man himself.

"There is something about this journey which has already impressed me, it is the sense of community and understanding among fellow travellers that we all seem to share. People of all shades of opinion, belief and nationality have decided to do the journey as a way of stepping off the normal routine of life and reflecting on what is important to them."



Another abiding love of his life was photography. The family Christmas card always arrived with a great colour photo on the front, always taken by the man himself. One of many things we will all miss about Chris Devereux.

David & Breda Walsh

Worcester Park 1 Team

New Teams Study Topic

This year's study topic.

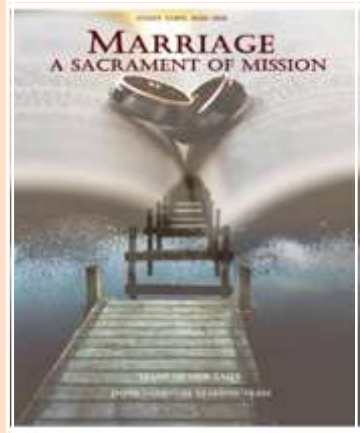
Marriage: A Sacrament of Mission

has been published by the International Leading Team (ERI). This follows on from the Fatima Gathering 2 years ago and uses the writings of Fr Caffarel. The term "missionary disciple" used by Pope Francis, becomes "missionary couple"; that of two disciples living fully in the holiness of their marriage.

Clarita and Edgardo, International Responsible Couple, reflect that a couple who accepts their married experience as a sacrament of the Church, is a couple who not only lives in Christ, *'but also becomes a visible sign of God's love. That is to say, its mission is fundamentally oriented towards witness. This has a transforming effect that only the human couple can achieve through this specific sacrament.'*

The 8 meetings and review provided could be used as they stand or perhaps dipped into and adapted for the needs of different teams.

The document can be found at: <https://teams-transatlantic.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/END-Teams-Study-Topic-2020-2021-ENG.pdf>



Paul and Sue Rowney, Northern Regional Couple
Northern Regional Couple

Marriage Enrichment Weekends



Marriage Encounter have organised online retreats. We were delighted to attend a weekend two years ago; consequently we thoroughly recommend the ME method it has given us a new way to add to our Teams method.

ME say: *The weekend is focused on couples who want to enrich their relationship and gain a deeper understanding of the Sacrament of Marriage, it offers a unique experience to explore your relationship at a deeper, more intimate level, regardless of how long you have been together. Our next Marriage Encounter Online Experience is 26 & 27 September 2020. Contact us on 0845 260 2016.*

Paul & Annette O Beirne, Southern Regional Couple

Marriage Masterclass

We were delighted to be able to contribute our short video and to see so many wonderful testimonies of other Teams members over the weekend of the Assumption of Our Lady.

One of the big learning points about the Covid Lockdown has been our increased use of online communications – and to the extent that, more than once, I've sent an email upstairs ... “Would you like a cup of tea?” !!

Actually, in general, lockdown has not all been like that for us. We have done lots of work together, sat-down together, prayed together and tried to plan. We've talked about items that have come our way and continually realise that how we experience things and see things is not the same for other couples; and we praise God for our Teams sharing that roots us in the community rather than in ourselves.

That sharing of experience is what came through so strongly from the Masterclass testimonies. We, by no means, saw all of them or even a majority of them, but we were impressed by what we viewed; from priests and bishops and couples from near and far across the world. There were 37 videos covering 16 topics. Some were 5 minutes some 20 minutes. All were good.

Responding to the testimonies we saw, we wonder how we could change the way we do our sit-down – perhaps including some lectio Divina as a usual, or how would we have responded if infertility had been more definite for us, how will our participation in Teams be remembered by our children and how will it change them.

Then even, there were learning points in the technicalities of the video making. We are sure that there will be ongoing need to use video and online communications to reach young couples, and the better we can make that the better will be our evangelisation of sacramental marriage.

We know that the Masterclass Team in Ireland is considering what the next step will be. We hope it will be to make the videos available for a further period of time, so that we and many others can learn more from the participants very personal testimonies in this great Masterclass initiative. Thank you, Ireland!!

Paul & Annette O Beirne

Southern Regional Couple

Readings and Prayers for October

Matthew 22:15-21

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

Psalm 95(96):1,3-5,7-10

Give the Lord glory and power.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples.

The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens,

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts.

Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness.

Concluding Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for providing for our all our needs- spiritual, social, pastoral and material. Help us to understand and appreciate what is important in our lives and not become bogged down in everyday struggles. Amen.

Reflection for October

Would not our lives be so much the better if, after discussing a very delicate situation with a difficult neighbour, we overheard someone remark to others, 'I am full of admiration for those words'? The bystanders around Jesus that day must surely have first been taken aback by his harsh replies when he called the questioners 'hypocrites!' The reputation of Jesus was one of love, forgiveness and hope yet here he was in the mood for an argument. Several may have had a belly full of injustice from the Pharisees and had been cheated by their narrow interpretation of the financial laws. They were probably wishing they could have found words to voice their feelings. Suddenly Jesus spoke up for them.

Note: they did not come in person but sent their students (who were not yet Rabbis). Alongside them, some Herodians; not exactly friends, but their joint policy was to keep peace with Rome and anxious never to rock the boat. It certainly was a dishonest and insincere question but everyone listening would have known the dilemma it posed. Jesus could easily have refused to answer. One look would have sent them packing! However, as in many such incidences in his ministry he asks his opponents to contribute to their own downfall. Caesar minted coins as he had a right to do; and he demanded some coins in return, as was his right. After all, his image was stamped on what he had made. There was only one answer his adversaries could give and Jesus, in turn, did not deny their response. He just added an addendum. We must surely wonder how they would have explained this to their masters! Notice they were full of admiration; we can only guess the reaction from the crowd.

Jesus was drawing a sharp distinction between two kingdoms: this secular world, and the spiritual. We Christians are part of both kingdoms, at least temporarily. Under 'Caesar' we have certain obligations that involve material things. Under Christ, we have other obligations that involve things eternal. When we share our news at a Teams' meeting we will probably have words to say about 'politics' and how this world often impacts unjustly on our lives. May we be also sure to share the joys our marriage brings so that, after the final 'Magnificat' we go home full of admiration for the blessings Jesus brought to our monthly meeting.

Fr Michael Peters



Readings and Prayers for November

1 John 3:1-3

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. Surely everyone who entertains this hope must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ.

Psalm 23(24):1-6

Such are the people who seek your face, O Lord.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things.

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Concluding Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the tremendous gift of your love. May your love grow within us, mould us and shine through us to others. Amen.

Reflection for November

One of the early doctrines in Christianity which is absolutely central but which can be overlooked precisely because it is so sublime is that of 'deification'. We are perhaps familiar with the understanding that we are saved from sin and death by the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross and the gift of his Holy Spirit. However, we are also saved for something even better.

'Deification' means nothing less than that we ourselves are called to become like God. As St John tells us we are already God's children, which is the gift of our Baptism. However, this is just the beginning of the journey, which anticipates eventually we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. How could we hope to become like God? The key is that it is in the love that the Father has lavished on us. It is love that transforms us into the likeness of God, because God is love (1Jn 4:16).

The Sacrament of Matrimony unites a man and woman to the saving work of Jesus so that his love can make their marriage and family, if God gives the gift of children, a place of 'deification'. The call to self-sacrificing spousal and parental love will present many difficulties as well as blessings. Only with the love of God can a couple find a way through the crosses of their life together to the new Resurrection-life with Jesus. By living lives of merciful love with each other in this way, marriage changes the water of daily life into the wine of divine love. This in turn becomes a sign and witness of the Gospel to the whole world.

Fr Martin Plunkett



Readings and Prayers for December

Matthew 9:35-10:1,5,6-8

Jesus made a tour through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness.

And when he saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.'

He summoned his twelve disciples, and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to cast them out and to cure all kinds of diseases and sickness. These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them as follows: 'Go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils. You received without charge, give without charge.'

Psalm 146(147):1-6

Happy are all who hope in the Lord.

Praise the Lord for he is good;
sing to our God for he is loving:
to him our praise is due.

The Lord builds up Jerusalem
and brings back Israel's exiles.

He heals the broken-hearted,
he binds up all their wounds.
He fixes the number of the stars;
he calls each one by its name.

Our Lord is great and almighty;
his wisdom can never be measured.
The Lord raises the lowly;
he humbles the wicked to the dust.

Concluding Prayer

Dear Lord, help us to notice the needs of others know how best to reach out. Give us a spirit of generosity in serving you and those you bring into our lives. Amen.

Reflection for December

The harvest is rich, but the labourers are few

We make our journey through the shopping centres. See the see adverts proclaiming Christmas good cheer. Riches beyond measure. You can have this – just take out a loan- or put in on the credit card. Cheer yourself up with this new gadget, toy, dress, perfume....

The crowds are dejected and harassed because they are worn out with going from shop to shop in search of that gift for a partner, for Mum or Dad, for little Jane

There's no shortage of a harvest – the shops are bulging. No shortage of labourers – shop assistants are everywhere. They too might be wearied at the days end – but maybe buoyed by the extra tips at this time of year.

Does anyone notice the poor? Does anyone notice the homeless? The rough sleepers? They've probably been moved on for the "Festive Period" so's not to offend.

When we approach the birth of the Lord what feelings will be in our hearts – what will we regard as riches, what harvest will we look forward to – how much of the rich harvest of Christmas presents will last more than a few days ?

Will we "... Praise the Lord for he is good; sing to our God for he is loving:

by "..... Healing the broken-hearted, .. binding up all their wounds "

Will we raise the lowly – the widows, orphans, the sick, the cancer sufferers, the depressed.

What crowds will we meet? Will we be dejected and harassed because we've loved ourselves or loved others? Enjoy the coming of the Lord.

Deacon John Traynor



Last notes...

The Magnificat (Lk 1: 46-56)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
and my spirit exults in God my Saviour,
because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid.

Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed,
for the almighty has done great things for me.
Holy is His name, and His mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear Him.

He has shown the power of His arm.
He has routed the proud of heart.
He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly.
The hungry He has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away.

He has come to the help of Israel His servant, mindful of His mercy
According to the promise He made to our ancestors
of His mercy to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

Our Lady of the Home, pray for us.



Online Regional Gatherings- Have you Booked Yet?

The Sacrament of Marriage, Graces & Mission

26 September- Central Regional Gathering

3 October-Southern Regional Gathering

10 October-Northern Regional Gathering

Please register via the Teams Trans-Atlantic website so that we can send joining details. See page 1 or <https://teams-transatlantic.org/2020gatherings/>



Equipes Notre Dame, Teams, is an international Christian movement for married couples of all ages.