

TEAMS GB NEWSLETTER

January-March 2025



Equipes Notre Dame
TEAMS

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Letter from Regional Couple



Happy New Year to all of you! From ourselves and all of the Teams GB Province Team we send earnest wishes coupled with prayers for rich blessings and spiritual enlightenment throughout this Jubilee Year.

Of course, as we write these words, both the Jubilee Year and the new calendar year are, in fact, still a few weeks distant. Instead, today's news juxtaposes the painstaking and luminous restoration of Paris' Notre Cathedral with the Commons approval of the bill on assisted dying, the preservation of an artefact inspired by faith set against discounting the guidance illuminated by faith. It's an odd coincidence.

Several months ago, we were approached to join the Marriage and Family Life Team for our home diocese of Northampton; just a couple of weeks back we were called to our first meeting. Around the table, besides ourselves, were representatives from Marriage Care, Retrouvaille, and the National Association of Catholic Families. We were all asked to set aside partisan agendas and consider purely the interests of the Church at Northampton, its married couples, and their families. But however we twist this, we see, for our part, no conflict between the two. After all, as people of faith we will insist that, married or not, the deepest need in each of us, recognised or not, is for Christ. Neither were we alone at the meeting in observing that most of us are much helped at feeding this need within a small circle of like-minded support. There is much to encourage and even promote about cell groups as a way of being Church.

Letter from Regional Couple

Attested practical experience of Teams Members speaks to the deep reassurance bred by the intimate cell group context as we search together for Christ on our journey through marriage and family life. Companionship lends hope. Companionship, however, is method rather than object in this journey. Our purpose and intention are encounter with Christ, revelation to ourselves and the world at large of Christ amid our marriages and our families. Christ is the focus of all true spirituality, married or otherwise: “You can do nothing without me” (John 15:5). Father Caffarel said it himself: **“The essential thing is to seek Christ.”** That makes this journey one of pilgrimage, formation, discipleship. The Jubilee Year is an occasion to renew and rededicate ourselves to all the core practices in Teams that frame our pilgrimage.

The time from the current Jubilee Year to the next in 2050 looks momentous, under inexorably expanding impact from various current forces. Our lives may well have changed considerably through either continued global warming and its effects, or else from lifestyle adaptations to stem it. We may well find communally that the hardest thing about living in a sustainable way is sustaining that way of living, especially if it involves sacrifice. Applications of artificial intelligence, too, will surely grow more pervasive—a boon to the extent they are benevolent, less so if exploitative, but whose voice will dictate the ethical principles that shape their increasing sophistication? Our faith-based small group relationships may become increasingly important helping us continue to discern Christ as we navigate these currents.

We want to use this chance to pay our personal credit to Yvonne and Peter Newman and so many insights they contributed to the GB Province Team during their now concluding tour as Southern Regional Couple, especially the groundwork of organisational policy, and seeds of thinking as to the 2023 GB Gathering and the future of Teams GB. They also provided crucial administrative support to the GB Gathering.

We wish peace in safety for all of you, your families, and all those dear to your hearts.

Janet and Paul DeBoo, Regional Couple, Teams GB Central Region

Letter from Super Regional Couple



Dear friends in Teams,

We wish all members of Teams a very happy and holy Christmas and give thanks for all those who have served the GB movement over the years.

We would especially like to acknowledge with gratitude the service given by Peter and Yvonne

Newman as they step down from their role as the Southern Regional Couple since 2021.

They have helped to move the GB Teams movement forward with their timely and efficient leadership of the review of Teams in GB as we came out of lockdown.

We thank them both for all their input and organisational skills and wish them a restful 2025 and hope they can enjoy more time with their family.

**Paul and Annette O'Beirne,
Teams Transatlantic Super Regional Couple**



Letter from International Leading Couple



Dear all,

We are Mercedes Gómez-Ferrer and Alberto Pérez, the new International Responsible Couple. We have been married for 33 years and have three sons, the two eldest are already married and the youngest still lives at home with us. We have one grandchild and expect twins that will be born around Christmas. We live in the city of Valencia, Spain, where we work. Alberto is a music teacher at a public high school and Mercedes is a professor of Art History at the University.

We share many things we enjoy doing together, such as cultural trips, music, sports, and excursions. We are grateful to our children for the understanding and support they have always given us in everything we undertake, and were happy they were able to accompany us in Turin. Just like Mercedes' parents, who were the ones who taught us what it means to live in Team of Our Lady and have been a constant example of dedication and fidelity to the movement.

Our base Team is Valencia 101, with which we began our Team life 33 years ago, as we started the piloting the same year we got married. Our Team that has sustained and supported us throughout all these years. At the same time, we have had the great fortune to collaborate in many activities in the Teams as trainers, pilots and responsables at different levels in our sector of Levante, Murcia region and at the SR Spain. In this last stage, we served as the communication responsible couple on the ERI.

Our service as the new responsible couple of the ERI will develop in the following years, from Turin 2024 until the next international gathering in 2030. We are accompanied by an extraordinary team that is willing to work and, most importantly, to love the movement, each one in the mission entrusted to them. From the first day they said "Yes", we are immensely grateful to them. They will introduce themselves in the upcoming letters and will share with everyone the mission they have been entrusted with. We could tell you many things about this mission, for which we have chosen the orientation: "Called To Live In

Communion." We invite you to re-read the Turin Letter, in which we developed this orientation a little further for the next six years.

Indeed, if we want to summarise in a few words what we feel, we can tell you that we love the Teams and believe they are a grace from God. This call to service is for us a call to live in truth and depth the charism that Father Caffarel once intuited and which remains even more alive than ever. The Church and the world need couples united by the sacrament of marriage to testify that love sustains us, gives meaning to our lives when Christ walks with us. That love strengthens our marriage, helps us to meet others, to give ourselves wherever we are needed in response to his vocation.

In all our presentations as responsible couple, we have wanted to echo the words of Father Caffarel written in the April-May 1957 letter to the team leaders:

"You are in charge of the members of your team. You feel, and want to be responsible for their human and Christian development, you only have to work. Give to them. Give yourselves. Even if you were the least capable, you have infinite things to offer, because what they need first of all is not your goods, but yourselves. And this is the most difficult thing to do. To give oneself, to be always available for others is difficult and tiring. Available, no doubt, to provide material service but, above all, a much higher service, which consists of offering an attentive, understanding, motivating heart, which instills confidence, which knows how to tell the truth, which dares to demand." Monthly letter April-May 1957, Fr. Caffarel

This call motivates us and makes us go out of ourselves, despite our difficulties. It helps us to focus on several important dimensions for our mission: availability, attention, understanding, motivation, trust, truth, and demand. It is a call that makes us recognize our weakness and our infinite need for others and for God. It is a proposal that encourages us to pray together and offers us an opportunity for the conversion of our heart. Responding with even greater love, to all the love received.

Making our own the words of the song, "may your Spirit embrace our whole being, make us docile to your voice, transform our whole life," grateful in advance for your welcome and asking for your prayers, we send you a strong hug, united in communion.

Alberto Pérez and Mercedes Gómez-Ferrer
International Responsible Couple

Notes from the editors

Dear friends in Teams,

We hope this finds you well.

This newsletter is full of interesting news and information which is how we like it. Thank you to everyone who sent a photo, article or couple of lines.

In addition to the letter from Janet and Paul Deboo, the Central regional couple, we have a letter from the new leading couple for the movement, Alberto and Mercedes and Paul and Annette, our Transatlantic superregional couple. We have an update on virtual teams and two appeals for service in the movement. We are used to rotating the roles of responsible couples in most teams. We also need the same in the wider movement. If we all do a little, for a short time it reduces the burden on the few who do so much. We have news on regional gatherings and 'Stop-Press', some photos from the most recent birthday celebrations. Items can be sent to us easily by email or WhatsApp.



We remember teams members who have passed and also celebrate those who are still with us so we have included a special birthday within our reports on birthday celebrations.

In this edition we have included some book reviews that came out of a discussion at our last team meeting and three Team members who are much better read than us have recommended books that they have found valuable on their spiritual journey. We have also included some prayers inside the back cover which you may find useful in your team meeting. We hope that you find the newsletter interesting but as always welcome feedback and articles.

So how have we been? The last few months have been "interesting" in the Edwards household. Having got his longed for driving licence back in August (following a cardiac arrest abroad in 2023) Mark's heart stopped again twice in the last couple of months. Thankfully his internal defibrillator kicked in so he's OK-ish. As Dymna had a hip replacement in October our daughter Carmel became our resident chauffeur and carer for a while. She rose to the challenge beautifully although did request that we co-ordinate and stagger our times of decrepitude better in future!

We're making good recoveries and like many of you we find that the uncertainty brings with it an appreciation of each day and a decision to live it to the full.



We were privileged to attend a family wedding in Edinburgh recently. The humanist celebrant started by welcoming everyone and acknowledging that the movement, although not linked with any religion shares values with many religions. With that inclusive start we found the wedding service thoughtful, joyful and full of love.

One poem read out could have been a paraphrase of Ephesians passage on love. It was good to see a celebration of what unites rather than divides us. Unfortunately Dympna, who was still on crutches was banned by her physiotherapist from joining in the ceilidh afterwards. She is eagerly awaiting the next opportunity!

We have enjoyed catching up with Teams friends recently at birthday celebrations- more on that later in the newsletter.

As we write we are busy rehearsing for our annual 'Churches Together' nativity. It also goes on tour in 6 local primary schools so is keeping us busy. We and some members of our team are also involved in producing Christmas window displays in 45 (approx. 80%) of our local shops. They depict the first Christmas and along with a bible verse are a reminder of what Christmas is all about. Search churches together Formby on Facebook.

Wishing you every joy & peace for 2025
Dympna & Mark Edwards, Newsletter Editors



A Call to Service

Are you being Prompted to Respond to this Call to Service?



One of the wonderful things about Equipes Notre-Dame – ‘Teams’ is that it is a “lay-led” movement. We really emphasise the importance of journeying with our priests and religious who are our Spiritual Counsellors- but we don’t add to their administrative tasks! While our movement is for growing our spirituality, because it is world-wide, it really does

need volunteers to serve organisationally! Therefore all couples are invited by the Holy Spirit to consider when they can serve in the organisation of Teams.

In most home Teams, the Responsible Couple (RC) changes each year. Whereas for Sectors, Regions and Super Regions the term is usually, or aims for, three, four and five years respectively. The International Leading Team that began in Turin will to serve until the next International Gathering.

Sector Couples

We have several Sectors where we have a ‘Contact Couple’ rather than a Sector Couple. We value the Contact Couples’ contribution, though we also need the whole role operating. It is possible to share the role, or even have a Sector ‘Pair’ i.e. two who are not a couple. Perhaps you could help Teams and couples in your locality. – see the directory at the back of the newsletter.

Regional Couples

In Great Britain, the responsible couples for the Southern and Central Regions are reaching the end of their time of responsibility. We invite you to consider if you could take on a responsibility. The length of service is usually 4 years, but of course it depends on all the circumstances. If you are unsure about your ability to commit for this length of time, but might consider a shorter service, please do still reach out to us.

Or perhaps you can think of a couple who could; you could suggest it to them directly or tell us, so we can make the invitation to discernment. The description for the Regional Couple role is on the QR code and link. Essentially the role is to animate the Region, sometimes through the Sector Couples, to lead and inspire a team with you. The team will organise events and work with the other Regional Couples on wider matters. Of course, the role needs a



couple who have good administrative skills, and also good interpersonal skills. It is not a requirement to have served in Sector responsibility. Though always, after opening ourselves to the Holy Spirit, we “do not worry what to say” (Mt 10:19). It is a responsibility of ours, the super region couple to discern those to invite to the role; we need help... please pray and help!

Super Region Couple

We will complete our term of service at the end of 2025. So that we have good transition and training for the new couple, we need to offer candidate names to the ERI by 1st February. This role for TransAtlantic SR aims for 5 years’ service and requires liaison with the regions in GB, Ireland and English-speaking Africa. As such, there is travel required.

We ask for your prayer that we find the workers for the Lord’s vineyard; please tell us if you yourselves or another couple you know could consider the role. We will be very happy to discuss the role in detail before you offer yourselves in service.

Sector Couple Role Description

<https://tinyurl.com/Teams-sector-RC>

The Regional Couple role description is on

<https://tinyurl.com/Teams-regional-RC> or use the

QR code below

Annette & Paul O Beirne, SuperRegional Couple



Paula and Paolo Batori;
Sector couple for Dublin,
in aprons, ready for service.

GB Virtual Teams



An initiative set up during the pandemic to support team members with virtual monthly meetings, Virtual Teams continues monthly meetings almost 4 years after the first Virtual (Zoom) meeting.

Virtual meetings are open to everyone – all over the world! We have had couples attending from South Africa, Trinidad and various countries in Europe. Monthly meetings begin with a brief introduction or catch up with new and old friends and then

follow the routine of a regular Team's meeting.

The meetings are not only for people who currently do not attend team meetings as they do provide an opportunity to meet other Teams' members, share thoughts, prayers and experiences. An opportunity for a virtual gathering every month.

Do consider joining a meeting – there is no compulsion to attend every month nor to confirm attendance. The invitation is open to all.

Comments from past participants:

“Thank you so much for your regular invitations to join your mixed teams! Even though we can't participate as much as we would like, we translate the text for our other members. Let us be united in prayer.”

“Thank you both again for enabling these meetings which are in themselves a substantial support.”

We hope to see you on one of the meetings soon!

Dzidzia and Piotr Chodzko-Zajko

Ealing 46



A Gift to Grow



Teams couples are asked annually to contribute a day's pay to the movement. Many ask what it is for.

Donations received from team couples and friends of the movement are the only financial resources for **Teams** to accomplish its mission of increasing conjugal love and developing mutual spiritual support.

Each donation counts; they allow us to develop plans in our Regions. They contribute towards the costs across the structure of the movement.

The donations are used to fund the newsletter and its distribution, website, events, travel to planning meetings and importantly supports Teams in countries throughout the world.

Thanks to you, more than 25,000 team members Grow their relationship, Grow closer to God, and help others to Grow closer too. It Grows the whole movement! Some members also include a legacy in their will to help teams grow in future years.

If you wish to review or start your Gift to Grow - see:-

www.TeamsGB.org.uk/members/contributions



Friends of Fr Caffarel Appeal



The friends of Father Caffarel association was formed in 2005. The Friends is an international association with the purpose of making the wisdom of Father Caffarel better known around the world. It includes showing his personality, his ideas on marriage and personal prayer, his spirituality – as well as working for, and supporting the cost of, promoting his canonisation. The association is a charity under French law and as such is technically a separate legal entity to Equipes Notre Dame.

The association publishes a newsletter twice a year that is sent to all members. There is an annual subscription of €10.

Tom and Maureen Hoban have been members of the Association and have represented the GB Province for many years and are now standing down. We would ask you to consider if you could help with this small task.

- Tasks:
- Once received, share the bulletin which is published twice a year with Regional Couples for further dissemination.
 - Send out requests for the annual subscription once a year.

We would ask that a couple would take this opportunity to take on this small service in the movement.

The ideal couple would be organised and have good IT skills. If you would like to help, please contact us at srcouple@teams-transatlantic.org



God places us in the world as his fellow workers-agents of transfiguration. We work with God so that injustice is transfigured into justice, so there will be more compassion and caring, that there will be more laughter and joy, that there will be more togetherness in God's world.

— Desmond Tutu —

AZ QUOTES

National Marriage Week 2025

Ever done anything as a couple or a Team to mark National Marriage Week?

The theme for this year which runs from **7-14 February 2025** is **“Pursuing a Lasting Love”**. Here are some places to look for ideas.



Visit: [https:// www.smartloving.org/gift](https://www.smartloving.org/gift)

It is always good to be reminded to invest in your marriage. A strong marriage overflows with love and compassion to your family and beyond. The marriage apostolate, SmartLoving has created “The Intentional Couple” 1-hour micro-course as a free gift for all married couples.



<https://www.cbcew.org.uk>

Keep an eye on the website for the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales. As of going to print, the website has not yet published resources specific for 2025, but those for 2024 remain available and are worth a look.



<https://www.nationalmarriageweekusa.org/>

National Marriage Week USA are running daily webinars during the week. Unfortunately due to time differences this would play live at 1 a.m. GMT the following morning from Saturday, 08 February through 15 February although it may be possible to replay each session at a later time of your convenience. Here’s a list of the dates and topics:

07 February: **“Family Roots Impact Your Marriage”**

08 February: **“Building Togetherness While Honouring Individuality”**

09 February: **“Becoming Parents!”**

10 February: **“Coping With Crisis & Adversity”**

11 February: **“Making a Safe Place for Conflict”**

12 February: **“Intimacy in Marriage”**

13 February: **“Keeping the Fun Alive”**

14 February: **“Nurturing Emotions & Romance”**

When marriage is difficult, focus on the person you're fighting for, not the person you're fighting with.

Why not publicise some of this information in your parish newsletter?

Janet and Paul DeBoo, Regional Couple, Teams GB Central Region

Southern Regional Gathering



The cycle of gatherings is part of the tradition of Teams and we were pleased to have held the Southern Regional Gathering on September 21st, 2024. This was the first in-person gathering in the region since the pandemic and presented a wonderful opportunity for us to pray together, socialise and catch up with friends old and new.

The theme mirrored that of the International Gathering in Turin, based on the Road to Emmaus “Let us go with a burning heart”.

Fifty-nine people attended the event in the church of St Pius X in Guildford. A beautiful opening liturgy of prayer, readings and music was produced by the Fareham Team. This was followed by a number of presentations including an update on Teams in the world today, a progress report on the GB expansion project and opportunities for growth of Teams as parishes change and become larger. As is usual at Teams gatherings mixed teams meetings were held over lunch, and then we had a personal reflection of the Turin international gathering from one of our couples who were attending their first international gathering.

We were heartened to receive a message of good wishes from the new ERI International Responsible Couple, Mercedes Gómez-Ferrer and Alberto Pérez on the morning of the gathering.

Our Teams Mass to end the gathering, celebrated by Fr Tristan Cranfield, was joyful and uplifting with beautiful music, again prepared by the Fareham team.

There was much we can take from the presentations including a re-emphasis on the principles of Teams as a way of enriching marriage and enhancing marriage spirituality, accepting the Lord's commission and welcoming others. The orientation of Teams for the next few years is “Called to Live in Communion” - Called to live in communion with Christ; Called to live in communion with our spouse; Called to live in communion as a family.



We reflected on Teams in the church. As you know, the church has developed a synodal process and parishes are merging and becoming



larger. There are opportunities for Teams to foster links with the centre, and with and between parishes. Teams practice is synodal and there are opportunities for Teams to be “Learning couples in a learning church”.

In a short discussion session couples were asked: “What do you say when asked about Teams”. Snippets of the responses included -“Teams means realising dreams of the vibrant Christian marriage”. “Gratitude for our lives together, and sharing that joy with others”, “Teams is the domestic church”,

We received a lot of positive feedback, the day went well and had a happy feel, but as always there were things we could have done differently.

We are immensely grateful to all those who helped in the organisation of the day, especially Carol & Bill, the local sector couple, as well as those who helped on the day, and all those who made presentations; all giving their time and energy as a service to Teams. The parish community were enormously helpful – especially the wonderful pianist who played so beautifully at the opening liturgy and Mass, and the IT expert. We thank them all, and particularly Fr. Tristan who inspired us with his homily.

Yvonne & Peter Newman, GB Southern Regional Couple



Ealing 46 Annual retreat

Firstly, let us confirm that Ealing does not have 46 Teams (a great shame we know) but the name of our Team comes from a merger of Ealing 4 and Ealing 6. Ealing 4 had existed for 31 years, first meeting in September 1991, while Ealing 6 was not much younger. Due to depleting numbers, we decided to merge and have been together as Ealing 46 for over 2 years now.

This year, for our annual retreat, we returned to the House of The Open Door, near Broadway in the Cotswolds. The House of The Open Door is an ecumenical Christian Community and Retreat Centre. It offers self-catering accommodation for groups of up to 15 people in their 17th century Retreat House. This is an ideal size for a Team retreat. The accommodation is comfortable and the community is very welcoming, providing breakfasts and a well-appointed kitchen for guests to self-cater.



Equally important was the ability to use the Community's chapel throughout our stay, so it was available for quiet prayer and we could have mass and adoration of the blessed sacrament. Since our last visit, the chapel, now having regular masses, has had a tabernacle added and so the blessed sacrament is ever present.

The Retreat House is on the edge of the quiet village of Childswickham, two miles from Broadway in the Vale of Evesham. For those who enjoy a good walk in beautiful scenery, it is surrounded by excellent walking country on the edge of the Cotswold Hills with an abundance of pretty 'olde worlde' villages and an abundance of birdsong, tranquillity and even its own local badgers.



During our retreat we both reflected on our journey last year through “The Eucharist, a Source of Mission” and prepared for this new year and “The Road to Emmaus”. The House of the Open Door was the perfect setting for these discussions, and we highly recommend it as a venue for you next Team Retreat. We have already booked for next year !

Piotr & Dzia Chodzko-Zajko, Ealing 46

Central Regional Gathering



**“Celebrating
the Love of Couples”**

**Teams GB Central Region
Gathering and Celebration
for National Marriage Week**

Saturday, 15 February 2025
**Cathedral of Our Lady and St. Thomas of
Canterbury, Northampton NN2 6AG**

Afternoon Session 13:00-17:30
Keynote Presentation by Canon John Udris

Vigil Mass for Sunday, 16 February 18:00
Evening Hospitality 19:00-21:30
Cost TBC

Pre-Registration required—Available shortly

Northern Regional Gathering



United in Faith and Service – Strengthening Marriages, Building Community

The Northern Regional Gathering took place on 5th October 2024 and brought together, both face-to-face and via Zoom, members of the Teams of Our Lady, for a day of reflection, community, and spiritual growth. It began with a shared table, allowing participants to reconnect and enjoy informal conversations.

The Opening Liturgy focused on Matthew 25:31-40, with a reflection highlighting Jesus' call to serve others with compassion and love. Members were reminded that service begins within the sacred bond of marriage and radiates outward, embodying Christ's teachings.

The Expansion Project update outlined efforts to reinforce core values, modernise resources, and broaden access. Workstreams have focused on updating marketing and Piloting materials, enhancing systematic engagement with the Church, and utilising social media. Members were encouraged to contribute written or video testimonies to support these initiatives.



A notable development in the Northern Region was the formation of the new North-East and Yorkshire sector, led by Sue and Paul Rowney, with a successful initial meeting of Responsible Couples on September 26th. The new Aberdeen team was also welcomed, with Piloting set to begin soon.



During the Super-Regional Couple debrief, Annette and Paul shared reflections from the Turin gathering, centred on "burning hearts" and the principles of Teams: deepening married spirituality, embracing happiness, and welcoming others. The worldwide spiritual orientation for 2024-2030 was introduced, focusing on living in communion with Christ, one's spouse, and one's family.

Mark Traynor's talk on the SVP was a heartfelt call to action, emphasising the power of turning concern into transformative service. Mixed Teams later discussed integrating prayer and service, challenges in evangelisation, and witnessing through action, inspired by Bishop Barron's sermon on prayer, service, and evangelisation.

Special moments included a letter about Tom and Maureen Hoban written by their children quite a few years ago concerning their involvement in teams. The gathering concluded with Holy Mass celebrated by Fr Paschal, with the Gospel of Mark 10:2-16 reinforcing the sanctity of marriage and unity.

Joanne and David Harries, Responsible Couple, GB Northern Region



Welcome to Aberdeen 1

We are delighted to announce and welcome a brand-new Team, our second in Scotland, alongside our thriving Edinburgh Team.

Allow us to introduce our Aberdeen Team, who enjoyed their first piloting session a couple of weeks ago, under the excellent guidance of our Super-regional couple, Annette and Paul. Our thanks and appreciation to both.

We welcome...

John and Doreen; Remigius and Oge; Onyi & Ebuka (all originally from Nigeria), and Hilda and Alfredo from Venezuela.

Oge and Remigius went to university together and also sing in the African choir at the Cathedral with John & Doreen (as well as Remigius). They met and got to know Hilda & Alfredo from a course they did together (the Marriage course).

Oge shared with us how the Team was formed:

"The marriage course was where Fr. Keith Herrera, who is the Cathedral Administrator at St Mary's Cathedral, Aberdeen, introduced the concept of TEAMS to us and how it could help keep us grounded to the head of our home. We spread the word about TEAMS and those interested indicated interest and after a period of discernment, we decided to journey together with Christ and with each other in this new endeavour. Fr Keith has kindly agreed to accompany us on this new spiritual journey, as our Spiritual Advisor.

What we are hoping for through Teams:

We are all seeking a deeper relationship as couples, with God as our centre, and also a spiritual support system that we can go to for intercession.. like the church intercedes for Paul when he was imprisoned"

What a wonderful reminder, with this formation of a young and dynamic Team that the Holy Spirit truly is at work in our midst.

Joanne & David Harries,
Responsible Couple, GB Northern Region



"Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage." Lao Tzu

Thank you Fr Paschal, Welcome Fr Mario



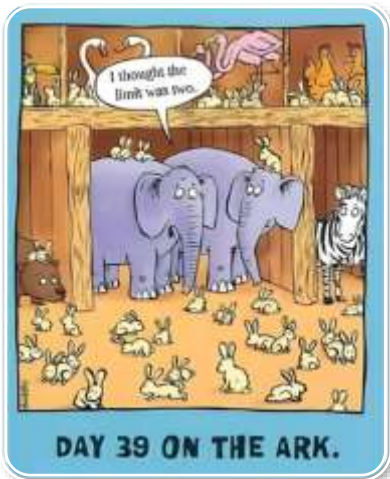
For over 23 years, Wirral 1 has been graced by the friendship and spiritual guidance of Father Paschal Byrne. Since his ordination in 1960, he has devoted an incredible 64 years to the priesthood, serving in seven parishes along the way. At 88 years young, we are grateful that he continues to enjoy excellent health. While Father Paschal will step back from his role as our Spiritual Guide, we are overjoyed to know that he will remain with us as a cherished friend and an integral part of our Teams family.

As we bid farewell to one chapter, we joyfully welcome Father Mario—full name Mario-Benedict Uche Ashuikaka—who, after a thoughtful period of discernment, has accepted the role of our new Spiritual Advisor. Born in 1980 as one of eight siblings, Father Mario was ordained in Nigeria in 2014. He previously served in the Preston area for seven and a half years before becoming the Parish Priest for St Luke's, St John's, and St Anne's in 2022, here on the Wirral.



Together, Wirral 1 is truly blessed to have two dedicated priests guiding us on our spiritual journey - a dynamic team of four couples - walking alongside us as we continue to grow in faith and unity.

**David & Joanne Harries,
Responsible Couple, GB Northern Region**



Birthday Celebrations – Solent

Solent sector in Southern region had their December 8th celebration in Chichester. The Chichester team gave a warm welcome to the Solent sector couples in the church hall where they meet.



After refreshments and an official commitment ceremony for the Chichester team, there was a time of sharing among the couples who then attended evening Mass in St Richards church. It was a wonderful celebration.

Annette and Paul, the responsible couple for the TransAtlantic super region, spoke after Mass in their home parish in Fareham on the feast of the Immaculate Conception. They spoke about how they were introduced by Teams 44 years ago and invited couples to find out more at a gathering on January 12th. To view the video visit <https://teams.gb.org.uk/>

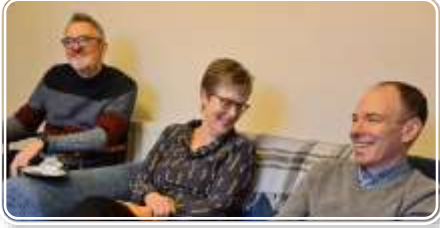
Annette & Paul O'Beirne
Transatlantic SR couple



Greenford Birthday Celebrations

A birthday Mass was held at Our Lady of the Visitation Church in Greenford, organised by West London Teams. Fr Liam O'Donovan led the regular parish Mass with refreshments & sharing afterwards.

North East & Yorkshire



The first Teams Birthday Gathering for the newly formed North East and Yorkshire Sector was a happy shared lunch after joining Sunday Mass in our parish on 8th December.

Although, due to a new baby, flu, Storm Darragh and other commitments, some people couldn't make it, we renewed old friendships and made new ones. A Team-twinning might result!



Sue and Paul Rowney, Sector Couple

Guildford Birthday Celebrations

Guildford Teams celebrated Teams Birthday on 8th Dec with Mass at St. Joseph's church followed by drinks and nibbles.



Tony Banks birthday celebration



We were delighted to join the 80th birthday celebration of Tony Banks on 7th December.

Pat and Tony have been married 57 years and are founder members of the Warrington 3 team. Tony and Pat have a warmth and gift of friendship that shines out like a beacon. You may be a stranger before you meet them but always a friend once you have. Their hospitality is legendary in the North West and beyond as they have hosted many international Teams couples and spiritual counsellors over the years.

Within Teams Tony & Pat have served as Sector couple, Regional couple, Intercession couple and many other roles. He has worked tirelessly for the movement, even planning and project managing the 2 week long ERI meeting in Swanwick some years ago.

Tony and Pat bring warmth, enthusiasm and energy to everything that they do. Tony has seemed to have an endless supply of energy, over the years, looking after grandchildren, fitting kitchens and undertaking DIY for his children's homes and making many props for school productions. He once slept overnight in a tent to guard a gazebo he had put up to celebrate the Centenary of a school where Pat taught. One friend said that Tony was a man who could fix a car in the middle of the Sahara with a bit of wire and blue tack! A rare tribute.

Tony spoke movingly at his birthday lunch about when he first met his wife Pat, an unexpected encounter when neither of them were meant to be there. He spoke about the journey they had travelled and the love, faith, family and friends that had brought joy into his life.



A keen sailor Tony volunteered with the RNLI for many years. He is an excellent storyteller, very entertaining and you will never be bored in his company. His love of desserts has been curbed in recent years with health challenges which he has faced



with his good humour, faith and enthusiasm for life which is inspiring. He is a humble man and probably feeling very embarrassed by the time he has got to this stage of the article. It is great to celebrate a long life being well lived and we wish you both much joy in the many years.

God bless you Tony and Pat

Dympna & Mark Edwards, Formby Team

North West birthday celebration

The very next day on 8th December Warrington Teams hosted the North west birthday celebrations. Attending the parish 4 p.m. Sunday mass provided an opportunity for witness and an explanation of what Teams was all about. Many young families joined the celebration buffet afterwards at Fr Raymond's invitation and this provided another opportunity to engage young families in the parish. We haven't included photos of these families as we didn't have permissions.

It was lovely to catch up with Teams friends and also to meet new people. We are blessed with the love and support of friends in the wider movement.

**Mark and Dympna
Edwards, Formby Team**



Remembering Pat Ostler



Our long standing Team, Banbury 2, is now just two couples, after the recent loss of Pat, who died on the 24th September, joining her husband Rod, who passed away during Covid.

Pat and Rod married at Ealing Abbey in 1967 and celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary in 2017. Pat was born in Calcutta and spent her early childhood in India before returning with her parents to the UK. Her two daughters recall their very happy years of family life and treasure memories of camping holidays in France with a trailer tent. In her working life Pat's roles included secretary, play group leader

and many years as a teaching assistant. She also gave great service to the Guides movement and Brownies in our village.

Upon retirement a whole new vista opened up in Pat's life - Bowls. Along with Rod she became involved at Village, County and National level, resulting in many new friends. In due course it led her to a year as President of the English Ladies Bowls Association. She was required to compete and address gatherings of Bowling Clubs from Cornwall to Northumberland and everywhere in between. Her husband did the driving and she did the speech making.

In more recent years ill health curtailed her time bowling, but we trust she will find a Heavenly Green. May she rest in the Peace of Christ.

John Osborne, Banbury 2 Team



Remembering Andrzej Zapaśnik



In October 2024 we said farewell to Andrzej Zapaśnik, who along with his wife Teresa had been in Teams for almost 30 years. Originally piloted as Ealing 6 in 1995, Andrzej & Teresa were fervent supporters of the movement and went on to pilot another 3 Teams.

They served on Sector Teams many times and were Sector and Regional treasurers for many, many years. They attended countless Sector and

Regional events such as Annual Gatherings or Formation weekends as both participants and willing helpers. At the annual North West London Barbeque Andrzej was to be seen behind the BBQ cooking Polish sausages and making everyone smile with his infectious grin and dreadful jokes. He was only called from behind the BBQ to translate the Polish priest's sermon from Polish to English, not an easy task to do live, but one which he did superbly.



Ealing 6 in 2021

Andrzej had a very strong faith and was always willing to help others in any way he could. He was also very active in the scouting movement. The family recently supported and provided accommodation for a Ukrainian family – just another example of their

and Andrzej's willingness to help. A very keen gardener and vegetable grower his talents there will also be missed.



With Ealing 6 losing numbers, the Team merged with Ealing 4 in 2023 and became Ealing 46. Andrzej always said "There are no problems.. only solutions" and the merging of the two Teams was indeed a fine solution. Teresa has continued to attend Ealing 46 Team meetings since Andrzej's passing and it is encouraging for all couples to know that participation in the Team need not end with the death of a spouse but can continue and be a source of great comfort and support.

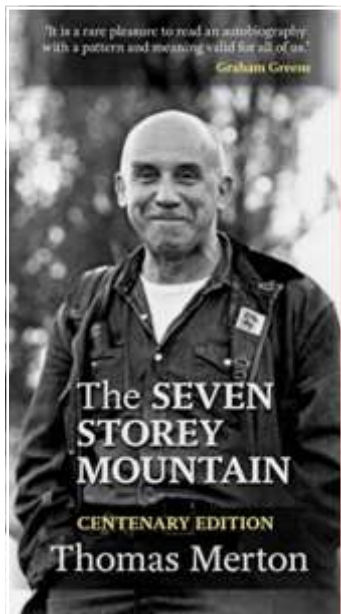
Andrzej leaves Teresa, his wife of over 50 years, a son- Staś, and a daughter- Marysia. Please remember them in your prayers.

Piotr & Dzia Chodzko-Zajko (Ealing 46)



Read a good book recently?

THE SEVEN STOREY MOUNTAIN BY THOMAS MERTON



This is essentially an autobiography of the Cistercian Trappist monk, Thomas Merton. It can also be seen as a coming of age story as well as a theological reflection. Merton had a transient and unconventional childhood, moving to various homes and being looked after by different family members. He attended Columbia University and having explored communism, experienced a hunger for something more meaningful. He was much influenced by William Blake and by Etienne Gilson's Spirit of Mediaeval Philosophy, but it was following a meeting with a Hindu Monk who recommended reading St Augustine that Merton began his road to conversion.

This is a very readable, absorbing and moving story set against a backdrop of family tragedies, the roaring twenties and World War Two. Many incidents and experiences throughout his journey

are for me, meaningful and memorable, one of which was his visit to the church of St Francis in Havana, Cuba. Mass was being celebrated and the front of the church was occupied by rows of children. After the Consecration the children all stood up and shouted in unison *Creio em Deus* and proceeded to recite the Creed. This was Thomas Merton's response to this joyous affirmation of faith.

"Then as sudden as that shout and as definite and a thousand times brighter there formed in my mind an awareness, an understanding, a realisation of what had just taken place on the altar at the Consecration, a realisation of God made present by the words of Consecration in a way that made Him real to me."

The Seven story Mountain made a great impression on me and inspired me to read more of Thomas Merton's writings. It was also an encouragement to further explore meditation and contemplative prayer.

Brenda Prescott, Formby team

A BOOK OF HOURS- KATHLEEN DEIGNAN & LIBBY OSGOOD

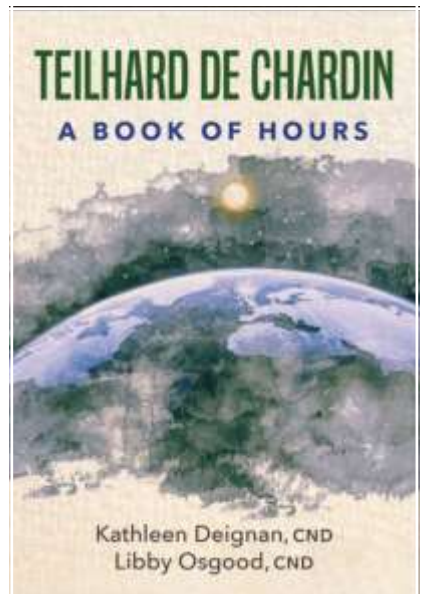
RESTING ON THE FUTURE- JOHN HAUGHT.

This is a review for a book I've recently started.

The book I did finish is called Resting on the Future by John Haught and I found it hard going at times. This book was exploring the need to take seriously the fact that the universe is unfinished, still expanding, so we can think new thoughts about God and other themes of theology. It drew extensively on the work of the Jesuit Priest and Mystic Teilhard de Chardin.

A more accessible format: I was then given 'A book of Hours' edited by Kathleen Deignan and Libby Osgood. The book is divided into eight days with prayers for morning, day, dusk and dark. All the writing is from the work of Teilhard and has been put into a framework of opening prayers, invocations, antiphons, psalms, readings, canticles and closing prayers for each part of the day. I found an interview with the two editors which really helped me understand the book and how not to read it, but to pray it. I am making my way slowly through the days. I find the language, poetic, moving, challenging, sometimes seemingly incomprehensible with meaning that I just can't quite grasp. I hope that as I progress through the eight days, my comprehension will improve, and my awe and wonder of the unfinished universe, and of God, will be enriched and deepened.

Rosemary Turner, Formby Team



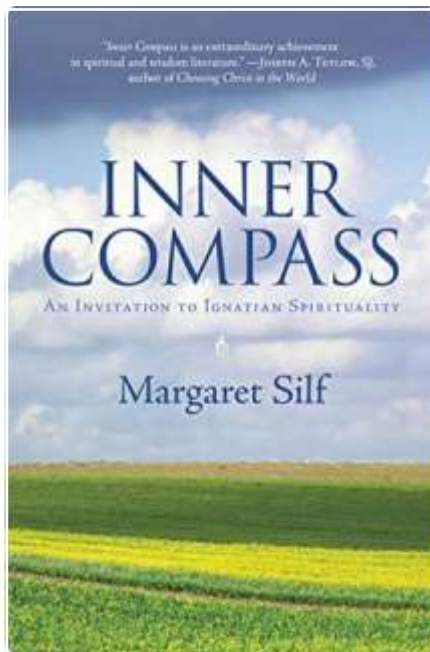
‘INNER COMPASS – AN INVITATION TO IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY’

BY MARGARET SILF

Published by Loyola Press; 1999 NB this has also been published by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd. as “Landmarks: an Ignatian journey” (1998).

This is a very practical, relevant and readable book, based on the insights offered by St Ignatius Loyola four hundred years ago. It is for anyone who desires to deepen their relationship with God and needs help in knowing how to proceed. It is free from jargon and written in a style that will encourage the reader to persevere with their questions and to discover the will of God within our own hearts.

Margaret Silf offers to help us discover the signposts God uses on our life-journey. Her writing is rooted in experience of everyday living rather than academic theology, and her wisdom and practical style encourages us as we navigate such questions as, What is my life about? How can I deal wisely with the huge number of choices that face me? How can I become a more truly human being? It is a book that will be a valuable resource for people from a wide spectrum of religious and humanist traditions.



Deacon Keith Ballard, Formby Team

Have you read a book that has inspired you or had a study topic that has worked really well for your team? Why not share it in the next newsletter and post on the teams website?

In our Formby Team we've found the 30 minute classic talks by Kenneth Bailey on the parables in Luke and the women in the new testament really thought provoking. Just search for Kenneth Bailey on www.youtube.com

January Team meeting

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

'When Jesus had been baptised and was praying, the heavens were opened.'

At that time: As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, 'I baptise you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people were baptised by John the Baptist and when Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'

Psalm 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul! My God, how great you are!

O Lord my God, how great you are, clothed in majesty and honour, wrapped in light as with a robe! You stretch out the heavens like a tent.

On the waters you lay the foundation for your dwelling.
You make the clouds your chariot; you ride on the wings of the wind.
You make the winds your messengers, flame and fire your servants.

How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your creatures. Vast and wide is the span of the sea, with its creeping things past counting, living things great and small.

All of these look to you to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up; you open wide your hand, they are well filled.

You hide your face, they are dismayed; you take away their breath, they die, returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, and they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.

Concluding prayer

Lord, when we are far from you give us the courage and humility to turn once again to you, to be cleansed, refreshed and made whole. Amen.

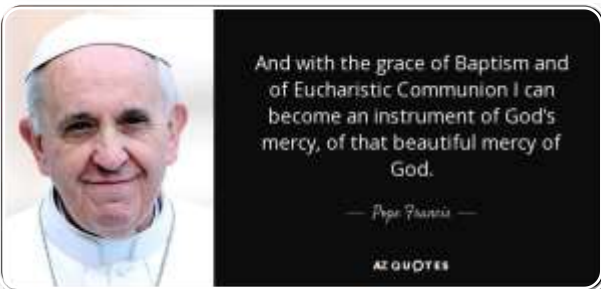
January Reflection

We are given this reading for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. We have all been involved in Baptism preparation at home and in Church and also the ceremonies surrounding the use of water and word to mark a person out as a potential follower of Jesus Christ.

But it is highly unlikely that there was any reference to being unworthy to untie Jesus's sandals. So let us look at what is involved in untying somebody's sandals. You have to bend down or kneel down. Then you need to hold the sandalled foot whilst you untie the lace, or more likely release the velcro fastening. The blood will run to your head and your back or knees will creak. It is an ungainly process. And it happened once to me. I was a sandal wearing Bursar in St Joseph's College Upholland and I was always on the look out for catering staff, particularly evenings and weekends. A lady applied with an Irish sounding name, but on arrival for interview revealed herself as a Ugandan/Asian refugee thanks to Idi Amin. For me at that time in the rarified atmosphere of the College it was a culture shock. Once in post it became evident that food was being pilfered from the kitchen stores, something we had never experienced before. A watch was set up and lo and behold our Ugandan/Asian was found to be the culprit. I believed she should lose her job.

What followed blew my mind. She got down on the ground in front of me and kissed my sandalled feet. It became clear that her husband expected her to bring food home. But you can't run a catering facility in a cash strapped church institution on that basis. So she lost her job.

I have had sleepless nights over the years picturing her returning home to face an angry husband. Metaphorically, I have kissed the feet of the Lord to ask forgiveness. Our Psalm has this line 'Bow down before the Lord, majestic in holiness' and our Gospel passage 'He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire' and so we thank God for his love and care for all of us.



**Fr John Bucharad,
Formby team**

February Team Meeting

Luke 6:17, 20-26

'Blessed are you who are poor. Woe to you who are rich.'

At that time: Jesus came down with the Twelve and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon. And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: 'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile you, and spurn your name as evil on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.'

Psalm 17(18) *Blessed the person who has placed his trust in the Lord.*

Blessed indeed is the person
who follows not the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the path with sinners,
nor abides in the company of scorners,
but whose delight is the law of the Lord,
and who ponders his law day and night.

He is like a tree that is planted
beside the flowing waters,
that yields its fruit in due season,
and whose leaves shall never fade;
and all that he does shall prosper.

Not so are the wicked, not so!
For they, like winnowed chaff,
shall be driven away by the wind.
For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

Concluding prayer. Lord, thank you for our blessings, even when we are not aware of them. May we live with gratitude in our hearts and not take your blessings for granted. Amen.



February Reflection

Today we hear St Luke's Beatitudes and with the new translation we have returned to 'Blessed' rather than 'Happy', this is an important change. To be blessed is to be united with God, we share in his blessedness. To be happy, while it is desirable, is merely a human emotion.

St Luke's beatitudes are much shorter than St Matthew's only 4, and they are more earthy and practical, Blessed are the poor, hungry and those who weep. St Matthew's are more spiritual poor in Spirit and hunger and thirst for righteousness sake.

St Luke is telling us that in the hardships of our everyday lives we can be united with God, our faith is to be lived out in the world today, those who are on the margins of society are the ones closest to God. In saying this he is also telling us that even when things are difficult and we might not be happy we can still be blessed and close to God.



"When you focus on being a blessing, God makes sure that you are always blessed in abundance."

— Joel Osteen

St Luke also offers a warning unlike St Matthew 'Woe' 'Alas' to those who are rich and well feed and are enjoying the things of this world without thought for others or for God. There is more to life than just the pleasures that this world has to offer.

The challenge to us as followers of Christ is to live our lives as best we can, to enjoy the gifts of this world but to have our sights not on the joys of this world but on the blessings of the world to come. Then we will be happy in this world and truly blessed and dwell in the presence of God when this life is over.

Fr Graeme Dunne

March Team Meeting

Luke 9:28b-36

'As Jesus was praying, the appearance of his face was altered.'

At that time: Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah' — not knowing what he said. As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!' And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

Psalm 26(27): *The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
whom should I dread?

O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer me.

Of you my heart has spoken,
'Seek his face.'

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

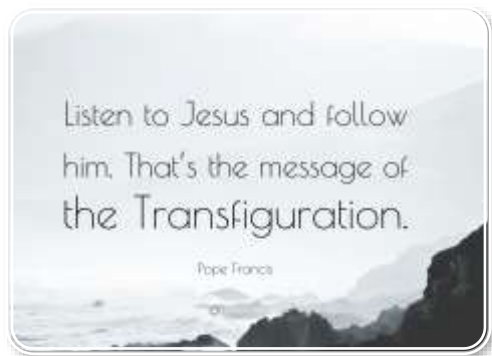
Dismiss not your servant in anger;
you have been my help.

I believe I shall see the Lord's
goodness in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord; be strong;
be stout-hearted, and wait for the Lord!

Concluding prayer.

Lord, you created us and want to continue your creative work in us. May we always seek and see you in our world and be open to transforming so that we become more and more like you, each day. Amen.



March Reflection

We think of the Gospels as the inspired Word of God (and rightly so) but how do we think the revelation happens? Earlier generations might have pictured 'inspiration' as an angel whispering in the ear of a bearded old gent who merely copies out the divine dictation. We tend to be far more interested in the individuality of the human author, more comfortable with the notion that the biblical books came into existence through the blood, sweat and tears of the guy wielding the quill.

As far as the Transfiguration goes, we know that Mark wrote it up in the form we have now (see Mk 9.2-8). Luke is generally content to follow the earlier evangelist. Essentially, he smooths out Mark's account. It's when Jesus prays that 'the aspect of his face' is changed. What the disciples see on the mountain-top is the revelation of the relationship of 'God's Son, the Chosen One' to his heavenly Father. Other little changes in the text are easily explained. Moses preceded Elijah by hundreds of years and so is now mentioned first. Peter's blushes are spared by transferring his fear (which makes him burble foolishly in Mark) to all of the disciples.

However, there is one more significant addition that Luke makes. He tells us why the two Patriarchs appear: they turn up to talk with Jesus about the 'passing' he is to accomplish in Jerusalem. In Greek, the word is exodos. In this one word Luke explains the difference Jesus' death makes. It is the new Passover, the Pasch which frees God's people from oppression. Luke reminds us that Christians are inherently people on an Exodus journey from slavery to liberty.

The questions Luke asks us are the same questions he asked his own community – and they are great questions to consider in Lent. Firstly, do we actually 'go up the mountain' to pray, to glimpse something of Jesus' relationship with his Father and the beauty of his face? Secondly, are we people on a transformative journey – or did we pick up somewhere the idea that our faith is there to insulate us from the need to change? If we have eyes to see, the need for transfiguration, in both Church and society, is patent. If we have ears to hear, the voice of God's Beloved Son, the Chosen One, still resonates today.

Fr. Rob Esdaile, Woking & Knaphill parish, Diocese of Arundel & Brighton

Teams Directory

| | |
|--|--|
| GB & INTERNATIONAL | |
| Super Regional Couple Annette & Paul O'Beirne SRcouple@Teams-Transatlantic.org | Super Regional Spiritual Advisor Fr Liam O'Donovan SCA Chaplain@Teams-Transatlantic.org |
| Eurasia Zone ERI Couple Faye and Kevin Noonan teams.noonan.au@outlook.com | GB & Regional Treasurers Dominique & Chris Thompson 5 Petrebrook, Chelmsford CM2 6QJ GBTreasurers@TeamsGB.org.uk |
| GB Literature Couple Gaynor & Alan Hakes Literature@TeamsGB.org.uk | GB Book of Remembrance Margaret & Sean McGettrick Remembrance@TeamsGB.org.uk |
| GB Virtual Teams Coordinators Dzidzia & Piotr Chodzko-zajko MixedTeams@TeamsGB.org.uk | GB Intercessor Coordinators Pat & Tony Banks Intercessors@TeamsGB.org.uk |
| GB Newsletter Editors Dympna & Mark Edwards Editors@TeamsGB.org.uk | GB Website Editors Katie McRae and Peter Wordsworth WebEditors@TeamsGB.org.uk |
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| North West Sector Couple Carol & Mark Traynor NorthWest@TeamsGB.org.uk | |

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TeamsPrayers@GoogleGroups.com

Prayer cascade administration: prayercascade@TeamsGB.org.uk

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West London Sector Couple

Marysia & Andrzej Maryniak
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North Thames Contact Couple

Margaret & Tony O'Byrne
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Surrey South & Sussex Sector Couple

Carol Hope & Bill Norman
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Solent Sector

Pat & Jim Gilhooley
Solent@TeamsGB.org.uk

Wessex Sector Couple- vacancy

Contact Regional Couple

Teams Websites

GB Website: www.TeamsGB.org.uk

Superregional: www.Teams-transatlantic.org

International: www.Equipes-Notre-Dame.com



Equipes Notre Dame
TEAMS

Teams Prayers

Below are prayers that you may find useful in your team meeting and Teams life. You may have your own that you would like to share in the newsletter or Teams website. Thank you to Paul and Annette O'Beirne for these.

Grace before Sit Down

Lord we place ourselves in your hands. We ask for grace that we may together better know you, that we may better know each other, that we will follow your path for us, and in all things respond with joy as our blessed Mother Mary did. **That we become “one in heart and mind” (Acts 4, 32)**

“The Grace” A blessing for the end of a Team meeting

‘May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore. Amen.



Equipes Notre Dame
TEAMS

Prayer to the Holy spirit.

Holy Spirit, you are the Spirit of the Father and the Son blessed in Eternity.

You have been sent to us by Jesus to make us understand what He told us and lead us towards the fullness of truth.

You are for us the Spirit of life, the Spirit of creation, the sanctifying Spirit. It is You who renew all things.

We humbly ask You to enliven us and to make Your home in us, in each and every one of us, in each of our couples and in each of our teams.

So that we may live in the sacrament of marriage as a place of love, a path to happiness and a way to Holiness.

Amen.

A grace before / after meals

Lord, you saw that the people were hungry
and you fed them with bread and fish.

You recognised that your followers had a deeper hunger
and you fed them with the Bread of Life.

When you gathered your disciples to share a meal together,
you showed them the meaning of service.

Bless the food we eat.

Help us to give thanks and better understand the meaning of Eucharist.

Strengthen our service of the poor and one another.

Amen.

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.

Last notes...

LOCAL GATHERINGS

7-14 Feb National Marriage Week

15 Feb 2025 Central Region- see page 17

1 March, North West Mixed Teams meeting-

St Luke's Church, Crosby 5-8 p.m. starting with shared meal

Look out for details from your regional couple



A couple decided to go to marriage counselling to improve their relationship...

Counsellor: "so what brings you here today?"

Wife: "My husband takes everything so literally and I can't stand it!"

Husband: "My car."

Tell us your Team News

Send us some photos and a few lines for the next newsletter by **1 April 2025**.

Email to: editors@teams.gb.org.uk or **what's app** to 07722 014530.

Changed Address?

Contact your **regional couple** for any change of postal address or any change in the number of newsletters your Team needs. Contact details in the directory towards the tne of the newsletter.

Front cover picture: *Water of Life:- Chester Cathedral.*



Equipes Notre Dame

Equipes Notre Dame, Teams, is an international Christian movement for married couples of all ages. Charity Reg No: 1044902

The Magnificat is printed inside the back page