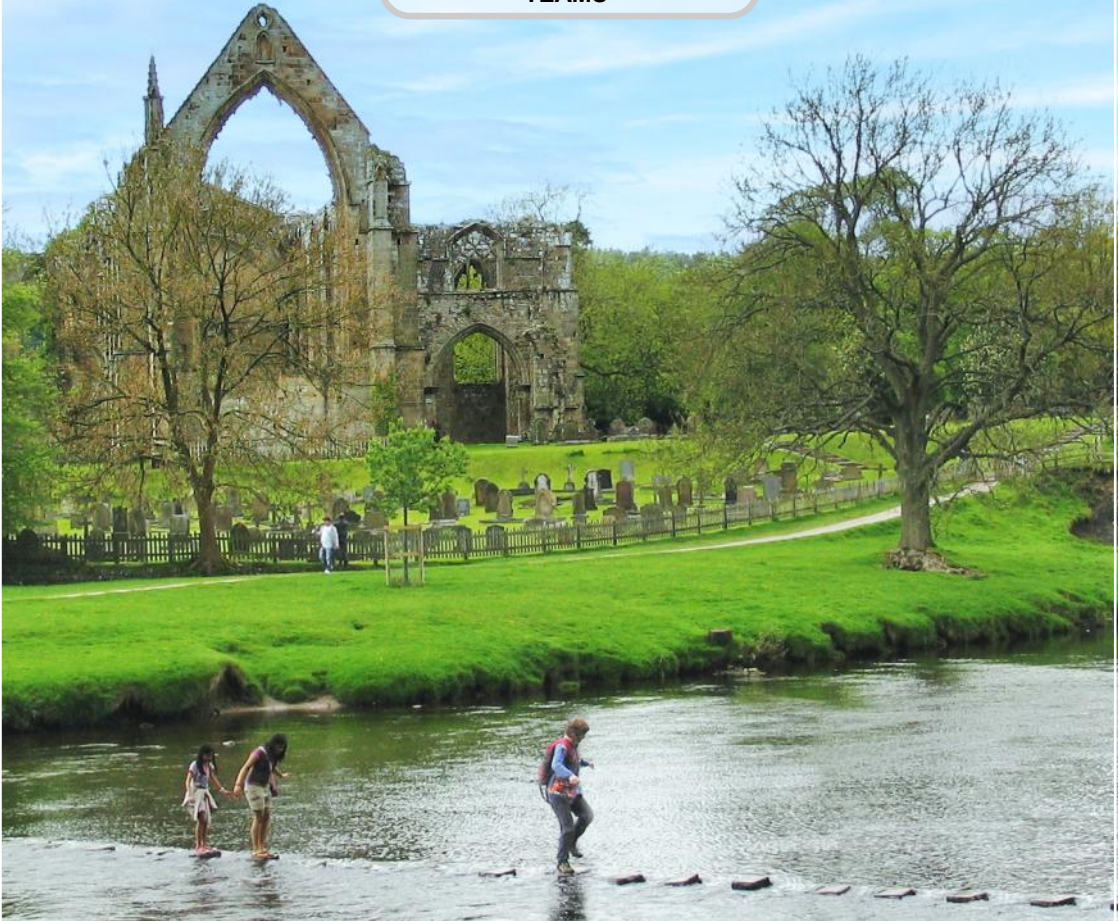




**Equipes Notre Dame  
TEAMS**



# **TEAMS GB NEWSLETTER**

**April - June 2026**

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## **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 are in the directory on page 20.

## **Tell us your Team News**

Send us some photos and a few lines for the next newsletter by **1 June** to: [editors@teams.gb.org.uk](mailto:editors@teams.gb.org.uk) or **what's app** to 07722 014530.

**Cover Photo:** Bolton Abbey, North Yorkshire.

# Note from the Editors

## Dear Friends in Teams,

Spring is alive and well in Formby. We are surrounded by signs of hope and new life, particularly in nature and enjoy seeing the bulbs springing to life in our garden.

As we edit this newsletter we are aware how quickly our lives can change. Two young people we know have been seriously injured in accidents (one Dympna's nephew, the other the daughter of a couple in our Team). War has broken out in the Middle East and several people we know are abroad, unable to return home. It is a worrying time for many and our prayers are needed.

During this season of Lent we reflect on our place in the world and our reliance on God. We are busy rehearsing for our annual passion play, a powerful reminder of God's love in difficult times.

In addition to our Regional Couple letter from Joanne & David Harries we have an introduction from Brendan and Rosemarie Gavin our new responsible couple for the Super Region. May is the month for our annual financial contributions and we have some information on the teams accounts and details on how to set up a standing order and gift aid.

We have report on the Solent birthday celebration, the forthcoming Southern England Teams gathering and a call to video record your testimony. We have recommendations for a celebrate conference, scripture discussion and a Teams study topic. Thanks to Paul & Annette O'Beirne for much of this interesting material.

Thank you to our Teams members who have generously given time to write our reflections to accompany the scriptures in our Team meeting readings.

*With love and prayer,*

**Dympna and Mark Edwards, Newsletter Editors.**



# Regional Couple letter

Dear Friends in Teams

As we write this, we are just beginning the season of Lent — a time of quiet discipline, reflection and renewal. By the time you read these words, we will have celebrated the joy of Easter. This journey from self-denial to resurrection hope always invites us to look more deeply at our own lives and at the way God is gently shaping us.



This Lent has been a time of learning for us. We have been reflecting on how days can so easily come and go, yet how the decisions we make — and our faithfulness to them — can have far deeper and more lasting consequences. When we persevere, even in small things, those choices blossom into growth and grace over time.

Through prayer, reflection, and recent Gospel readings, we have been particularly struck by the call to live our lives with purpose — to turn our attention outward rather than inward. We are reminded again that true happiness does not come from striving to make ourselves happy, but from offering ourselves in service to others. When we seek to love, to notice, and to respond to those around us, great joy follows naturally. One prayer has stayed with us especially: *“Help us to see the face of Jesus in everyone.”* pray that this continues to shape our hearts and actions each day.

We are discovering again that this outward focus begins first within our own marriage — in learning to listen more deeply, to serve more generously, and to see Christ present in one another, especially in moments of tiredness or disagreement. It is here, in the everyday faithfulness of married life, that Lent bears its richest fruit.

We would therefore like to make a heartfelt appeal to you all: please consider taking on a prayer endeavor as a couple, specifically for the growth of Teams and for the calling of new couples. Let us pray that others may be attracted by the joy, depth, and support that Teams offers, and that they may feel encouraged to take that first step.

Alongside prayer, there are also simple, practical ways in which each of us can help this work of growth. You might consider speaking to your Parish Priest about

Teams, inviting a couple you know to share a meal and talk about your experience, offering to pilot a new team, or volunteering to help with communications and outreach. Small gestures, made with love and perseverance, can open unexpected doors.

At the Province Meeting in January, much of our focus was on this work of expansion. Discussions centred on improving our website, strengthening communications, and developing postcard publicity. It was agreed to delay social media until systems are fully ready, and thoughtful strategies were explored for sustainable growth and regional coordination. Plans were also set in motion for future formation events and for the 2027 Province Gathering, as we continue to build for the future with care and prayer.

All of this reminds us that Teams is not static, but living and growing — shaped by the generosity, prayer, and commitment of its members. Each of us has a part to play in nurturing what has been entrusted to us, prayerfully seeking ways to renew and strengthen the life of the team we are part of and beyond.

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As we move forward from Lent into the joy of Easter, may we continue to turn our hearts outward, to recognise Christ in one another, and to serve with love and generosity. Please be assured of our prayers for you, your marriages, and your families. Please remember us in your prayers too.

**Call to Action – Prayer Endeavour (in our couples and in our teams):**

*May the grace of Teams find the hearts of couples who are searching for more, though they may not yet know its name.*

**Joanne and David Harries**  
RC for Northern Region

***“We can do no great things,  
only small things  
with great love.”  
Mother Theresa***

# Letter from new Transatlantic Couple

## We never serve alone!

Dear Friends in Teams GB and beyond,

Thank you for this opportunity to share some news from the Transatlantic Super Region (SR). You will know only too well that we stand on the shoulders of giants, in terms of following on from Paul and Annette, our predecessors in this role. Their support and encouragement, which is ongoing, is invaluable to us. We were told that in Teams you never serve alone, and we are discovering that this is true!



So here we are! In the past we wrote to you as Responsible Couple (RC) for the Ireland Region. Since January our boundaries have increased to include GB, Ghana, Malawi, South Africa and Ireland.

Covid restrictions resulted in the cancellation of the 2021 International Meeting of Regional Responsible Couples. This meeting normally happens every 6 years, between the International Gatherings. The good news is that the Regional Couples of the Super Region are invited to join the **2027 International Meeting of Regional Responsible Couples, 1-7<sup>th</sup> February**. An estimated 500 Teams couples hope to meet Pope Leo XIV and receive his message for the Teams. International meetings in Teams are a wonderful time to get to know the Movement beyond our own Team. We know it will be a golden opportunity for couples, at the beginning of our service, to get to know each other and to build friendship and support. It is true, we never serve alone!

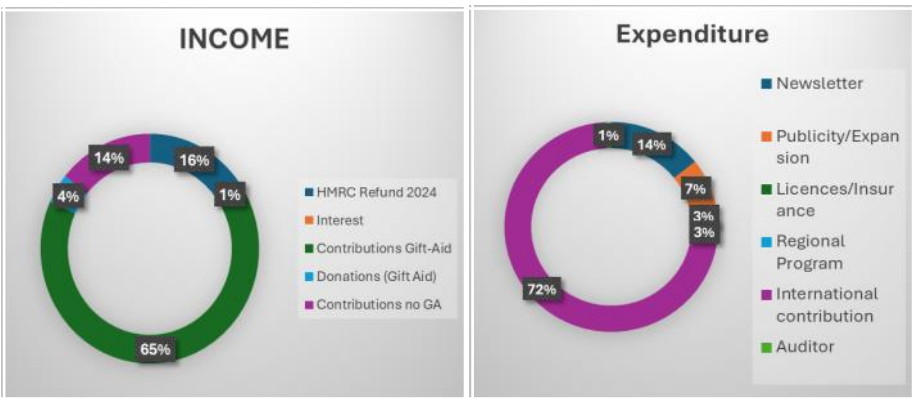
The International Leading Team (ERI) study topic for 2026/27 has been written by a Team from SR Spain. The English translation is currently being reviewed by native English speakers in the SR. The working title is "**History of salvation, history of a people, of a family**" which follows the orientation for the third year: "*Called to live in communion as a family*" based on the families of the Sacred Scriptures. Mercedes and Alberto, the RC of the ERI, encourage us "*May this journey help us to renew our faith, to strengthen our communion and to allow ourselves to be transformed by Him who continues to write, today, his history of salvation in the heart of our families.*"

We sign off by wishing you, your family and loved ones a blessed Easter Season. We look forward to keeping in touch. Please pray for us as we pray for you.

**Brendan and Rosemarie Gavin**  
**RC for the Transatlantic Super Region.**

# GB Teams Finances

In 2025, Teams' in the GB province income was £16,400, and we had a surplus of £1,000. The pie charts show that we are heavily dependent on members contributions to fund our expenditure, most of which goes to pay for the work of the worldwide movement. This was an improvement on the 2024 deficit of £1,700 and is quite encouraging, contributing to satisfactory reserves of nearly £25,000. The full Report and Accounts can be found on our website or on the Charity Commission website.



However, we are now starting to plan for a national Gathering in 2027 (we aim to hold one every four years) and this is very likely to use some reserves. In addition, we will want to use our Solidarity Fund to support families who will have financial difficulty in joining us. It currently stands at just over £1,300 and we are likely to need more than that. Most of our contributors have a Gift Aid Declaration, so that we can recover the tax on your contributions. If you are a UK income tax payer please check that you are Gift Aided. If you are not, the Declaration Form is on our website. As May is our traditional month for contributions please do Gift Aid if you can.

**Chris & Dominique Thompson**  
GB treasurers

*"Who, being loved,  
is poor?"  
Oscar Wilde*

# Annual Contribution



All couples within Teams of Our Lady are asked to support the movement through an annual contribution usually made in May. Thank you for your contributions and support.

The contributions go to fund the administration and development of Teams in the region and for its missionary activity. It also meets the cost of the written and digital newsletters and materials needed to run the Sectors and Regions. Funds are contributed to the international leadership for development and future resources. A small secretariat is employed in Paris.

The Teams of Our Lady Charter sets out the responsibilities for each couple and specifically identifies the need “to give annually, by way of subscription the equivalent of one day’s pay.” Each couple is asked to consider donating one day’s income and where applicable, sign a gift aid declaration so that Teams can receive tax benefits in addition to the donation. The request for a donation is not a binding commitment to be policed, but without the generosity of members, the movement would fail to function and cease growing. Therefore each couple is asked to consider annually, the level of support you are able to give.



Teams in Great Britain is a registered charity and therefore Gift Aid can be applied to contributions accompanied by a signed Gift Aid form. Gift Aid is administered by the Province GB Treasurers.

Visit: <https://teamsgb.org.uk/members/contributions/>

Contributions can be made

- using one of the Standing Order forms (which include a Gift Aid page) completed, signed and posted / scanned to the GB Treasurers.
- paid by electronic banking – giving your name as the reference. *(Plus please send an email to the GB Treasurers if you start to use this method.)* Name: Equipes Notre-Dame GB

## Focus on Southern Region

### Solent Birthday Celebrations

*It is a joy to be part of the Solent Sector! We are very grateful to Chris and Frankie Lane for leading us in an uplifting Advent Reflection as we approached the Team Birthday on 8<sup>th</sup> December - the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. We sang, prayed, reflected and enjoyed the silence in St. Margaret Mary Church in Park Gate.*

*The social gathering that followed included Team members, former Team members and a couple who are interested in joining Teams of Our Lady. A wonderful evening - Thanks be to God.*

**Jim & Pat Gilhooley** Solent Sector Couple



***“Love is like a friendship caught on fire. In the beginning a flame, very pretty, often hot and fierce, but still only light and flickering. As love grows older, our hearts mature and our love becomes as coals, deep-burning and unquenchable.”***

Bruce Lee.

# Southern Region

## Regional Gathering October 2026

We will be holding a gathering in the Southern Region on October 10<sup>th</sup> at the time of publishing the location is not finalised – but it is a date for the diary. It will focus on formation for responsibility, and recruitment and communication – equipping Teams couples to help other couples see how they might grow closer. It is intended that the Responsible Couple of each Team in the Region (or their delegates) will attend. It will be a joy to meet again. ☒

We are recruiting a team and helpers for the event – please do tell us what you could do. There is a little task for everyone!!



**Revival will come...**

**If all the sleeping folk will wake up,  
If all the lukewarm folk will fire up,  
If all the dishonest folk will confess up,  
If all the disgruntled folk will cheer up,  
If all the depressed folk will cheer up,  
If all the estranged folk will make up,  
If all the gossipers will shut up,  
If all true soldiers will stand up,  
If all the dry bones will shake up,  
If all the church members will pray up...  
Then we can have a revival!**

By R G Lee (1886-1978)

# Welcome to Bishop Hudson & Archbishop Roth

We welcome Bishop Hudson as the new Bishop of Plymouth and look forward to continuing the mission of Teams in Plymouth diocese started by Bernard and Susan Kelly from Poole. Bishop Hudson's parents were in Teams, and he has been a great supporter of Teams over the years.

On February 14<sup>th</sup> Richard Moth was installed as Archbishop of Westminster. Bishop Moth has supported Teams during his time in Arundel and Brighton and we are very grateful to him. During his inaugural sermon he reminded us that...

"We all have so much for which to be thankful, so much on which to build. I rejoice that the Lord has called me to share with you, people and clergy of this Diocese, the mission He has given to us. It is the same mission that He gave to the seventy-two."

Just as the Lord called the seventy-two, so he calls us to go out into the world of our own age, carrying with us the message of the Gospel of Peace. Let us ensure that the light of the Gospel shines brightly in our parish communities, in our homes and our schools. At every opportunity, let us shed the light of the Gospel on the world of our day.

Let us not be afraid to shine the light of the Gospel in the public square for, as Pope Benedict XVI reminded us when he spoke in Westminster Hall in 2010 *"The world of reason and the world of faith...need one another and we should not be afraid to enter into a profound and ongoing dialogue, for the good of our civilisation. Religion...is not a problem, but a vital contributor to the conversation."*

In these present times, we are seeing what some have called a 'quiet revival' of faith. The fullness of time will show us the depth of this revival, but it is certainly the case that this is a good moment to be a Christian, a Catholic, a disciple of Christ.

The flame has been given to us, the flame of the Holy Spirit that came upon the infant Church at Pentecost. This flame must be fanned. It must be nurtured through prayer and a deepening understanding of the gift of Faith. Thereby, our mission will grow ever more effective, lived out in total service of our brothers and sisters, in whom we serve the Lord Himself, and in the highest activity of our human lives, the worship of the One Who gives Himself for us and Who calls us to Himself.

**Annette & Paul O'Beirne**

**Acting Responsible Couple for the Southern Region**

[1] cf. St. BENEDICT, *The Rule of St. Benedict*, Prologue, n.45

# News and views

## Celebrate

Celebrate is an annual gathering that is linked to the charismatic movement. For the first time our diary doesn't clash, so we have signed up!



It is being held at Worth Abbey, near Crawley from 15 to 19<sup>th</sup> August. There are adult, child and family ticket options and with accommodation or camping. Then with or without a canteen ticket! We have opted to camp with food from the canteen. We are looking forward to it.

Although we are going in a personal capacity, we have arranged to have a Teams of Our Lady presence in the expo marquee. We heard that some couples in Teams have been to / go regularly to Celebrate; so, we invite anyone going to connect with us ([southern@TeamsGB.org.uk](mailto:southern@TeamsGB.org.uk))

If you would like to look at the event the link is [www.celebratefestival.org](http://www.celebratefestival.org)

**Annette and Paul O'Beirne,**  
**Acting RC for Southern GB Region**

*PS. We have enjoyed Celebrate conferences for many years and would thoroughly recommend, particularly for families.*

*Mark & Dympna, Editors*

## A Way to Help Open Scripture

I've really enjoyed listening to the conversations "Two Sisters and a Cup of Tea". They are 'family sisters', not religious! The two, one in the UK, one in the US started recording and podcasting in lockdown, and have continued.



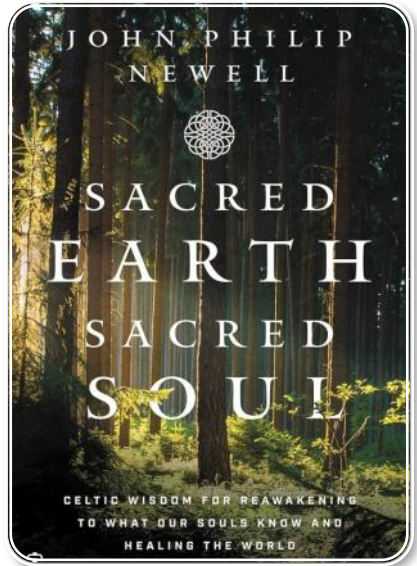
Now, in their 16<sup>th</sup> series, they are looking at the Gospel of John. It's in 20 minute episodes, so just right for my time in the gym. They broadcast only once per week, but there are plenty to select from for catch-up. Listen on Spotify, Youtube, Audible and others. I find it a lovely style!

[www.TwoSistersandaCupofTea.com](http://www.TwoSistersandaCupofTea.com)

**Paul O'Beirne**  
**Acting RC for Southern GB Region**

## Study Topic Recommendation

Our Formby Team have really valued reading Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul by John Philip Newell as our study topic over the past few months. It opened our eyes to the wisdom of Celtic Spirituality and how it embraced seeing God in all things, particularly in his creation. Each chapter highlights the contribution of a saint throughout the ages and how they contributed to our understanding, often against strong opposition from the church hierarchy. It led to some lively and interesting discussions in our Team meetings.



**Mark and Dympna Edwards, Formby Team**

## Your Testimony Video

Perhaps you would like to get a mobile phone in front of you on video record and have someone ask you **“Tell us how Teams has helped you, in your married life, to grow closer?”** - it’s just a short answer – 2 minutes is enough so that is 1 minute each for a couple!!

Why? See and pray **Luke 10: 1-9**

That reminds us .... Have you seen see the ‘Growing Closer’ video yet? (picture opposite) Use the QR code to watch it.

Send your video / link to your regional couple!

**Paul & Annette O’Beirne,**  
**Acting RC for Southern GB Region**



## Remembering Walid Cotta

Walid is remembered as a loving husband and father.

Walid was born into a Christian Family in Baghdad, Iraq and receive much of his early education from the Jesuits – initially in Iraq, and subsequently in the USA after the Jesuits had been forced to leave Iraq.

During Walid's visit to the UK for the wedding of his brother he met the bride's sister – a nursing student Anna....They married, and after a few years in the USA, returned to Baghdad where Walid ran an Electrical Engineering business. Walid and Anna were closely involved in their church in Baghdad -helping Father Vincent set up a summer school during the long summer break – so that children could learn music as well as continuing their education. Anna and Walid first joined the Teams of Our Lady in Baghdad.



Church gatherings were viewed with great suspicion, and parishes were under scrutiny for anti-government activities. For example, Fr Vincent advised Walid to omit the reference to Israel when he was reading at the Christmas Mass for fear of repercussions.

Walid's business with the Americans brought him under suspicion from the Government and they were advised that it was no longer safe for him to remain in Iraq. He and Anna with their three children escaped, initially to the USA, moving later to join Anna's mother in the UK, choosing to live in Cheltenham as they were advised that this would give a good choice of Catholic school for their children. Fr Vincent's continuing ministry is still supported in prayer from Cheltenham.

Once settled in Cheltenham Walid and Anna joined the parish of St Gregory the Great. We got to know Anna and Walid when Anna joined the choir – (Walid was a great – non-singing supporter!), and when they -together with John's parents, Cathy and David, ran the parish hall (the Old Priory) -Walid managed the bookings for many years. They rejoined teams, becoming part of Cheltenham 2, also serving Teams as a Sector Couple – and supporting the newly formed Cheltenham 3 in the late 1990's. Walid's home cinema and his film nights at Nazareth House and are fondly remembered... he was a wonderful and generous person who took great joy in giving pleasure and serving others.

**John and Jane Andrews - Cheltenham 3**

# Remembering Anne Marie Fletcher

18 January 1965– 15 January 2026

We first met Anne-Marie and David soon after they had moved to Bournemouth. It was on a Sunday morning after mass in October 2013 at Our Lady Immaculate Church and we had arranged with our Parish Priest to give a presentation after mass about Teams. David had been thinking about getting more involved in the church after their move down from Sheffield, so they came down to the hall to find out more about Teams and decided to join.



We have many happy memories of our Team meetings together. Anne-Marie was a truly inspirational person and her strong faith enriched all of our prayer lives. As a qualified nutritional therapist she prepared wholesome suppers and took great delight in nourishing our spiritual leaders. At one Team meeting the young priest, who was our spiritual counsellor, had spent the day at a Diocesan meeting in Plymouth but drove back in record time to attend our meeting at the home of David and Anne-Marie.

Anne-Marie was an active and much-loved member of the parish at OLI and her devotion to Our Lady led her to arrange a Rosary on the Coast event one Sunday afternoon on Branksome Beach which was well supported and was a great public expression of our faith. We also have happy memories of Teams meetings held in the park when some of the Covid restrictions were lifted.

We are so glad David and Anne-Marie returned to Sheffield and spent quality time with their family before she became ill with cancer. The last time we saw Anne-Marie was at OLI in May 2025 when she appeared to be in remission and as ever her spirit and strong faith shone through despite her battle with ill health.

We were so sad to hear that her earthly life ended so tragically early but we can be comforted by the knowledge that when she died her precious soul lit up heaven. She was a special inspirational person to all those who were lucky to have met her, both laity and religious. The cathedral was full of people whose lives Anne-Marie had touched with many people travelling long distances to pay their last respects.

The Requiem Mass for Anne-Marie was celebrated at St Marie's Cathedral in Sheffield on Saturday 21 February 2026, followed by a Rite of Committal in Bamford, Derbyshire the following day. Our thoughts and prayers are with David and their family.

**Bernard and Susan Kelly**

# April Team Meeting

**Reading: Luke 24:13-35**

## **They recognised him at the breaking of bread**

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened..... Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

**Psalms 15** *Show us, Lord, the path of life.*

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.  
I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.  
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;  
it is you yourself who are my prize.'

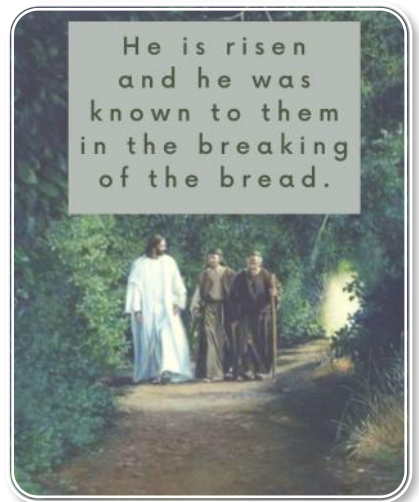
I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,  
who even at night directs my heart.  
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:  
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;  
even my body shall rest in safety.  
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,  
nor let your beloved know decay.

You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence,  
at your right hand happiness for ever.

## **Concluding prayer**

Dear God, we often don't understand what is happening or recognise you in our lives or in others. Open our eyes to see you and give us the courage to always follow you. Amen.



# April Reflection

This week's Gospel is a story which details an encounter between the Risen Jesus and the disciples on the road to Emmaus. It shows how their understanding of who Jesus is developed as they spent more time with Him - as He revealed Himself in the scriptures and ultimately through the breaking of bread.

As we go through our own life's journey we have opportunities to use occasions to look at our relationship with Jesus. Do we recognise Him when we encounter Him in our lives?

The disciples had set off to go to Emmaus, confused and saddened by the events that had happened in Jerusalem. As they walked Jesus joins them, though something prevented them from recognising Him". This line gives us an opportunity to reflect on what it is that sometimes prevents us from recognising Jesus, particularly in other people.

Jesus listens to what they have to say and then having berated them for their foolishness proceeds to teach them how, through the scriptures, the Christ had been prophesied. Imagine their experience of listening to Jesus Himself explaining the scriptures to them! This may prompt us during this week, if we have time, to look at the Old Testament prophesies in a little more detail. It is also a reminder how important it is to listen to people.

The journey was over far too quickly for the disciples so when they reached their destination and Jesus went to move on, they persuaded Him to stay. What happened next was ultimately no doubt always in Jesus' plan: to reveal Himself to them in the breaking of Bread. It was while He was at supper with them that they recognised Him in this breaking of Bread - and immediately He disappeared. In our own lives we may have come to a closeness with Jesus in the Eucharist and in prayer, or prompted by nature or encounters with people but then experienced, like the disciples, His disappearance. Just when we seemed to be close to him, we lose Him again! Perhaps we can ponder on, and appreciate, the importance of our relationship with Jesus.

There is so much to reflect on in this Gospel that it is only possible here to pick out a couple of points - the more we reflect and pray the more we may come to understand its message. Whatever else comes to us, we can say that when we are in difficulty Jesus will always stay with us, as He did with those disciples on the road to Emmaus. He is with us on whatever journey we are experiencing at the moment. What more could we ask of Him?

**Sr Margaret Mattison, Warrington 1 Team**

# May Team Meeting

Reading: John 20:19-23

**As the Father sent me, so am I sending you: receive the Holy Spirit**

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again,

'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

**Psalm 103(104):1,24,29-31,34**

*Send forth your spirit, O Lord,  
and renew the face of the earth.*

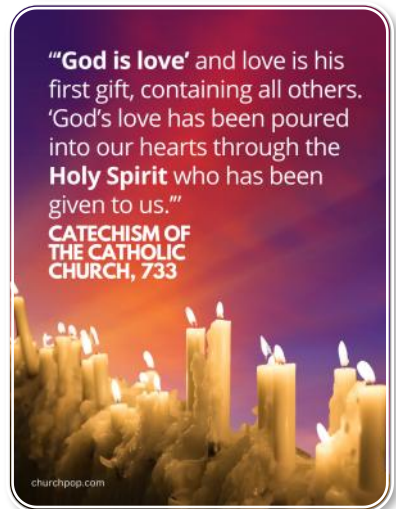
Bless the Lord, my soul!  
Lord God, how great you are,  
How many are your works, O Lord!  
The earth is full of your riches.

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

May the glory of the Lord last for ever!  
May the Lord rejoice in his works!  
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.  
I find my joy in the Lord.

## **Concluding Prayer**

Lord, thank you for sending your spirit to guide us. Help us to be open and listen to the voice of your spirit and may we see the fruits in our lives and in the world around us. Amen.



# May Reflection

*John's account of the Coming of the Holy Spirit is located on the eve after Jesus's resurrection. In his account the glorification of Jesus is focused on the Cross and the appearance of the wounded Jesus emphasises that the Resurrection is not a break with but is continuous with the Cross. The Glorified Christ is identified with the Wounded Jesus.*

*What is significant is the contrast between Jesus who is portrayed as facing his impending death in an unflinching manner obviously in control of the situation and therefore not a victim in the sense of one who passively accepts his fate out of weakness rather like the disciples locked in a room "for fear of the Jew". Fear through a lack of faith is contrasted with the Peace that Jesus is offering. The peace offered in this context is an equanimity in the faces of persecution or suffering that characterised Jesus's own journey to the Cross. The powerful image of the crucifix that characterises many churches shows the cost in suffering of our reconciliation effected by Jesus between God and humankind.*

*For John this episode is the official commissioning of the disciples. Jesus' breathing on them recalls the Creation account in Gen.2:7 in which God breaths on the dust and creates humankind. Jesus's breathing on the disciples is the New Creation – the Church. In so doing Jesus commissions them to be agents of reconciliation just as He was sent by the Father to Reconcile humankind with the Father as a result of the original disobedience. - the Fall.*

*But note that the commissioning takes place within a Trinitarian context. Just as the Father sent Jesus so Jesus is sending the disciples but in doing so he breaths on them as a ritual act of uniting them with the Holy Spirit. This is a relationship of openness and is outward looking in contrast to the inward looking characteristic of the disciples prior to the appearance of Jesus.*

*Within the context of family life we therefore all called to be agents of reconciliation. This is particularly relevant to families in the modern world, As imperfect human beings we all make mistakes and members of families have to learn to forgive.*



**Fr Rob Esdaile,**  
Parish priest of Woking & Knaphill Catholic Community

# June Team meeting

**Reading: John 6:51-58**

**My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink**

Jesus said to the crowd: 'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.' Then the Jews started arguing with one another: 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' they said.

Jesus replied: 'I tell you most solemnly, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you. Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him.

As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me. This is the bread come down from heaven; not like the bread our ancestors ate: they are dead, but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.'

**Psalm 147**

*O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!*

O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!

Zion, praise your God!

He has strengthened the bars of your gates  
he has blessed the children within you.

He established peace on your borders,  
he feeds you with finest wheat.

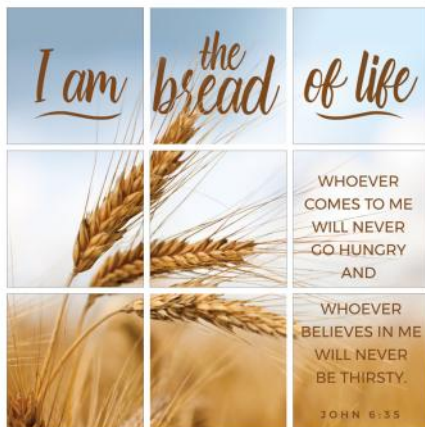
He sends out his word to the earth  
and swiftly runs his command.

He makes his word known to Jacob,  
to Israel his laws and decrees.

He has not dealt thus with other nations;  
he has not taught them his decrees.

**Concluding prayer**

Dear God, thank you for the food you give us to help us to grow in your love, to become more mature as Christians and show your love throughout our world. Amen.



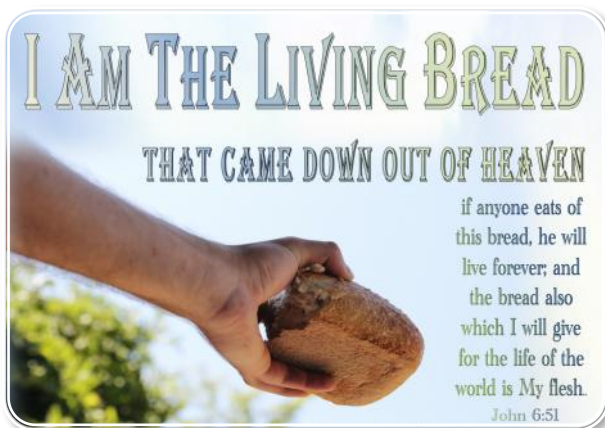
## June Reflection

In **John 6:51–58**, Our Lord speaks words that are both simple and searching. He does not offer a symbol, nor a mere reminder of himself. He says plainly: *“I am the living bread that came down from heaven... the bread that I will give is my flesh, for the life of the world.”* For us as Catholics, this is not poetry alone — it is promise, and it is reality.

In our everyday lives, we understand the importance of food. We plan our meals, we sit at table with family, we know that without nourishment the body weakens. Yet how often do we treat our spiritual nourishment with the same seriousness? We would not willingly skip meals for days, yet many drift casually from Sunday to Sunday, or approach the Eucharist distracted, hurried, or unprepared.

Jesus is deliberate in his language. His flesh is “real food” and his blood “real drink.” He does not soften the claim. He invites us into something intimate and transformative. When we receive Holy Communion worthily, it is not we who absorb Christ into our routine; rather, He draws us into His life. *“Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.”* This mutual indwelling is the heart of Christian life — Christ living in us in our workplaces, our homes, our struggles, and our decisions.

**David Harries,**  
**Northern RC,**  
**Wirral Team**



# Teams Directory

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## Contact Couples Southern Region

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London South East: Robert & Valerie Mann, LondonSE@teamsGB.org.uk

London South West: Louisa & Chris Elliot, LondonSW@TeamsGB.org.uk

# Prayer to the 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*



## Teams Websites

GB Website: [www.TeamsGB.org.uk](http://www.TeamsGB.org.uk)

Superregional: [www.Teams-transatlantic.org](http://www.Teams-transatlantic.org)

International: [www.Equipes-Notre-Dame.com](http://www.Equipes-Notre-Dame.com)

## Prayer Cascade

[prayercascade@TeamsGB.org.uk](mailto:prayercascade@TeamsGB.org.uk)

[www.TeamsGB.org.uk/prayercascade](http://www.TeamsGB.org.uk/prayercascade)

[TeamsPrayers@GoogleGroups.com](mailto:TeamsPrayers@GoogleGroups.com)



Equipes Notre Dame  
TEAMS

# 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.**

**A nursery school teacher was observing her classroom of children as they drew. As she approached one little girl working diligently she asked what she was drawing.**

**The little girl said "I'm drawing God."**

**The teacher paused and said with a smile "but no one knows what God looks like." Without looking up from her drawing, the little girl replied "they will in a minute."**

*Taken from forming families , forming saints by Fr Cater Griff*



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