

CWO
Challenging Institutional Sexism in the Roman Catholic Church
E-news July 2014 issue 72

Welcome to the edited issue 72 of the e-news. Editor Pat Brown. Please visit CWO's website www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk News and previous issues can be seen there. Please send items for August e-news by 20 August. For further information about anything in this e-news where contact details are not given info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk Many thanks to Ruth W for proof reading the e-news.

Mary T Malone – Are the people of God powerless?

<http://www.associationofcatholicpriests.ie/2013/06/are-the-people-of-god-powerless-mary-t-malone/>

This article closes with a prayer of Mechtildde of Magdeburg, 13th century Beguine and Mystic, which inspired us on our recent retreat at Noddfa (see below for more about that). The prayer is one of many featured in Mary T Malone's book, *Praying with the Women Mystics* (Columba Press, Blackrock, Co Dublin)

Why Not Soar?

*You have the wings of longing,
You know the pull of hope,
You feel the flowing of desire:
So why not soar?*

*Fish cannot drown in water,
Birds cannot sink in air,
You cannot fall from my sight:
So why not soar?*

*Woman, I have adorned you,
Woman, I have delighted in you,
Woman, I have made my home within you:
So why not soar.*

*Be as the dove, I soar in her,
Lighten your heart, I soar in you,
Uplift your being, be an Easter song:
Why not soar?*

CWO Annual Gathering

A Foot in the Door? Women Deacons.

**Saturday 4 October
11.00am – 5.00pm.**

St Nicholas of Tolentino, Bristol

10.30 arrive

11.00am – 1.00pm AGM (members only)

1.00pm – 2.00pm lunch

2.00pm – 5.00pm Speaker followed by discussion

Speaker - Barbara Paskins

Barbara is a long time worker for change in the Church now at Housetop

<http://www.womenpriests.org/care/paskins.asp>

Discussion will be chaired by Katharine Salmon

Katharine is a theologian, an RS and languages teacher and a seasoned campaigner for CWO

We will conclude with a liturgy which will be informed by the discussion.

Unscrew the locks from the doors!

Unscrew the doors themselves from their jambs!

Walt Whitman

Women Bishops! Halleluiah!!

We rejoice with our Anglican sisters now that the Church of England has voted to allow women to become bishops.

We have received emails from many of our Anglican friends supporting our struggle. Sally Barnes wrote:-

It is quite amazing to feel it has really happened as up until the last speech we still thought it was going to be tight. However the laity voted for it in larger numbers than we imagined and so that was it. Please pass on to everyone our great thanks for your support over the years. It has nourished and sustained us in so many ways. We only hope that we will be around when you achieve ordination for Catholic women as it will make such a big difference to the Church as it has done to ours. I want to be there to cheer you all on!

(See also "links" below)

Noddfa, June 2014: Rivers of Life

The focus of this meditation was around our “spiritual” biographies rather than our biological or social histories as suggested by a quotation from Metropolitan Anthony:

"We grow into the knowledge of God gradually from year to year until the end of our life and we will continue to do so through all eternity ... This process of the gradual discovery of God leads us at every moment to stand with our past experience behind us and the mystery of God knowable and still unknown before us."

(Creative Prayer, Darton, Longman and Todd, 1987)

The idea was to express this, however we chose to interpret “spiritual”, through the image of a river and any connected features.

What were the springs or sources of our relationship with God, or the deepest aspects of ourselves? Have there been confluences in our relationships with family, friends, and outstanding spiritual figures or through membership of groups like CWO? Have there been rocky episodes of confusion or despair? How is our spiritual life flowing now, and where might it be leading?

Paper and crayons were available for us to draw out our river images, and we held a session where something of them could be shared while recognising that a full perspective each journey was a matter for the individual alone. It was remarkable how differently each person had interpreted the exercise. Yet there was a commonality too.

During the Sunday liturgy we each developed spontaneous prayers from the river images we had created. This chimed beautifully with the chant we learned for the liturgy:

*"She that trusts in me, from her deepest heart
shall rivers of living water flow forth."*

(World Day of Prayer Sweden 1984)

Olive P

Unfortunately Pippa had to leave Noddfa early because of family needs but she left with us the reflection which she shares below. Many of us homed in on the phrase “Rejoice in that day and leap about” – which led to us trying to do just that in the gardens later (see photos below)

Noddfa Reflection on the Beatitudes 2014

Please read the Beatitudes which I have written below. As you reflect on one (or all of them) please think of them in relation to you, and/or CWO and/or the world. We will regroup in a while for discussion. Please feel free to share your ideas or not. This is time for yourself to use as you wish.

Here is the translation of the Beatitudes by the biblical Jesuit scholar: Nicholas King SJ. His New Testament (2004) is translated directly from the original text in Greek as it would have been originally written. It contains grammatical errors and local dialect which King only occasionally alters to help the meaning. Archbishop Desmond Tutu says that "it hits you between the eyes" and the Beatitudes are supposed to do just that!

Matthew Chapter 5: 1-12.

"Seeing the crowds, he went up into the mountain; and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And opening his mouth, he began to teach them, saying:

'Congratulations to the poor in spirit – theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Congratulations to those who are mourning – they shall be consoled.

Congratulations to the gentle- they shall inherit the earth.

Congratulations to those who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness-
they shall be satisfied.

Congratulations to the merciful- they shall be mercied.

Congratulations to the pure in heart – they shall see God.

Congratulations to those who create peace –
they shall be called children of God.

Congratulations to those who are persecuted because of righteousness-
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Congratulations to you when they reproach you and persecute you and falsely talk all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice, and be glad, because your reward in heaven is huge. You see, that's how they persecuted the prophets before you.'

Please use the word "Blessed" or "Happy" instead of "Congratulations" if you prefer those. King says: "there is a profound wisdom in what Jesus offers, quite the opposite of the congratulations that people normally offer one another. We should reflect thoughtfully on this."

Noddfa Reflection on the Beatitudes 2014 (continued)

If you prefer, you can read **Luke's version in Chapter 6: 20-22**. King says some scholars believe this is the original version of the Beatitudes.

'Congratulations to the poor- for yours is the kingdom of heaven
Congratulations to those who are hungry now- for you will be sated.
Congratulations to you who weep now – because you will laugh.

Congratulations when people hate you, and when they ostracise you
and heap insults on you, and spurn your name as evil, for the sake
of the Son of Man.

Rejoice in that day, and leap about.

For look! Your reward is great in heaven; for in just the same way their
ancestors used to treat the prophets.

BUT woe to you who are rich – for you have your comfort in full.

Woe to you who are filled now – for you will be hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now – for you will mourn and weep.

Woe to you whenever all people speak well of you.

For in just the same way their ancestors used to treat the false prophets.'

(King says he uses inclusive language so his translation of the "Son of Man" is interesting.)

- Please choose one "Congratulation" or "Woe", unless you feel strongly about taking several or the whole section.
- Think about it for you now, and/or in relation to CWO and the world.
- What are your thoughts?
- Does the word "Congratulation" give extra affirmation?
- Would you be willing to share some of your thoughts with the Group?
- If your mind is blank just start writing any thoughts down and keep going! That way when you read it back to yourself you might find it takes you in a particular direction.
- And it might be helpful for you to stand as one of the disciples and visualise Jesus speaking to you...

Pippa B

Noddfa 2014



Leaping for joy in the rain



We honoured trees and plants



It was good to see one of our tree decorations from last year had survived!

Noddfa 2015

We have booked Noddfa again for next year. It is such a lovely place. It would be good if more people could make it next time. (Leaping is not compulsory!)

People offer various activities or reflections but no-one has to do anything. You will enjoy beautiful calm surroundings and have the most wonderful food.

You can take yourself off to the sea for a paddle, climb a mountain, read a book or just be still in a quiet, beautiful place.

No one needs to book as yet but here are the dates so you have plenty of notice.

Friday 31 July to Sunday 2 August 2015.
Cost will be £100 per person

You can stay for extra nights either before or after the weekend if you wish.

Noddfa means refuge a place of welcome and peace a place where you can regain energy.

<http://noddfa.org.uk/old.htm>

St. John Paul II's "Theology of the Body" arguably provides a foundation for doctrinal development pursuant to resolving some vexing issues of human sexuality, including the ordination of women to the priesthood. This possibility is explored here:-

<http://www.pelicanweb.org/solisustv10n07page1.html#tob>

This is "work in progress" and I would be grateful to get critical feedback. Needless to say, this is a visceral issue that cannot be resolved by reasoning alone. Let us pray that the church will be able to discern the difference between revealed truths and patriarchal ideology.

Luis T. Gutiérrez - Editor, *Mother Pelican Journal of Solidarity and Sustainability*

(Please send any feedback to info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk)

Third WOW Conference 2015

Gender, The Gospel, and Global Justice.

18 – 20 September 2015.

Marriott Hotel

Philadelphia PA



WOW currently includes representatives from Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Malta, Poland, and the United States.

Some of our longer serving members will remember being instrumental in setting up a travelling fund for previous WOW Conferences to help people from the developing world attend. We need to do this again so I am asking for anything you can spare for this fund. All contributions will be very welcome. There will be an account set up for this and I will have the details soon.

CWO has sponsored the conference, as all members of WOW will be doing but individuals can sponsor it as well. Please see WOW website for inspiration – this is being added to daily. <http://womensordinationworldwide.org/>

Please also sign up to the monthly WOW e-news

<http://womensordinationworldwide.org/connect/>

Even if (or maybe especially if) you can't go to the conference, you will be able to keep abreast of all that is happening in the women's ordination movement worldwide.

Inspirational men

John Spence at Synod debate on Women bishops

He spoke of his blindness and how he had been discriminated against because of it. (See "links" for YouTube) He concluded:-

"Your faith is my faith, is all of our faith, and every one of us has a vital role to ensure that the searing vision of the risen Christ is taken out into this country, trust not misplaced.

You, like me, will come to see ... I am confident that we can walk hand in hand, and return the risen Christ to his rightful place at the centre of this country, its conscience and its culture."



The Commonwealth Games opening ceremony celebrated a new version of the "Glasgow Kiss"

The Story of the Philadelphia Eleven - Darlene O'Dell

It felt very timely to be reading this very moving and inspirational book the same week as the Women Bishops vote went through the General Synod of the Church of England in York, and reminded me just how much we owe to those women (and the ordaining Bishops) who took that brave first step, risking reputations and jobs as they did so.

The Philadelphia Eleven were the group of Episcopalian women in the US who were irregularly ordained in 1974, forcing those governing their church to think again about inclusion. Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori refers to the women as "principled rule-breakers" and the admiration so many in their communities had for them is clear from the stories O'Dell relates. O'Dell's research is incredibly thorough. She has painstakingly used letters and archives belonging to the women to piece together their stories, and it felt to me as though they came to life as she wrote. For many of us in the UK, Carter Heyward is the one of the Eleven we feel we know as she has gone on to become a prolific writer of feminist theology, but I felt that through O'Dell's book the others came to life. The backgrounds that encouraged women to risk everything to fight for justice in the Episcopal Church are varied, and, though their reputation as "The Philadelphia Eleven" has been so important over the last forty years, it would be a mistake to think that they all came to the decision of irregular ordination in the same way. Their ages, experiences and church backgrounds are varied, as were the ways in which their ministries were received. It is also important that the Washington Four are included, as their stories are equally powerful.

There is much in this book that is valuable for CWO. Bishop Robert de Witt (one of the ordaining bishops) referred to the women as "touching the nerve of institutional injustice". The comparisons made between ordained women and witches covens may seem far-fetched at times, but these accusations come from the same place as those who confront us with their anger as we witness for CWO today. O'Dell gives us timely reminders of the need to "break free from moulds", and as women are ordained Bishops in the Anglican Church here, we may reflect on our need in CWO to do things differently. It is also clear from the many interviews O'Dell did that it was crucial for the women to "get it right" and we can see now how the weight of history was upon them- as it may be on us.

I write this on the Feast of Mary and Martha - 29th July 2014 - 40 years to the day of the Philadelphia Eleven's ordinations! We have come a long way - and we stand on the shoulders of these women. They had the support of their Roman Catholic sisters then, and I pray that they will stand with us until Galatians 3:28 (no difference between male and female) becomes reality.

Katharine S

Women Priests – calling, cost and celebration

28 June 2014 - A day to celebrate 20 years of women priests in the C of E

As I live near Rochester, England, I was asked by friends in Catholic Women's Ordination to represent them at the Diocese of Rochester's celebration of 20 years of women as ordained Ministers in the Church of England. I was delighted and honoured to be invited to attend both the celebration conference and the Service in the afternoon.

The warmth of welcome was wonderful and many of the women mentioned their appreciation for the support CWO has given them over the years. A special mention was made of the banners with good wishes outside the cathedrals where the early ordinations took place and more recently at 20th anniversary celebrations. As each of us entered the hall we were invited to make a handprint on a cloth to be placed as altar frontal at the afternoon Service. I chose green paint symbolising life and growth.

A special mention must be made of the 'class of 1994', as the first group of women to be ordained for Rochester Diocese has been called. They were cherished by everyone present and, as some of them are now quite elderly, assisted, when necessary, with deep love. Each of these Presbyters was given a 'class of 1994' badge which invited conversation about their experiences.

The Revd Hillary Ison, Selection Secretary /Training Pathways Advisor at Church House, Westminster, gave the keynote address. Although addressed to the ordained ministers present I believe much of what she said is relevant to us all. I note here what I heard and absorbed. If there are errors I crave your patience.

The Call:

Hilary asked us to reflect on how God calls us to ministry, on the ways the people become Christians and how God is at work in people's lives. Witnessing God's grace in lives is a moving experience.

It is very important to appreciate the breadth and inclusivity of the parish system in the Church of England. The Church is there for the whole community, not merely those who attend each Sunday. Even with increasing financial constraints she believed that the parish system must be kept and resourced. The parish system enables the Holy Spirit to speak through God's people.

The call to serve God's people emerges from deep within the person. This calling develops until others begin to recognise it. There may mention of what is discerned. The Church, as institution recognises the call to serve by inviting preparation for Ministry. The institutional church is able to foster or inhibit a call to Ministry.

Women Priests – calling, cost and celebration (continued)

Best practice is for candidates for Ministry to have life experience and this was the great gift of those who had waited so long for the Church of England to open the doors. Life experience is gained with age so the early Ordinands were mature women. However younger candidates are now being encouraged and more in the 18+ age groups are coming forward. While nearly 50% of all candidates are women these days it is noticeable that only 28% of younger candidates are female. Many of the young men come from the Evangelical wing of the Church where they are actively encouraged to think of themselves as leaders. This may be due to the cultural conditioning where the Church and the Army have traditionally not been seen as careers for women. But, nonetheless, the Holy Spirit calls and young women in the Evangelical wing are promoting the idea of Ordination. The call may be dormant in some environments but it is not non-existent. It is a case of the institution struggling with the movement of the Holy Spirit.

Hilary shared some of her own story. Prior to ordination being a possibility she served as she could for more than 14 years within the constraints of the institution. She often asked herself why God called people to forms of service which were not permitted by the institution. She saw it as the Holy Spirit pushing against the constraints. Discernment of vocation is a lifelong process. It is necessary to constantly discern what God is asking. Hilary was firmly of the opinion that God provoked her to push boundaries.

The Cost

In any cutting-edge endeavour there is cost to the individual. The very fact of being the first women to be ordained brought rebuttal and abuse from some. The presence of women in the Presbyterium disturbed both colleagues and some laity in the church. Hilary believed it was important neither to crusade nor crumble.

Hilary had found Richard Rohr's book "*Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*" very illuminating. It spoke about the first half of life being where the person is constructed. In the second half of life there is acceptance of self and far more concern with relationships. We grow into freedom. Instead of clamouring to be heard we exert influence by being who we are. In youth we are concerned with appearance, physical, mental and spiritual, and how we present ourselves to the world. As we mature we enter a new stage where we are confident and we share who we are. While in maturity we resist re-fighting old battles we still struggle for what God calls us to be.

Women Priests – calling, cost and celebration (continued)

It is important to acknowledge that expectations of men and women are different. There are situations which need to be challenged. When presented with a task or role it seems usual for women to be stimulated to speak out if they can see impediments to its conduct, whereas, on the whole, men do not question a task or role which is given to them. There is the current challenge of women in the episcopate. Many of the women whose path into Ministry was very painful have used that experience to enable the Church to grow towards this next step.

Some feel that all is now well but Hilary believed there was still a real need for a Support Officer for women in Ministry. Discrimination and prejudice still existed. This support might be likened to a mother who steadies her children while they discover and gain confidence in who they are. By and large women are far too self-effacing. As women we must critically reflect on who we are and be confident in our roles.

Celebration

There are, however, many reasons to celebrate. The Service in St Pauls in early May 2014 was a watershed. It was a national service marking an important milestone. Women Ordained Ministers gathered to celebrate and found themselves being celebrated. The joyful greeting they received was overwhelming. For years they had been told that what had been conferred on them was no different from any other ordination. There had been no real affirmation of the gift of female ordination to the Church.

Hilary reminded us that at all the celebrations we honour all who have gone before us. We celebrate the future and our wish to be fully present to it. We are celebrating Christ, His Church and His Ministry.

Group Discussion

After a welcome cup of coffee there was an opportunity for group discussion. What strongly came over to me in the group I was the difference in the gender culture of recent decades. The 'class of 1994' recalled the prejudice, abuse and discrimination they had experienced because they were women who dared respond to the call to the Ordained Ministry. The women currently studying for Ministry rejoiced that they were totally accepted in their colleges. Men and women studied together as equals and respected one another as they do in other walks of life. There is still prejudice but it is more subtle and can be withstood with patience.

Panel

A panel – the Bishop of Rochester, a representative from WATCH, a woman studying for Ministry and a woman Minister from the 'class of 94' - then answered questions and responded to comment from the floor. There was comment on 'being the first' and 'building on the past'. WATCH in Rochester spoke about its continuing work and thanked RC friends for their support.

Women Priests – calling, cost and celebration (continued)

There was a question about access to senior posts to which the Bishop replied positively, noting the work that was being done to develop potential. Those looking for opportunities were urged to contact Diocesan personnel to explore what might be available. To attract young people there was also a move to create internships for gap-years and graduates. Support groups were being encouraged. Concern was raised about the lack of recognition of the diaconate as a separate ordained ministry. There had been little or no celebration of significant anniversaries since the ordination of women deacons. It was also recommended that the Ministry of Permanent Deacons needed to be noted and affirmed.

Lunch

We were entertained to lunch in a marquee on the Bishop's lawn. This gave another opportunity to chat and hear experiences. One young woman I spoke to said that her call to Ministry had been recognised while she was working in Africa and that diocese had given her into the care of Rochester diocese for training. We talked about the differences between England and Africa.

Eucharist in the Cathedral

It was lovely to return to the cathedral and to recall the many occasions I have participated in Services there both as a Catholic and an Anglican. The organ, the choir and the Worship Group were marvellous. I had to be on my best behaviour as CWO was honoured with a VIP seat – a little bit daunting when one feared one would not remember the Anglican moment to stand, sit and kneel. The congregation was made up of clergy, their families, friends and well-wishers.

Canon Jean Kerr, Residentiary Canon of the Cathedral and Director of Mission and Community Engagement, also one of the 'class of 1994' presided, assisted by the Rev Susanne Carlsson, Swedish Lutheran priest who works in the Diocese as Diocesan Co-ordinator of Spirituality. I was particularly impressed that the Bishop of Rochester ministered as Deacon, reading the Gospel and preaching. At the end of the Service he presented small mementoes to the 'class of 1994' amid extended and loud applause.

As the Service drew to a close I mused on why I had been so comfortable with the responses. It was lovely to use the words that are familiar rather than the present Mass contortions.

We were all invited to a celebration drink in the Cathedral Garth where I met and was able to give CWO's good wishes to many more women. I left with heartfelt thanks to our sisters in the Church of England for including me, representing their Catholic sisters, in their celebration.

Valerie S

A Prayer for Animals by Joan Chittister

*Great God,
you have gifted us with a presence
in our lives
to save us from ourselves.*

*You have given us animals
whose lives speak to us
of devotion and heart
of patient endurance
of the power of faithful presence and
of love without reason.*

*Give us, great and gentle God,
the caring appreciation
of those creatures
who model for us
your companionship and protection
as well as your personal care.*

*We have seen in them, loving God,
the stability of commitment
and the greatness of trust
that we owe you.*

*For the joy they have brought us
and the faith in humanity
they have shown us
we thank you, our God.*

*In them we sense
the goodness of the cosmos
the graciousness of your creation
and insight into the sacredness
of our own animal nature.*

For that we are forever grateful.

*Tempted to take
the creatures of the world for granted
inclined to treat them more as property
than present signs
of your life and love
give us the grace, O God,
to forever care for them
as you have cared for us.*

*We see in them living signs
of the network of nature
of which we are only a part.*

*May you, great God who made them,
reward them
with good caretakers
with bright sun and days of play
with a comfortable old age
with the love they deserve
for having so faithfully loved us.*

*Give us vision
to squander our love on others
as they have squandered theirs on us.*

*For all of them, great God,
we give you thanks
and see the glory
of you glowing in them, as well.*

Amen.

Chester Theological Society 2014-15

7:30pm, Thursday 16th October - Hollybank House, University of Chester Conceiving Jesus: Re-examining Jesus' Conception in Canon, Christology and Creed

Professor Andrew Lincoln - University of Gloucestershire

For many Christians the belief that Jesus was conceived without a human father appears to be demanded by Scripture and creed but causes difficulty in the light of knowledge of ancient parallels about the conception of great figures and of modern biology. The lecture will survey some of the range of issues involved in attempting to negotiate confessional belief and critical enquiry on this topic. Does the New Testament contain other perspectives on Jesus' conception? Why did the virginal conception tradition become dominant and why has it become problematic? What are the implications for the orthodox view of the relation between Jesus' humanity and divinity and for saying the creed if one holds that in all probability Jesus did have a biological human father?

Andrew Lincoln is Professor of New Testament at the University of Gloucestershire. Among his publications are *Ephesians* (Word Biblical Commentary, 1990); *Colossians* (New Interpreter's Bible Vol. XI, 2000); *Truth on Trial: the Lawsuit Motif in the Fourth Gospel* (Hendrickson, 2000); *The Gospel according to St. John* (Black NT Commentaries, Continuum, 2005) and *Hebrews: a Guide* (T. & T. Clark International, 2006). Most recently he has co-edited *The Bible and Spirituality: Exploratory Essays in Reading Scripture Spiritually* (Cascade, Wipf & Stock, 2013) and written *Born of a Virgin? Reconceiving Jesus in the Bible, Tradition and Theology* (SPCK/Eerdmans, 2013).

Admission at the door: £3.00 (Students: £1.00) Wine and Refreshments

2:00pm, Saturday 7th February 2015 - The Nave, Chester Cathedral

Whatever Happened to the Laity?

Professor Elaine Graham - Canon Theologian at Chester Cathedral ANNUAL CATHEDRAL LECTURE

In the first of her annual lectures as Canon Theologian, Professor Graham will address the role of lay people in the Church. Fifty years after the Second Vatican Council, which emphasised the secular calling of the laity as the embodiment of the Church in the world, are we any closer to really affirming the priesthood of all believers, or does the Church remain largely clericalised in its understanding of ministry? This lecture will survey some of the main thinking over recent years across the denominations regarding the relationship between ordained and lay ministry, and consider what the future prospects may be for the laity in Church and society.

Chester Theological Society 2014-15 (continued)

Elaine Graham, appointed the Samuel Ferguson Professor of Social and Pastoral Theology at the University of Manchester, joined the University of Chester in 2009 where she is the Grosvenor Research Professor of Practical Theology. Her publications include: *Theological Reflection: Methods* (SCM 2005), with Heather Walton and Frances Ward; *Words made Flesh: Writings in Pastoral and Practical Theology* (SCM 2009) and *Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Public Theology in a Post-Secular Age* (SCM 2013).

She is a former president of the International Academy of Practical Theology, a member of the BBC Standing Conference on Religion and Belief, an occasional broadcaster and a contributor to the *Church Times*.

Admission Free

7:30pm, Tuesday 10th March - The Nave, Chester Cathedral

"For the Honour of God and for the Reform of our Realm": Magna Carta, Church and State, 1215-2015

The Revd Robin Griffiths - Master of Temple Church

King John sealed *Magna Carta* 'from reverence for God and for the salvation of our soul and those of all our ancestors and heirs, for the honour of God and the exaltation of Holy Church and the reform of our realm'. His advisors included two archbishops, seven bishops and the Master of the Temple. The Charter challenges today's faith communities to examine the part they might play in the development of a liberal democracy. The landscape has changed beyond recognition, from the universality of the 'English Church' in 1215 to the religious diversity and multi-culturalism of the 21st century; but 'the honour of God and reform of the realm' are still close to the heart of every religious community.

Robin Griffith-Jones has been 'the Reverend and Valiant Master of the Temple' at the Temple Church since 1999. The Temple was King John's London headquarters and the setting for vital negotiations, 1214-5. He is also Senior Lecturer in Theology at King's College London. Writings on the New Testament and early Christianity include *The Four Witnesses* (2000), *The Gospel according to Paul* (2004) and *Mary Magdalene* (2008). Fostering the Temple's natural interest in law and religion resulted in *Islam and English Law: Rights, Responsibilities and the Place of Sharia* (editor & co-author, 2013) and *Magna Carta, Religion and the Rule of Law* (co-editor & co-author, 2014).

Admission at the door: £3.00 (Students: £1.00)

Chester Theological Society 2014-15 (continued)

7:30pm, Friday 1st May – Binks Lecture Theatre, University of Chester Pope Francis and the Future of Catholic Social Thinking

Paul Vallely CMG FRSA - Inaugural Lecture as Visiting Professor

Pope Francis has issued some powerful condemnations of the operations of the contemporary global economy. He has called for “a poor Church, for the poor”. But do his trenchant criticisms merely reiterate the critique of “savage capitalism” developed by Catholic Social Teaching throughout the 20th Century? Or is he developing that teaching in new Ways?

Paul Vallely CMG FRSA is a writer, broadcaster and consultant on international development and business ethics. He is Visiting Professor in Public Ethics and Media at the University of Chester and Senior Research Fellow at the Brooks World Poverty Institute at the University of Manchester. He was co-author of the report of Tony Blair’s Commission for Africa (2004-5). He writes regularly in *The Independent on Sunday*, *Guardian* and *New York Times*, is a director of *The Tablet* and a columnist for the *Church Times*. His publications include *The New Politics: Catholic Social Teaching for the 21st century*, (SCM 1999) and *Catholic Social Teaching and the Big Society* (CBCEW 2011). *Pope Francis – Untying the Knots* (Bloomsbury 2013)

Admission at the door: £3.00 (Students: £1.00) Wine and Refreshments

Symposium on Natural Law and Conscience Saturday 20 September 2014 Digby Stuart Chapel, Digby Stuart College, University of Roehampton, SW15 5PH, UK.

Speakers:

Prof Tina Beattie, Professor of Catholic Studies at the University of Roehampton, London, UK and Director of the Digby Stuart Research Centre for Religion, Society and Human Flourishing.

Prof Jan Jans, Professor of Ethics at Tilburg School of Humanities, the Netherlands.

Prof Michael Lawler, Dean Emeritus of the Graduate School at Creighton University and Professor Emeritus of Catholic Theology at Creighton University Nebraska USA.

Prof Todd Salzman, Professor of Ethics at Creighton University, Nebraska USA

Dr Luca Badini Confalonieri, School of Education, University of Birmingham, UK.

More information, including online registration, can be found on this event on http://www.natural-law-and-conscience.org/events/coll_roehampton.asp

Mary Ann Schoettly

Mary Ann Schoettly, who was ordained as a priest in a dissident ceremony and excommunicated in 2009, died on Tuesday 22 July aged 71. She was considered a radical by the Roman Catholic Church, and a woman's advocate and "trailblazer" by her supporters and colleagues. "She was a real activist, a revolutionary," said her co-pastor, Michael Corso. "She was a bigger-than-life person." "It's quite a loss — it's so sudden," said Suzanne Thiel, of the Roman Catholic Womenpriests organization.

Mary Ann took part in the proclaimed "Year of the Priest" celebrations in Rome, 2010. Holding signs advocating for women to be accepted as priests, her group was noticed by the media but also the police. They were detained by officers in St. Peter's Square, and held for several hours. Mary Ann told a reporter, "Fourteen police surrounded us. They're worried about five women? It says something. I'm not sure what".

Mary Ann remained as energetic and active in the community as she had ever been, until she became ill in recent weeks. She was still leading her congregation, performing baptisms, weddings, and other ceremonies. "She may have only been a priest for six short years, but she really acted as a priest for much longer before that," Corso said. "Her legacy will live on long after her."

Links

John Spence's inspirational speech at General Synod debate on Women Bishops
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsIE0xB5Qfo>

Women bishops vote – story, pictures

<http://womenandthechurch.org/>

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/there.will.be.women.bishops.general.synod.pas ses.legislation/38848.htm>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-28300618>

(and many other links – just Google it)

Catholic Church Reform – petition for synod to be publicly broadcast

<http://www.catholicchurchreform.com/petition.html>

Harrogate School of Theology and Mission - lecture details

<http://www.hstm.org/>

Conference on Deaconesses, Ordination of Women and Orthodox theology
2014 – 2015 – there is an online forum for discussion

<http://cemes-en.weebly.com/2014-15-conference-on-deaconesses-ordination-of-women-and-orthodox-theology.html#/>

CWO Saints

Mary MacKillop
Ruth Norton
John Hatfield
Celia Greenwood
Michael O'Gara
Sheila Houlihan
Mary Daly
Estelle White
Pat McGarron
Marcella Althaus-Reid
Astrid Klemz
Jean Palmer
Elizabeth Rendall
Maureen Brown
Tissa Balasuriya
Jack Sutcliffe
Pat Regini
Mary Ann Schoettly

Pray for us



Prayer Link

Wednesday between 6.00 and 7.00pm, please pray for CWO, its members and its mission.

Saturdays at noon, join with women and men all over the world to pray for the work of Women's Ordination Worldwide (WOW!)

Please take part in one or both of these prayer networks if and when you can

The CWO Prayer

Moved by a compulsion of the Holy Spirit, we cannot remain ignorant of this injustice in our midst.

We long for all humanity to be acknowledged as equal, particularly among your community of the church, so we pray grieving for the lost gifts of so many women.

We ask you, God of all peoples, to bring insight and humility to all those in positions of dominance, and an understanding that the ascended Lord called us all to act doing Christ's work here and now.

We ask this of you, God our Creator, Jesus our Redeemer, Spirit our Sustainer

Websites (apologies for smaller print – that’s to fit them in!)

<http://www.womensordination.org/>

News of Fr Bourgeois and many other issues

<http://www.johnwijngaards.org/>

All previous housetop websites can be reached via this address

<http://www.catholicchurchreform.com/>

A global network seeking renewal of the Church

<http://womenandthechurch.org/>

Campaign for women’s equality in Church of England

<http://ncronline.org/>

National Catholic Reporter

<http://www.acalltoaction.org.uk/>

Catholics inspired by Vatican II.

<http://www.gras.org.uk/>

Group for rescinding the Act of Synod

www.we-are-church.org.uk

We Are Church in the UK is a call to recognise that all the Baptised, are part of the Church.

<http://www.ccc4vat2.org.uk>

Catholics for a Changing Church

<http://lqcm.org.uk/>

Campaigns against and challenges homophobia and transphobia, especially within the Church and faith based organisations, as well as working to create and praying for an inclusive church.

<http://questgaycatholic.org.uk/>

Proclaims the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ so as to sustain and increase Christian belief among homosexual men and women. They offer pastoral support for LGBT Catholics friends and families Sign up for quarterly newsletter

<http://82.70.116.125/index.html>

Women Word Spirit

<http://christianfeministnetwork.com/>

Christian Feminist Network - exploring faith and feminism

<http://www.spirituschristi.org>

A truly inclusive Catholic Church

<http://www.stcuthbertshouse.co.uk/>

Rachel is a professed hermit of the R C Diocese of Nottingham.