



**CWO**

Challenging Institutional Sexism in the Roman Catholic Church

E-news

April, 2016 Issue 89

WELCOME TO THE APRIL ISSUE OF E-NEWS



SEE MIRIAM DUIGNAN PUTTING THE CALM AND REASONED CASE FOR CWO AND WOMEN IN THE CHURCH, ON BBC'S THE BIG QUESTIONS. SCROLL ON DOWN!



IT WAS WITH GREAT SADNESS THAT CWO MEMBERS LEARNED OF OUR SUDDEN LOSS OF MIKE WARD, LONG-TIME FRIEND AND TIRELESS SUPPORTER. PLEASE READ ON BELOW...

MARY RING  
EDITOR

<http://www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk/news.htm>  
[news@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk](mailto:news@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk)

## MIKE WARD, RIP

Mike Ward was one of the most genuinely spiritual human beings I have ever met. His prayer life was very deep and he was also totally committed to causes he believed in especially. He supported CWO at every turn.

One particular memory I have of Mike was when he and I were left at the end of the Women's Ordination Conference in Ottawa. Nearly everyone else had gone to the RCWP ordinations on the St. Lawrence river. Mike may not have gone because he believed we should stay working within the structures. My motives were probably less noble i.e. It was rather expensive and I had to get back to my sick father in London anyway.

It was a privilege to spend time with Mike, this very spiritual man whose wisdom I always learnt from. Mike and several other male members of CWO had come to Women's Ordination Conference to support us. In fact a quarter of CWO members attending the Conference were male, the highest percentage of any group.

Thank you, Mike, for being such a wonderful support and inspiration to so many. I weep for your family who have lost such a wonderful husband and father and for CWO who have lost such a special friend. May you rest in peace and pray for us in heaven.

Sue Williamson



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C2YV-U\\_9JPQ&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C2YV-U_9JPQ&feature=youtu.be)

CWO Members join in our deepest condolences to Heather and the family, and in our prayers for them. Mike is now amongst our CWO Saints, and praying for us perhaps even more powerfully than when he was with us. May he truly rest in peace.



## SHOULD THE VATICAN GIVE MORE POWER TO WOMEN?

It's a joy to watch MIRIAM DUGNAN, Communications Director for the Wijngaards Institute for Catholic Research, bringing her calm good sense and detailed historical and theological knowledge to the BBC's The Big Questions

Our thanks to SUE WILLIAMSON for sending us this account of the show:

### Some thoughts about Miriam's contribution to 'The Big Question' on Vocations Sunday.

While some of us were on the Piazza of Westminster last Sunday pointing out women's vocations to all forms of ministry, Miriam Duignan was battling it out on 'The Big Question' dealing with a question as to whether the RC Church can change without women at every level of ministry (my interpretation of said question).



Miriam answered her neighbour (Caroline Farrow of Catholic Voices, married to a member of the Ordinariate) by pointing out that women had been in all forms of ministry until the Middle Ages. Miriam was also able to say that in recent years the Magisterium had gone into various contortions to defend the male priesthood by using the models of Christ the Bridegroom (which only men can be apparently) and the Church as the Bride. The

movement away from Christ's humanity being the most significant aspect of the affirmation of Christ in the Eucharist has been lost and it has done much damage to women.

Women's lack of voice in their control over their reproductive rights was also mentioned. One young woman in the audience, who said she was not a believer, nevertheless supported Miriam in everything she said. The same could be said of Frank Callus, from ACTA in Cardiff, who rebuffed the all-too-vociferous leader of the Latin Mass Society. The latter claimed to have the Truth, the whole Truth and nothing but the Truth!! The audience and the chairman certainly supported Miriam and it was evident that Miriam did have truth on her side and not the loud gentleman from the Latin Mass Society.



*Right, Joseph Shaw,  
Chairman of the Latin Mass Society*

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b077yrf6/the-big-questions-series-9-episode-14>



The Big Questions @bbcbigquestions · Apr 17  
From the audience: Why are women any less sacred than men?  
#bbctbq





## WOW ACTION PLANNED FOR ROME

As doors around the world are opened to Roman Catholics during Pope Francis' Jubilee of Mercy, one door remains inexplicably closed. During the Vatican's "Jubilee for Priests," Women's Ordination Worldwide (WOW) will host their own "Jubilee for Women Priests," lifting up all women who are called to the priesthood and all who call for equality in Church structures.

### **1 June - Open the Door to Dialogue: Events at La casa internazionale delle donne Via della Lungara, 19 Roma, Sala Tosi**

3 - 5 pm - **A roundtable conversation** and Q&A with:

- Rev. Dana English, Assistant Curate at All Saints' Anglican Church in Rome;
- Fr. Tony Flannery, Irish Redemptorist priest censured by the Vatican;
- Others to be confirmed.

5 - 6 pm **Reception** celebrating WOW's 20th anniversary

6 - 8 pm **Women Priests Project** - photo exhibition and gallery talk with artist Giulia Bianchi. This project explores the life and faith of Roman Catholic Women Priests, excommunicated for disobeying a canon law that reserves the priesthood to men. Since 2013, Bianchi has met and photographed more than 70 women priests. [womenpriestsproject.org](http://womenpriestsproject.org)



### **3 June - An Open Door Witness**

8 am WOW activists will gather at Piazza Pia for a prayerful witness, offering a visual guide to "opening the door" to women. WOW will then walk the pilgrim's path to St. Peter's as the Jubilee Mass for Priests gets underway.

Link ready soon: <https://womensordinationworldwide.squarespace.com/a-jubilee-for-women-priests/>



Accommodation at Rome may be available at the International women's centre  
[http://www.foresteriaorsa.altervista.org/foresteria\\_uk.htm](http://www.foresteriaorsa.altervista.org/foresteria_uk.htm)

WOW needs sponsorship for these events so if you feel you can donate, please do so here:  
<https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/WomensOrdinationConferenceInc/wow2015.html>

Events are also planned for Krakow in July to mark WOW's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The steering committee are meeting 21 – 23 July and some are staying on for the Pope's visit starting later that week. Maybe some members could join that action. More details later.

Miriam Duignan was able to discuss our anniversary on Reasonably Catholic. Listen here <https://reasonablycatholic.com/>

Please sign up for WOW e-news here <http://womensordinationworldwide.org/connect/>

Contact me about any of the above [pat@patbrownh-at.co.uk](mailto:pat@patbrownh-at.co.uk)

PAT BROWN  
CWO representative on WOW steering committee

## ... AND IT HAS BEEN BUSY IN ROME RECENTLY,

writes KATHARINE SALMON

Olive, Kate McElwee and I met to pray in Rome on the feast of the Annunciation and to acknowledge the work being done for Catholic Women's Ordination. Olive and I started with prayers and reflection in St Peter's. It is a challenging place to pray, particularly as our metaphor of closed doors has never been so apt. We tried to get to the Mass that was happening in French, only to be turned away at every barrier. We had wished to enter the Basilica through the Holy Door of Mercy, only to find it firmly closed and locked. So we stayed in the Chapel, prayed, and left WOW prayer cards.



After a lovely lunch with Kate McElwee at the pub where much WOW work has been done, we hoisted the WOW banner on the bridge, which again was a metaphor for our dialogue, but also practical as the level of security was so tight that it would have been unwise to do this nearer the Vatican. Only WOW would manage such an adventure on a day when the temperature reached thirty!

I was asked to extend my trip to Rome to be part of a New Humanity congress hosted by the Focolare movement in Castelgandolfo. A lot of the themes were of interest to me and involved education, charity work and the environment. However I was firmly told not to mention women's ordination or to go up for a blessing at Mass. Although this saddened me, I agreed.

A few days before I left, the WOW Enews came out with a prayer I had written for the Feast of the Annunciation, a day when we particularly pray for women's ordination. Knowing I am part of this worldwide movement gave me encouragement and I prayed I would have the chance to mention CWO and WOW.

By the second day of having to sit in my place as everyone else in the eight-hundred strong conference went up for Communion, it was a struggle, and I asked the Holy Spirit to give me an opportunity. Over tea that evening, one of the Irish delegates asked me what I knew of Mary McAleese. I took my chance and spoke of how she welcomed us to Dublin at WOW 2001. "But you can't mean Catholic women's ordination?" was the firm reply. "No discussion can happen".

I remembered Aquinas' words about Primacy of conscience and we continued the discussion. Gradually more people joined in and I suspected some agreed with me, though in that context no one would dare agree.

As I prayed that night, the image that came to mind was the following: a stream of living water was pushing against an old dam, and was starting to drip over the top, and push through holes in the creaky dam. Clerics in Roman garb rushed to plug the holes with their fingers, but it was too late, the living water was on the move!

I believe it is on the move in the Vatican: slowly, but those drips of living water will give life, and the Curia can't plug the dam for ever!

# WITNESS TIME - COME AND JOIN US!



**Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving**  
June 20

ARCHDIOCESE  
of CARDIFF  
1916-2016



Cardiff Archdiocese is celebrating its centenary on Monday, 20th June.  
**Wales & South-West CWO** think we should be there with our banners,  
to invite them to invite us in too....



**Come and join us! The more the merrier!**

We can manage some beds and hospitality between us, and we'd love to see you in sunny Wales.

Contact Amanda, Ruth, Anna or Mary of WSW Group directly, or for more information and details drop an email to:

[news@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk](mailto:news@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk)



# AGM 2016

**Saturday, 1st October, 11am - 5pm**

## **St Bede's Pastoral Centre**

21 Blossom St,  
York  
YO24 1AQ  
(5 minutes from York Station)



St. Bede's Centre is right next door to the Bar Convent, which is England's oldest living convent. It has just been refurbished, and has an amazing exhibition about the founder of the Congregation of Jesus, Mary Ward.

Mary, a feisty and determined woman, wrote in 1617, "I hope in God that it will be seen that women in time to come will do much."



Born in a time of much religious conflict, Mary's determination that her nuns should be as active and effective as their male Jesuit counterparts, her travels around Europe on foot and in great poverty founding schools and her work with the poor, sick and imprisoned, make it no wonder that Benedict XVI set her on the path to sainthood.



We will have time to explore the beautiful chapel and exhibition on her life as part of our Annual Gathering, for which we shall be in the competent and knowledgeable hands of St Patricia Harriss, CJ .

## SAVE THE DATE NOW!

### *El Orden Sacerdotal*

We continue our series of summarizing in English a little book in Spanish by German Benedictine monk Anselm Grün entitled 'The sacerdotal order' (*El Orden Sacerdotal*, 2002, Madrid, San Pablo, German original 'Die Weihe'). This month, Séverine Deneulin (Bath) summarizes pp. 25-29 on 'The ritual of ordination'.



In Acts, we read the story of the apostles laying their hands and praying over the seven chosen for the service of the table. In this we find the origin of ordination. The bishop and priests lay their hands on the ones chosen to serve the Church, and ask the help of the Holy Spirit in that task. These are the two pillars of the episcopal, sacerdotal and diaconal ordination. With time, other elements were introduced.

The ritual of ordination always takes place in the context of the Eucharist and starts with the presentation of the candidates to the bishop: a priest presents them and informs the bishop that the community has been consulted about the suitability of the candidates and that none of those in charge of their formation has any objection to them going forward. After the liturgy of the Word, the candidates solemnly promise, in the presence of the community and the bishop, that they will carry out their office to the best of their abilities, as a service to the Church and in obedience to the bishop. The candidates then put their hands in those of the bishop as a symbol of putting themselves in the hands of God.

*Prostration:* The bishop invites the community to pray, and the candidates to prostrate themselves, as a sign of their total dedication to God and an acknowledgment of their weaknesses and humanity. The candidates are not ordained because of their merit but because God has called them in their weakness. While they lay face on the ground, the community sings the litany of the saints.

*Laying of hands in silence:* The bishop lays his hands on the heads of each candidate and prays in silence that the Holy Spirit penetrates them, transforms them and enables them for their mission. All the priests, young and old, then do the same. Each will remember in this particular moment how they live their own consecration, the difficulties and the joys of the ministry. Each prays in silence over each candidate. No words are said. All priests present communicate in silence the strength of the Holy Spirit. Ordination is not a matter of human capacity but of the doing of the Holy Spirit.

*Consecration prayer:* The bishop then says the prayer in which the most important functions of the priests are highlighted: to collaborate with the bishop, to teach the faith and proclaim the Word of God. The prayer is inspired from the first letter to Timothy: that they maintain firm what they have received, that they transmit faithfully the treasure they have received in the good news of Jesus. The author of 1 Tim then exhorts ministers to live in coherence with their ministry.

*Anointing of hands:* After receiving their priestly albs, the bishop anoints their hands. Anointing is always a sign of the gift of the spirit. The prayer of the bishop is that the Holy Spirit strengthens the priests in their mission, as it is these hands that will bless, and through which the love of God will be manifested. All sacraments require bodily contact. The anointing is also a sign that is the Holy Spirit who pours out Her gifts in empty hands, so that through them, through the hands of the priests, Jesus can go towards people.



## Women's Celtic Spirituality weekend

Praying the Keelils Week happens every year in the Isle of Man.

This year is no exception from the 21st May-24th May walks and talks will happen daily across the island.

This year, as part of that week, I was asked to develop a weekend for women to look at Celtic Spirituality. After talking to a number of women a mixture of creative and reflective practice seemed to be in order.

The following programme is designed to enable participants to experience Manx Celtic culture through walking on the land, worshipping and praying in ancient sites and connecting with ancestors. Creative and reflective time will be guided to ensure maximum exposure to many of the thin places found on this beautiful island.

There will be no formal cost for the workshops but donations will be welcome to cover expenses.

Friday 20th May- arrive by boat from Liverpool. Lifts arranged to accommodation.

5pm-6.30pm- Story telling/poetry writing

6.30pm-8.30pm Food and prayer

8pm-9pm Drumming the Sunset

9pm return to accommodation

**AN INVITATION**  
from Cathi Wareing:  
[CatherineWareing@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:CatherineWareing@hotmail.co.uk)

## Women's Celtic Spirituality weekend

**Sat 21st May- 10am** Connect with the Praying the Keelils programme with a full day 10 mile walk or a half day 5 mile shorter walk

**6pm -Food and Prayer in St Marks**

**7.30-9pm** Creative Celtic writing and Illustration.

**Sunday 22nd**

**7.30am** Sunrise drumming + breakfast

**10am** Worship

**2pm** Connect with Praying the Keelils programme

**6pm-8.30pm** Food and prayer (local restaurant)

**8.30pm -9pm** Seaside walk and Ice Cream/pup

**9.30** return to accommodation

**Monday 23rd May**

**Return to Liverpool on the morning sailing**

**Changes to program subject to group discussion.**

**Lifts available.**

## NEWS, VIEWS, ACTIONS...



**HURRY OVER to CCRI**, if you'd like to sign the petition calling for the reinstatement of Prof. Hans Küng as a Catholic Theologian - *before* he dies. For a change!

<http://www.catholicchurchreform.org/216/index.php/get-involved/letters-to-the-pope/118-petition-to-reinstate-hans-kueng>



Dear Mary

Our final Faithtrack seminar takes place on Saturday 23 April at Mowbray Community Church HG1 5AT with breakfast served from 9.30 a.m.

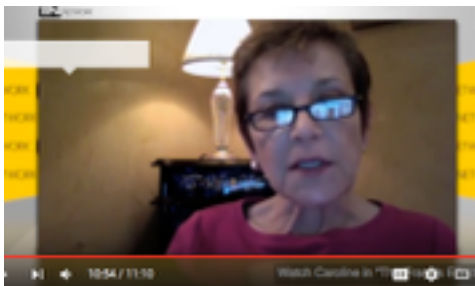
Our programme for 2016-7 is now complete and a summary can be downloaded

here [https://gallery.mailchimp.com/93945438dbd616a33b6954701/files/2016\\_7\\_programme\\_summary.pdf](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/93945438dbd616a33b6954701/files/2016_7_programme_summary.pdf)

Full details of topics and speakers will be available on our website [www.hstm.org](http://www.hstm.org)

We look forward to seeing you next Saturday or for the start of our new programme in September.

Tim Hurren and the HSTM team



**Caroline Myss** speaks to the IN Network on Pope Francis, the Catholic Church, and the need for change.

Forthright and feisty, she pulls no punches about the effect on the people of the priestly abuse scandals, the Church's overweening focus on sexuality, and its complete failure to see women as equal human beings.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=vamklbNmFZ8&app=desktop>

# CONGRATULATIONS! to our own PIPPA BONNER, for her letter to the Tablet on Amoris Laetitia:

## RESPONDING TO FRANCIS' EXHORTATION, 14 April 2016 |

In his apostolic exhortation on the family, Amoris Laetitia, Pope Francis refers to the "internal forum" for divorced and remarried Catholics as "a renewed encouragement to undertake a responsible personal and pastoral discernment" with an examination of conscience, accompanied by a priest.

As someone who has had experience of the internal forum – after my divorce my first marriage was annulled but my second marriage was to a man who was divorced, so I was stuck in an canonical cul-de-sac – I can say that for me it was a pastoral, graced experience which meant I could keep receiving Communion. My husband later became a Catholic, and had his first marriage annulled, so in the end we were able to have a Nuptial Mass.

Lay people were active before each of the two Synods of the Family, through participation in parish discussion groups, completing official questionnaires and communicating directly with their bishops about family issues. Pope Francis is now asking for our continued participation. I hope that lay people, priests, Religious and bishops will take up his call, and respond to this pastoral document with discernment and collegial action, and work together to create a pastoral way forward in our local churches, in a collaboration that is sensitive to different cultures and needs, but will benefit families around the world.

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### AMORIS LAETITIA

<http://us4.campaign->

[archive1.com/?u=cda7f2b79e89b4093f2f6a733&id=eeb7956621&e=9ad3801fa6](http://archive1.com/?u=cda7f2b79e89b4093f2f6a733&id=eeb7956621&e=9ad3801fa6)

It is a pity that Pope Francis could not go further and adjust the outdated rules and 'doctrines' on sexual morality.


On the other hand, "The Joy of Love" is a great step forward. With the backing of the Synod Pope Francis has now officially acknowledged what many bishops, priests and theologians had already put into pastoral practice.

The point is simply this: whatever theoretical rules say, in the complex realities of each individual's life, one's own personal conscience comes first. Its decisions ultimately count. What conscience says is, ultimately, the subjective voice of God for that person.

But much still remains to be done.

John Wijngaards

## WIJNGAARDS INSTITUTE FOR CATHOLIC RESEARCH



"If you want to be happy,  
practice compassion.  
If you want others to be happy,  
practice compassion."

His Holiness the Dalai Lama







# BRITAIN AND IRELAND SCHOOL OF FEMINIST THEOLOGY

SUMMER SCHOOL 2016

Tuesday 26th July to Friday 29th 2016

At University of Winchester, Sparkford Road, Winchester SO22 4NR

## Towards Abundant Life in the 21<sup>ST</sup> Century: Feminist Reflections

Speakers to include: Dr Mary Condren (Eire), Sr Patricia Santos (India), Rabbi Eli Sarah [UK] and Dr Anne-Clare Mulder (Netherland)

Cost : £370 inclusive of B&B, evening meal, teas and coffees throughout the day and conference fee.

Daily Rates: Full days £65 including lunch; Half Days £40

**Early Bird Booking before 1<sup>st</sup> May £350**

*If you offer a seminar paper there is a £50 fee discount for full board participants and £10 fee discount for daily participants. All papers will be considered for publication in the international journal 'Feminist Theology'.*

For further information contact: Professor Lisa Isherwood  
<mailto:lisa.isherwood@winchester.ac.uk>

BISFT will be followed on 29<sup>th</sup> July-31<sup>st</sup> July by a University Conference 'Is Heaven for Real?' which examines the significance of near death experiences. The speakers are drawn from science, medicine and theology.

For further information please go to [www.winchester.ac.uk/ITP](http://www.winchester.ac.uk/ITP)

## Websites

<http://womensordinationworldwide.org/>

Women's ordination worldwide CWO is member

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

US organisation supporting women's ordination

[www.wijngaardsinstitute.org](http://www.wijngaardsinstitute.org)

All previous housetop websites can be reached via this address

<http://82.70.116.125/index.html>

Women Word Spirit

<http://womenandthechurch.org/>

Campaign for women's equality in Church of England

<http://wearechurchireland.ie/>

Concerned Irish Catholics committed to the renewal of the Roman Catholic Church on the basis of Vatican II and the theological spirit developed from it. Affiliated to International Movement We are Church (IMWAC)

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

A global network seeking renewal of the Church

<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

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

Catholics for a Changing Church

<http://lgcm.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://christianfeministnetwork.com/>

Christian Feminist Network - exploring faith and feminism

<http://www.spirituschristi.org>

A truly inclusive Catholic Church

<http://www.stcuthbertshouse.co.uk/Easter2015/>

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

## CWO SAINTS

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



## 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.



## CWO MERCHANDISE

These items are great way to advertise CWO without costing you very much. I often see people in my rear view mirror admiring the wit of my car sticker!

You can leave the pens lying around in places where it might be difficult to leave a CWO leaflet. The badges attract a lot of attention with the slogan based on the letters of ROME. We now have mugs which as well as being practical are a good way of advertising CWO. You might like to send one to your bishop!

orders up to £10	4.00
orders £10 - 20	6.00
orders over £20	Free

Biro - CWO logo, website and phone no	Purple with silver lettering Black ink		0.80	
CWO rectangular badge	Purple with white lettering <b>Renewed Ordained Ministry for Everyone</b>		Free (except please add postage £2)	
<b>NEW!!!</b> Mug CWO logo website "CWO's my cup of tea"	Purple on white Buy for your office, church tea room, meeting room		4.50 each 3 for £12 10 for £35	
P & P *see below				
Donation (optional)				

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

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Delivery address

Post code

Contact email or telephone number

Send completed form to: [info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk](mailto:info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk) for how to pay.

AND BY NO MEANS LEAST...

## AWAKENING Catholic Women's Ordination from the Public Square,

by Myra Poole and Pippa Bonner.

£10.00 post free, from [info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk](mailto:info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk)

Now, who can you give a copy to this month?

Your friend, your Mum, your PP, your Bishop?

