



CWO

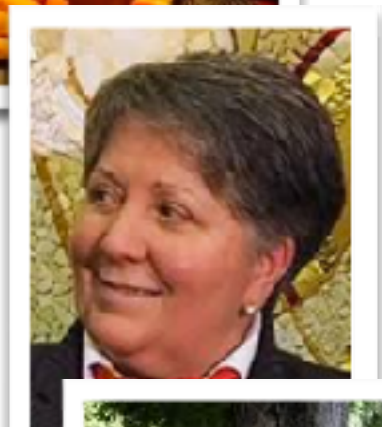
A leading voice for women in the R C Church

eNews

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Issue 109

A BUSY MONTH!



in this issue

APRIL

	PAGE
CWO / WOC - VOCATIONS SUNDAY - WORLDWIDE	3 - 4
JESUS' FEMALE DISCIPLES - TWO MEMBERS REVIEWS	5
IN BRIEF	6
THREE WOMEN APPOINTED TO CDF. HOORAY!	7
CWO SAINTS, PRAYER AND MERCHANDISE	8 - 10



Pat Marrin

Is anyone listening? Dr Mary McAleese asked in her historic exposition on Why Women Matter last month in Rome.

Perhaps. Possibly. On p7 we welcome the three women appointed to the CDF by Pope Francis this month. More tokenism?

But **the grassroots have ears**. We heard some key thoughts from them as we stood on the cathedral piazzas with our banners on Vocations Sunday. See pages 3 and 4.

Be of good heart! Keep spreading the word!

MARY RING, EDITOR

news@catholic-womens-ordination.co.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/CatholicWomensOrdination/>

<http://catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk/>

VOCATIONS SUNDAY WORLDWIDE



Prayer vigils for women's ordination in a renewed priesthood were held in **Ireland, USA, Poland, London and Clifton, Bristol**, amongst others.



AND IN WESTMINSTER AND CLIFTON, BRISTOL

what we heard on the piazzas...

How wonderful!
My mother-in-law
who is 102 would be so
proud of you!

Marvellous!

Totally
inappropriate!



You're brave!

You're doing it all wrong!
It has to be
deacons first.

Thank you!
Thank you so much!

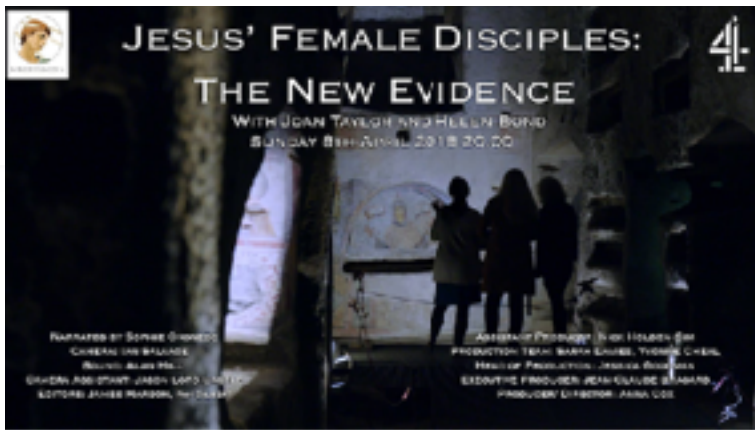
I was brought up a
Catholic, but I don't go
now. I just had to come
across to thank you
guys.

My husband told me
you were here, so I ran
all the way to catch
you before you left.

What can I do?
Who can I write to?



I used to be a Catholic.
I can't believe I'm seeing
you! .. I'm sorry, I just
can't help crying....



JESUS' FEMALE DISCIPLES

The place to find in-depth but readable material on Mary Magdalen (and the whole issue of the ordained ministry of women), is in the on line collection of the Wijngaards Institute of Catholic Research, website www.womenpriests.org. It is worth honing up on this as talking about the injustice towards Mary Magdalen can help one to move on to other related issues about women and the church with people who have never really thought about it.

With many thanks to Ianthe Pratt

Two recent television programmes have dealt with the women around Jesus. The most recent one was "Jesus's female followers," which, whilst providing some very interesting information and pictures, including 3rd century women bishops, seemed in some of the programme to concentrate on unimportant detail. While correctly speaking of Mary Magdalen as having been cured of seven devils (mental illness) no further mention was made of the centuries of lascivious portraiture in word and picture of her as whore.

Instead we had quite a lot of questioning about which Magdala was referred to and was MM seen as a tower. The two presenters were not identified as academics until well on in the programme and when biblical passages were referred to, no reference numbers were given. One gets the impression that those responsible for the production wanted to play down the academic respectability of the programme and it was certainly annoying to those who wanted to follow up on the quotations. One suggestion was that the Greek word for sending the animals in pairs, male and female, into the Arc was the same used for sending out the apostles and the suggestion was that these were married couples but evidence is other wise. Women were among the 72 but not as married couples?

The BBC programme a couple of weeks earlier largely concentrated on Mary Magdalen and gave full weight to the centuries of lecherous portrayal of her in word and painting. I have a copy of the South African theologian and artist Dina Cormick's MA thesis (The visual portrayal of Mary Magdalen: a case study in feminist ethical issues). This thesis, while showing many pictures of Mary Magdalen typically with bible in one hand and a sexy lolloping bare breast on the other side, also showed many medieval manuscripts with Mary as teacher or preacher. This BBC programme made no mention of this aspect of her history.

And many thanks also to Sue Williamson, who also writes for us:

I did find this programme very interesting and scholarly. The images that remain with me, however, are that of the female bishop in the caves of St. Cerula(?) This bishop had the books of the four evangelists around her head which was an indication that she was a bishop. Also, there were tongues of fire coming out of these gospels indicating that this woman bishop would have been inspired by the Holy Spirit. The church then was obviously a much more spirit-led and egalitarian church than we have now.

The other particular image which stayed with me was the appearance of the women around Jesus on top of St. Peter's standing between the male apostles. This was such a relief to see, even if currently it is in the virtual world. Nevertheless, some of the early Christian mosaics also showed the women disciples alongside the male disciples and on equal terms, unlike the diminishing figures of the women in the sculptures of the Raising of Lazarus.

Recently, I have observed two significant Anglican women clerics on television. One is the Dean of Bangor Cathedral who gave such a lovely blessing at the end of 'Songs of Praise' recently. It was such an immense relief to hear a female voice after the constant procession of male voices. Also, this week there was a woman vicar from a parish in Woking. She had a very tasteful pink shirt on under her dog-collar, but more importantly, she had been very involved in raising concerns over one of her parishioners who is part of the 'Windrush' generation and who had been persecuted by the Home Office. Both of these women were very impressive examples of what women can offer if they are ordained.

IN BRIEF

WIJNGAARDS INSTITUTE FOR CATHOLIC RESEARCH



Following lanthe's highlighting of the sterling work done by the **Wijngaards Institute**, let's remember that they deserve our practical support as well.

"The Vatican has vast resources dedicated to reinforcing its disputed teaching, yet Wijngaards is a private educational charity relying solely on donations

from friends and readers. This means we can be independent, but we also have to ask for help, for **sponsors and volunteers**.

Thank you to CWO and all your members and readers for your support over the years."

Miriam Duignan, Communications Director

**if 1,000 readers
could give
£5 a month,
Wijngaards' future
would
be safe**

[http://
www.wijngaardsinstitute.
com/donations/](http://www.wijngaardsinstitute.com/donations/)



<http://questlgbti.uk/conferences/quest-annual-conference-2018/>

<https://questgaycatholic.wufoo.eu/forms/pkbakqi0xp0jiq/>

WOMEN APPOINTED TO CDF

18 April, 2018

“

This morning's appointments mark the first time ever that women or laity have been appointed as consultants to the C.D.F., the oldest and most powerful of the nine Vatican congregations.



L'Osservatore Romano



CWO congratulates

Dr. Linda Ghisoni, undersecretary for “the section for the lay faithful” in the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life;

Prof. Michelina Tenace, who teaches theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome; and

Prof. Laetitia Calmeyn, who teaches theology at the Collège des Bernardins, Paris

on their historic appointment, and looks forward to a new spirit of respect for women's voices in the Vatican.

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
Anne Hepburn
Peter Nelson
Stanley Baxter
David Konstant
Eileen Sikorski

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.

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!

		how many	unit cost	total
Biro - CWO logo, website and phone no	Purple with silver lettering Black ink		0.80	
Car sticker CWO logo website and phone number	Purple on cream		1.50	
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				
Name				
Delivery address				
Post code				
Contact email or telephone number				
Send to Pat Brown, 4 West Park Gardens, Leeds, LS8 2HD				

***Postage and packing**

orders up to £10	3.00
orders £10 - 20	5.00
orders over £20	free

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

address as above for CWO Merchandise

