



eNews

**CWO**

May 2017 Issue 101

**A leading voice for women in the R C Church**

# PROF. URSULA KING



**CWO GENERAL MEETING**  
ST NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINO, BRISTOL  
30TH SEPT, 2017

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**We've much to look forward to** in this issue. Most importantly, put **Saturday 30th Sept** in your diaries now, if you haven't already, and come along to hear our internationally eminent speaker **Ursula King** in Bristol at our General Meeting.

Those near Wales may be able to join in the celebrations for the new Church in Wales Bishop of Llandaff, June Osborne, in July.

And finally, those of us who've been following Broken and cheered when Sean Bean spoke up for women from the altar steps, await the final episode with anticipation. Fr Michael Kerrigan carries the woes of the world - will he be able to bear them?

MARY RING, EDITOR

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**CWO**

**A leading voice for women in the R C Church**

GUEST SPEAKER

PROF. **URSULA KING**



**ANNUAL GATHERING**

ST NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINO, BRISTOL

2 PM SAT. 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPT, 2017

**All welcome!**

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

**CWO AGM and lunch: 10.30 for 11**

We are fortunate to have Prof. Emerita King with us.



Ursula King, STL (Paris), MA (Delhi) PhD (London), FRSA, is Professor Emerita of Theology and Religious Studies and Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies, University of Bristol.

Educated in Germany, France, India and England, she has lectured all over the world and published numerous books and articles, especially on gender issues in religions, method and theory in the study of religions, modern Hinduism, interfaith dialogue, spirituality, and on the French thinker, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. She was a key speaker at WOW 2015 in Philadelphia.

MORE DETAILS NEXT ISSUE!



# HOW TO GET TO THE AG? WHERE TO STAY?



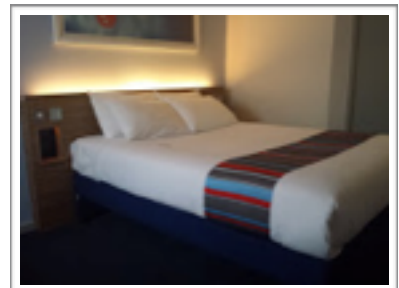
## LOOK OUT FOR

walking directions from Bristol Temple Meads Station in our next issue.  
Or let us know if you'll need a lift from the station.

Happy to help!

**WALES AND SOUTH-WEST members are fairly scattered**, but we can offer some beds for those who don't mind a bit of a drive on the day. Please email [news@catholic-womens-ordination.co.uk](mailto:news@catholic-womens-ordination.co.uk).

Bristol's B&Bs are also worth a google, and the Ibis and Travelodge within a short walk of Temple Meads Station can offer some good deals.



**All members** at the AG will get one of our beautiful new badges! If you can't be there, write to Pat Brown (address p12) with £1 p&p, and she will send you one.

# ANYBODY LISTENING?



**Jimmy McGovern's** character Fr. Michael Kerrigan spoke words that resonated with many CWO members - and the wider public - in his 6-part BBC drama, **Broken**.

*"I think I understand why our church is so upset against women priests," Father Michael told his sparse parish. "I think it's the old men who run the church don't want to see menstrual blood on the altar. Fear of. Ignorance of. Contempt of the bodies of women.*

*"Ah, it's alright', you might say, 'these old men will soon be dead'. But they've taught younger men. And those younger men will, in turn, teach younger men. And so it will continue, this 'fear of. Ignorance of. Contempt for the bodies of women.*

*"Female priests. Female bishops. Female pope. That's what our church needs."* Episode 3.



**The Twittersphere agreed:**



**GWStenby** @gwstenbygrbark

13 Jun

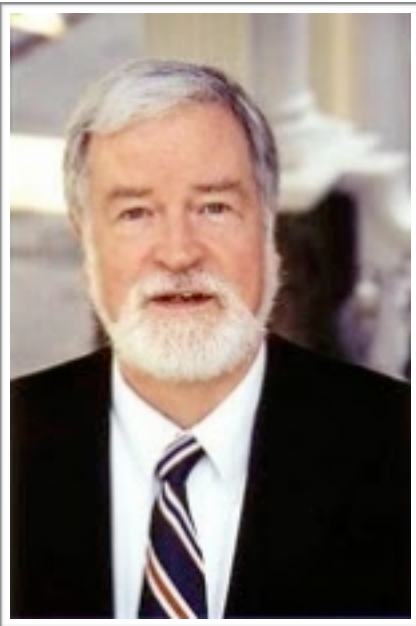
Watching #Broken on #BBC brilliant brilliant opening, "women priests, women bishops, woman Pope, that's what this Church needs!"

# LETTER FROM JOHN J SHEA, OSA, TO POPE FRANCIS

*eNews had no space to print this in Lent, and is glad to do so now. Augustinian priest John J Shea stepped aside from active ministry until women are ordained. He has received 'canonical warnings' and 'punishment' threats for his stance.*

Dear Pope Francis,

February, 2017



I hope you are well and that you are allowed to receive this letter. I pray for you and I am inspired by your obvious concern for the poor and the environment.

Enclosed again are two letters about the ordination of women: the first is sent to each member of the Council of Cardinals with whom you are meeting; the second is a letter for background that I mailed to all the ordinaries of the United States at the beginning of Lent in 2014.

When you talk about the need for honest dialogue on the issues that we face as a church, I am somewhat heartened. You keep insisting: “dialogue, dialogue, dialogue.” In fact, you say: “dialogue fearlessly.”

Unfortunately, however, there is not now, nor has there ever been, any fearless—let alone gender inclusive—dialogue on the ordination of women, although this is arguably the most crucial issue in the church.

Can the sea-changing collaboration of bishops and theologians at the time of Vatican II serve as a model for what needs to happen today? Can you empower that kind of thoroughgoing synod-like collaboration as part of your concern for honest dialogue in the church?

How can our church become whole if women are “not fully in the likeness of Jesus”? Not to address the body-and-soul wholeness of women—to leave this wholeness ignored, denigrated, and denied—is a missing-the-mark scandal that continues to disgrace our church.

Is it wrong to hope in anticipation of Lent that the archaic structures of the church—clung to so fiercely as unchangeable yet skewed so inordinately in patriarchal privilege—can be seriously addressed?

Pope Francis, will the day come when the church’s recognition of women rivals the mercy that is the cornerstone of your papacy?

Sincerely,

John J. Shea, O.S.A.

Copy: Members of the Council of Cardinals

# LETTERS TO CWO

*Thanks to the Director of the National Office for Vocation for his courteous response to our letter. I must make clear that I have known Fr. Christopher in a personal capacity for many years, (and have added his picture, below.) I look forward to replying, and welcome thoughts from readers. Ed.*



10<sup>th</sup> May 2017

*Dear Mary,*

Thank you for your letter of 25<sup>th</sup> March headed Vocations Sunday. Your letter outlines the views of 'Catholic Women's Ordination' on the Church's criteria for selecting candidates for ordination. You offer a number of observations that you believe should cause a change to the criterion of gender: the number of candidates who fit the current criteria; the competence of women in running church organisations; the perception of society that the current criteria are weird. These observations, however, do not lead inevitably to the necessity to remove the criterion of gender.

Pope Francis wishes women to take more senior roles in the leadership of the Church and he has appointed a commission to study the possibility of women deacons. In addition, he has also indicated that he is open to the ordination of more married men. So there is movement in the Church around the criteria for ordination and about the role of women. Let's all pray that the Holy Spirit will guide the Church into making wise choices on these matters.

May this Easter season bring many blessings to you and your family.

Yours sincerely,

*Christopher*

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*The Catholic Trust for England and Wales is a Registered Charity no. 1097482*



# LINKS



CCRI expresses its concern about the Vatican's online Questionnaire for Young People, listing 8 important missing topics.

<http://www.catholicchurchreform.org/216/>



\* \* \* \* \*



<https://www.ncronline.org/news/people/new-swedish-cardinal-suggests-high-level-advisory-group-women>

Joshua McElwee reports for the NCR that Stockholm Cardinal Anders Arborelius, one of Pope Francis's 5 new cardinals, said, "The role of women is very, very important in society, in economics, but in the church sometimes we are a bit behind... Maybe it could be made more official," he suggested, adding: "We have a College of Cardinals, but we could have a college of women who could give

advice to the pope."

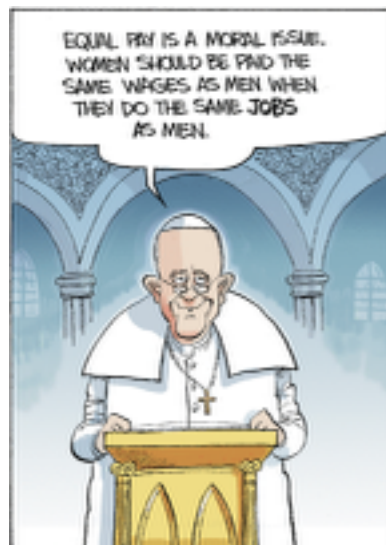
\* \* \* \* \*

And in the Tablet, His Holiness is thinking along similar lines at the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue:  
<http://www.thetablet.co.uk/news/7263/0/uphold-a-woman-s-right-to-contribute-fully-to-society-pope-says>



"Women are fully entitled to actively take part in all settings, and their rights must be affirmed and protected, including through legal instruments wherever it may prove necessary," he said.

\* \* \* \* \*



*Cartoon by [unreadable] www.papalunch.com*

# FROM OUR MEMBERS

## Some sources of hope

During the Sunday morning service nearly two weeks ago now, Elaine Storkey, formerly of Tearfund speaking at Emmanuel church, Didsbury, gave an outstanding sermon on the transformation of suffering in very scriptural terms. What emerged from it is what we can hope for. This was especially relevant in the week that followed with the terrible human tragedy in Grenfell Tower. Given the events of that week, I found it particularly sad that the service from the RC Cathedral in Cardiff this last Sunday was so uninspiring, with no women's voices to be heard.



It was then with great relief that I took someone to a local church where I have been attending a very interesting scripture course. As it was the feast of Corpus Christi, the parish priest, who always leads Mass with all the children sitting around a simple table, pulled out of a large basket a pink flamingo puppet which squawked hilariously. We learnt that flamingos are green when born, but turn pink because of eating prawns. The main point of this was that 'You are what you eat' which was totally relevant with the regard to the Eucharist. The children got it, as did the adults. This priest is also very supportive of women's ordination. Long may he speak out.

Also, the third episode of 'Broken' last week contained a very strong call for women's ministry from the mouth of the anguished priest, played by Sean Bean. Thank you, Jimmy McGovern, for such inspiring writing.

Let us find some more sources of hope for what women can bring to ministry.

**Sue Williamson**

**CORCP: Children of Roman Catholic Priests.** Although this is not our usual concern, we have been approached about a serious and confidential PhD research project being conducted concerning the children of practising Catholic priests (not widowers or Anglican converts). Please visit the website, <https://corcpresearch.com/> or pass it on to anyone whom it may interest.

## BISHOP-ELECT JUNE OSBORNE



*The Dean of Salisbury will be consecrated as the new Bishop of Llandaff, the leader of the Church in Wales, on 15th July, and installed on 22nd July at Llandaff Cathedral. She has a track record of ecumenism, as our member **Pamela Perry** wrote in 2015 of their Corpus Christi celebration:*



Not only was it the first time that Catholics had processed in Salisbury since the 16<sup>th</sup> century, but also the Very Reverend June Osborne, Dean of Salisbury Cathedral, processed alongside the Catholic priests. She was placed beside the altar and warmly welcomed by Canon Michael Fitzpatrick and Bishop Declan Lang, which produced a huge round of applause from the congregation.

**We offer Bishop-Elect June our warmest congratulations!**

## 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

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)				
<b><u>PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY</u></b>				
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](mailto:info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk)

address as above for CWO Merchandise

