



CWO

Feb - March 2019

eNews

Issue 115

A leading voice for women in the R C Church

AFFILIATION TO



PARISHIONERS' CALL

for Shared Ministry

GOING FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH!



PARISHIONERS'
CALL

in this issue

FEB - MARCH 2019

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CWO moving to bi-monthly issues, every two months, and these have been eventful months.

* Please join us in worldwide prayer for women's ordination on **Monday, 25th March**, p3

* in welcoming **Parishioners' Call** as a sister-organisation, p4

* and welcoming also **Dr Ally Kateusz** at our **Annual Gathering on 5th Oct** to explain her amazing work in art, deciphering women's true place in the early Church, p5.



*Sr. Veronica Openibo,
telling it like it is
at the Summit in February*

Finally, let's pray for Pope Francis's understanding, along with his mercy and peacefulness, "because in the end every feminism ends up being a machismo with a skirt," he said, at the close of the Summit on 22nd Feb.... Let's pray that Popes, most of all, may learn.

Mary Ring,
Editor

news@catholic-womens-ordination.co.uk

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

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

<https://twitter.com/CWOcampaign>



World Day of Prayer for Women's Ordination

25 March 2019

Voices Raised in Hope

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR
WOMEN'S ORDINATION

A call-in prayer experience
Monday, March 25
2 p.m. EST / 6 p.m. GMT



E-mail klacz@womensordination.org
for call-in information

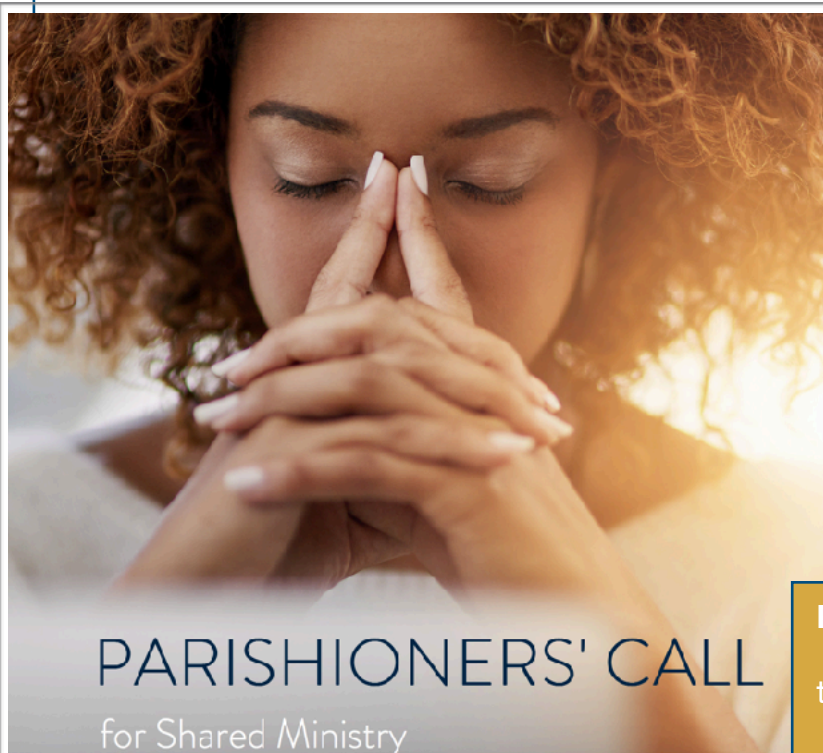
Women's Ordination
Worldwide

1. Email:
klacz@womensordination.org,
as above for call-in info,
or click on blue link on right for
the prayers

[Women's Ordination
Worldwide
Liturgy Resources](#)

2. Dial-in code:
0330 998 1259
Access code 279726
(local call from mobile, slightly
more from landline)

WELCOME TO



PARISHIONERS' CALL
for Shared Ministry

OUR NEWLY AFFILIATED SISTER- ORGANISATION

Parishioners' Call is a movement of lay Catholics calling for the Church to test the vocations of all who feel themselves called to ordained ministry, whether female or male, married, single, or celibate.

PC calls for, and offers guidance on, creating safe spaces where ordinary lay Catholics, who form 99% of the Church's people, can openly discuss new and enriching ways of sharing God's Word.

"As majority shareholders in the Roman Catholic institution, we lay people are co-responsible for its credibility and effectiveness in sharing this Word. The Church is in crisis; we must step forwards and take up our duty to call for change and growth."



Pamela Perry, CWO NatCog member and founder of Parishioners' Call, says, "CWO and Parishioners' Call are **two sides of the same coin**. Whilst CWO campaigns primarily on behalf of Catholic women **called to** ordained ministry, Parishioners' Call is a grassroots campaign for people to be **able to be ministered to** by women. It is healthy and healing to be ministered to by ordained women as well as men, married, single or celibate. We believe in shared ministry."

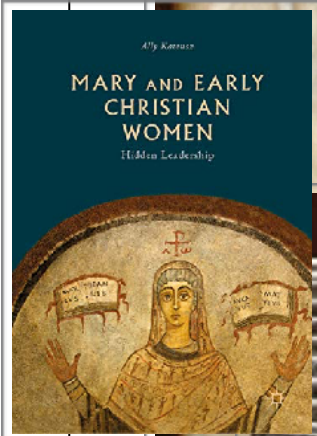
Pam, who played a significant organising role in the successful Drop the Debt Jubilee 2000 campaign, sees a similar opportunity now for us to call globally for the re-imagining of our priesthood.

Please visit CWO's exciting new affiliation & get in touch!

<https://www.parishionerscall.com>



CWO ANNUAL GATHERING ALLY KATEUSZ



CWO are **delighted** to welcome

Dr. Ally Kateusz

The Priory Rooms, Birmingham, B4 6AF

Sat 5th Oct, 2019

CWO A.G.M. 10.30 - 13.00

Lunch and Speaker 13.00 - 16.30

VOCATIONS SUNDAY PRAYER VIGIL 12TH MAY JOIN US FOR CHANGE!



WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL
pat@patbrown-at.co.uk

Please email Pat if you can join us
in London

10.00 - 12.30

CLIFTON CATHEDRAL
news@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk

and please email Mary Ring, as above, if
you can join us in Bristol

10.00 - 12.30

women word spirit

Annual Gather



Women, Word and Spirit

are hosting an **Annual Gather**

on Saturday 30th March at St. Andrew's Church, Short St, SE1 8LJ (off The Cut).

This day will run from 11.-3.30 . It will include a shared lunch and a participative liturgy. We come together especially to honour and remember **Veronica Seddon** who died recently and who was one of the founding mothers of what was Catholic Women's Network which eventually became Women Word and Spirit. Veronica was also present at the founding of CWO. Some CWO members are also members of Women ,Word and Spirit .

From WWS many of us have learnt real skills in creating meaningful and participative liturgies. We welcome any CWO members who would like to join us at the Annual Gather, but would be grateful if you could email Sue Williamson if you are thinking of coming so that we have some idea of numbers.

Sue's email address is suemacliammor33@gmail.com. The day is free but we do have to pay for the use of the hall so any donations would be welcome.

(and please see Obituary, p 11) **Veronica Seddon, RIP**



FR DANIEL O'LEARY R.I.P.

Donal O'Leary was an inspiring, lively and compassionate priest.



He actually changed the direction of my life and in a tiny way I supported him in one significant moment which he always remembered. In the 1990s I had attended a formal Leeds Diocesan Assembly at which this priest Father

Daniel O'Leary spoke about an idea he wanted to offer the Diocese. It was a programme called Vision 2000 which was about encouraging Catholics in parishes to look at Celtic spirituality, discovering a creative, exploratory, empowering spirituality of the heart. In the coffee break, amidst priests and people I didn't know, I went up to him, a stranger, with trepidation, but instinctively to say I thought this was a great idea..

After that we became friends and sometimes in later years he reminded me of this. He told me it was significant what the first person's reaction was after offering an important idea. Bless him. I hadn't realised how vulnerable he had felt suggesting this big, brave idea, this vision, in front of his priest peers.

This happened at a time when I was struggling with a lot on my plate and I had lost a lot of confidence. I went to Vision 2000 at Garforth. Later he was encouraging and supportive when I started to think about studying theology and questioning the role of women in the institutional church. He was a friend to me and many women and men who were traveling the tough, complex journey of faith. He worked worldwide, and his retreats, books, articles

and reflections were well known. He had taught at St Mary's, London and came to the Diocese of Leeds to be the Episcopal Vicar for Christian Formation. Before he retired to Blundellsands in recent years, he had been a much loved, dynamic, although at times controversial, pastoral parish priest in the Diocese. He regularly came to my parish and others, to speak at days of reflection: encouraging people freely to explore their faith. In Garforth and Ripon he built up collaborative, lively parishes and others were invited to join their exploratory, empowering study days. Many of us went.

I am aware he received a lot of flak from some bishops and priests for his writings and he did a lot of challenging work with them. I can imagine his exploratory, questioning, articulate style, grounded in Celtic spirituality, and a prophetic voice, sometimes will have clashed with the Roman, hierarchical tradition of certainty around him...Despite his confident ways, he was sensitive to criticism. He was instinctively collaborative, and had a group of lay people working with him at public events who supported him, challenged him and kept him connected to the lives of the people in the pews and those who had left or felt excluded from the institutional church.

I never asked him if he would like to be on our list of CWO saints. He was publicly supportive of expanding the role of women in the Catholic Church. Although he knew I and many others were in CWO, and encouraged me to continue, I was not aware he spoke or wrote publicly supporting women as priests until more recently, and I conclude with some words from his most recent book "An Astonishing Secret".

I understand a final book is to be published in Spring. A Reflection he wrote while he was dying was published in The Tablet (next page). He was terminally ill for a few, tough months. May he rest in peace and enjoy the warmth, unconditional acceptance and energy of heaven.

"Amongst a million implications of Incarnation, the humanity of God and the femininity of God are central. The Institutional Church is slow to embrace either of these revelations concerning the utter equality of divine love for all humanity. Again and again this attitude is emphasised in the stubborn exclusion of women from any of the major orders of ordination. One can only conclude, with a certain shock, that the radical meaning of true and deep Incarnation has been neglected by the Roman Catholic Institution throughout the history of its existence." ("An Astonishing Secret" (2017), page 201.)

With many thanks to **Pippa Bonner, CWO member**

FR DANIEL O'LEARY

R.I.P. CON'T

Many of us missing Fr Daniel read his last piece for **The Tablet** with sorrow, but also the greatest of respect for his courage. In 'Coming home too soon', published posthumously, he wrote:

"I must be very careful in what I write next. I now believe, with all my heart, that compulsory celibacy is a kind of sin, an assault against God's will and nature.... the violence that it does to a priest's humanity, and the wounds that it leaves on his ministry....

Emotion was the threat; detachment was the safeguard; becoming too human was the risk; the subtle carapace of clericalism was the precaution.

Clericalism is a collective malaise which... quarantines us for life from the personal and communal expression of healing relationships, and the lovely grace of the tenderness which Pope Francis is trying to restore to the hearts of all God's people."

The Tablet, 2nd Feb, 2019



SR CATHERINE HOULIHAN, R.I.P.



Sr. Catherine Houlihan died peacefully on Saturday 23rd February in her mid-nineties. She was known to many CWO members around the UK. She was an inspirational Headteacher in a Midlands city and suffered terrible discrimination at the hands of local clergy. Later, in Bishop David Konstant's time in Leeds she was Vicar for Religious. She was responsible for bringing the Beginning Experience - a Catholic programme for bereaved, separated and divorced adults - into the UK. Some dioceses had teams who supported many people in Team Ministries to explore their loss and 'turn a corner'. The Leeds Team, with the guidance of Sr Catherine, helped many people through a difficult period in their lives, including me about thirty years ago.

Some years ago she and the Moral Theologian Kevin Kelly gave a day for CWO, UK wide, about Vatican II. Both had remained true to the reforming, optimistic spirit of Vatican II. Catherine endured many institutional clerical struggles herself but has also been a great support to women encountering rejection and dismissal of the gifts they have to offer to the church. She and Sr Mary Bernard Potter took many people on pilgrimage in the footsteps of St Paul to Cyprus, Turkey and wherever St Paul and his companions ventured, Srs Catherine and Mary B followed on a journey of prayerful pilgrimage, with scriptural, questioning exploration and companionable meals where many friendships were forged. Several CWO members went on those journeys.

Many people remember the support and encouragement she has given over the years spiritually, educationally locally, and to CWO members. Her wise counsel, knowledge, kind support, encouragement, humour, resilience in illness in recent years, and brave, prayerful example of living into older age has been an inspiration to countless people. She has empowered so many women. May she rest in peace.

With many thanks to **Pippa Bonner**, CWO member

Pat Brown remembers our second national meeting of CWO, which was in Leeds on 27 October entitled "Receiving Vatican II and us". Inspired by two excellent speakers, Fr Kevin Kelly and Sr Catherine Houlihan we developed the following prayers:

We offer our thanks for the opportunity to share our priesthood, concerns, pain and hope for the future.

We pray for courage and perseverance for ourselves and for others.

Help us to recognise the pain in those who may not share our views.

May we be Christ-like in our approach.

We offer our prayer in the Spirit of Jesus Christ, our prophet and brother.

We pray that all the people of God: women and men, lay people and clergy, enabled by silent contemplation, will listen with mind and heart and be led to compassionate and loving action.

The Church in which God delights is something in which we should dream.

May it be a community where people discover God's delight in them

May it be a place where everyone's experience forms a theological library

May the church include each one of us and be where we can contribute, to use our vision for the fulfilment of others

God gave each of us gifts; let us use them to bring about the future of the Church. Amen

Holy Spirit, we believe you are continuing the work of Vatican II here and now in us. Help us to witness and proclaim the signs of hope.

Holy Spirit, take us forward; help us to remain optimistic, knowing that unless the seed dies, your resurrection hope cannot blossom.

Read more on our CWO website page: [Whatever happened to Vatican II?](https://catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk/news-events/)

<https://catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk/news-events/>



VERONICA SEDDON, RIP



I think I met Veronica in the late 60s at the meetings of women seeking change in church and society, in relation to women. These took place at Lala Winkley's house. Veronica was very active in planning the women's conference "Called to Full Humanity" which led to the setting up of the Catholic Women's Network in which she took a leading part.

I most closely worked with her in the editing of "Making Liturgy: Creating Rituals for Worship and Life" which was published by Canterbury Press in 2001. There were 4 of us editors, Veronica and myself, Pat Pinsent and Dorothea McEwan and we worked together most harmoniously. There were two parts to the book, the first covering aspects such as Worship and liturgy What are they? (Veronica and Lala) the Language of symbols, symbolic space and Dance (Gillian Limb) , Inclusive Language (Ilanthe) liturgy for small groups, (Veronica and for large groups (Ann Farr)) Music and Liturgy June Boyce Tillman. and Liturgies powerful effects (Myra Poole)

The second part was sample liturgies, giving ideas rather than to be followed word by word. These came covering a wide range of subjects such the liturgical year, themes such as Justice, Anger and Peace Images of God, and a section on Women with themes such as Mary Magdalene, Reclaiming Mary, Croning, Honouring our foremothers and so on. These came from a number of organisations which used creative liturgy; not just CWN but CWO, St Joan's Alliance, the Wimbledon experimental liturgy group and the Wherwell group

Veronica's energy and insight was invaluable in all the work she did to make spiritual life more contemporary and creative. We will all miss her sadly.

With many thanks to **Ilanthe Pratt**, CWO member.

DON'T MISS



<https://youtu.be/J3CcxBBKDAY>

Listen to Pope Francis speak about corruption and power, Feb 1st, 2018.

Women's Ministry 25th Anniversary Service

Date: Thursday 02 May 2019 (7.30pm)

Join us as we celebrate 25 years of Women's Priestly Ministry

President: The Rt Rev Dr Helen Hartley, Bishop of Ripon

Preacher: Christina Rees, former General Synod member, broadcaster & writer

Open to everyone, [please register here](#). Refreshments will be served.

[Back](#) | [Print this event](#)



[Click to zoom](#)

Further Info

Venue:

Manchester Cathedral

<http://www.manchestercathedral.org/events/2142/womens-ministry-25th-anniversary-service>

DON'T MISS



NATIONAL JUSTICE & PEACE NETWORK

41st Annual Justice and Peace Conference

26-28 July 2019

The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick

National Justice and Peace Network with Church Action on Poverty

Forgotten People
Forgotten Places
BEING CHURCH ON THE MARGINS



Hear Jumoké Fashola discussing women in the Catholic Church with Mary Ring on BBC LONDON'S Inspirit show, commenting on Pope Francis's views about women.

Click on this link for our CWO website & scroll down:

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



Thanks to RICK at Fisher King Publishing, which hosts our CWO website, for donating the editing costs for this clip ❤️

HOLY ROOD HOUSE

Centre for Health and Pastoral Care



‘Building Into The Future’ APPEAL 2019

We need your help!

Can you support Holy Rood House at the most
important point in our history?

We need to raise £1,250,000
to buy Holy Rood House and Gardens
and continue the work of
healing, retreat and education into the future

Many of us in CWO have benefitted from a stay at Holy Rood House. Stanley Baxter who founded it with his wife Elizabeth is one of our CWO saints.

Please do help if you can

<http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk/Appeal%20Leaflet.pdf>

Pat Brown

IN THE NEWS

Women's authority can help heal our church's broken governance Sr Christine Schenk

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/accountability/simply-spirit/womens-authority-can-help-heal-our-churchs-broken-governance>

If you doubt the prevalence of women in ministry, consider current worldwide [statistics](#) showing there are roughly 513,000 priests, deacons and brothers compared to 648,910 women religious. And that doesn't take into account the 3.4 million catechists and lay missionaries, of whom at least half are probably female, given U.S. studies showing that [80 percent](#) of lay ecclesial ministers are women.

Yet women ministers have no voice in church governance, and gay priests have voice only at the cost of concealing the gift of their sexual orientation...

What are we to conclude?

Only this: Women do not have to wait to be ordained as deacons or priests to begin exercising our authority in the church. Because, you see, Christ has no body now but ours....



Survey: More than a third of US Catholics question loyalty in wake of scandals

(RNS) — A new survey reveals that more U.S. Catholics are questioning whether they should remain in the church today than when news of the “Spotlight” child sex abuse scandal broke in the Boston Archdiocese in 2002. According to a poll released Wednesday (March 13) by Gallup, more than a third of U.S. Catholics — 37 percent — surveyed in January and February said they have questioned whether they should remain in the church. That’s up...**Continue**

Reading <https://thewandererpress.com>

IN THE CLOSET

What of the hypocrisy, which has cloaked the abuse, but which appears even more prevalent in its pervasiveness?

Click the link for some very useful analyses of Frédéric Martel's book:

<https://syndicate.network/symposia/theology/in-the-closet-of-the-vatican/>

IN THE CLOSET OF THE VATICAN



POWER,
HOMOSEXUALITY,
HYPOCRISY

Frédéric Martel

BLOOMSBURY

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
Fr Kevin Kelly
Fr Owen Hardwicke
Jackie Hawkins
Peter Seddon
Veronica Seddon
Sr. Catherine Houlihan

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! says Pat Brown.

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

