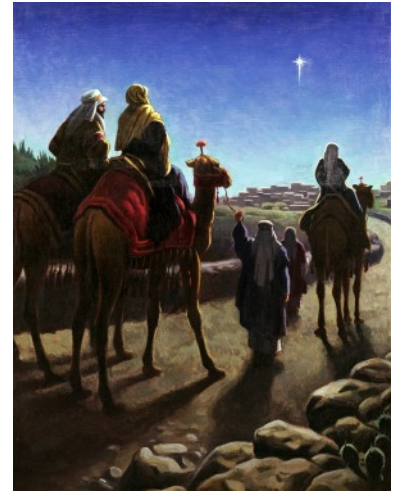




January 2021

Well it wasn't quite the Christmas with family we had all hoped for, but staying safe is so important now. Christmas wasn't cancelled! Baby Jesus arrived as planned - and we welcomed him into our lives and into our hearts.

We will all continue to pray for an end to the pandemic and wish you all a Happy New Year.
God bless Jan and Kathy



Our Lady's Medjugorje messages 25th Dec 2020:

Our Lady gave two messages on Christmas Day: one through Marija and one through Jakov Colo. First to Marija

"Dear children! I am carrying to you little Jesus who brings you peace, He who is the past, present and future of your existence. Little children, do not allow your faith and hope in a better future to be extinguished - you are chosen to be witnesses of hope in every situation. That is why I am here with Jesus that He may bless you with His peace. Thank you for having responded to my call."

The annual message given through Jakov Colo:

"Dear children! Also today Jesus is here beside you, even when you think that you are alone, and that light does not exist in your life. He is here and has never left you or distanced Himself from you. The light of His birth illuminates this world and your life. His Heart is always open towards you, to receive your every pain, every trial, fear and need. His arms are extended towards you, that as a father, He may embrace you and tell you how important you are for Him, how much He loves you and cares for His children."

Children, is your heart open towards Jesus? Have you completely surrendered your life into His hands? Have you accepted Jesus as your father, to whom you can always turn and in Him find consolation and everything you need to live true faith?

That is why, my children, surrender your hearts to Jesus and permit Him to begin to rule your lives, because only in this way, will you accept the present and be able to face the world in which you live today. With Jesus, every fear, suffering, and pain disappear, because your heart accepts His will and everything that comes into your life. Jesus will give you the faith to accept everything and nothing will distance you from Him -- because He firmly holds you by the hand and does not permit for you to distance and lose yourselves in difficult moments -- because He has become the Lord of your life.

I bless you with my motherly blessing."

In this edition:

- On page 2 we pay tribute to Anne Chapman who died in mid December. Also an extract from Pope Francis homily on New Year's Day
- On page 3 we have a pastoral letter from Bishop Alan Hopes
- On page 4 some New Year reflections and more jokes and cartoons to cheer you up in these difficult times



Our beloved dead

Martin Mongan	4th Jan 1994
Tom O'Malley	6th Jan 2001
Malcolm Muir	9th Jan 2011
Peter Hearne	11th Jan 2018
Arthur Campbell	15th Jan 2014
Nan O'Malley	16th Jan 2016
Dan McCarthy	25th Jan 1978



Anne Chapman (far left) with husband John, Delia Dinsdale and Maureen Watts. Anne and John were a devoted couple and worked together for many years as members of the St. John Ambulance service and as First Responders.

Maureen writes: *"I first met Anne when we attended Mass at Chapel. I especially remember her kindness when she invited me to accompany her to a Country Dancing class in Lawford. She knew my first husband had recently died and she wanted to help me get out and about again.*

Anne loved walking and now and again we walked together and put the world to rights. I remember one particular walk was to gather sloes for her famous sloe gin. I was sorry I didn't have my gloves with me that day!!! Anyway when the time came to taste the gin, scratches forgotten, I found the drink very enjoyable indeed and worth the pain!!

Our last walking holiday together was to Ilfracombe with Janet Butcher. John had died in the February and this was later in the year. She missed John very much. God Bless you Anne."

Along with Delia and Veronica Campbell, Anne was a member of Ann Bates painting group and they were all very good artists. We've lost all three of them in the last year, as well as our good friend Chris Finnegan. May they all rest in peace.

Living Stones prayer group

Clare Fox writes:

Living Stones Prayer Group will be gathering to meet in the St Mark's parish hall on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month 6.30-7.30pm. We are a charismatic prayer group, open to the spiritual gifts (1 Cor 12:8-10) and fruits (Gal 5:22-23) of the Holy Spirit, and seeking to grow in faith, discipleship and service of the God's church. Come and join us for praise and worship, thanksgiving, to listen to God's word, quiet reflection and intercession. During January we will meet on Monday 11th and 25th. If you'd like to find out more contact Clare Fox: 07906523496

Pope Francis asks us to pray for persecuted Christians

"Today, let us pray for those suffering persecution because of the name of Jesus. They are many, unfortunately. There are more than in the beginning of the Church. Let us entrust these brothers and sisters to the Madonna, that they might respond with meekness to oppression and that, as true witnesses to Jesus, they might conquer evil with good."

New Year's message from Pope Francis

Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, the Most Holy Mother of God, was celebrated on the morning of New Year's Day by Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Parolin, standing in for Pope Francis, who is suffering a painful attack of sciatica.

The Pope said, "while we hope for new beginnings and new cures, let us not neglect *care*. Together with a vaccine for our bodies, we need a vaccine for our hearts. That vaccine is care." He added, "This will be a good year if we take care of others, as Our Lady does with us." At the first Christmas, the shepherds, led by grace, found God, not "in miraculous signs, but in a simple family." We, too, need grace to find Jesus; and once we have found Him, "we must not lose sight of Him." In this new year, we are called, like the shepherds, to be active in order to receive grace. In this new year, Pope Francis said, "it would be good to *find time for someone*." "Time is a treasure that all of us possess," he continued, but that we often guard jealously. Instead, "Let us ask for the grace to find time for those who need someone to listen and show concern for them." He said, "If we can find time to give, we will be amazed and filled with joy, like the shepherds."



PASTORAL LETTER OF THE RIGHT REVD ALAN HOPES BISHOP OF EAST ANGLIA

To be read at all Masses December 26/27 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I wish you all a truly blessed and joyful Christmas!

The headlines in the newspapers last Sunday announced that Christmas had been cancelled! This was due to the fact that many parts of our country have been moved into higher tiers for the foreseeable future in order to stop the Covid virus from spreading.

Life has certainly changed since we celebrated Christmas last year! We have been, and still are living through a time of great uncertainty and fear in the midst of this pandemic. In spite of all the challenges, the human suffering and the tragic loss of loved ones over the past year, we, as the Church, have never ceased to proclaim the Good News of the love, hope and joy which the Incarnation of the Son of God brings to our world.

This Christmas, like every Christmas, calls us once again to proclaim, both through our lives and through our words, the Angel's message: Do not be afraid...I bring you good news of great joy..... a saviour has been born for you: he is Christ the Lord.

Do not be afraid!

In that small baby, born in a stable and placed in a manger, surrounded by the love and devotion of his Mother Mary and protected by his foster father Joseph, God, the creator of all things, has entered into our human history.

Do not be afraid!

Jesus Christ is truly "Emmanuel", God-with-us, sharing in our humanity in all its frailty. He has experienced life as we experience it, with all its joys and sorrows. He knows too all our needs.

Do not be afraid!

Jesus Christ is truly God among us, healing our wounds, strengthening us in our weaknesses, consoling us in our sadness. He comes to redeem and to enrich our humanity in order to show us the way to heaven and to eternal life.

This is the reason for our joy and our hope as we celebrate Christmas and acknowledge the presence of the Incarnate God, both in human history and in our lives, not just at Christmas, but in each and every day and in each and every moment of our lives.

We do not know what all the consequences of this global pandemic might be. We do know, however, that there will be many challenges ahead of us before the world is restored to a new kind of normality. Many will have to face the challenges of unemployment, sickness, the death of a loved one, homelessness and poverty. Our local parishes must be there to support and encourage all who find themselves in such a situation. But we cannot just rely on human abilities and powers to find the solution for these challenges.

The birth of Jesus Christ is for us a radiant light of hope in the midst of so much darkness. To celebrate Christmas with joy in this time of pandemic is to allow the light that is Christ to shine in our world and throughout our local communities. We are not alone or abandoned! God is with us! He loves us and cares for us in our human story and in the story, which is that of our own lives.

So, let us today bring to our new-born Saviour, all the wounds of humanity. Let us ask him that God's love may restore this broken world of ours and grant it hope, security and joy.

As you visit and pray at the Crib today, I pray that the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph may surround you, your families and all those in your hearts, with their loving prayer and protection. And may the Incarnate Son of God fill each of our lives with love, joy and hope for the coming year.

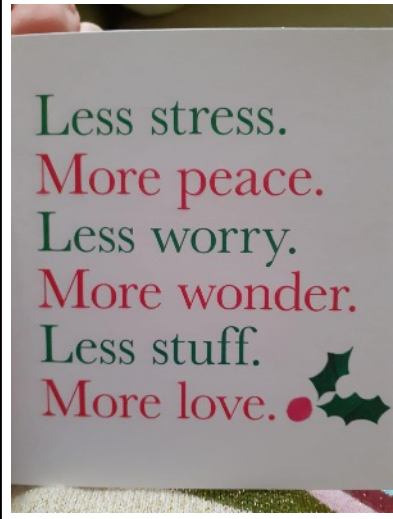
With warmest good wishes and prayer for you all, Yours devotedly in Christ,

Bishop of East Anglia



We wish you all a Happy and Hopeful New Year

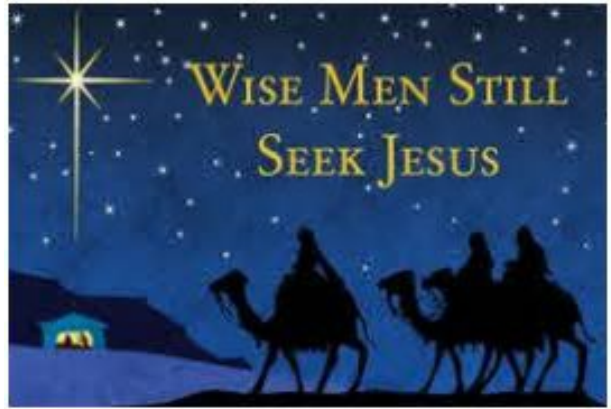
New Year's resolutions



Prayer for January

May we all be at peace within ourselves and the outer world and may we live in the present within us where God is and resides.. we are all ONE through God's eternal love

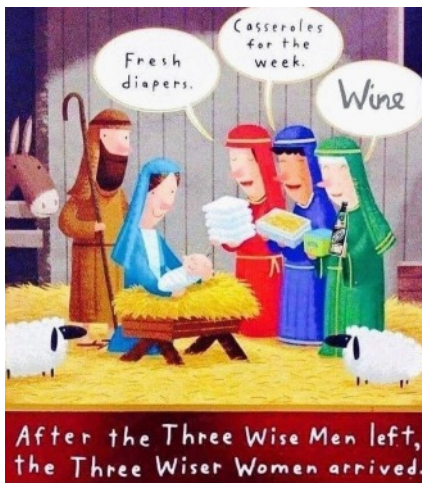
Thank you Lord Jesus for coming to save us all and show us the way to be.



If you have any photos, prayers or holy jokes you'd like to share next month please email jan: jan.s.cavanagh@gmail.com or kathy: kathypollard51@gmail.com

Don't forget to let us know if your email address changes.

A few more jokes:



Continuing the quotes from a Catholic elementary school. Children were asked questions about the New and Old Testaments. The following statements about the Bible were written by the children. They have not been retouched or corrected - that's the best part!

1. The first commandment was when Eve told adam to eat the apple
2. The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery
3. Moses died before he reached Canada. Then Joshua led the hebrews in the battle of Geritol
4. The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him
5. David was a hebrew king skilled at playing the liar. He fought with the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in Biblical times
6. Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines
7. When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta
8. Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption

(More next month.....)