

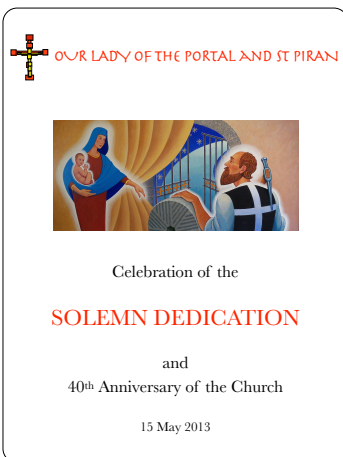
THE PORTICO

Our Lady of the Portal: 50th Anniversary!



(Paul Vage, Fr Gilmour, Bishop Christopher, Dcn. Andrew at the signing of documents at the Mass of Solemn Dedication)

In this issue of THE PORTICO we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the solemn dedication of Our Lady of the Portal and St Piran by Bishop Christopher on 15th May 2013. It is also the church's 50th anniversary.



cover of Mass booklet

Readers might wonder why it took 40 years to consecrate our church. The reason was that despite some generous donations, the parish had to take out a big loan to complete the building, and the church could not be formally consecrated till that debt was paid off - hence the long delay. Parishioners from those early years remember very well the many fund-raising events they held to chip away at that debt!

Paul Vage, Chair of the Parish Council at the time, tells how as part of the preparations for the consecration in 2013, he and Fr Gilmour went up to Delabole to order

slate for the 4 wall-mounted candle holders (2 on each side of the church side aisles) which were sponsored by members of the parish. Hidden wall screws and resin hold them in place without any visible external support!

The painting over the steps from the street (shown on the cover of the mass booklet) was also commissioned by the parish in time for the Dedication.

Our heart-felt thanks to everyone who worked to make sure that our now-50 year old church was built and cared for.



original vision for the church in 1970

Bishop Christopher: Requiem



The requiem for Bishop Christopher took place in Sacred Heart Exeter last Friday 5th May. The principal celebrant was the Archbishop of Southwark among 9 bishops and archbishops. Two of Bishop Christopher's contemporaries spoke about him with warmth, respect and affection, stressing his strong sense of mission as Shepherd and Pastor to us, his Diocesan flock and to his clergy.

Bishop Christopher will be fondly remembered by many of our readers. His parish visitations to Truro were indeed occasions for joy rather than trepidation; one parishioner recalled how Bishop Christopher always behaved like someone who didn't expect to be treated as anything other than an ordinary human being.

May he rest in peace

Read the homily and message from Cardinal Nichols [here](#)

Cardinal Nichols blesses King Charles at coronation



Conferring his blessing on King Charles as part of the coronation ceremony on Saturday - the first Catholic involvement in a British coronation for over 500 years - Cardinal Nichols prayed that God may pour upon the King "the riches of His grace, keep you

in His holy fear, prepare you for a happy eternity, and receive you at the last into immortal glory."

Road to Heaven?

"when you pray, go to your private room..." (Matthew 6:6)

Amazingly, more people report that they pray in their car (61%) than in a place of worship (46%).

85% of American say they engage in a spiritual practice to connect with a higher power, whether prayer, meditation, mindfulness etc.. Prayer is the most common of the five practices used. Full survey in [America Magazine](#)

Messages

We thank the many readers who have asked about our long silence and expressed their appreciation for this newsletter. THE PORTICO was started over 3 years ago to strengthen our sense of community during COVID lockdown. Now that most of us are out and about again, we are taking a step back to rethink whether and how to go forward. Suggestions and help welcome! Jenny & Peter

PARISH SOUP LUNCH



Tuesday 23 May

St Piran's Church Hall from 12 (while soups last!)

Come and enjoy a selection of home-made soups and bread etc. + a Raffle

Bring a friend!

FREE - (Donations go to SVP)



"Who is my Brother?"

As living costs continue to rise, we must all be ever more vigilant in discerning if someone we know or meet is suffering alone in silence and needs our help.

Join us in the SVP as a full member, or an auxiliary and become our community's helping eyes, ears and hands here in Truro.

Contact SVP on 07474-941099



Towards becoming a Synodal Church: Update

The Continental Phase of the current Synod formally closed at the end of March. This phase, convened under the exhortation to “enlarge the space of your tent” resulted in seven Continental

Assemblies each producing a final report. These go forward into the Universal Phase for consideration by the Synod of Bishops in the Vatican this coming October.

The question that is being addressed remains the same as from the outset: How does our 'walking together' — our way of living and working together as “Church” — enable or hinder us, the people of God’s Church, to proclaim the Gospel in accord with the mission entrusted to us?

The responses from the seven continental assemblies in some ways confirm the universality of the problems and issues perceived on the themes of Communion, Participation and Mission, and at the same time they reflect the enormous diversity of the conditions in which we live across the world. You can read the individual reports [here](#).

The synod process is already reshaping how the Church carries out its mission. The Vatican recently announced that five Religious sisters and 70 non-bishops – half of them women – will be among those able to vote when the synod assembles in October. Bishops will still make up 75% of the assembly, but it sets a strong example of a church in which the hierarchy and lay people make decisions together.

Together: Gathering of the People of God



The Pope recently announced an Ecumenical Prayer Vigil, next September 30 in St. Peter's Square, to which he invited “brothers and sisters of all Christian confessions”, Recalling how “the path to christian unity and the path of synodal conversion of the Church are linked”.

This will also include a special program organized by the Taizé community, hosted by parishes and communities in Rome.

The initiative is intended to be a time of listening, sharing, fraternity, unity and peace.

[website here](#)

Parish Soup lunch:

a new season starts



The last soup lunch of the winter season was on 24 March, when Jenny Kwee stepped down as organiser (a role she took on after Frank and Mari Cooper left the parish in 2016 - so a big “thank you” to Jenny!).

Mark Nicholson has very kindly taken over for the Summer series starting 23 May (see front page).



Truro Street Pastors:

This initiative under Churches Together in Truro is looking for volunteers to join its ecumenical team of both street pastors and prayer pastors, keeping Truro safe for all who use our streets on Saturday nights. For more information, contact Peter Kwee via [THE PORTICO](#)

Christian Aid Week

Coffee Morning

Summerville, Crescent Road Saturday 20 May, 10 - 12 noon

Plants, bring&buy, etc

All are welcome!

details: Sue (01872 273222)



BOOKS & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

[See full details here](#)

THE PORTICO

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