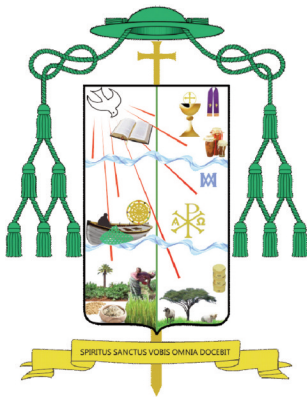




Colour souvenir of Bishop Mendy's consecration and enthronement

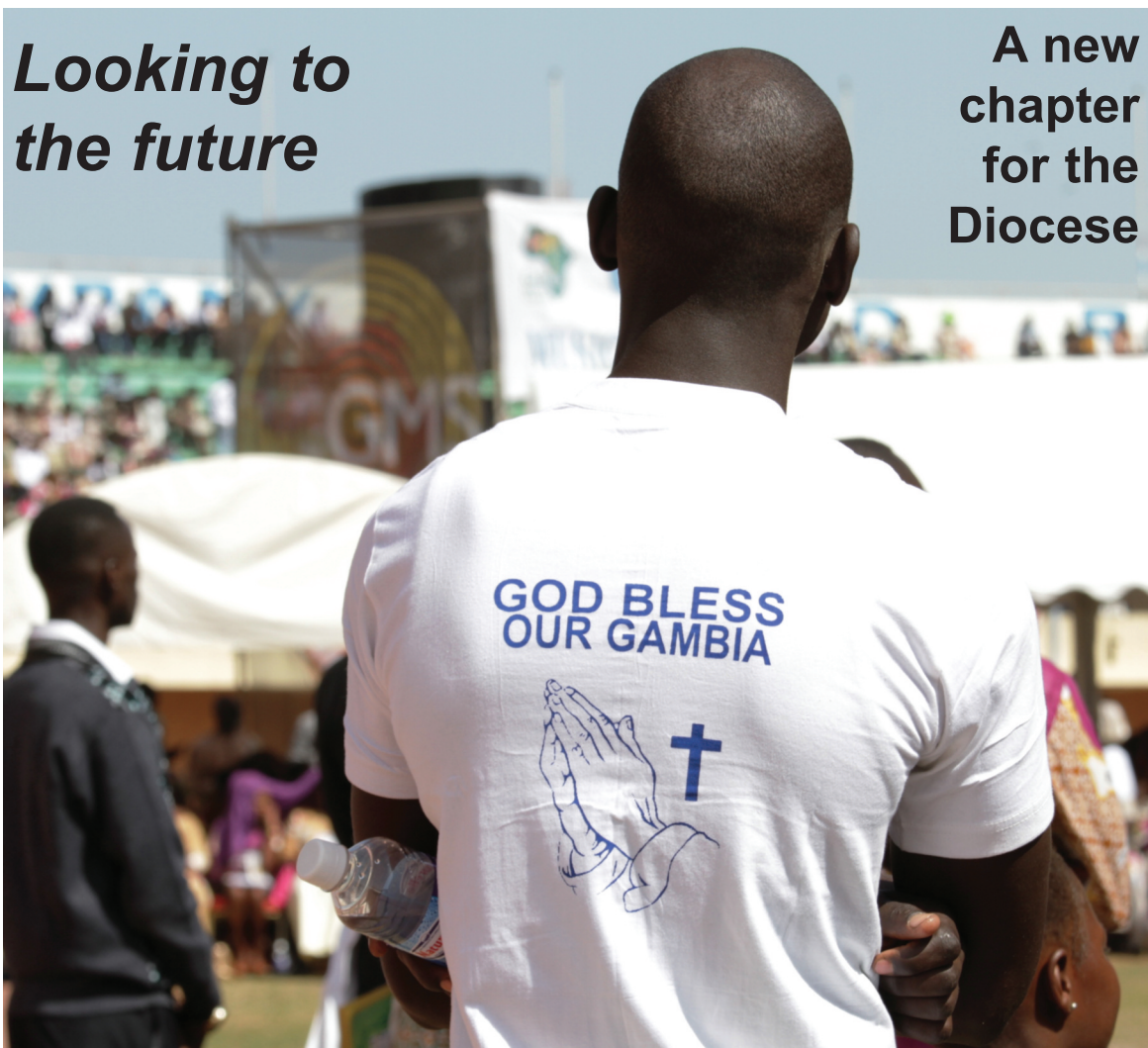


The Diocese of Banjul NEWSLETTER

Incorporating The Catholic Newsletter

**Looking to
the future**

**A new
chapter
for the
Diocese**



**Thoughts, prayers and readings for Mass
on Ascension Day and all the Sundays in Easter Time**



During the **Lent and Easter** Season, Your Friends, Parents and Spouses abroad can easily buy you:

* **Rice, Cooking Oil, Onions Sugar & Groceries**

*We deliver the **same day** to your house*

* **Cash Power & Cell Phone Credit**

*You receive it **instantly** on SMS*


* **Money Transfer**

*You **immediately** pick up from the bank*



Tell them to use karlilu.com

YOUR LOVED ONES SAVE AND YOU STILL GET MORE

**If you have any questions or need any information, call or text us at
Tel: (+220) 9926475 / 7528699,  +1- 7209375901 support@karlilu.com**



**SOMETHING PRECIOUS: Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady of Peace
Hostel & Cafeteria @ Kunkujang Mariama**

- A quiet, contemplative haven
- New pilgrim accommodation with facilities for the disabled
- Youth dormitory accommodation
- Pilgrim refectory and hall
- Self-catering centre
- A lovely, peaceful, spiritual place, where you can go at your own pace, with your own thoughts
- A place of prayer providing a refreshing break from a hectic and commercialised life
- A warm welcome at the Parish Church

*For more information,
telephone 714 4981 / 439 0767*

By way of introduction

Alleluia!

THIS issue of the *Newsletter* covers all eight Sundays in Easter Time until Pentecost – that is, the fiftieth day. Easter Time is the longest season in the Church calendar, comprising fifty days of heightened rejoicing for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

This wondrous Resurrection offers salvation to all who believe in Christ as Saviour of the World. No wonder the Easter season is so special. It celebrates the very reason that we are Christians and belong to Christ's Church.

On Easter Sunday, following the solemn ceremonies of Holy Thursday and Good Friday, the liturgy explodes with joy: 'Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!' (*Alleluia*, or *Hallelujah*, comes from the Hebrew acclamation, 'Praise the Lord!')

But how are we to sustain this joy, this 'Alleluia!' for fifty long days?

Quite soon after Easter Sunday we may relax as though we've learnt little from Lent. Our faith does indeed matter to us, but it's not of overriding concern: after all, there are plenty of everyday matters to occupy us, and our religion by no means enters into all we think and do.

Is this the same faith which St Paul preached 'in season and out of season'? He wrote: '*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*' (Romans 8:38)

We probably don't see ourselves as successors to the heroic St Paul, for whom Christ was all-in-all. We settle for rather less. Our daily prayers and our attendance at Sunday Mass may quite often be perfunctory, and we may not be as responsive to others' needs as we could be. We don't, in short, give ourselves to the Risen Christ as Paul did.

Faith in the Resurrection shows itself in many ways. The best-known Christian practitioners are the saints: so varied in character and deeds, but always enlivened and sustained by faith in the Risen Christ. One of these saints is St Therese of Lisieux. She was an obscure late-19th-century Carmelite sister. But she kept a journal of her thoughts, immensely influential when published after her early death. Therese became known for her 'Little Way', which asserts that it is not necessary to achieve 'great deeds' to become holy. 'I see that it is enough to realise one's nothingness and give oneself wholly, like a child, into the arms of the loving God.' God may indeed call us to spectacular, sacrificial service, as he did St Paul. But he will also accept our 'little deeds', if they come from a trusting and loving heart.

What we should have learnt in Lent about putting God foremost we can continue to practise now, throughout Easter Time - and beyond. May Christ's glorious Resurrection be our daily inspiration, and our reward. *Alleluia!*



May is the Month of
Mary page 29



Keep your
refrigerator clean!

page 9



First published Palm Sunday 1976
THE DIOCESE OF BANJUL NEWSLETTER
Incorporating *The Catholic Newsletter*
APRIL - MAY 2018 Volume 42 No. 2

Published by The Gambia Pastoral Institute
33 Kairaba Avenue
PMB 296 Serrekunda, The Gambia, West Africa
Telephone 4394847 Email info@gpi.gm
Editor *Fr Peter S. Lopez* Editorial Consultant *David Somers*
Layout *Betty Quacoo*
Production *Henry Gomez, Frédéric Diatta*

IN THIS ISSUE

- 4 Here & there: *Farewell to Bishop Emeritus Ellison*
- 6 Family Circle: *danger in the house!*
- 9 Sunday Reflections, April & May.
- 15 The Spiritan School at Enugu
- 16 Pictures of the festivities of our new Bishop
- 18 Impressions: *Fr Peter S. Lopez recalls a great day*
- 19 Homecoming: *Fr Gabriel Mendy in Staten Island*
- 20 Anniversaries: *Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Moloney*
- 21 Do you know? quiz
Question box: *What is Pentecostalism?*
- 22 From beyond; *death of Billy Graham*
- 24 Fee moi Gambia
- 26 Some weekday celebrations
- 27 Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions
Pious Practices: *votive candles*
- 28 Mass readings for April and May
- 29 May is the Month of Mary
- 30 End-piece: *The Church honours all women*
- 32 Christ appears to his disciples: *Gospel for Sunday 15th April*

We wish all our readers
a Most Happy Easter Season



Here & there

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DIOCESE

Bishop Mendy ordained as Fourth Bishop of Banjul

FATHER Gabriel Mendy CSSp was on Saturday 3rd February in the Independence Stadium Bakau episcopally ordained as the Fourth Bishop of Banjul, the first Gambian to lead the Catholic Church in The Gambia.

In a four-hour colourful and moving ceremony, the Principal Consecrator was Archbishop Edward Tamba Charles, Archbishop of Freetown. The Principal Co-Consecrators were Bishop Robert Ellison CSSp, Bishop Emeritus of Banjul, and Bishop John Bonaventure Kwofie CSSp, Bishop of Sekondi-Takoradi, in Ghana.

The Chancellor of the Diocese, Fr Anthony Gabisi, presented Fr Gabriel Mendy for ordination.



The Apostolic Letter from Pope Francis appointing the new Bishop was presented by the Chargé d'Affaires, the Very Revd Giovanni Bicchirri (left).

The homily was preached by the Most Reverend Henry Aruna, Auxiliary Bishop of Kenema, Sierra Leone.

Before the final blessing, Bishop Mendy addressed the congregation, as did the Vicar-General of the Diocese, Fr Emil Sambou.

The following day, Sunday 4th February, Bishop Mendy was solemnly enthroned in the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption, Banjul.

On Sunday 11th February, Bishop Mendy celebrated an outdoor Mass at St Peter's Lamin – his home village.

- The Spiritan Seminary at Enugu – page 15
- Colour souvenir – pages 16 & 17
- 'My impressions' by Fr Peter S. Lopez – page 18
- Tributes from Staten Island, New York – page 19

President Barrow's message

PRESIDENT Adama Barrow has expressed the prayer that the ordination of Bishop Mendy will further strengthen relations amongst Gambians of all denominations and religions.

In a statement, the President urged the bishop to promote peaceful co-existence amongst Gambians, and wished him success in his new task. He said, 'The ordination of Bishop Mendy is a solemn occasion for all Gambians, the first time a citizen among the Gambian community is called to that position.'

At the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Mendy, the President was represented by a delegation of ministers and his Advisor on Religious Affairs, Demba Bojang.



Farewell to Bishop Emeritus Robert Ellison

A MASS of thanksgiving for the episcopate of Bishop Emeritus Robert Patrick Ellison CSSp was celebrated at the Cathedral of the Assumption Banjul on Saturday 10th March.

In an address at the end of the Mass, the Vice Chairperson of the Cathedral Parish Council, Albino Jatta, said: 'It is good to give thanks and praise to God ... and today we have just done that in appreciation to God for the life, health and strength of Bishop Ellison: he touched the hearts of many Catholic faithful and Gambian friends, and now, after twelve years' service as Bishop, he is leaving us.'



'Patient, understanding, supportive'

'On behalf of the parishioners of the Cathedral, I wish to take this opportunity to thank you, Bishop Ellison, for these years you served us as Bishop. You have been a leader, a visionary, and an advocate, as well as a pastor.'

'We have never been let down by your presence. You were always present in all our major ceremonies and have always given us your full support and attention. We must say that we have indeed enjoyed the ministry we shared with you as custodians of the Cathedral.'

'Today we want to say thank you and wish you well in your well-deserved rest and retirement.'

Mr Jatta said that Bishop Ellison had always been patient, understanding and supportive throughout his ministry as Bishop and as pastor.

Addressing Bishop Emeritus Ellison, Mr Jatta continued: 'When the former President declared The Gambia an Islamic State, you were restless - on edge, like everybody else. At a time when tempers were flaring and frustrations running high, you created for and provided the equilibrium that was needed to maintain peace and stability in our beloved nation.'

'Things could have been very different, but thank God for the great leadership we saw in you, my Lord.'

Mr Jatta said that to encourage his flock, Bishop Ellison had written pastoral letters and organised meetings to help the faithful to pull themselves together, ready to face the new realities, reminding them always of the prayer in the national anthem, 'Let justice guide our actions towards the common good.'

Mr Jatta said that President Barrow had recently alluded to such leadership during the impasse, when Bishop Ellison headed a delegation from the Gambia Christian Council to congratulate and pray for him, and also called on the former President to accept the election results and recognise the President-elect. This, said Mr Jatta, was a clear demonstration that the Bishop knew that God's love is full of mercy, hope, healing and joy - the love and care he had shown the people of The Gambia.

The Vice Chairperson concluded: 'Words will never be able to express what is deep down in our hearts, but we appreciate you and we offer you loads of thanks. You will be sorely missed by many; no doubt at all about that.'

May God continue to shower on you his blessings, protection and healing.’

Leaving for Ireland

Bishop Emeritus Ellison travelled to Ireland from Banjul International Airport on Wednesday 14th March.

Staying with Bishop Ellison at Bishop’s House Fajara for many years was Fr Peter Suttle CSSp, an Irish missionary priest whose service before retirement was in East Africa. After coming to The Gambia he ‘helped out’ in many ways, notably in offering Sunday Mass at Sanyang.

Fr Suttle left for Ireland on Monday 19th March.

St Therese in Kanifing is fifty years old

THE CHURCH of St Therese (now the Father Farrell Parochial Hall) was blessed fifty years ago by Bishop Prosper Dodds of Casamance on 9th April 1948.

The Catholic Church was established in the Kombos chiefly through the founding of a mission at Kanifing back in 1946. In charge of the mission was Fr Francis Farrell, while he was still Principal of St Augustine’s High School Banjul.



**St Therese of Lisieux
Patron of the parish**

The opening of the new church was a red-letter day for the Catholic community. From early morning people were making their way from Banjul to Kanifing. By the time of the ceremony a crowd estimated at 5,000 was assembled outside the church. Some 600 were able to pack themselves inside. Following the Mass there were festivities and food for all, organised mostly by people from Banjul. The festivities came to a close with Solemn Benediction at 4 pm.

The following Sunday Fr Farrell baptised 42 children in the new church. He continued to run the mission from St Augustine’s School in Banjul until November 1948.

The priest’s house was completed in March 1949.

Empowering girls and young women

THE PRESENTATION Girls’ Vocational School has been celebrating its aims and achievements. The school was founded in 1972 – one of the first such schools in the country dedicated to equipping early leavers and those who have no formal school education with skills to provide them with long-term income.



The School offers three-year courses in secretarial studies, home economics and hairdressing.

The School fully complies with the National Training Authority Quality Assurance System and the Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) Policy.

The TVET states that it is the policy of the Gambia Government to ensure sustainable Post-Basic Technical and Vocational Training to build people’s skills base and encourage the country’s long-term development.

The policy is based on the belief that training is crucial to the development of self-reliant individuals, communities and a free-market economy.

With this policy in mind, the Presentation Girls’ Vocational School aims to be responsive to the community in developing a culture of enterprise.

Medical help from overseas

NINE medical personnel from the United States – doctors, nurses and para-medicals - have lately spent ten days in The Gambia visiting and offering help in various clinics and health centres. Their expertise included treatment of eye conditions, malaria, diabetes and dental work.

They arrived on 9th March and stayed at GPI.

Prior to The Gambia, three of the nine had just undertaken a parallel mission in Ougadougou, Burkina Faso.

The visit was arranged by Dr John Loum, a Gambian based in St Louis, Missouri, who hopes that such a programme can take place annually.

The Diocesan Prayer

GOD our Father, renew by the light of the Gospel the Church in the Diocese of Banjul.

Strengthen the bonds of unity between the faithful, the religious, the priests and the Bishop, so that together your chosen people may shine forth as a sign of unity and peace in a world torn by discord and strife.

Bless and sustain all our efforts to establish a dynamic, self-reliant church.

Open our eyes and our hearts to the needs of all, and especially of our own brothers and sisters in Christ who are less fortunate than others, so that in a spirit of solidarity and compassion we may faithfully proclaim the good news of salvation and advance together on the way to your Kingdom.

Grant this through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen

Congratulations

Monday 14th May, Feast of St Matthias, Apostle, is the 12th anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of the Third Bishop of Banjul

The Most Reverend Robert P. Ellison CSSp

During April six diocesan priests celebrate their anniversaries

- Tuesday 10th April: Fr Joseph Karbo (1999)
Fr Michael Ndecky (1999)
- Thursday 12th April: Fr Edward Gomez (1986)
- Friday 13th April: Fr Anthony Gabisi ;
Fr Peter Gomez (1985)
- Thursday 26th April: Fr David Jimoh Jarju (1986)

family circle



Danger at home!

WE are – or should be – well aware of the danger of road accidents. But we may not be so conscious of danger nearer home: literally, in our own house.

Hospital staff can tell us how often they have to deal with accidents in the home – many of them minor, but some serious.

The most dangerous room

No room in the house is more dangerous than the kitchen. Open fires and the flames of cookers are highly hazardous.

If you use a gas or electric cooker, make sure that pan handles are facing inwards.

Ensure that small children understand that they must keep away.



Gas

Using gas is an efficient way to cook. But you must take care.

Attach the gas regulator securely to the gas bottle and to the cooker.

Leaking gas is highly dangerous. If you smell gas, extinguish any naked flames or cigarettes. Check that a gas tap hasn't accidentally been left on. Check that the pilot light in the oven hasn't blown out. Close the gas bottle. Open doors and windows. Keep them open until the smell of gas has gone. If the smell of gas is strong, don't hesitate – get everyone out of the house.

If you want to buy a second-hand gas appliance, check to ensure that it is in a safe, usable condition.



The refrigerator

Keep the doors of refrigerators and freezers closed.

Don't re-freeze food that has been defrosted.

Don't use food that is 'going off' or canned food that is past its 'sell-by' or 'best before' date.

See 'Keep your refrigerator clean' opposite page

Knives

Don't leave knives and other kitchen tools where children can play with them. When not in use, such kitchen utensils should be kept in a drawer or cupboard.

Use knives only for preparing food – not for other purposes about the house.

You can secure sharp-pointed kitchen tools in old corks before storing them in a drawer, so you won't hurt your fingers when searching for them.



Dangerous liquids

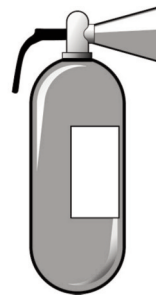
Don't store chemicals and cleaners under a sink. It's safer to keep them in a locked cupboard or on a top shelf. Remember that full-strength bleach is especially dangerous.

If you store liquids in bottles that used to contain something else, make sure you label the bottles clearly.

Fire!

A household fire is a terrible tragedy for a family and its neighbours. Guard against fire by making sure that children do not play with candles or matches. Do not leave candles or other lights with flames in a draught or in an empty room.

Buy a fire extinguisher, and make sure you know how to use it.



Safeguarding the elderly

Older people are prone to falls, both indoors and outdoors. Make sure that carpets are not frayed and do not slip. Put a rubber mat in the bath or shower to prevent slipping.

Why Easter Eggs?

DECORATED eggs are used as gifts during the Easter season. The tradition is to use dyed and painted chickens' eggs, but nowadays many Easter eggs are factory-made chocolate eggs wrapped in colourful foil, or plastic eggs filled with confectionery such as chocolate.

In Christianity, for the celebration of Eastertide, Easter eggs symbolise the empty tomb of Jesus.

One ancient tradition was the staining of eggs red in memory of the blood of Christ. This custom can be traced to early Christians in Mesopotamia; and from there it spread into Russia through the Orthodox Churches, and later into Europe through the Catholic and Protestant churches.

The 'Roman Ritual' (first edition 1610, but having texts of much older date) contains the following prayer:

LORD, let the grace of your blessing + come upon these eggs, that they be healthful food for your faithful who eat them in thanksgiving for the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever. Amen





A tale of two families

IMAGINE a well-off family - a small one, with only two children. They live in a large, comfortable house with several servants. They have two cars, and in the house are three television sets (one for the older child),

electronic games and all sorts of modern machinery in the kitchen.

Sounds great - something we'd all like - especially considering that the family enjoys two or three trips overseas each year.

Yet all is not well - for the children, at least.

The father works long hard hours in the tourist industry, and comes back tired very late each evening. The mother also works, and leaves much of the care of the children to servants. Mealtimes are irregular. The children stay up long after it's time for them to go to bed.

The parents do spend some time with their children late at night, but most of the talk is complaining or trivial. No regular time is set aside for the children to do their homework, and the parents say they are 'too busy' to go to parent-teachers meetings.

The children are demanding - they ask for more of this and more of that - and they're quite often bored, naughty or sullen.

Now imagine a second family.

They're hard up. There are six children, two of them adopted. The father earns only a modest income. The mother's time is taken up with looking after the children and the home.

But the children in this second family are well looked after. Although not well-educated themselves, father and mother show an interest in what the children are doing at school. Each evening, they make sure that the children do their homework; and they send them to school regularly and well-dressed. They attend every parent-teachers meeting. They go to Sunday Mass as a family. The children feel loved and self-confident. At home their parents set a good example of care and kindness, and are consistent in how they treat their children.

*In these two families which children are more happy?
And why?*



Keep your refrigerator clean!



MORE and more families are using a refrigerator. Its use enables food and drinks to be stored safely - saving money and frequent trips to the market and shops.

Every so often, a refrigerator needs to be cleaned from the inside out. The shelves need washing down, and food must be thrown out if it has outlived its shelf life.

Here's the procedure:

- Unplug the refrigerator from the electricity supply.
- Take all your food out of the refrigerator. Place it on a table, so that the refrigerator is completely empty.
 - Throw out any old, mouldy or inedible food. Don't be reluctant to throw away items that you never use.
 - Remove shelving and drawers from the refrigerator.
 - Wash shelving and drawers by hand. Never wash a cold glass shelf with hot water: the sudden temperature change could shatter the glass. For spills or stains use hot water and ammonia. Dilute a little ammonia in hot water (1:5 ratio) and let the item(s) soak before cleaning.
 - Be sure to let the shelving dry out completely before putting it back into the refrigerator.
 - Wipe the inside of the refrigerator. Don't use soap or a chemical cleaner, but two tablespoons of baking powder and one litre of hot water
 - Be sure to clean the inside of the refrigerator doors.
 - Clean the rubber seal around the refrigerator door using a solution of ½ water and ½ vinegar or bleach. Don't saturate the seal with undiluted bleach, as this may ruin it. Pat the seal dry. You can apply body lotion on the gasket to keep the rubber supple.
 - Put the food back into the refrigerator. Wipe off any jars, bottles or plastic containers. Double-check expiry dates on any perishable items before putting them back.
 - Wipe down all exterior surfaces of the refrigerator, including the front, back, sides, and top, using a towel and an all-purpose liquid cleaner (available at supermarkets).

Reminder: Think carefully before buying a second-hand refrigerator or any other second-hand electrical appliance. They can be dangerous, and should be checked by a qualified and reliable electrician

Why you should vote

DURING April, Gambians will vote in mayoral and local council elections. How important is it that all who are registered voters should exercise their right to vote?

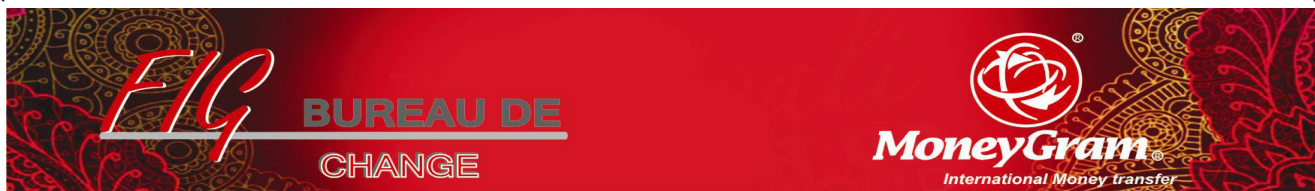
Here's what the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says:

'It is the duty of citizens to contribute along with the civil authority to the good of society in a spirit of truth, justice, solidarity and freedom. The love and service of one's country follow from the duty of gratitude, and belong to the order of charity. Submission to legitimate authorities and the service of the common good requires citizens to fulfil their roles in the life of the political community.' (2239)

'Submission to authority and co-responsibility for the common good make it obligatory to pay taxes, to exercise the right to vote, and to defend one's country.' (2240)

ELECTION





ALL BRANCHES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC NOW

OPEN FROM MONDAYS TO SATURDAYS: 8:30am to 8:00pm

50 KAIRABA AVENUE - Telephone: 4399144, 4378489

LIST OF BRANCHES & IMPLANTS

1. Bakau New Town	6868820	20. Kairaba Avenue	6868801
2. Bakoteh	6868816	21. Kaw Junction L/Kunda	6868861
3. Barra, North Bank Region	6868858	22. Kololi Highway	6868832
4. Banjul Leman Street	6868806	23. Lamin Village Opp Galp	6868815
5. Bansang	6969915	24. Latrikunda Sabiji	6868847
6. Basse Santa Su	6868839	25. London Corner	6868807
7. Basse Highway	6969865	26. Old Jeshwang	6868831
8. Brikama Nyambai	6968874	27. Old Yundum Market	6868843
9. Brikama Hawla Kunda	6868810	28. Sanyang	6868824
10. Brusubi Mini Market	6868819	29. Sayer Jobe Avenue	6868808
11. Brusubi Galp Station	6969873	30. Serrekunda Bartess	6868836
12. Bundung	6868821	31. Serekunda Mosque Road	6868814
13. Busumballa	6868827	32. Soma	6868837
14. Churchill's Town	6868817	33. Sukuta	6868856
15. Cooperative	6868822	34. Tabokoto	6868813
16. Dippakunda	6868812	35. Tallinding	6868809
17. Fajara	6868825	36. Westfield Opp. World Mobile	6868910
18. Farafenni	6868838	37. Westfield Next to Church	6868864
19. Kanifing Estate	6868842		



Resurrexi, et adhuc tecum sum
I am risen, and I am with you still

Sunday Reflections

Reflections, readings and prayers for Mass on all the Sundays in April & May
 and for Ascension Day



1st April Easter Sunday

'We are witnesses!'

'WE are witnesses!' cried St Peter, when he and his fellow apostles proclaimed the Good News of the

Resurrection to everyone who would listen.

As today's reading from Acts relates, the Resurrection and the descent of the Holy Spirit made the little band of apostles new men: eager, articulate, fearless. As St Paul declares in the second reading, 'Christ is your life.'

Today's Gospel reading tells how Mary Magdalene arrived at the tomb of Jesus before daybreak, found it empty, and ran to tell Peter and John that his body had been taken away. Peter and John ran to the tomb, and seeing the burial clothes, were shocked into belief: yes, this resurrection on the third day was what Jesus had told them about! John 'saw and believed'.

Christ's resurrection is not just a pious belief. It is not just a doctrine. It is a *fact* – the most wonderful fact of life that we can ever know. Christ is alive!

We encounter the risen Christ in our hearts. We meet him in the Church's prayer and worship. Like our Lord's first followers, shout for joy! Tell all the world!

Collect

O GOD, who on this day through your Only-Begotten Son have conquered death and unlocked for us the gate of eternity, grant, we pray, that we who keep the Solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit, rise up in the light of life..

Readings: Acts 10:34,37-43. Psalm 117:1-2,15-17,22-23. Response: This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad (or Alleluia). Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6-8.

Sequence: *Victimae paschali*

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise.
 The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb; and Christ, the undefiled, hath sinners to his Father reconciled.
 Death with life contended: combat strangely ended!
 Life's own Champion slain, yet lives to reign.
 Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way.
 The tomb the Living didst enclose; I saw Christ's glory as he rose!

The angels there attesting, shroud with grave-clothes resting,

Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before you into Galilee.
 That Christ is truly risen from the dead, we know.
 Victorious King, thy mercy show!

Latin version

Victimae paschali laudes immolent Christiani.

Agnus redemit oves: Christus innocens Patri reconciliavit peccatores.

Mors et vita duello conflixere mirando: dux vitae mortuus, regnat vivus.

Dic nobis Maria, quid vidisti in via?

Sepulcrum Christi viventis, et gloriam vidi resurgentis:

Angelicos testes, sudarium, et vestes. Surrexit Christus spes mea: praecedet suos [vos] in Galilaeam.

Credendum est magis soli Mariae veraci Quam Judaeorum Turbae fallaci.

Scimus Christum surrexisse a mortuis vere:

tu nobis, victor Rex miserere!

Gospel acclamation: Alleluia... Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; let us celebrate the feast, then, in the Lord.

Gospel: John 20:1-9 (or Mark 16:1-8, or at an evening Mass, Luke 24:13-35)

Prayer over the Offerings

EXULTANT with paschal gladness, O Lord, we offer the sacrifice by which your Church is wonderfully reborn and nourished...

Preface

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, at all times to proclaim you, O Lord, but on this day above all to laud you yet more gloriously, when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed. For he is the true Lamb who has taken away the sins of the world. By dying he has destroyed our death, and by rising restored our life. Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praises, and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim...

Prayer after Communion

LOOK upon your Church, O Lord, with unfailing love and favour, so that, renewed by the paschal victory, she may come to the glory of the Resurrection...

8th April

2nd Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday

The message for all time

HOW different is the Church of our day from the infant Church at the time of St Peter!

Peter's Church was so small that 'everything they owned was held in common'. Quite impossible, surely, in today's world, when there are well over



a billion Catholics. Yet being told how the first Christians looked after each other is a reminder that most of us could do much more for the Church. Even more importantly, we need reminding that the message of the Church today is the same as it was for St Peter, and will be until the end of time.

By his resurrection, Christ sets us free. Many Christians can't quite believe it, or don't act on it. Let us seek the risen Christ in prayer and sacrament and in everyone we meet. Then, like St Thomas, we shall exclaim, 'My Lord and my God!'

In today's Gospel we hear how Jesus greeted the disciples with 'Peace be with you,' and breathed the Holy Spirit upon them, conferring the power to forgive sins in his name. That peace, that gift of the Spirit and the Sacrament of Penance (Confession) have conferred immeasurable grace in the Church ever since.

Collect

GOD of everlasting mercy, who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast kindle the faith of the people you have made your own, increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed, that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, by whose Blood they have been redeemed...

Readings: Acts 4:32-35. Psalm 117:2-4,15-18,22-24. Response: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end (*or Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*) 1 John 5:1-6

The Easter Sequence Victimae Paschali may be sung (see previous page)

Gospel acclamation: Alleluia... Jesus said, 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

Gospel: John 20:19-31.

Preface: *the priest may use any of the Prefaces provided for Easter Timr.*

Prayer over the Offerings

ACCEPT, O Lord, we pray, the oblations of your people, that, renewed by confession of your name and by Baptism, they may attain unending happiness...

Prayer after Communion

GRANT, we pray, almighty God, that our reception of this paschal Sacrament may have a continuing effects in our minds and hearts...

15th April 3rd Sunday of Easter

'You are witnesses'

IN today's First Reading, Peter explains to the Jews why Christ died and why they must repent. In the Second Reading, St John gives the same message: only through Christ are our sins forgiven. 'We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.'

Today's Gospel Reading relates how the apostles were talking about their Master's resurrection when Jesus himself appeared, saying, 'Peace be with you.' They were frightened,



thinking he was a ghost. Jesus showed them his wounded hands and feet. He ate with them. He said that everything about him had been foretold in Scripture, and declared: 'You are witnesses of these things.'

Like the apostles, we find in Moses, the prophets and the psalms a looking-forward to Jesus' death and resurrection. Here and now, in The Gambia, just like Peter and the first disciples, we are Christ's beneficiaries and his witnesses.

Back page: Gospel reading and illustration

Collect

MAY your people exalt for ever, O God, in renewed youthfulness of spirit, so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption, we may look forward in confident hope to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection...

Readings: Acts 3:13-15,17-19. Psalm 4:2,4,7,9. Response: Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord *or Alleluia!* 1 John 2:1-5.

Gospel acclamation: Alleluia.. Lord Jesus, explain the scriptures to us. Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us.

Gospel: Luke 24:35-48

Prayer over the Offerings

RECEIVE, O Lord, we pray, these offerings of your exultant Church, and, as you have given her cause for such great gladness, grant also that the gifts we bring may bear fruit in perpetual happiness...

Preface: *the priest may use any one of the five Prefaces provided for Easter Time,*

Prayer after Communion

LOOK with kindness upon your people, O Lord, and grant, we pray, that those you were pleased to renew by eternal mysteries may attain in their flesh the incorruptible glory of the resurrection...

22nd April 4th Sunday of Easter

Shepherd, corner-stone, and expression of love

IN Jesus's day, shepherds were familiar figures, so his hearers at once understood when he spoke of himself as 'the good shepherd'.

Our Lord Jesus knows his sheep as individuals, and is ready even to die for them.

In the First Reading, St Peter has another image for Jesus: he describes him as the cornerstone on whom the world's salvation depends. And in the Second Reading, St John says that Jesus is the expression of God's love, and that we shall one day see him 'as he is'.

Shepherd, cornerstone and revelation of love. No metaphor can sufficiently sum up what Jesus is. But we have been given the essentials: namely, that Jesus loves and saves us, and that in return we are bound to love him, love our neighbour, and proclaim the good news.

Today is Vocations Sunday. We pray for vocations to the priesthood and the religious life.

We pray also that each of us may serve Christ faithfully in our own sphere of life.



Collect

ALMIGHTY ever-living God, lead us to a share in the joys of heaven, so that the humble flock may reach where the brave Shepherd has gone before...

Readings: Acts 2:8-12. Psalm 117: 1,8-9,21-23,26,29-30.

Response: The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner-stone *or* Alleluia! 1 John 2:1-2

Gospel acclamation: Alleluia...I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own sheep and my own know me.

Gospel: John 10:11-18

Prayer over the Offerings

GRANT, we pray, O Lord, that we may always find delight in these paschal mysteries, so that the renewal constantly at work within us may be the cause of our unending joy...

Preface: *the priest may use any of the Prefaces provided for Easter Time.*

Prayer after Communion

LOOK upon your flock, kind Shepherd, and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures the sheep you have redeemed by the Precious Blood of your Son...

29th April 5th Sunday of Easter

The vine

THE DISCIPLES were afraid when the newly-converted Saul (soon to be called Paul) attempted to join them, because they only knew of him as a ruthless persecutor of Christians. But Paul managed to convince them that the risen Christ had appeared to him, and that he was now a disciple himself.

What is the essence of the Gospel embraced by Paul? St John says, in today's Second Reading, that if we believe in God's love, and believe in and obey his Son Jesus, we shall receive, like Paul, the gift of the Holy Spirit. All who obey Jesus, says John, 'abide in him' - that is, live in Jesus.

Jesus himself, in today's Gospel Reading, tells his followers that he is the vine, and they are the branches.

In the Old Testament, the vine is often used as an image of Israel (Psalm 80:8-16, Isaiah 5:1-7). The image of the vine was used by the prophets to show that Israel had cut itself off from God and withered through disobedience (Jeremiah 2:21). Jesus told his disciples: 'As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.' We draw strength from Jesus and his Church through prayer, reading the Scriptures and celebrating the Eucharist.

Collect

ALMIGHTY ever-living God, constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us, that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism may, under your protective care, bear much fruit and come to the joys of life eternal...

Readings: Acts 9:26-31. Psalm 26-28,30-32. Response: You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly *or* Alleluia! 1 John 3:18-24.

Gospel acclamation: Alleluia...Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty.



Gospel: John 15:1-8

Prayer over the Offerings

O GOD, who by the wonderful exchange effected in this sacrifice have made us partakers of the one supreme Godhead, grant, we pray, that as we have come to know your truth, we may make it ours by a worthy way of life...

Preface: *the priest may use any of the Prefaces provided for Easter Time.*

Prayer after Communion

GRACIOUSLY be present to your people, we pray, O Lord, and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from former ways to newness of life...

6th May 6th Sunday of Easter

No favourites

IT wasn't easy for the first Jewish converts to recognise that Jesus was 'the light to light the gentiles' as well as 'the glory of Israel'. But Peter, on whom the Church, under Christ, was founded, declared that 'God does not have favourites'. Irrespective of race and social standing, everyone who believes in the Lord receives the forgiveness of sins and can be admitted to the Church.

The Body of Christ is a community founded on love. In today's Second Reading, John emphasises that because God loves us, we must love him and love one another. In the Gospel, Jesus' own words are, 'This is my commandment, that you love one another, as I have loved you.'

Love is our highest calling and greatest challenge. The fruit of love is the greatest sign that the kingdom of heaven is being established on earth.

It is easy to love the people we like. But what about those who irritate us, and those we cannot find it in ourselves to like, let alone love? St Teresa of Avila wrote, 'Though we do not have our Lord with us in bodily presence, we have our neighbour, who, for the ends of love and for loving service, is as good as the Lord himself.'

And the writer G.K. Chesterton declared: 'We make our friends; we make our enemies; but God makes our next-door neighbour.'

Collect

GRANT, almighty God, that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy which we keep in honour of the risen Lord, and that what we relive in remembrance we may always hold to in what we do...

Readings: Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48. Response: The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations *or* Alleluia! 1 John 4:7-10.

Gospel acclamation: Alleluia... Jesus said, 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.'

Gospel: John 15:9-17



Prayer over the Offerings

MAY our prayers rise up to you, O Lord, together with the sacrificial offerings, so that, purified by your graciousness, we may be conformed to the mysteries of your mighty love...

Preface: *the priest may use any one of the five Prefaces for Easter (see bottom of page 18)*

Prayer after Communion

ALMIGHTY ever-living God, who restore us to eternal life in the Resurrection of Christ, increase in us, pray, the fruits of this paschal Sacrament and pour into our hearts the strength of this saving food...

THE ASCENSION of THE LORD

FORTY days after the risen Christ first appeared to his apostles, he spoke of his divine authority, told them to 'make disciples of all nations', and was taken from their sight.

The Gospels tell us, 'He was parted from them' (Mark 16:19 and Luke 24:51).

Ascension Day celebrates this earthly parting and Jesus' ascension to the right hand of his Father. The Ascension, like the feast of Christ the King, celebrates the Lord in glory.

Jesus told his followers: 'Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow me afterwards (John 13:36) and, 'If I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am, you may be also.' (John 14:3)

Christ joins earth and heaven. He walks with us now, on earth – if we ask him to – in the Sacraments and in every aspect of our daily lives. And he is ever-living with the Father to pray for us and to welcome us into his glory.

We have his wonderful assurance, 'Know that I am with you always, yes, to the end of time.' (Matthew 28:20)

NB *The Church expects all Catholics to attend Mass on Ascension Day: it is a Holy Day of Obligation*

Wednesday 9th May Evening Vigil Mass of the Ascension

Collect

O GOD, whose Son today ascended to the heavens as the Apostles looked on, grant, we pray, that in accordance with his promise, we may be worthy for him to love with us on earth, and to be with him in heaven...

This evening's Readings are the same as those used in tomorrow's Ascension Day Mass, opposite column.

Prayer over the Offerings

O GOD, whose Only-Begotten Son, our High Priest, is seated ever-living at your right hand to intercede for us, grant that we may approach with confidence the throne of grace, and there obtain your mercy...

**Preface**

...for the Lord Jesus, the King of glory, conqueror of sin and death, ascended today to the highest heavens, as the angels gazed in wonder. Mediator between God and man, judge of the world and Lord of hosts, he ascended, not to distance himself from our lowly state, but that we, his members, might be confident of following where he, our head, has gone before...

The alternative Preface for the Ascension may be used: see Ascension Day Mass below.

Prayer after Communion

MAY the gifts we have received from your altar, Lord, kindle in our hearts a longing for the heavenly homeland and cause us to press forward, following in the Saviour's footsteps, to the place where for our sake he entered before us...

Thursday 10th May Ascension Day

Collect

GLADDEN us with holy joys, almighty God, and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving: for the exaltation of Christ your Son is our exultation, and where the Head has gone before in glory, the Body is called to follow in hope...

An alternative Collect may be used.

Readings: Acts 1:1-11. Psalm 46:2-3,6-9. Response: God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast (or Alleluia!) Ephesians 3:1-13 *or* Ephesians 1:17-23.

Gospel acclamation: Alleluia...Go, make disciples of all nations; I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.

Gospel: Mark 16:15-20

Prayer over the Offerings

WE offer sacrifice now in supplication now, O Lord, to honour the wondrous Ascension of your Son: grant, we pray, that through this most holy exchange we, too, may rise up to the heavenly realms

Preface

...for, after his Resurrection, he plainly appeared to all his disciples and was taken up to heaven in their sight, that he might make us sharers in his divinity...

The alternative Preface may be used: see Vigil Mass above.

Prayer after Communion

ALMIGHTY ever-living God, who allow those on earth to celebrate divine mysteries, grant, we pray, that Christian hope may draw us onward to where our nature is united with you...

13th May 7th Sunday of Easter

God's Spirit within us

AFTER Christ's ascension, his tiny band of disciples returned as he'd told them to Jerusalem, to await the coming of the Holy Spirit.

In the Second Reading, John explains that is the Spirit that enables God to live within us.

Under the guidance of the Spirit, the disciples elected Matthias to replace Judas Iscariot. They'd learnt, from what



Jesus taught them before his suffering and resurrection, that he would 'send them into the world' in the power of the Spirit. They had learnt, as Jesus says in the Gospel, that he wanted to share his joy with them. He wants to share it with us, too!

Collect

GRACIOUSLY hear our supplications, O Lord, that we, who believe that that the Saviour of the human race is with you in your glory, may experience, as he promised, until the ending of the world, his abiding presence among us...

Readings: Acts 1:15-17,20-26. Psalm 102:1-2,11-12, 19-20. Response: The Lord has set his sway in heaven or Alleluia! 1 John 4:11-16.

Gospel acclamation: Alleluia... I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord; I will come back to you, and your hearts will be full of joy.

Gospel: John 17:11-19

Prayer over the Offerings

ACCEPT, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful with the sacrificial offerings, that through these acts of devotedness we may pass over the glory of heaven...

Preface: *the priest may use any one of the five Prefaces provided for Easter Time or one of the Prefaces for the Ascension (see page opposite)*

Prayer after Communion

HEAR us, O God our Saviour, and grant us confidence, that through these sacred mysteries there will be accomplished in the body of the whole Church what has already come to pass in Christ her Head...



PENTECOST

THE EPIPHANY, Easter and Pentecost were the three great feasts of the early Church.

Today, fifty days after Passover and fifty days after Easter Sunday, we celebrate Pentecost.

For the Jews, Pentecost was the celebration of the grain harvest. It was also associated with the founding of the Jewish nation, when God delivered the Ten Commandments to Moses. At the time of Pentecost, Jerusalem was crowded. On that day, as Jesus had promised, the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles. They were exhilarated, and at once rushed out to preach. The Church was born!

In his first sermon, Peter declared: 'This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you both see and hear...the promise is for you, for your children, and all who are far away... (Acts 2:32-33,39)

Saturday 19th May

Evening Vigil Mass of Pentecost

Collect

ALMIGHTY ever-living God, who willed the Paschal Mystery to be encompassed as a sign in fifty days, grant that from out of the scattered nations the confusion of many tongues may be gathered by heavenly grace into one great confession of your name...

An alternative collect may be used.

First Reading: Genesis 11:1-9 or Exodus 19:3-8,16-20 or Ezekiel 17:1-14 or Joel 3:1-5. Psalm 103:1-2,24,27-30,35.

Response: Send forth your spirit, O God, and renew the face of the earth or Alleluia! Romans 8:22-27

Gospel acclamation: Alleluia...Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Gospel: John 7: 37-39

Prayer over the Offerings

POUR out on these gifts the blessing of your Spirit, we pray, O Lord, so that through them your Church may be imbued with such love that the truth of your saving mystery may shine forth for the whole world...

Preface as in tomorrow's Mass

Prayer after Communion

MAY these gifts we have consumed benefit us, O Lord, that we may always be aflame with the same Spirit whom you wondrously poured out on your apostles...

20th May: Pentecost Sunday

Collect

O GOD, who in the mystery of today's great feast sanctify your whole Church in every people and nation, pour out, we pray, the gifts of the Holy Spirit across the face of the earth, and, with the divine grace that was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed, fill now once more the hearts of believers...

Readings: Acts 2: 1-11. Psalm 103:1,24,29-31,34. Response: Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth or Alleluia! Corinthians 12:3-7,12-23 or Galatians 5:16-25

Sequence

Holy Spirit, Lord of light, from the clear celestial height, thy pure beaming radiance give.

Come, thou Father of the poor, come with treasures that endure; come, thou light of all that live!

Thou, of all consolers best; thou, the soul's delightful guest, dost refreshing peace bestow.

Thou in toil art comfort sweet; pleasant coolness in the heat; solace in the midst of woe.

Light immortal, light divine, visit thou these hearts of thine, and our inmost being fill.

If thou take thy grace away, nothing pure in man may stay; all his good is turned to ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength renew; on our dryness, pour thy dew; wash the stains of guilt away.

Bend the stubborn heart and will; melt the frozen, warm the chill; guide the steps that go astray.

Thou, on us who evermore thee confess, and thee adore, thy sevenfold gifts descend.

Give us comfort when we die, give us life with thee on high; give us joys that never end.

Latin version

Veni, creator Spiritus. mentes tuorum visita, imple superna gratia, quae tu creasti pectora.

Qui diceris Paraclitus, altissimi donum Dei, fons vivus, ignis, caritas et spiritalis unctio.

Tu septiformis munere, digitus paternae dexteræ. tu rite promissum Patris. sermone ditans guttura.

Accende lumen sensibus, infunde amorem cordibus, infirma nostri corporis, virtute firmans perpeti.

Hostem repellas longius, pacemque dones protinus; ductore sic te praevio, vitemus omne noxium.

Per te sciamus da Patrem, noscamus atque Filium, te utriusque Spiritum, credamus omni tempore.

Deo Patri sit gloria, et Filio qui a mortuis Surrexit ac Paraclito, in saeculorum saecula.

Gospel acclamation: Alleluia... Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Gospel: John 20:19-23 or John 15:26-27, 16:12-15

Prayer over the Offerings

GRANT, we pray, O Lord, that, as promised by your Son, the Holy Spirit may reveal to us more abundantly the hidden mystery of this sacrifice and graciously lead us into all truth...

Preface:

...for, bringing your Paschal Mystery to completion, you bestowed the Holy Spirit today on those you made your adopted children by uniting them to your Only-Begotten Son. This same Spirit, as the Church came to birth, opened to all peoples the knowledge of God and brought together the many languages of the earth to the profession of the one faith. Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise, and even the heavenly powers, with the angelic hosts, sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim...

Prayer after Communion

O GOD, who bestow heavenly gifts upon your Church, grant, we pray, the grace you have given, that the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out upon her may retain all its force, and that this spiritual food may gain her abundance of eternal redemption..

The Dismissal

The deacon or priest sings or says Go forth, the Mass is ended, alleluia, alleluia or Go in peace, alleluia, alleluia.

The people reply Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.

Dismissal in Latin: *Ite, missa est. alleluia, alleluia*
Response: *Deo gratias, alleluia, alleluia.*

Easter Time ends

The paschal candle is extinguished. It may be kept near the font so that it is lit at baptisms and the candles of those baptised are lit from it.

RISEN LORD JESUS,

grant that the gratitude and joy we have experienced
during Easter Time
may remain with us throughout the year,
so that in the spirit of Peter and the Apostles
we may devote ourselves to
proclaiming your kingdom
for the glory of your Name.

**Sunday 31st May
Trinity Sunday****God's 'most wonderful mystery'**

THE FIRST disciples were Jews who had an unshakable belief in One Lord God as proclaimed by Moses and all the prophets and patriarchs. Then, from Jesus, they learnt to pray to God the Father, just as Jesus did.

After Jesus' ascension they prayed to him as incarnate God and Saviour; and they prayed to the Holy Spirit who had descended on them at Pentecost.

There was no contradiction. The disciples knew God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit: three Persons, but One God. Ever since, the Church has worshipped God as the Holy Trinity, and prayed in the name of the One in Three and Three in One.

It was not until 325, at the Council of Nicea (now Iznik, in Turkey) that the doctrine of the Trinity was defined; but belief in the Trinity has always been central to the life of the Church and of individual Christians.

Today's Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity sums up all that we have celebrated in the liturgy since the beginning of the liturgical year last December, in Advent.

Collect

GOD our Father, who by sending into the world the Word who is truth and the Spirit of sanctification made known to the human race your most wondrous mystery, grant us, we pray, that in professing the true faith we may acknowledge the Trinity of eternal glory and adore your Unity, powerful in majesty...

Readings: Deuteronomy 4:32-34,39-40. Psalm 32: 4-6,9,18-20. Response: Happy the people the Lord has chosen as his own. Romans 8:14-17.

Gospel acclamation: Alleluia...Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, the God who is, who was, and who is to come...

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

Prayer over the Offerings

SANCTIFY by the invocation of your name, we pray, O Lord our God, this oblation of your service, and by it make of us an eternal offering to you...

Preface

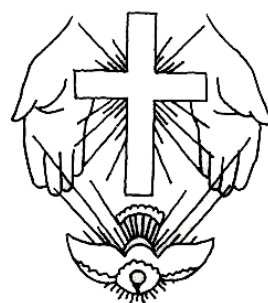
...for with your Only-Begotten Son and the Holy Spirit you are one God, one Lord: not in the unity of a single Person, but in a Trinity of one substance.

For what you have revealed to us of your glory we believe equally of your Son and of the Holy Spirit, so that, in the confessing of the true and eternal Godhead, you might be adored in what is proper to each Person, their unity in substance and their equality in majesty...

Prayer after Communion

MAY receiving this Sacrament, O Lord our God, bring us health of body and soul, as we confess your eternal holy Trinity and undivided Unity...

Full texts of daily Mass and Morning & Evening Prayer
can be seen at [www. Universalis](http://www.Universalis)



Bishop Mendy's Spiritan seminary

BISHOP Gabriel Mendy CSSp, until his appointment to lead the Diocese of Banjul, was Vice Rector of the world's largest Spiritan seminary in Enugu, south-eastern Nigeria.

The Spiritan International School of Theology, known as SIST, was established to train priests and lay men and women for missionary work. Every year the seminary contributes the largest number of missionaries to the worldwide Spiritan work-force.

SIST was founded in 1987 by the Congregation of the Holy Spirit (Spiritans or Holy Ghost fathers & brothers) under the proprietorship of the Union of the Circumscriptions of Anglophone West Africa.

Besides Spiritans, the SIST provides other missionary orders - such as the Claretians, Saviourites, Conceptionists and Theatines - with facilities for the training of their candidates for the priesthood.

Dominicans, Benedictines and Missionary Servants of the Church used the SIST's facilities before they established their own seminaries.

Students and staff at SIST come from various African countries, as well as from Nigeria itself: Cameroon, Congo Kinshasa, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Uganda. It is a place of



cultural encounter, where diverse people and their ways of life are appreciated, promoting fellowship and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Since its inception, SIST has produced over 346 priests and a good number of scholars of repute, many of them serving as missionaries in Africa, Europe, Latin America, North America, Asia and Australia.

SIST plays an important role in the growth of the Church in Nigeria, and enjoys goodwill and cordial relationships with bishops, superiors of religious congregations, and other seminaries.

SIST continues to contribute to the lives of the people of the local community, sharing the faith and providing drinking water, transport and certain certain medical services.

In late 2010 Fr Gabriel Mendy was called to lecture at the Spiritan International School of theology, where he taught ecclesiology, fundamental theology, the theology of worship, liturgy, and cataghetics. He became Vice Rector.



Contact us at

GAMBIA PASTORAL INSTITUTE

33 Kairaba Avenue, PMB 296 Serrekunda, The Gambia, West Africa
Telephone +220 4394847 / 9957143 / 7773494, Email info@gpi.gm

FACILITIES & SERVICES

Residential Accommodation



Rates per night:
Basic Rooms D400,
single D650, double,
D800 triple.

Rooms with A/C &
TV D1,200 single,
D1,500 double.

Rooms with TV:
D700 single, D900
double.

Room *en suite*:

D1,500. Rooms with Fan & Bathroom: D600
On Request: Breakfast D150, Lunch D250, Dinner D250
*Free wifi available in all rooms, Dining hall and
Conference hall.*

Workshops, Events, Celebrations: Conference
Hall; Dining Hall; Hall for Wedding Receptions

Printing: Major publications on Risco printing;
Photocopying (b/w or colour); Certificates; Posters;
Laminating; Funeral Programmes; Wake-Keeping
Booklets; School needs – and others; Adverts for
The Diocese of Banjul Newsletter

Communications Unit: Television and Radio
Programmes produced in our studio; recordings:
video and audio for weddings, funerals, all Church
programmes.

Filming and editing: sound, adverts and major
events.



Gaudeamus: Bishop Gabriel Mendy CSSp is consecrated at Bakau, enthroned in Banjul, and welcomed at Lamin, his home village







My impressions...

Fr PETER S. LOPEZ, Director of the Gambia Pastoral Institute, recalls the historic celebration of 3rd February 2018

THE HISTORY of the Catholic Diocese of Banjul tells us that the first Gambian priest, Abbé Lacombe, was ordained in 1852.

He was born in Banjul to a French father and a Gambian mother, and ordained in Rome in 1869. After him, before Gambian Independence, three other Gambians were ordained to the priesthood: Fr Charles Mendy, Fr Sanneh and Fr Thomas Jobe.

After these pioneers, a great drought was experienced in Gambian vocations to the priesthood.

Bishop Michael Moloney, first Bishop of Banjul, was instrumental in encouraging and nurturing local vocations, and in the 1970s founded a junior seminary for the diocese.

Second generation

The second generation of Gambian priests started with the ordination of Fr Anthony Gabisi and Fr Peter Gomez in 1985. Since then the number of Gambian priests has increased steadily.

Saturday 3rd February 2018, the memorial of St Blaise, was a milestone in the history of our diocese, when a Gambian priest was called to higher office as Bishop of the Diocese of Banjul. Gambians were excited when the news broke that Fr Gabriel Mendy CSSp had been appointed by Pope Francis as the first Gambian to lead the diocese.

For many years Gambian Catholics had prayed for a Gambian Bishop, and finally God had answered their prayers. The installation Bishop Mendy was a glowing testimony to the work, sacrifice and foresight of the Irish Spiritan missionaries who served for so many years among us.

The Episcopal Ordination at the Independence Stadium in Bakau was viewed by over 95,000 people in The Gambia and beyond. Over 10,000 were in the stadium itself for the ceremony, which lasted over four hours.

Many things stood out for me at the Episcopal Ordination, but three aspects in particular: the liturgy itself, the beautiful singing, and the Rite of Ordination of a Bishop.

Beautiful singing

Almost all who spoke about the ceremony commented on the beautiful local songs performed by the St John Paul II Diocesan Choir, composed of the different choirs of our parishes in the Greater Banjul Area. If you see the remarks on the GPI Facebook page, you will get a taste of what the choir brought to the liturgy.

The aspect of the Mass that I appreciated was the Rite of Ordination of a Bishop. It was led by the Principal

Consecrator, His Grace Archbishop Edward Tamba Charles, Archbishop of Freetown, Sierra Leone.

The Rite of Ordination of a Bishop has several parts:

1. *Veni Creator Spiritus* (Come, Holy Spirit)
2. The Presentation of the Bishop-Elect
3. The Reading of the Apostolic Letter (official document from Pope Francis)
4. The Assent of the People (all responded with 'Thanks be to God')
5. The Homily
6. The Examination of the Candidate (asked numerous questions regarding his episcopal ordination)
7. The Invitation to Prayer (all prayed for the Bishop-Elect)
8. The Litany of Supplication (Litany of the Saints)
9. The Laying-On of Hands. The Prayer of Consecration (with the Book of the Gospels held above the head of the Bishop-Elect) and the Prayer of Ordination (calling down of the Holy Spirit). The Anointing of the Bishop's head with oil. the Presentation of the Book of the Gospels (symbolising the Bishop's office as teacher; his other two duties being to sanctify and to govern).
10. The Investiture with ring, mitre and pastoral Staff
11. The Seating of the Bishop and the Kiss of Peace - reserved until the following day at the Bishop's Cathedral in Banjul.

Overwhelming

For many young people this was their first time they'd attended an episcopal ordination.

The beauty of the ceremony was overwhelming.

If you get a chance to attend an Episcopal Ordination, my suggestion is – take it! It's by far one of the most impressive liturgies I have experienced. With liturgies such as this, I am very glad and blessed to be a Catholic.

Despite having little time at its disposal, the diocese was able to put up a beautiful Episcopal Ordination.

The Episcopal Ordination Committee was headed by the President of the Diocesan Priests' Association, Fr Bruno Toupan (*right*), who did a fabulous job. This says a great deal about working in concert for the building-up of the kingdom of God. Collaborative ministry is key, and we should all work towards it.



We wish Bishop Mendy a fruitful ministry in his episcopate, and pray that Almighty God will direct him in all his endeavours.

Gratias Agimus Domino!

Let us give thanks to the Lord.

A prayer for our Bishop

O GOD, shepherd and ruler of all the faithful, look favourably on your servant Gabriel, whom you have set at the head of your Church in The Gambia as her shepherd; grant, we pray, that by word and example he may be of service to those over whom he presides, so that together with the flock entrusted to his care, he may come to everlasting life....

‘Quite a homecoming!’

BEFORE Bishop Francis Mendy was ordained, an article about his appointment appeared in *Catholic New York*, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of New York and the largest Catholic newspaper in the United States.

Catholic New York pointed out that the Bishop-Elect Mendy would have ‘quite a homecoming’ when he returned to The Gambia. ‘He will become the first native son of the West African nation to serve as the bishop of its sole diocese, Banjul.’

Catholic New York continued:

The scale of the Church in The Gambia is modest, a fact perhaps best exemplified when the Bishop-Elect, who was appointed by Pope Francis on 30th November, said that he already knew every priest in the country.

You may be wondering why the newly-appointed Bishop of Banjul should be the topic of a *Catholic New York* column. The answer is that from September 2017 the Bishop-Elect was on sabbatical at St Christopher and St Margaret Mary Parish on Staten Island, where he had expected to remain for a while longer. He has been serving as Vice Rector and professor at the Spiritan International School of Theology in Enugu, Nigeria.



Star of the Sea, Staten Island, New York

In fact, Staten Island [in New York Harbour, and one of the five boroughs of New York] has become a kind of home-away-from-home for Bishop-Elect Mendy...

From 2006 to 2016 he did summer duty at Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, first during the pastorate of Mgr Jeffrey Conway, and more recently under Fr Thomas Devery. For several of those years he was a student at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, where he earned a doctorate in systematic theology.

One of his charges was to encourage parishioners to sign up for Eucharistic Adoration from Monday to Friday afternoons in a parish chapel.

‘I loved the people’

The Bishop-Elect, who is 50, said he had learnt a lot from the priests at Our Lady Star of the Sea, especially ‘their commitment and dedication to pastoral ministry and the teamwork they had. I enjoyed my time there. I loved the people, and they appreciated me.’

He returned to Our Lady Star of the Sea for a Mass of Thanksgiving on 9th December, and celebrated another at St Christopher’s the next day.

Fr Joseph McLafferty, who served at Our Lady Star of the Sea during the Bishop-Elect’s years there, is now Pastor of St Christopher and St Margaret Mary.

Fr McLafferty shared some impressions of the new bishop. ‘There is a real pastoral sense about him. He is very open to what people need. He comes to people where they are at.’

The Pastor said that Bishop-Elect Mendy found his place almost immediately when he came to Our Lady Star of the Sea, a very large parish. ‘He’s good with people.’

He added that the bishop-elect was well informed about world affairs: ‘He’s very up-to-date.’

The Bishop-Elect said that there is good potential for the growth of the Church in The Gambia, but finding resources to fund the expansion will be a challenge.’



Cardinal Timothy Dolan



Fr Joseph McLafferty

Fr Joseph McLafferty accompanied Bishop-Elect Mendy on a visit to Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York. The Bishop-Elect was impressed that the cardinal met him in person, and given him gifts: mitre, cassock, ring and pectoral cross.

He said he was extremely grateful for the cardinal’s kind gestures. ‘I promised to keep him in my prayers and to remain in touch with him.’

Bishop-elect Mendy said his appointment came as a surprise. ‘It’s not something you expect. I welcomed it, I’m happy about it. The Holy Father considered me worthy.’

Bishop Gabriel Mendy’s chosen motto:

Spiritus Sanctus vobis omnia docebit

The Holy Spirit will teach you everything

John 14:26



Gambian Christian Anniversaries April & May

60 YEARS AGO On 4th May 1958 Monsignor Michael Moloney CSSp was episcopally ordained in Dublin as first Bishop of Banjul, in a rite remarkably parallel to that used at the episcopal ordination on 3rd February 2018 of Bishop Gabriel Mendy.

The consecrating prelate in Dublin was the Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland, Dr Levane. Present were the Irish Taoiseach (Prime Minister), the Archbishop of Dublin, Dr McQuaid, and many missionary bishops. Prayers were offered 'that The Gambia and its Bishop will have more and

more labourers, and an ever-greater harvest of souls, an ever-more vigorous Catholic life unto the greater praise and glory of the Blessed Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Ghost'.

The Gambia Echo of 21st July 1958 reported:

...The Litany of Saints was chanted while the Bishop-Elect lay prostrate at the foot of the altar; and then his hands and head were anointed with the oil of chrism... Then the insignia were given to the newly-consecrated bishop. He received the crozier as the symbol of his pastoral office; then the ring was placed on his finger as a symbol of the union that exists between himself and the Church; and finally he was presented with the Book of the Gospels which he is commissioned to preach to the people entrusted to him.... It was indeed a most memorable and impressive ceremony, printed indelibly on the minds of all who were fortunate to be present at it.'

Among those present was Fr Michael Cleary, representing the clergy of the Diocese of Banjul. Representatives of the laity included Martha Gomez, Vicky Blain, S.F.Njie, P.L.Halden, A.L. Blain, J.G.Wadda and J.J. NDow. Also present was the Anglican Bishop of Gambia and Rio Pongas, Dr Pike.

At the reception which followed, the Taoiseach, Eamon de Valera, remarked that the Irish people were not only grateful for the work in education being done by the Holy Ghost Fathers in Ireland, but that the Irish people could feel proud that they had contributed to the missionary work of the congregation by giving their sons as missionaries. A telegram sent by the Catholics of Banjul was read out: 'Greetings on the occasion of your consecration as Bishop of Bathurst. Our prayerful thoughts are with you and we send you our heartiest congratulations and grateful thanks to the Holy Ghost Fathers of the Irish Province to whom your elevation to this high office is a fitting tribute.'

Bishop Moloney concluded his own address: 'The Gambia is considered a difficult Mission.... but though we may be small in number we are encouraged by the staunch loyalty of our Catholic community.'

Bishop Moloney chose as his motto, *Docete omnes Gentes* – 'Teach all Nations'.

23rd April 1816: Captain Alexander Grant purchased Banjul Island from the King of the Kombos, and renamed it St Mary's Island. Grant Street in Banjul was named after him.

18th April 1848 (170 years ago): The first Mass was celebrated in a room in Banjul which served as a chapel.

18th April 1849: For 2,500 French francs, Bishop Aloysius Kobès of Dakar bought the property in Daniel Goddard Street where the Cathedral now stands.

2nd May 1849: Bishop Kobès blessed the foundation stone of the first Catholic chapel.

14th April 1850: Four Sisters of the Immaculate Conception arrived from France to open a school for girls.

11th April 1878 (140 years ago): Fr Renoux arrived to take over from Fr Reihl. He died less than five months later, on 5th October.

1st April 1883 (145 years ago): The Immaculate Conception Sisters left Banjul, to be succeeded the following week by five Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny - one French, the others Irish.

1st May 1931: Bishop Augustin Grimault visited Banjul to confirm 30 young people.

4th May 1935: Arrival of Sr Albert Byrne SJC, who served in The Gambia until her death in Banjul on 16th July 2001, aged 90.

15th April 1936: Fr Harold Whiteside celebrated the first Mass at Old Jeshwang.

9th April 1948 (70 years ago): Opening of the first St Therese's Church Kanifing, now the parochial hall. *See page 5*

20th April 1949: Visit of Archbishop Mathew, Apostolic Delegate, who sounded opinions about the status of the Mission.

13th April 1951: In Freetown, the Archbishop of Canterbury consecrated Rodney Norman Coote as Second Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Gambia & Rio Pongas.

15th April 1951: The Catholic Mission was raised to the status of Prefecture-Apostolic.

22nd May 1954: Fr Meehan's Golden Jubilee was celebrated. The actual date of his ordination was 28th October 1904, but the celebration was brought forward because of his declining health. (He was to die almost four months later, on 15th September 1954.)

8th April 1958 (60 years ago): Completion of Bwiam mission house, supervised by Fr Reginald Gillooly.

3rd April 1959: Opening of Njongon Primary School

24th April 1960: Bishop Moloney blessed Star of the Sea Bakau.

27th April 1960: Fr Michael Frawley returned to Nigeria, having spent 7 years in charge of St Augustine's High School. His successor was Fr Michael Cleary (later Bishop Cleary).

2nd April 1962: Bishop Moloney blessed a bell at the Cathedral.

9th April 1966: Following Vatican II, Bishop Moloney set up three commissions: liturgy, headed by Fr Hugh Fagan; ecumenism, Fr Michael Flynn; and the laity, Fr Seán Little.

9th April 1972: Archbishop Francis Carroll of Monrovia consecrated the new St Therese's Church at Kanifing. The consecration coincided with the Bishops' Conference of The Gambia and Sierra Leone, hosted by Bishop Moloney.

16th April 1979: Departure of Fr McNally.

4th April 1980: Bishop Moloney announced his resignation due to ill health.

5th April 1983 (35 years ago): The Cluny Sisters celebrated 100 years in The Gambia at the opening of the convent at Darsilami, with Sisters Elizabeth, Joseph and Philomena taking up residence.

13th April 1985: At Bakau Stadium, Bishop Cleary ordained Anthony Gabisi and Peter Gomez as priests and David Jimoh Jarju and Edward Gomez as deacons.

12th April 1986: Ordination of Fr Edward Gomez.

26th April 1986: Ordination of Fr David Jimoh Jarju.

21st April 1989: The renovated church at Bwiam was rededicated to Our Lady of Fatima.

25th April 1992: Opening of All Saints Brikama.

17th April 1993 (25 years ago): Opening of St James Kandunkou.

23rd April 1995: Bishop Cleary blessed Holy Rosary Lamin.

5th April 1997: Opening of St Matthew Barra.

10th April 1999: Ordination by Bishop Cleary of Fr Joseph Karbo and Fr Michael Ndecky.

21st April 2001: Opening of St Peter & St Paul Albreda.

18th May 2004: Death aged 85 in France of Cardinal Hyacinth Thiandoum, Archbishop of Dakar 1962-2000.

6th April 2006: Death of Margareta Edenius, long-term Swedish benefactor of education in The Gambia.

14th May 2006, Feast of St Matthias: Episcopal Ordination at Bakau of the Most Revd Robert Ellison CSSp.

1st April 2007, Palm Sunday: Bishop Ellison opened the Chapel of Perpetual Adoration at St Therese's Kanifing.

28th April 2007: Bishop Emeritus Michael Cleary opened the Anne-Marie Javouhey Academy Brusibi.

29th April 2007: Opening of St Teresa of Calcutta, Mariamakunda.

12th May 2007: The Cluny Sisters celebrated the 200th anniversary of the founding of their Order.

11th-23rd April 2008 (10 years ago): In Nairobi, Bishop Ellison attended the Pastoral Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue.

25th May 2008 (10 years ago): Death in Dakar of Mgr Pierre Sagna CSSp, Bishop Emeritus of St Louis du Sénégal, who had spent his retirement at Holy Cross Brusibi.

During May 2008 (10 years ago): In Freetown, Bishop Ellison took part in the Bishops' Conference of The Gambia & Sierra Leone.

20th April 2009: Launching of the Network of Catholic Women's Associations.

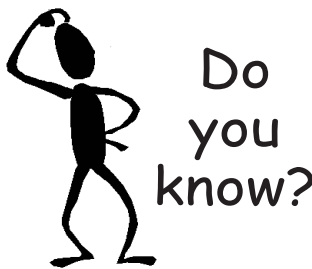
11th May 2009: Br Marcelin, Principal of the Lycée Sacré Cœur Ziguinchor, visited St Peter's Senior Secondary School Lamin with 11 teachers and 84 pupils.

24th May 2009: The Methodist Mission achieved autonomy from the parent mission in Britain.

2nd May 2009: President Jammeh made Bishop Ellison an honorary Commander of the Order of the Republic of The Gambia (CRG).

During April 2010: *Ad limina* visit to Rome of Bishop Ellison and his brother bishops of Sierra Leone and Liberia.

10th May 2015: Sr Marie J. Mendy, the only Gambian Sister of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, made her perpetual profession.



- 1 When did Jesus take breakfast by the water with his disciples?
- 2 How many books of the Old Testament bear the name of a woman?
- 3 What is the nationality of Pope Francis?
- 4 Which seaside town in Senegal has long been a place of Catholic pilgrimage?
- 5 What do the following priests and sisters have in common?
Fr Edward Grimes, Fr Peter Conaty, Fr Donal Murray, Bishop Emeritus Robert Ellison, Sr Sarian Gomez, Sr Philomena Barry, Fr Joseph Karbo.
- 6 Name the layman pictured right. *Answers on page 25*



Question Box

I know that Pentecost refers to the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles in Jerusalem fifty days after the Jewish Passover, when Christ had risen from the dead.

But what is 'Pentecostalism'?

PENTECOSTALISM is a Protestant religious movement that originated in the USA in the 19th–20th century. It is characterised by a belief that all Christians should seek a post-conversion religious experience called baptism with the Holy Spirit. The experience corresponds to the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles at Pentecost, and is evidenced by speaking in tongues, prophesying and healing.

Pentecostalism grew out of the 19th-century 'Holiness' movement in the USA, and shares its emphasis on biblical literalism, conversion and moral rigour.

Charismatic movements in the Catholic and mainstream Protestant denominations provide some parallels, but Catholic doctrines and worship are distinctly unlike those of Pentecostalism.

Today there are many Pentecostalist denominations in the USA and around the world, including the Assemblies of God. Pentecostalism has been especially successful in the Caribbean, Latin America and Africa.



from beyond the diocese

Nearly 50,000 baptisms registered in China in 2017

THE CATHOLIC Church in China registered 48,556 baptisms in 2017, reflecting the vitality of the Catholic communities there, according to a report by the news agency *Fides*.

The figures are probably incomplete, however, given the difficulty of procuring data from Catholic communities in the rural parts of China.

The province of Hebei - which consistently has the highest number of baptisms each year of all the Chinese provinces - topped the list again with 11,899. The Archdiocese of Beijing registered 1,099 baptisms, while the Diocese of Ningxia had 128 new Catholics baptised. China's north-west autonomous region of Xinjiang, where the majority of the population is Muslim, registered 66 baptisms.

'In spite of the encouraging figures and the great missionary commitment in local communities throughout China, we must always feel called to a renewed missionary commitment,' said the Faith Institute for Cultural Studies. 'Evangelisation in China is a long and difficult path to carry out.' The institute is encouraging all the Catholic communities in China to improve their archives and parish registers so that a more complete set of data can be collected in the future.

Pope accepts resignation of bishop rejected by priests



POPE Francis has accepted the resignation of a Nigerian bishop who had been rejected for years by the priests of his diocese.

In June last year the Pope issued an ultimatum to the priests of Diocese of Ahiara in south-east Nigeria, warning that they would lose their status if they didn't obey

him and accept Mgr Peter Okpaleke (above) as their bishop. Francis gave each priest 30 days to pledge obedience. Two hundred priests obeyed, but some still expressed problems in working with Bishop Okpaleke.

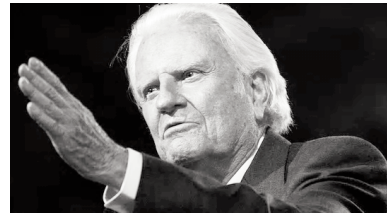
Pope Benedict XVI had appointed Bishop Okpaleke to Ahiara six years earlier, in 2012. Ahiara is in the Mbaise region, and many lay-people and priests objected to the appointment of an 'outsider' from the Anambra region to lead them. In protest, they blocked access to the cathedral where Okpaleke was to be installed, and he had to be installed outside the diocese.

The Vatican's mission office said that the Pope had taken the priests' 'repentance' into account in deciding not to sanction them for 'the grave damage' they had inflicted on the Church by rejecting Bishop Okpaleke.

But the Vatican said it hoped that in the future 'they will never again repeat such unreasonable actions opposing a bishop legitimately appointed by the Supreme Pontiff'.

Death of world-renowned preacher

THE AMERICAN evangelist Billy Graham, who transformed his country's religious life and was the most widely-heard Christian evangelist in history, died on



Wednesday 21st February at the age of 99. He had long suffered from cancer, pneumonia and other ailments, and died at his home in North Carolina.

Billy Graham's crusades in more than 185 countries forged global links among conservative Christians. On his visits to Eastern Europe he was a strong critic of communism.

It is thought that Graham preached Christianity to over 210 million people, more than anyone in history.

He was a confidant to US presidents from Dwight Eisenhower to George W Bush.

Born into a fundamentalist family in 1918, Graham joined the New Evangelicalism movement as a young man and began to build a following preaching in a travelling revival held in a tent dubbed the 'canvas cathedral'.

Many fundamentalists broke with him when he agreed to work with more liberal Christians in the 1950s. In 1957 he said: 'I intend to go anywhere, sponsored by anybody, to preach the gospel of Christ.'

His catch-phrase was 'the Bible says...'

Billy Graham was a commanding presence at his 'crusades'. He asked the multitudes to come down the aisles and publicly make 'decisions for Christ', as a choir sang the hymn 'Just as I am'.

In 1950 he began hosting the 'Hour of Decision' radio show, broadcast at its peak by more than 1,200 stations. A few years later he launched the television show, 'Christianity Today'.

Graham's positions on social issues were watched closely. One of the most pressing was the US civil rights movement. He was no social activist, which led prominent Christians to publicly condemn him as too moderate. But Graham ended racially-segregated seating at his southern crusades in 1953, a year before the US Supreme Court's school integration ruling, and he refused to visit South Africa while its white regime insisted on racially-segregated meetings.

Graham said of his preaching: 'I have been asked, "What is the secret? Is it showmanship, organisation or what?" "The secret of my work is God. I would be nothing without him.'

The Archbishop of New York, Cardinal Timothy Dolan, paid tribute to Billy Graham. 'As anyone growing up in the 1950s and 1960s can tell you, it was hard not to notice and be impressed by the Reverend Billy Graham.... The Dolans were a Catholic family, firm in our faith, but in our household there was always respect and admiration for Billy Graham... Whether it was one of his famous crusades, radio programmes, television specials, or meeting and counselling the presidents, Billy Graham seemed to be everywhere, always with the same message: Jesus is your Saviour, and wants you to be happy with him forever...

'My admiration for him only grew.... I came to appreciate even more the tremendous role he played in the American evangelical movement. May the Lord that Billy Graham loved so passionately now grant him eternal rest.'

Francis meets the Turkish President

THE POPE welcomed the Turkish President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, to the Vatican on 5th February for a discussion that included the status of Jerusalem and the need to achieve peace in the Middle East. Mr Erdogan's visit to the Pope was the first by a Turkish President for 59 years.



During a 50-minute meeting the two leaders discussed the current situation in Turkey, 'the condition of the Catholic community, efforts in the reception of the many refugees and the challenges linked to this', the Vatican said.

Pope Francis and Mr Erdogan also focussed on 'the situation in the Middle East, with particular reference to the status of Jerusalem, highlighting the need to promote peace and stability in the region through dialogue and negotiation, with respect for human rights and international law'.

President Erdogan spent two days in Rome, and met the Italian authorities and business leaders.

President Erdogan gave the Pope a collection of works by Jalal al-Din Muhammad Rumi, the 13th-century Muslim mystic, philosopher and poet. He also gave Francis a large panoramic image of the city of Istanbul hand-painted on ceramic tiles.

Pope Francis gave President Erdogan a bronze medallion of an 'angel of peace', a copy of his encyclical letter, *Laudato Si'* on the care of creation, and an engraving of St Peter's Basilica in the 17th century.

Mr Erdogan had telephoned the Pope last December to discuss his concern over the status of Jerusalem after President Donald Trump announced that he was formally recognising Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Pope Francis has repeatedly upheld Vatican calls for a special, internationally-guaranteed statute on the status of Jerusalem as the only way to preserve its unique identity as a place considered holy by Christians, Jews and Muslims.

The Pope has publicly appealed for respect for the *status quo* of Jerusalem and prayed that 'wisdom and prudence would prevail to avoid adding new elements of tension in a world already shaken and scarred by many cruel conflicts'.

New Marian memorial

THE MONDAY after Pentecost will from this year be celebrated as the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, Pope Francis has declared.

In a decree issued on 3rd March by the Congregation for Divine Worship, Cardinal Robert Sarah wrote that the new celebration will 'help us to remember that growth in the Christian life must be anchored to the Mystery of the Cross, to the oblation of Christ in the Eucharistic Banquet and to the Mother of the Redeemer and Mother of the Redeemed, the Virgin who makes her offering to God'.

The Marian title 'Mother of the Church' has grown in popularity in recent decades. Pope Paul VI bestowed the title on Mary at the end of the Second Vatican Council, although it had previously been used by Benedict XIV and Leo XIII.

This year, the celebration will fall on Monday 21st May.

Belgian priest dies at 108

FATHER JAQUES Clemens, former Parish Priest at Nalinnes-Bultia, in Belgium, died on 7th March at the age of 108.

Fr Clemens was born in July 1909 at La Haye, in Holland. He was ordained in 1936, and thereafter taught at the seminary in Gerpennes (known today as the Collège Saint-Augustin). He raised funds to build a church at Bultia, and St Benedict's Church opened in 1957. The following year he became the first Parish Priest of the new parish.

In 2015, at the age of 106, Fr Clemens was still offering Sunday Mass. In 2017 he became the oldest Belgian priest.

Desecrators of Mary's statue ordered to memorise Qur'anic verses

THREE young Muslim men found guilty of desecrating a statue of the Virgin Mary were ordered by a Lebanese judge to memorise passages from the Qur'an that praise the mother of Jesus.

The defendants, who live in a mostly Christian village, were apprehended after circulating on-line a video of themselves desecrating the statue.

On 8th February Judge Jocelyne Matta ordered the men to memorise verses from the *Al Imran* sura of the Qur'an, which describes the birth of Mary, her virginity and the annunciation of Jesus's conception by the angel Gabriel.

The judge said her decision was meant to teach the young men about Islam's respect and love for Mary.

Fr Roupheal Zgheib, National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in Lebanon, told *Fides*, the Vatican news agency, 'The judge realised that the boys did not know anything about the Qur'an despite being Muslims, and chose that kind of sentence to teach them to respect their own religion as well as the faiths of those who are not Muslims.'

Polish shops shut as Sunday trading ban takes effect

A POLISH law banning almost all trade on Sundays has taken effect, with many shops closed for the first time since liberal shopping laws were introduced in the 1990s after the collapse of communism.

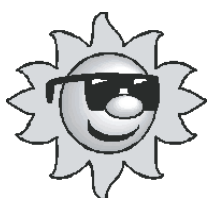
Many Poles felt that workers were exploited under recent liberal regulations. But others resent the new limits.

In Hungary, another former-communist country, a ban on Sunday trade imposed in 2015 was so unpopular that the authorities repealed it the following year. Elsewhere in Europe, however, including Germany and Austria, people have long been accustomed to the day of commercial rest.

The Polish trade union Solidarity says that employees deserve Sundays off, and has the support of the ruling party, Law and Justice. The Catholic Church, to which more than 90 per cent of Poles belong, has welcomed the change.

The law bans trade on two Sundays per month, but steps it up to three Sundays in 2019 and all Sundays in 2020, except for seven exceptions before Easter and Christmas.

Petrol stations, cafes, ice-cream parlours, pharmacies and shops at airports and railway stations are still allowed to open on Sundays. So are small family shops, on condition that only the owners themselves work.



Fee moi Gambia

Anything to say, anyone?

A FRIEND who has been in a certain company for a couple of months was bemused when told that a weekly staff meeting had been cancelled. The boss said, 'I've nothing particularly in mind for this week's meeting, and no-one else has suggested anything – so we'll scrap it.'

You may ask, 'But aren't meetings always valuable?' My own answer is, 'No. Many are not.'

Talking for talking's sake is of little use.

We've all been at meetings where someone or other babbles on with little new or useful to say - just so that he can claim to have taken part.

We've all been at meetings where over half those attending are bored, and can't wait for proceedings to close.

There are various sorts of meeting. Some are better called 'briefings', because the boss does nearly all the talking. Others are opinion-swapping forums, or 'brain-storming' sessions.

Other meetings take decisions (and, we hope, determine how to monitor them).

Some meetings are called to deal with a crisis. And, of course, meetings can be a mixture of all these.

'By their fruits you shall know them.' A useful meeting is one where decisions are made, or situations made clearer, or priorities established, or morale is raised, or participants get to know each other better. Decisions must always include determination about how they are to be implemented and monitored. *Otherwise, don't meet at all!*

What a character....

A NEWS broadcast following Independence Day said that the celebrations had taken place in MacCarthy Square, Banjul (rather than July 22nd Square).

This led me to search for Sir Charles MacCarthy on the internet. Do so yourself, and you will find that MacCarthy was not unlike a character in an adventure yarn.

Brigadier-General Sir Charles MacCarthy KCMG (1764-1824) was an Irish-born soldier who served in the French, Dutch and British armies, and was a governor of British territories in West Africa.

He was the son of a French émigré, and changed his name at an early age to MacCarthy, his Irish mother's maiden name. In 1785 he joined the Irish Brigade of the French army and rose to the rank of captain with anti-revolutionary forces in Germany. From 1793 to 1794 he served with the Dutch army. After the reorganisation of the Irish Brigade in 1794 he saw service in the West Indies from 1796 to 1798, when the Irish Brigade was disbanded.

MacCarthy received a commission in the British army in 1799, and rose to the rank of major. In 1811 he received a lieutenant-colonelcy in the Royal African Corps, and the following year was appointed Governor of Senegal and Gorée. When these territories were returned to France by the Treaty of Paris he was appointed Governor of Sierra Leone.

MacCarthy is said to have taken a strong interest in people's welfare, encouraging the building of housing and schools. He founded settlements for liberated slaves and arranged for the education of children whose parents had been captured by slave-traffickers. Slavery had been abolished in the United Kingdom and its territories, but the evil trade was still active in West African waters, using ships nominally flagged in countries which had not yet abolished it.

MacCarthy became a campaigner for the complete suppression of the slave trade. He was knighted in 1820, and in 1821 promoted to colonel with the temporary rank of brigadier-general in West Africa.

After the African Company of Merchants was abolished in 1821 for its failure to suppress the slave trade, the Gold Coast (today's Ghana) became a crown colony under the government of Sierra Leone; and MacCarthy, based in Freetown, became the governor of both territories and of The Gambia. MacCarthy Island was named in his honour, as well as MacCarthy Square.

In late 1823, following disagreements between the Fantis and the Ashantis, MacCarthy declared war on the Ashantis, and was killed in battle, MacCarthy's skull was used as a trophy of war and as a drinking cup of Ashanti rulers.

Family feelings

QUITE apart from the rejoicing among Gambian Catholics at the consecration of Bishop Gabriel Mendy, many Gambian Christians of other denominations, as well as Muslims, have expressed their satisfaction and best wishes.

The mutual respect enjoyed by Gambians of all religions is a major factor in the peace and harmony of this nation. The world's press gives dramatic coverage to terrorist acts, civil war, famine, so-called celebrities, and scandal. But the media aren't interested in religious matters - unless there's scandal involved.

Even so, those of our friends throughout Africa and beyond who hear positive news from The Gambia must surely admire the tolerance, good will and respect that are the hallmark of this country.

Too much

CARDINAL Robert Sarah, a fellow West African (he comes from Guinea) has recently spoken of the value of silence in the Christian life. You could put it the opposite way: too much noise, and our spiritual life suffers.

In the Mass there are times for silence, as Pope Francis has reminded us.

Almost everywhere in our crowded planet, our lives are polluted by noise: noisy traffic, noisy parties, noisy neighbours. In Greater Banjul we're often assailed by aggressive noise - even during the night.

As built-up areas become more and more crowded, respecting our common need of quietness becomes ever more important.

Bad practice

I'M sorry that street adverts for skin bleaching products have begun to appear, along with skin lightening creams in the shops.

What has become of the slogan, 'Black is beautiful'?

Do you, like me, regard this sort of advert as pernicious?



Giving Hope to a World in Need

**The Gambia Programme
Health, Nutrition, Agro-enterprise, Food Security
40 Atlantic Road, Fajara. Telephone 4498000**

Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention (SMC) Campaign in CRR & URR in 2017

CRS, in partnership with the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) of the Ministry of Health, have been implementing SMC strategy targeting children (3 – 59 months) in Upper and Central River regions from 2014 to 2016 supported by UNITAID ACCESS-SMC project. In 2017, with the support of Global Fund, this high-impact



intervention is being implemented again in the two regions to prevent children from getting malaria. The two regions have been identified due to their relatively high malaria transmission.

SMC is achieved by administering antimalarial medicines (*sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine* (SP) and *amodiaquine* (AQ)) up to four monthly doses to children. It is administered during the peak of the rainy season (August – December) when the incidence of malaria is high. In total, an estimated 90,925 children are targeted through door-to-door strategy to administer the antimalarial medicine.

Information Communication for Development (ICT4D) through use of android devices to enhance data collection, management and rapid analysis for effective decision-making. Despite challenging conditions in accessing communities during the rains, The Gambia is able to consistently reach over 80 per cent of the children targeted since the inception of the project. This is largely due to the commitment, perseverance and hard work of the health staff and volunteers and strong collaboration between the NMCP with CRS.

Answers to 'Do you know?' page 21

- 1 The risen Jesus appeared to his disciples for the third time by the waterside (John 21:4-15).
- 2 Three: Ruth, Judith and Esther
- 3 Argentinian
- 4 Popenguine, on the Petite Côte of Senegal
- 5 All are former Directors of GPI.
- 6 Pierre Sarr, liaison officer for the Diocese of Banjul to the Government, and Honorary Belgian Consul.



Some weekday celebrations

Monday 9th April: The Annunciation of the Lord

THIS year, Palm Sunday was observed on the day usually assigned to the Annunciation, so the celebration of the angel Gabriel's appearance to Mary (Luke 1:26-38) has been transferred to today.

Mary freely accepted God's will, conveyed by Gabriel, that she should become the mother of God's incarnate Son. Our redemption in Christ stems from Mary's assent; and we pray that, aided by Mary's prayers, we too may seek to follow God's will. As Mary said at the marriage in Cana: 'Do whatever he tells you.' (John 2:5).

A beautiful old name for this feast is 'Lady Day'.

Monday 23rd April: St George martyr

THERE are various legends about St George, said to have been a 3rd-century soldier. He is patron of Greece and Portugal, as well as Venice and Genoa, in Italy. In 1222 George replaced St Edward the Confessor as patron of England. As football fans know, the flag of England shows the red cross of St George against a white background. St George is patron of the Scout movement. Schools in Basse are named after him, and the bell at Holy Spirit Church, Banjul, formerly at the Cathedral, is named 'St George'.

Wednesday 25th April: St Mark evangelist

THE GOSPEL attributed to St Mark is the shortest of the four Gospels, and probably the first to be written. John Mark was a cousin of St Barnabas. It was at his mother's house in Jerusalem that the disciples assembled (Acts 12:12). Mark travelled with Barnabas and Paul to Cyprus (Acts 12:25; 13:13; 15:26-39). He left them there, but later helped Paul when he was in prison in Rome. Tradition says that Mark's Gospel was based on Peter's reminiscences.

In Ordinary Time this year, most Sunday Gospel readings are taken from Mark.



Wednesday 2nd May: St Athanasius doctor of the Church

ATHANASIUS was born in 293 at Alexandria, in Egypt. In 325 he took part in the first Council of the Church in Nicæa (now Iznik, in Turkey). The council condemned Arianism, a heresy which denied Christ's divinity. In 328 Athanasius was appointed Patriarch of Alexandria, but in 336 theological disputes led to his first banishment. He repeatedly returned from exile and resumed his office. But in 356 he was banished by the Emperor Constantine, and withdrew to Upper Egypt, where he wrote theological works. Constantine's death in 361 gave Athanasius a respite; but renewed controversy forced him to flee into the Theban desert. At the time of his death in 373, Athanasius was again in possession of his diocese.

The creed named after Athanasius was not written by him. It defines the Persons of the Trinity as revealed by the Holy Spirit, and is accepted by Catholics, Orthodox, Anglicans and most Protestants.

Thursday 3rd May: St Philip & St James apostles

PHILIP was one of the twelve apostles, fellow-countryman of Andrew and Peter, whose home was in Bethsaida, a fishing-village by the Lake of Galilee. In the early Church, Philip was one of the 'seven men of good repute' appointed to care for widows (Acts 6:1-5). When persecution broke out after the death of Stephen, Philip went down to Samaria as a preacher and healer (Acts 8:5-13). He converted and baptised an Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-39). Later, Paul and his companions, on their way to Jerusalem, stayed with Philip at Cæsarea (Acts 21:8).

JAMES is mentioned in the Gospels only in passing, but appears in Acts and the letters of Paul as a leader of the early Church. As leader of the Christian community in Jerusalem, he gave judgment on whether Gentiles had to be circumcised before they could be received into the Church. (Acts 15:1-19).

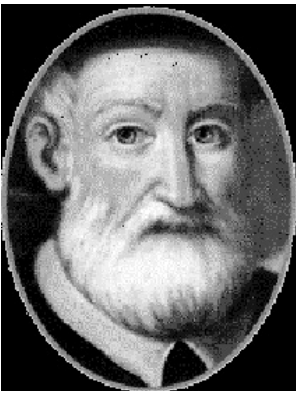
Note that this James is not to be confused with the other apostle named as James, son of Zebedee and brother of John - often called James the Great, whose feast day is Wednesday 25th July.



Monday 14th May: St Matthias apostle

AS related in Acts 1:21-36, Matthias replaced Judas Iscariot following Judas' betrayal of Jesus and his subsequent suicide. Matthias' calling as an apostle is unique, because he was not appointed directly by Jesus, who had ascended, and he was chosen before the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the infant Church. Matthias was present with the other apostles at Pentecost.

We pray today for Bishop Emeritus Robert Ellison CSSp, episcopally ordained on St Matthias' Day 2006.



Saturday 26th May: St Philip Neri *priest*

PHILIP Neri was born in 1515. He came to be acclaimed the 'Second Apostle of Rome' at a time when the great reform movement known as the Counter Reformation was changing the face of the city. Living first as a layman, Philip became a priest at the comparatively late age of 35. He gathered young people together for prayer and spiritual exercises. He found himself at the head of a group of priests who wished to live together and serve the people of Rome, not bound by vows but united in charity. Friend of popes and cardinals, Philip was noted for his preaching and for his modesty and sense of humour. He died in 1595. In 1612 a constitution for the Oratory was approved. Philip was canonised in 1622. Many other oratories have been founded since.

Thursday 31st May: Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

TODAY'S feast marks the end of the end of the Month of Mary (*see page 29*) We celebrate the visit of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth, as related in Luke 1:39-56. On this occasion, Mary cried out in joy the hymn we know as the *Magnificat*, which the universal Church proclaims every day at Evening Prayer.



The Pope's Prayer Intentions

April

That economists may have the courage to reject any economy of exclusion, and know how to open new paths.

May

That the lay faithful may fulfil their specific mission by responding with creativity to the challenges that face the world today.

BEST WISHES
to our Muslim Brothers & Sisters
for a fruitful observance
of RAMADAN

LET us vigorously reaffirm the value of human life. Let us appeal to everyone, in the name of God, to respect, love and serve every human life. Only in this way will we find justice, development, true freedom, peace and happiness.

*Bishop Emeritus Michael Cleary CSSp
Easter message 2006*



Pious practices

MANY devotional practices in the Church are so habitual that we don't think about them. But whenever we make the sign of the Cross, for instance, or dip our fingers into holy water, we should do so in awareness of what the action means. We shouldn't perform such actions to impress others or to tell ourselves how holy and good we are. We perform them to honour God and our membership of his Church.

Votive candles

JESUS said: 'I have come into the world so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.' (John 12:46)

On the altar during Mass and other services, candles symbolise Christ the light of the world. The small candles that individual worshippers may light before shrines, statues and icon are known as 'votive candles'.

At Westminster Cathedral in London, votive candle-stands bear the following notice:

The candle is a prayer. When we have gone, the candle stays alight, kindling in hearts and minds the prayer we have already offered for the sad, the sick, the suffering, the peace of the world, and for thankfulness.

The candle is a parable. It gives light, then burns itself out. Christ gave himself for others and he calls on us to give ourselves to the service of others.

The candle is a symbol. It symbolises love and hope, light and warmth: the world needs them all.



Daily Mass Readings



April & May

Sunday readings Year B Weekday readings Year 1

Celebrations in brackets () are optional

Sun 1st April	Acts 10:34,37-43. Psalm 117:16-17,22-23. Colossians 3:1-4 <i>or</i> 1 Corinthians 5:6-8. John 20:1-9 <i>or</i> Luke 24:1-12 <i>or at evening Mass</i> Luke 24:13-35	EASTER SUNDAY
Mon 2nd	Acts 2:14,22-33. Psalm 15:1-2 & 5:7-11. Matthew 28:8-15.	MONDAY in EASTER WEEK
Tue 3rd	Acts 2:36-41. Psalm 32:4-5,18-20,22. John 20:11-18.	TUESDAY in EASTER WEEK
Wed 4th	Acts 3:1-10. Psalm 104:1-4,6-9. Luke 24:13-35.	WEDNESDAY in EASTER WEEK
Thu 5th	Acts 3:11-26. Psalm 8: 2,5-9. Luke 24:15-48.	THURSDAY in EASTER WEEK
Fri 6th	Acts 4:1-12. Psalm 117:1-2,4,22-27. Luke 24:13-35.	FRIDAY in EASTER WEEK
Sat 7th	Acts 4:13-21. Psalm 117,1,14-21. Mark 16:9-15.	SATURDAY in EASTER WEEK
Sun 8th	Acts 4:32-35. Psalm 117:2-4,22-24. 1 John 5:1-6. John 20:19-31	2nd SUNDAY of EASTER (Divine Mercy)
Mon 9th	Isaiah 7:10-14 & 8:10. Psalm 139:7-11. Hebrews 10:4-10. Luke 1:26-38	ANNUNCIATION of THE LORD
Tue 10th	Acts 4:32-37. Psalm 91:1-2,5. John 3:7-15.	St Stanislas
Wed 11th	Acts 5:17-26. Psalm 33:2-9. John 3:16-21.	(St Martin I)
Thu 12th	Acts 5:27-33. Psalm 33:2-9,17-20. John 3:31-36.	
Fri 13th	Acts 5:34-42. Psalm 26:1,4,13-14. John 6:1-15	
Sat 14th	Acts 6:1-7. Psalm 32:1-2,4-5,18-19. John 6:16-21.	
Sun 15th	Acts 3:13-15,17-19. Psalm 4:2,4,7,9. 1 John 2:1-5. Luke 24:35-48	3rd SUNDAY of EASTER
Mon 16th	Acts 6:8-15. Psalm 118:23-24,26-27,29-39. John 6:22-29.	
Tue 17th	Acts 7:51 – 8:1. Psalm 30:3-4,6-8,17,21. John 6:30-35.	
Wed 18th	Acts 8:1-8. Psalm 65:1-7. John 6:35-40.	
Thu 19th	Acts 8:26-40. Psalm 65:8-9,16-17,20. John 6:44-51.	
Fri 20th	Acts 9:1-20. Psalm 116. John 6:52-59.	
Sat 21st	Acts 9:11-42. Psalm 115:12-17. John 6:60-69.	St Anselm
Sun 22nd	Acts 4:8-12. Psalm 117:1,8-9,21-23,26,28-29. 1 John 3:1-2. John 10:11-18	4th SUNDAY of EASTER
Mon 23rd	Acts 11: 1-18. Psalm 41:2-3 & 42:3-4	(St George <i>or</i> St Adalbert)
Tue 24th	Acts 11:19-26. Psalm 86:1-7. John 10:22-30.	(St Fidelis Sigmaringen)
Wed 25th	1 Peter 5:5-14. Psalm 88:2-3,6=7,16-17. Mark 16:15-20 St MARK	
Thu 26th	Acts 13:13-25. Psalm 88:2-3,21-22,25,27. John 13:16-20.	
Fri 27th	Acts 13:26-33. Psalm 2:6-11. John 14:1-6	
Sat 28th	Acts 13:44-52. Psalm 97:1-4. John 14:7-14.	(St Peter Chanel <i>or</i> St Louis Mary Grignion de Montfort)
Sun 29th	Acts 9:26-31. Psalm 21:26-28,30-32. 1 John 3:18-24. 15:1-8	5th SUNDAY of EASTER
Mon 30th	Acts 14:5-18. Psalm 113:14-16. John 14:21-26	(St Pius V)
Tue 1st May	Acts 14:19-28. Psalm 144:10-13,21. John 14:27-31.	(St Joseph the Worker)
Wed 2nd	Acts 15:1-6. Psalm 121:1-5. John 15:1-8	(St Athanasius)
Thu 3rd	1 Corinthians 15:1-8. Psalm 18:2-5. John 14:6-14	St PHILIP & St JAMES
Fri 4th	Acts 15:22-31. Psalm 56:8-12. John 15:12-17.	
Sat 5th	Acts 16:1-10. Psalm 99:1,3-5. John 15:18-21	
Sun 6th	Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48. Psalm 97:1-4. 1 John 4:7-10. John 15:9-17	6th SUNDAY of EASTER
Mon 7th	Acts 16:11-15. Psalm 149:1-6,9. John 15:26 – 16:4	
Tue 8th	Acts 16:22-34. Psalm 137:1-3,7-8. John 16:5-11.	
Wed 9th	Acts 17:15-22 – 18:1. Psalm 148:1-2,11-14. John 16:12-15	
Thu 10th	Evening Mass: <i>Vigil of the Ascension: same readings as tomorrow</i>	
Fri 11th	Acts 1:1-11. Acts 1:1-11. Psalm 46:2-3,6-9. Ephesians 4:1-13 <i>or</i> Ephesians 1:17-23. Mark 16:15-20. ASCENSION of THE LORD	
Sat 12th	Acts 18:9-18. Psalm 46:2-7. John 16:20-23.	(St Nereus & St Achilleus <i>or</i> St Pancras)
Sun 13th	Acts 1:15-17,20-26. Psalm 102:1-2,11-12,19-20. 1 John 4:11-16. John 17:11-19	7th SUNDAY of EASTER
Mon 14th	Acts 1:15-17,20-26. Psalm 112:1-8. John 15:9-17	St MATTHIAS
Tue 15th	Acts 20:17-27. Psalm 67:10-11,20-21. John 17:1-11	
Wed 16th	Acts 20:28-38. Psalm 67:29-30,33-36. John 17:11-19	
Thu 17th	Acts 22:30 & 23:6-11. Psalm 15:1-2,5,7-11. John 17:20-26	
Fri 18th	Acts 25:13-21. Psalm 102:1-2,11-12,19-20. John 21:15-19	(St John I)
Sat 19th	Acts 28:16-20,30-31. Psalm 10:4-5,7. John 21:20-25	
Sun 20th	Acts 2:1-11. Psalm 103: 1,24,29-31,34. Galatians 5:16-25. John 15:26-27;16:12-15	PENTECOST
Mon 21st	James 3:13-16. Psalm 18:8-10,15. John 19:25-31	Mary, Mother of the Church - new memorial (see page 22)
Tue 22nd	From this day, Ordinary Time ('the green season') resumes, with the daily recitation of the Angelus James 4:1-10. Psalm 54:7-11,24. Mark 9:30-37.	

Wed 23rd	James 4:13-17. Psalm 48:2-3,6-11. Mark 9:38-40	
Thu 24th	James 5:1-6. Psalm 48:14-20. Mark 9:41-50	
Fri 25th	James 5:9-12. Psalm 102:1-4,8-9,11-12. Mark 10:1-12	(St Bede or St Gregory VII or St Mary Magdalene de Pazzi)
Sat 26th	James 5:13-20. Psalm 140. Mark 10:13-16	St Philip Neri
Sun 27th	Deuteronomy 4:32-34,39-40. Psalm 32:4-6,9,18-20. Romans 8:14-17. Matthew 28:16-20.	THE MOST HOLY TRINITY
Mon 28th	1 Peter 1:3-9. Psalm 110:102,5-6,9-10. Mark 10:17-27	
Tue 29th	1 Peter 1:10-16. Psalm 97:1-4. Mark 10:28-31	
Wed 30th	1 Peter 1:18-25. Psalm 147:12-15,19-20. Mark 10:32-45	
Thu 31st	Zephaniah 3:14-18 or Romans 12:9-16. Psalm Isaiah 12:2-6. Luke 1:39-56.	VISITATION of the BVM

On sale at GPI for D50: Diocese of Banjul Ordo 2017-18, containing details of all Masses and the Daily Offices

May is the Month of Mary

DEVOTION to Mary, Mother of Jesus, fits well with Easter Time, because Mary represents humanity raised to the glory of heaven with her risen Son.

During Easter time, instead of the *Angelus*, we say the *Regina Coeli*:

Regina coeli laetare, alleluia:

Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia:

Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia:

Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia:

For he whom you were worthy to bear, alleluia:

Is risen as he promised, alleluia:

Pray for us to God, alleluia.



WHO is the most important person alive today? It's a question to set people arguing. Some might name a politician. Young people might prefer a pop star or a footballer. A few might name a businessman, a scientist, an artist, or even a religious leader.

Ours is a complex world. Thanks to the multi-faceted 'information revolution' we know that power and importance can be measured in many contrasting and contradictory ways. It's next to impossible to name just one person in today's world as more important than anyone else. The man or woman most important to me might be of much less account to you.

It was different in the simpler world of Christ's day. If you had been almost anyone living in the Roman Empire in the year Jesus was born and someone had asked you who was the most important person then alive, the answer would have been obvious. Who else but the Emperor, Augustus?

Born in 63 BC to a wealthy family, Augustus was named the adoptive son of his great-uncle, Julius Cæsar. After Cæsar's assassination there was a power struggle, and several battles later Augustus came to share supreme power with two of his rivals. He later disposed of them, became sole ruler of the Roman Republic, and then - in 27 BC - accepted the title of Emperor.

Augustus brought changes to every aspect of Roman life, and lasting peace and prosperity to the Græco-Roman world. He acquired new provinces, built roads, established the *Pax Romana*, and fostered the arts. When he died in AD 14, the Roman Empire stretched from Iberia (Spain) to Cappadocia (in today's Turkey) and from Gaul (France) to Egypt. After his death, he was declared to be a god. The month of August is named after him.

But from today's viewpoint we might say that the most important person then alive was not Augustus. It was someone very different: an obscure young woman - in fact, a 'nobody' - living in a remote province of the Roman Empire.

The young woman was Mary, who was about to give birth to Jesus.

Mary was far more significant than the great Emperor in Rome - although no one knew it at the time. History looked at from God's perspective is quite different from history the way the world judges it.

For 41 years Augustus ruled his empire with great skill. But the empire lasted for only a few hundred years.

The history of Mary and her Divine Son is the history of the kingdom of God. That kingdom will never pass away.

*Blessed was the day for ever
When the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Saviour of our race,
And the Child, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed his sacred face.*

Kaadu Dunda Gi - the Living Word

Every Sunday at 1pm, GRTS

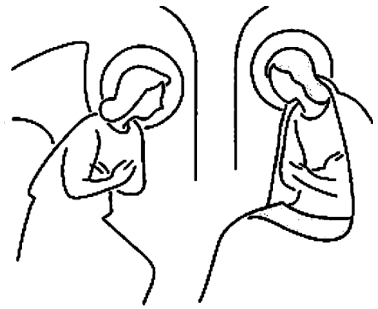
Keep up-to-date with your Diocese!

Visit www.banjuldiocese.gm

End-
piece

The real International Women's Day is the Feast of the Annunciation

says JOANNA BOGLE



I DIDN'T celebrate International Women's Day. Its history is cruel: it was imposed in the old Soviet Union immediately after the 1917 Revolution, and for the next decades there were slogans every year on 8th March about the glories of being a woman under socialism, while women died in their millions in the Soviet-imposed famines of the 1930s, were sent to forced labour in the gulag, or endured grim misery in ill-paid factory jobs while their children went to State nurseries.

8th March holds no significant anniversary for women. The date was chosen to avoid any link with a Christian past and to enforce a secular calendar with no real history. For centuries the real celebratory day for women has been 25th March, feast of the Annunciation, when the woman who changed the course of all human history conceived her divine Son, and earth and heaven rejoiced. When it comes to the dignity of women, it is the Christian heritage which soars above all other. [Please note that this year the Annunciation will be celebrated not on 25th March, but on **Monday 9th April.**]

The song of the Church

God became incarnate in the womb of a woman, and Mary's *Magnificat* is the song of the Church, strong, celebratory, grateful, courageous, praising God whose mighty blessings flow from one generation to the next.

Ours is the Church of Mary, Mother of God and Ark of the Covenant. It is the Church of Mary Magdalene, first witness of the Resurrection, of Felicity and Perpetua facing martyrdom in pagan Rome, of Teresa of Calcutta serving the poorest of the poor in the hot slums of Calcutta.

Mother Church honours and cherishes her daughters; and Catholic women know it. There are more churches named after women than men, there were more women than men at the foot of the Cross, and most Catholics learn their first prayers from a woman and hear about the works of God from a woman's voice.

If asked to name a saint, most people will come up with a female rather than a male one: St Bernadette or St Therese of Lisieux rather than St Peter, St Thomas More or St Edmund Campion. In popular culture and in the history of the Church, women are at the heart of Catholic life.

The first known missionary was a woman - setting down her bucket by the well and running to tell everyone that she had met the Lord.

It is to a woman, Mary, that Catholics traditionally pray when in real need: '...I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother...'. The Church cries to Mary for help when things are tough: 'And the tempest-tossed Church, all her eyes are on thee.'

The most popular of all prayers, the Rosary, is a meditation on the great events of the incarnation and our salvation, prayed through Mary's intercession.

Women have been missionaries, martyrs, mystics, founders of great religious orders, stateswomen, writers, campaigners, educators. They have been mothers of families, queens, visionaries, teachers.

Mother Church honours motherhood: for Christians, this is not some mere biological event bringing no status, but gives a central and authoritative role centred on the fact that God incarnate had a mother, and it was she who taught her little boy the ancient psalms and prayers of Israel, the religious traditions and duties, the pattern of family life and neighbourly service.

Mother and Child

The most powerful and best-known image in Christianity, other than the Cross itself, is that of the Mother and Child - painted by countless artists and producing some of the most glorious pictures, statues, icons and mosaics of the centuries.

Mary the Maid of Israel, the daughter of Zion, binds together the Old and New Covenants. Mary the dignified woman of the Royal house of David is the model for all monarchs and women in public life. Mary whose heart was pierced by a sword is the woman to whom every grieving mother of a slaughtered soldier or lost newborn can take her sorrow.

Pagan cultures - today and yesterday - offer a message of female inferiority: baby girls slaughtered as being of less value than boys, adolescent girls seen as sexually-available, virginity held in contempt, old women regarded as a tiresome burden. Christianity celebrates the complementarity of the sexes, cherishes authentic feminine values, teaches chastity and chivalry, honours marriage as a life-long and life-giving covenant. And that men must honour women, that bullying or abusing a woman is evil.

And there's more. Ever alert to the real needs of the times, Mother Church recognises that if there is a despised sex in today's Western culture, it is men. We need to teach both boys and girls that manhood is to be honoured, that manly heroism is something fine and glorious, that men as husbands and fathers providing for their families, priests serving the Church, men tackling tough tasks in industry or soldiering or public service, can be noble and admirable.

We probably don't need a gimmick like an International Men's Day. But, as Catholic women, some of us are certainly taking the lead in saying: let's honour men as men and women as women, and listen to the voice of Mother Church when she celebrates the truth that we are created in God's image, male and female, and that this expresses a greater reality that existed before time began: Christ and Church, the heavenly nuptials that we echo at every Mass and in every Christian marriage. *Taken from the Catholic Herald, London*

embrace the digital explosion with speed



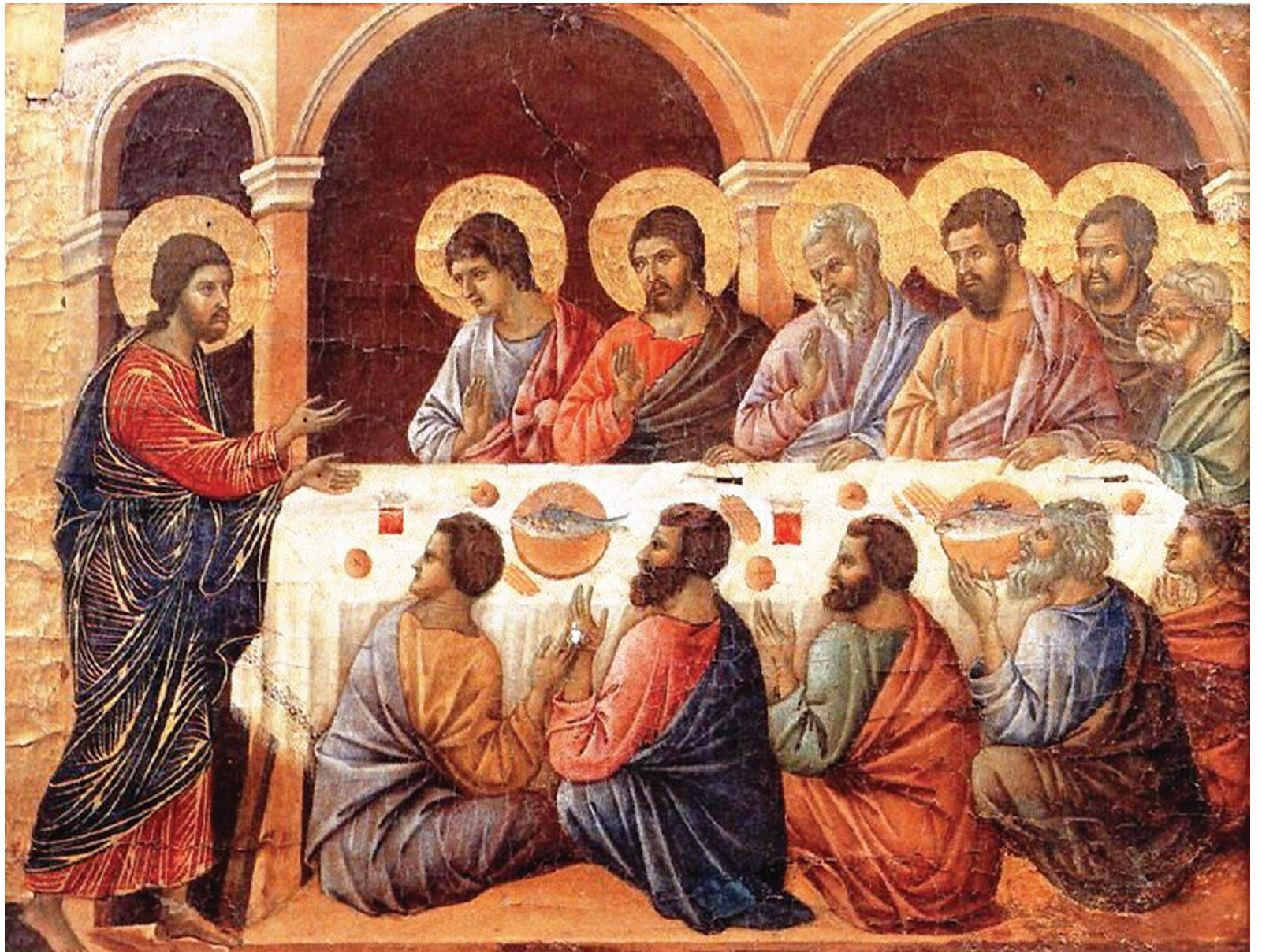
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE



Your National 3G Operator

YAA Y BOROM

www.gamcel.gm



‘You are witnesses’

The disciples told what had happened on the road, and how Jesus had been made known to them in the breaking of bread.

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ They were startled and terrified, and thought they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, ‘Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see, for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.’ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them. ‘Have you anything to eat?’

They gave him a piece of grilled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Christ is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.’

Luke 24:35-48.

The Gospel for the Third Sunday of Easter, 15th April 2018

Our illustration is by the renowned 14th-century Italian painter, Duccio

