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Pentecost 2011



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What Is Pentecost



Pentecost is the day that the church was born. Christ was crucified, rose again, spent forty days with his disciples, then ascended to heaven. Pentecost immediately followed. For two millennia, Christians have been celebrating the church's birthday with joy and exuberance. Pentecost takes place 50 days after Easter Sunday. Here's how it all got started.

Background of Pentecost

Believed to be the oldest feast in the Church, the story of Pentecost dates back to the first century A.D. The feast of Pentecost coincided with the Jewish Feast of Weeks, which occurs 50 days after the Passover (Deuteronomy 16:10). According to Jewish tradition, the Ten Commandments were given to Moses 50 days after the first Passover, which freed the Hebrews from their bondage in Egypt. As the Hebrews settled into Canaan, the feast became a time to honour the Lord for blessing the fruits of their labours. At the time of Jesus, the festival focused on rabbinical law and traditions. Since this Jewish holiday took place at the same time of the Pentecost, many Jewish Christians appropriated its celebration into their Christian commemoration of the coming of the Spirit.

Story of Pentecost

According to book of Acts, the Church came into being on the day of Pentecost. As 120 worshippers, including the Disciples, were fasting and praying in an upper room in Jerusalem, the Holy Spirit descended upon them in a violent rushing wind that was heard throughout the city. Small flames of fire rested upon their heads, and they began to speak in other languages. As crowds came to investigate the commotion, the Apostle Peter spoke to them about Jesus and exhorted them to repent. From the crowd of Jews and converts, 3,000 realised the truth of his words and became followers of Jesus.

Canon Eddie

Rock Legend's Connection With St Teilo's



Question. What does Meatloaf and St Teilo's have in common

Answer. Frances Bowdery

Frances Bowdery used to attend St Teilo's and her parents Ken and Margaret are still regular attenders at 9.00am Mass on Sundays and live in Heol Llanishen Fach in Rhiwbina.

Frances first went to St Joseph's Convent and from there to Corpus Christi and on to St David's 6th Form College.

Living in Los Angeles Frances still pinches herself every day.

For the past two years, Meat Loaf's Welsh PA has lapped the world twice over, partied with the musical icon and even helped open the New York Stock Exchange.

She's bickered with him in airport queues, accompanies him everywhere and affectionately refers to him as a "crazy uncle" and herself as his "left arm".

And the 32-year-old from Cardiff couldn't be happier.

"If anyone had told me I would be doing this job, then I would have laughed in their face," she said.

"My sister had Bat Out Of Hell on cassette when I was small and now I – a little Welsh girl from Rhiwbina – organise Meat Loaf's life! "I'm 'literally' his left arm. I organise his diary, making sure



Meatloaf and Frances before appearing on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno



Meatloaf with Frances, Ken, Margaret and the rest of the family at the CIA in November

he knows what is going on, making sure everything is set in place and follow him all over the place.

“Wherever he goes, I go. Whichever country he is in, I’m in too. “I’m only 32, but I think I’ve probably travelled the world twice over with him.

“He is a truly amazing guy, incredibly hard-working and for someone who is 63, he has such a lot of energy.

“He is a musical icon. He’s been in the industry for nearly 40 years, which just goes to show how much he has worked.

“We get on very well, which is crucial as we work so closely together. But we trust and respect each other and working with him is a lot of hard work, but a lot of fun too.”

Frances studied for a degree in music management at Brunel University before landing a month’s work experience with Sony.

It was not long before she was offered a job by the record company as a promotions assistant, working with the likes of Will Smith, Ricky Martin and Destiny’s Child.

“This was at a time when the record industry was booming and it was my job to get the acts from Sony on the TV and get as much coverage for them as possible,” she added.

“Ricky Martin is one of the nicest, most amazing people I’ve ever met. I can’t say anything negative about him at all. He is just a lovely, lovely bloke. I also worked with Good Charlotte from the very beginning so I’ve known [songwriter and fiancé of Nicole Richie] Joel Madden for years.

“Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous propelled them to mega-stardom and it’s just great to see people like Joel doing so much humanitarian work for the UN now.

“He was just a poor kid from Washington with an ambition to sing and now look at him. I feel so proud.”

Frances was soon promoted to promotions manager and worked with stars like Evanscence, Primal Scream, The Offspring, The View, Kelly Rowland, Macy Gray and Tenacious D.

She said: “It was a massive time for rock bands and as someone who grew up listening to my older brother and sister’s music like Deep Purple, I was in my element.

“Amy from Evanscence is ridiculously talented and The Offspring are some of the funniest people ever.

“But, after 10 years, I suddenly thought to myself, ‘Right, I really want to go to California’, so I quit.

“I just got to the point where I wanted to do something different.

“I didn’t really know what, so I decided to go on a six-week road trip to California.

“I remember lying by a swimming pool in Palm Springs when my phone rang and it was an old music manager contact, asking me if I wanted a job.

“Four weeks later, I flew to New York, got the job and started a new job at Zen Media.

“I was based in London, but because it was on an international scale, I was flying back and forth to the States all the time, dealing with rock bands like Mudvayne, HELLYEAH and Bloodsimple.

“I was eventually sponsored to enter the US to work, and that’s how I ended up meeting ‘Meat’.

“And now look at me, I travel the world with one of the greatest musicians. I have an apartment on the Sunset Strip and fall asleep listening to the jukebox at the Rainbow Bar and Grill.

“I work for Meat 24/7 and basically assist him and take care of him.

“Every minute of every hour of every day is recorded in his diary for the next two months. I pretty much know what is happening before he does, but he’s very self-sufficient in a way. He’s like an elephant, he doesn’t forget anything and is incredibly smart.

“When we’re in the office, I work a typical 9.30am to 6pm day, but



Meatloaf and Frances opening the New York Stock Exchange

when he is touring or there are other events going on, I'm obviously there too.

"If I think about where I come from, and some of the things that I've done, I just think, 'Oh my God'.

"Meat opened the New York Stock Exchange and I was on stage talking to him when he rang the bell and I thought, '100 million people will see me on TV!'

"I don't get home very often with the busy schedule, but I'm loving living in LA.

"Every time I wake up in the morning, the sun is shining, and I get to work with a music legend every day."

GL

Special Poem For Older Folks

A row of bottles on my shelf
caused me to analyse myself.

One yellow pill I have to pop
Goes to my heart so it wont stop.

A little white one that I take
Goes to my hands so they won't shake.

The blue ones that I use a lot
Tell me I'm happy when I'm not.

The purple pill goes to my brain
And tells me that I have no pain.

The capsules tell me not to wheeze
Or cough or choke or even sneeze..

The red ones, smallest of them all
Go to my blood so I won't fall.

The orange ones, very big and bright
Prevent my leg cramps in the night.

Such an array of brilliant pills
helping to cure all kinds of ills

But what I'd really like to know.....
Is what tells each one where to go!

The Music of what Happens is the Finest Music in the World – A Few Thoughts from Albania, Apr. 2011

This short update of the happenings in Albania is firstly to thank you for your generous Christmas Donation to the work of the mission here and for your on-going loving care and support. I am moved by your ability to stretch out your hands to so many in need. Thank you for this.

Since our last contact over Christmas many events have taken place in Albania which have led us into new work. We now struggle with a crisis affecting our Roma project. During the days between 20th-25th February, 2011, the members of the Roma community at the Train Station, our project 'Little Angels', were subject to a violent attack from some youth of the neighbourhood, probably employed to do this by property developers. These men entered into the barracks, beating men, women, and children. In the face of such a complicated



Playing in the snow December 2010

fearful situation, 45 families, with 300 members, of which 120 are children, were forced to leave the area. They were intimidated and threatened with the possibility of other assaults, they became frightened for the security of their own lives. During this period Shkej, with IBVM(Loreto), with whom they have partnered for this project, in collaboration with the coalition BKTF, a coalition against child trafficking and for the human rights for children, worked together to address this terrible situation, by lobbying the Local and Central



The day after the attack

Institutions in the Ministries of the government and the Municipality of Tirana. The coalition also sent all letters to the EU and The American Embassy, who challenged the government to act on a long term and short term basis. The men who attacked the camp are in prison and we hope for justice at this time. A daily feeding programme, three times a day, has been established.



Feb 2011 on the streets

The meals are cooked in the SHKEJ kitchen and delivered to the families. The project 'Little Angels' continues with 20 children who live in squats near to the train station and whilst the staff continue this work they also do the outreach to three other areas where the families from the train station have had to flee. Please pray for wisdom in our work with the Roma people at this troubled time. Recently we have begun to work with more women's



The women of Lac

groups in our project WRAJFT, in the field of training for employment and the beginning of small business. These will be in relation to the crafts they have or the skills which they desire to acquire. These women are at the bottom of their society and are often shunned because of where they live or the social conditions in which they survive, usually after a young and bitter life. They have children but are often on their own. We work in Lac training 15 women. We have an excellent trainer who is skilled in this field and particularly in setting up little businesses. Towards the end

of one of these trainings two men shot each other simultaneously on the road outside, sadly one of them was a family relation of one of the women. It was a revenge killing and it deeply disturbed all of us who were present. The women of Kelmet further to the north are now into



The women of Sarandar

their fourth week of training as tailors in readiness for beginning to work in a new factory which is opening in this large village. We are happy that we were able to liaise with the man in the area and a local business in Italy who want to do something for these women. The women are now eager to become employed for the first time in their lives. We hope that this enterprise will affect the life of the village, bringing dignity and new hope. Up until now the whole village was living in a kind of

learned hopelessness. Since Christmas, with funding from the UK, it has been possible to support a young Albanian priest, Don Marjan Lumci, who is the only RC chaplain to 9 prisons. He is also the curate at the cathedral whilst at the same time he is the parish priest of a smaller village church which has 4,000 people living there. We have initiated a new prison project with Don Marjan and this money is providing the printing of a Mass, Prayer and Hymn book, to be used in all of the



At Mass in the prison

prisons where he goes to minister and say Mass. 2,000 of these books, compiled by Don Marjan in Shqip, have been printed and are now being used in the prisons. I am accompanying him to these prisons once a week with a Mother Teresa sister. The conditions have to be seen to be believed. I visit a top security prison and speak to many of the men

who are all in for life and who have so many issues and illnesses. I was sharing a hymn book one time, with one of the men and he could not read it. When I spoke to him after Mass I found out that he could read but he needed glasses. He tried mine and he could read perfectly. None of these men have had their eyes tested or are able to be provided with glasses. There seems to be little money for the prisoners living here in extreme conditions of poverty and in a place so remote we struggled to climb the mountain in our jeep, along a road that was non-existent. Finally I have to share with you the experience which happened recently on April 24th, Easter Sunday! I was safely tucked up in bed when I heard a commotion down below on the street. As this did not go away and because I also heard the police sirens going off I thought I had better go and investigate. I went out onto the balcony to see lots of smoke swirling around our block of flats. You can imagine how rapidly I dressed and got out of the building. I hastily scaled the four flights of stairs and was met by the police at the back of our flats and three fire engines. The whole of the underground to the flats, a car park, was ablaze with flames licking out of the entrance. It was a truly horrific sight. The police steered me outside the barricades where I met some of the other residents. Here in Albania you just take pot luck at these times!! I moved to the front of the block onto the main street where I met another neighbour who handed me her baby whilst she dealt with another emergency. Now I know what it means to be left holding the baby!! Three hours later with much smell of filthy smoke, we were allowed back into the building..... some never left the building oblivious to all!!

Thank you once again for all of your care and for showing such an interest in this newly emerging country.

Imelda Poole IBVM(Loreto)

celtic night

18th march 2011



St Teilo's Hall was bouncing on 18th March when a Celtic Night was enjoyed by everyone that attended. We must have one of the most talented parishes anywhere as nearly all the excellent entertainment was provided by members of the parish. From the folk groups from the various Masses to our altar boys Emyr and Elliot with their friends in 'Ukelele' and also not forgetting Jayne Taylor, Maureen Norris and Ray Mawn. Even Canon Eddie gave a few songs.



Our own Canon Eddie giving a song

A mention must also be made of the committee who put in such a lot of hard work to make the night such a great success. So roll on next March for the next one!



John Gallagher and John Williams dressed for the occasion



Three Nuns were attending a Premier League football game.



Three men were sitting directly behind. Because the nuns habits were partially blocking the view, the men decided to badger the nuns hoping that they'd get annoyed enough to move to another area.

In a very loud voice, the first guy said,

"I think I'm going to move to Dorset . There are only 100 nuns living there.

Then the second guy spoke up and said,

"I want to go to Gloucester. There are only 50 nuns living there."

The third guy said,

"I want to go to Cornwall . There are only 25 nuns living there."

The Mother Superior turned around, looked at the men, and in a very sweet and calm voice said,



"Why don't you go to Hell... There aren't any nuns there!"

Dave Thomson

The following is a hymn by the German Theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer (who incidentally is cited by the Prime Minister as one of the great examples of courage - both physical and moral courage in this case).

Bonhoeffer returned to Germany in 1939 although many of his friends in the USA tried to persuade him not to. He spoke out against the Nazis, and was on the periphery of plots against Hitler and was arrested in April 1943.

From the Gestapo bunker in Prinz-Albert-Strasse, Berlin, to which he had been transferred from Tegel on 8 October 1944, Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote this New Year message to his friends on the last New Year's Eve of his life, 31 December 1944. He was hanged at Flossenbürg Concentration Camp on 9 April 1945, less than a week before the Allies arrived.

The message included the following hymn. They were smuggled out of his prison in a letter to his mother. The hymn has become one of Bonhoeffer's best known compositions.

Von wunderbaren Mächten still geborgen,
(alternate text: Von guten Mächten wunderbar geborgen,)
erwarten wir getrost was kommen mag.
Gott ist mit uns am Abend und am Morgen
und ganz gewiß an jeden neuen Tag.

To the tune Finlandia

By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered,
and confidently waiting, come what may
we know that God is with us night and morning,
and never fails to greet us each new day.

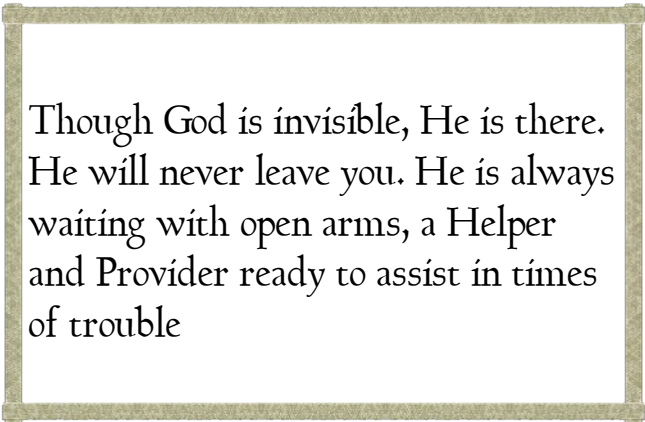
Yet is this heart by its old foe tormented,
still evil days bring burdens hard to bear;
O give our frightened souls the sure salvation
for which, O Lord, you taught us to prepare

And when this cup you give is filled to brimming
with bitter sorrow, hard to understand,
we take it thankfully and without trembling,
out of so good and so beloved a hand.

Yet when again in this same world you give us
the joy we had, the brightness of your sun,
we shall remember all the days we lived through,
and our whole life shall then be yours alone.

Contributed by

Bernadette Evans



Though God is invisible, He is there.
He will never leave you. He is always
waiting with open arms, a Helper
and Provider ready to assist in times
of trouble

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to:-

Dylan Blake

Jordan Green

Michelle Green

Kate McCann

Constance Mitchell

Charles Massey

Aine Murphy

Malo Thomas

Emily Yanez

Who all made their First Holy Communion

at St Teilo's on Sunday 8th May at 11.00am Mass

And here pictured singing "I'm Special" at the end of Mass

with Anna and Lois on the far left and right respectively



Mary Mother of the Church – The Parish 2011 May Devotion **By Teresa O’Driscoll**

E-mail:teresa@teresaodriscoll.co.uk

On the 15th of the month, the annual parish Sunday May Devotion to Mary Mother of the Church took place. The fervour of the participants, coupled with the fact that the rain held off so the procession to the garden could go ahead, made the event a great success.

The devotion began in St Teilo’s church at 3 p.m. with the hymn, *Hail Queen of Heaven*, after which Canon Eddie O’Connell welcomed everyone warmly. Then Fr Peter Marden read a prayer to the Holy Spirit. The Gospel reading from the Feast of the Assumption was a reminder of how it came to pass that the young woman, Mary became the Mother of God. The hymn, *The Angel Gabriel* – more usually sung at Christmas - underlined this.

It was then time for the procession. In stately manner two men bore the statue of Our Lady - decked out with tall white Stocks - from the church, ahead of the priests, with the members of the congregation filing behind. On the lawn beside a laurel hedge and with newly greened trees as a backdrop the Canon began leading the Rosary. He then invited members of the congregation to lead other decades. Liz led the fifth decade, flanked by small daughter Molly looking pleased, with baby son David, solemn in his pushchair. (“At least he was good!” Molly remarked later.)

Upon the conclusion of the Rosary and with the Litany of Our Lady of Lourdes led by Fr Peter everyone processed back into the church for Benediction. The service closed with a rousing version of *I am the Bread of Life*.

Afterwards, in the Church Hall, over tea, coffee, and scrumptious fruit loaf and cupcakes - served enthusiastically by volunteers Bernadette and Bridget – some people shared their experiences of pilgrimages to Fatima and Lourdes. There was also much talk of the blessings of the Virgin Mary upon individuals. One parishioner, Mary, spoke of her personal

love of Our Blessed Lady. "Since my mother died three years ago Mary, the mother of Christ, has been like a mother to me," she confided. "I talk with her when I have problems." With a smile she added, "And I usually get an answer!" Her husband Frank



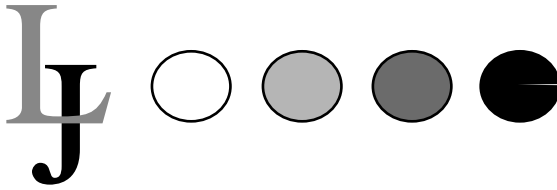
confessed that he would have liked to have seen more parishioners at the event; there were about thirty. "Today, a thriving parish seems to be more about community events, and Our Lady can get a bit forgotten," he observed. However, he felt that it was important for people to go to church events such as this one too. "It gives them a spiritual tonic!" he declared.

Why Pray the Rosary?

At Fatima Our Blessed Lady said, *"Say the Rosary every day... Pray, pray a lot and offer sacrifices for sinners... I'm Our Lady of the Rosary. Only I will be able to help you. ...In the end My Immaculate Heart will triumph."*

In 2002 Pope John Paul II said, "The most Holy Virgin in these last times in which we live has given a new efficacy to the recitation of the Rosary to such an extent that there is no problem, no matter how difficult it is, whether temporal or above all spiritual, in the personal life of each one of us, of our families...that cannot be solved by the Rosary. There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary."

END



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Rest, if you must....

I've seen copies of this text hung in ornate frames on walls of people's houses. It's also often been used as a part of motivational presentations to business men and women up and down the country.

Printed in church newsletters, pinned on notice boards, reproduced as posters, bookmarks and even on fridge magnets this popular poem seems to get everywhere.

And although I know most of the text 'off by heart', each time I see the four, short verses of this poem by an unknown author, I can't resist but to read through it one more time.

You're probably ahead of me and have guessed that I'm referring to the 'Don't Quit' poem which was already in print by the early 1900s.

Here's the first verse:

*When things go wrong as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high,
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest if you must, but din't you quit.*

I'm sure that most - if not all - of us can identify with the first two or maybe three lines of the poem, when life's problems seem to overwhelm us.

And maybe it's like that for some of you reading this right now? It was certainly how Kamal was feeling when everything he and his family owned was washed away last summer in the Pakistan floods.

When things do go wrong our whole world often appears to cave in around us and we can imagine that life will never again improve.

Perhaps we even throw up our arms in despair and mutter 'what's the point, we might as well give up'. But that's when our author is one step ahead of us with some sound advice in verses two and three.

*Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As every one of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about,
When he might have won had he stuck it out;*

*Don't give up though the pace seems slow-
You may succeed with another blow.*

*Often the goal is nearer than,
It seems to a faint and faltering man,
Often the struggler has given up,
When he might have captured the victor's cup,
And he learned too late when the night slipped down,
How close he was to the golden crown.*

Sometimes success in overcoming the problem may be just around the corner - and may even come to us in a totally unexpected form or solution.

Of course it's not easy to remain positive when you're down or faced with what appears to be an insurmountable problem. But the Christian message is that we have both access to and the knowledge that God is there for us no matter how bad the situation is or how desperately hopeless we may feel.

And we are reminded as we read those encouraging words in Ephesians 3:20 that 'God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us'. Deliverance from hopelessness through seeking God in prayer is there for the taking. But our poem wouldn't be complete without the final verse which will offer encouragement - and, of course, hope.

*Success is failure turned inside out-
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems so far,
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit-
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.*

Psalm 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble

**Contributed by
Carol Gallagher**

“A Sobering Journey”

As I write a 91 year old Polish man has today been convicted of crimes against humanity perpetrated in a Nazi concentration camp.

On a Sunday evening some 30 years ago I watched a documentary programme on television which had a profound and lasting effect upon me. It charted one man’s journey into his ancestors’ horrific recent past as he took a train journey through the snow-covered forests from Cracow to Auschwitz. Like most people I was familiar with the sordid history of the death camp and its depredations, the transports, selections and mass executions, all of which had occurred only 10 years or so before I was born, but somehow I was shocked to realise that it was actually still there, and could be visited. Ever since then I felt a compulsion that I myself should visit, but found that a good deal of the time I was absorbed in asking myself - why? Why did I want to go there? Was there something ghoulish in this? Would I be trespassing, uninvited, on others’ grief and memories? Was it right to go? I finally made the trip to Auschwitz with my wife in January of this year, and my reasons for going were crystallised on a placard at the entrance to the camp: It read “He who chooses to ignore history will have to live through it again”. This resonated with me and I felt more comfortable, and purposeful about my visit. My experience over the next few hours convinced me that everyone should visit, “Lest We Forget”.

Auschwitz - Birkenau today is a state museum and world heritage site situated on the outskirts of the town of Oświęcim, about an hour’s drive from Cracow. I would encourage everyone to visit, particularly our younger generations, because only a full and living acknowledgement of the unthinkable and unspeakable crimes which were perpetrated there in the name of humanity will fully protect future generations from the development of circumstances which might enable us to sink to such depths of depravity again.

The site has 1.3 million visitors annually, which by cruel irony is roughly the number of people who were exterminated there. If you do visit, I would strongly recommend going on an organised tour (www.cracowtours.pl). Our tour guide was a middle-aged Polish lady who had

had an uncle murdered in the camp, and she was sincere, sensitive and passionate in her presentation. I asked her at the end of the tour whether they had any German visitors: she visibly stiffened before replying that some 40,000 Germans visit the site annually. The guilt of a generation, and of a nation passed down must be a heavy burden.

The town of Oświęcim was first identified by Heinrich Himmler as a suitable place to build a concentration camp for political opponents in early 1940. The compound outside the town was already in existence as a barracks for Polish soldiers and afforded numerous advantages: It had good transport connections, was at a major railway junction, and yet was easy to close off against the outside world. To facilitate the latter, all homes and buildings within a 2 mile radius of the camp were bulldozed and Oświęcim became Auschwitz. It was the seventh concentration camp which came to symbolise the worst excesses of human depravity.

Oświęcim is first mentioned in writing in 1178 as a border town in upper Silesia; on the dividing line between Slavs and Germans. The name is derived from the old Polish Święty, meaning 'Saint', pointing towards the town's early adoption of Christianity. Ironically, the town had Jewish settlers from the 10th century, and unlike other surrounding towns, it had no law forbidding Jews to live and trade there. Germans first moved to the area in the late 13th century, and began a settlement project whose 'completion' 700 years later became the goal of the Nazis brutal 'Germanisation' policy.

Auschwitz eventually developed into 3 camps: Auschwitz I (the parent camp), Auschwitz II (Birkenau) and Auschwitz III - Monowitz (most closely allied to the industrial complex). Everyone knows the litany of transports, selections and executions, but fewer would recognise Auschwitz as an industrial complex. I G Farben was the most important private company in Nazi Germany and one of the biggest chemical companies in Europe. It operated in Auschwitz to make Buna, a kind of rubber synthetically manufactured from coal in support of the war effort. Labour was provided by the prisoners of the camp (those thought not able having been 'selected' and gassed on arrival at the camp). They were forced to work long hours in intolerable conditions, and in such

poor physical condition that the work effectively proved a death sentence in itself. This was industrial capitalism at its very worst. The sign over the entrance gate to Auschwitz I reads “Arbeit Macht Frei”, which translates as “Work Brings Freedom” - surely the cruellest irony of all.



The over-riding message from visiting the camp is that ritual murder and death represents only a part of the shocking story. I do not think it an exaggeration to suppose that many would have welcomed death, as a release from the fear, degradation, cruelty and processes of dehumanisation which were the only alternatives. Nowhere was this more evident than in the punishment block, with its underground cells. Two cells stood out: one was the “standing Cell” which was little more than a yard square and in which up to eight people, starving, emaciated and exhausted from 12 hours work at I G Farben, would be forced to stand all night, only to somehow return to work the next day. Outside was the death wall, where daily executions by shooting and hanging took place. The other cell, nearby, was the cell in which Father Maximillian Kolbe, the Polish priest, was starved to death after he offered his life for a fellow prisoner.



Auschwitz was the only camp wherein all prisoners had their number tattooed on their bodies. In this setting each and every one was reduced to just this - a number. The dehumanisation process was complete. Prisoners were forced to work in the gas chambers and crematoria for a short period until the next

transport arrived and they would be replaced to become the victims themselves. This is what Primo Levi, a celebrated survivor of the camp,

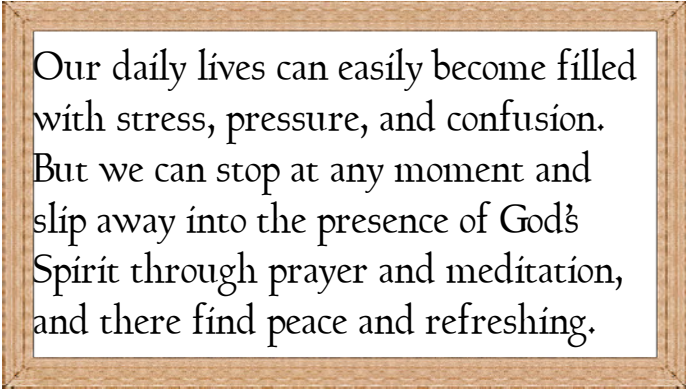
referred to as the ‘Grey Zone’ - an existence wholly revolving around coerced participation in the killing machine on the inevitable road to suffering the same fate. Needless to say escapes were extremely rare as body and spirit were so broken as to make it impossible to contemplate for most.

The question is often asked “where was God at Auschwitz?”. The answer remains “where was man at Auschwitz?”.

On the day after our visit to Auschwitz, we celebrated Mass in the magnificent Cracow Cathedral, the church of Pope John Paul II, which provided a fantastic opportunity to reflect on what we had seen. In addition to this, of course Cracow has a plethora of beautiful Catholic churches, most offering nightly music concerts in addition to their spiritual presence. Other places well worth visiting are the imposing Wawel Castle and the famous Cloth Hall, which has claims to have been one of the world’s first shopping malls.

Returning to Auschwitz, we deliberately chose to go in the winter and the day of our visit was suitably grey and overcast, with snow on the ground which took me back to that journey on television all those years ago. Somehow sunshine and warmth would have appeared inappropriate. It truly was a sobering and humbling experience.

Martyn Davies

A quote by Martyn Davies is presented within a simple, light-brown wooden frame. The text is centered and reads: "Our daily lives can easily become filled with stress, pressure, and confusion. But we can stop at any moment and slip away into the presence of God's Spirit through prayer and meditation, and there find peace and refreshing." The quote is written in a black, serif font.

Our daily lives can easily become filled with stress, pressure, and confusion. But we can stop at any moment and slip away into the presence of God's Spirit through prayer and meditation, and there find peace and refreshing.


"And again I say unto thee! "

There was a Scottish painter named Smokey Macgregor who was very interested in making a penny where he could, so he often thinned down his paint to make it go a wee bit further.

As it happened, he got away with this for some time, but eventually the Baptist Church decided to do a big restoration job on the outside of one of their biggest buildings.

Smokey put in a bid, and, because his price was so low, he got the job.

So he set about erecting the scaffolding and setting up the planks, and buying the paint and, yes, I am sorry to say, thinning it down with water...

Well, Smokey was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly completed, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder, the sky opened, and the rain poured down washing the thinned paint from all over the church and knocking Smokey clear off the scaffold to land on the lawn among the gravestones, surrounded by telltale puddles of the thinned and useless paint. 

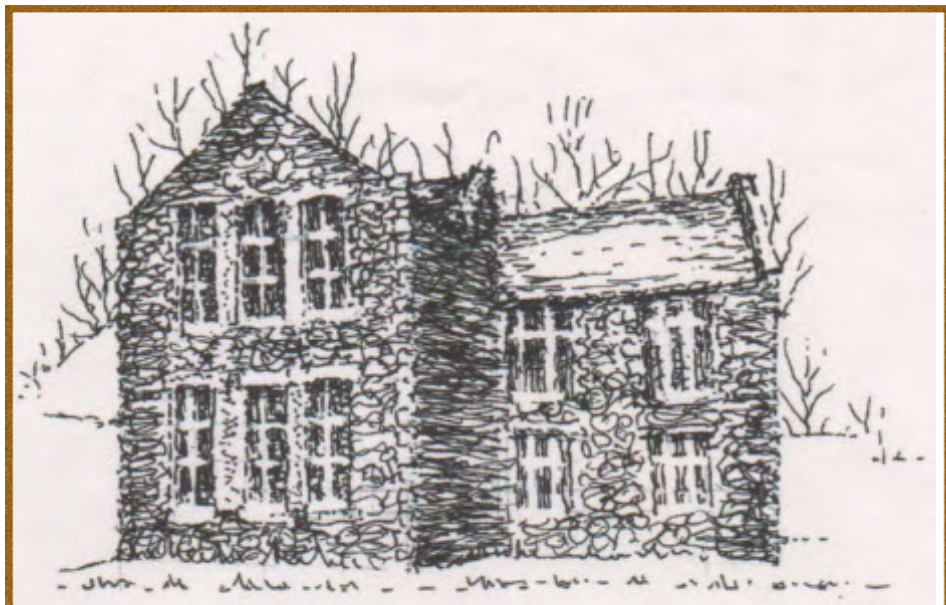
Smokey was no fool. He knew this was a judgment from the Almighty,
so he got down on his knees and cried:

"Oh, God, Oh God, forgive me; what should I do?"

And from the thunder, a mighty voice spoke..
(you're going to love this)



"Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!"



Eglwys Newydd Boys School

The school was built on Tyn Y Pwyll Road in 1855 as a church school. Eglwys Newydd Boys School became a boarding school in 1885. In 1904 it was taken over by Glamorgan County Council, then by Cardiff County Council in 1974. The school closed sometime in the 70's and was demolished in 1993. Cwrt Eglwys Newydd Flats were built on the site close to Saint Teilo's.

Jean Roberts

Helping Children in Malawi

This article is to thank the people of St. Teilo's and Our Lady of Lourdes for the support they have given to children in Malawi.

Two years ago, St. Teilo's gave the Christmas Crib Collection to me for children in Malawi. I split the money between three orphanages in Mchinji District. I visited the three orphanages which contained over 1,000 children supported by a few Catholic Sisters and a few volunteers. The orphanages had virtually no resources. The money was used to pay for school fees for a few children and supplemental feeding for the most vulnerable kids. Malnutrition is a problem that affects more than 40 percent of children in Malawi.

This year, St. Teilo's again supported children in Malawi from the Crib Offerings. I received one hundred and sixty pounds. I gave this money to the poorest of the three orphanages. They used this money to pay for school fees for six children in secondary school – allowing the children to continue their education. In Malawi, less than 30 percent of children go to Secondary School.

A couple of individuals have also been extremely generous in support of children in Malawi. I received a donation of 500 pounds at Christmas time. I used this money in support of the Outstation at my Parish, St. Patrick's in Lilongwe. The Outstation is called Mugubo, and the Parish built a small Church there two years ago. I had intended to spend the money on building swings for the children as they have nothing to play with. But when I reached Mugubo, the community there told me that there was no school and that the children have to walk over five miles a day to Kauma Primary School. They wanted to build a primary school block so that the younger children would not have so far to walk. I donated the money for that purpose and it paid for 30,000 bricks. The community will contribute the labour, and Lilongwe Diocese will also give some resources to this project. I have also been given another two hundred pounds from a St. Teilo's parishioner which will go to this project.

Thank you to all of you for this generous support. It is really appreciated. A small amount of money has made a significant difference to the lives of some children.

Thank you again,

Anne Conroy.

Baptisms

Adam Wesley Jarzembski Green 14th November 2010

Emily Grace Davies 30th January 2011

David Benedict Stewart 6th February 2011

Elizah Marshall 7th May 2011

Marriages

Sian Patricia Rees - Peter David Barlow 24th February 2011

Stop and reflect on one of nature's
small but intricate beauties — a
flower perhaps, or a butterfly or a
bird. If God cared enough to perfect
each feature of these creations of
His, surely He cares for you too.



Deaths

Rita Hurlow	17th	October	2010
Gerard Peter O'Sullivan	3rd	December	2010
Joan Battisto	4th	December	2010
Margretta Mullins	10th	December	2010
Peggy (Agnes) Fuse	8th	January	2011
Moira Josephine Conlan	12th	January	2011
Terry Cuddihy	15th	January	2011
Jane Elliot	20th	January	2011
Bernadette Carslake	22nd	January	2011
Catherine Cecilia O'Donnell	23rd	January	2011
Michael Kevin Jefferies	2nd	March	2011
Mary Elizabeth Aviles	3rd	March	2011
Thomas Arthur Joyce	16th	March	2011
Joseph O'Connor	17th	March	2011
Dave Welsh	1st	May	2011
Glenys May Pople	15th	May	2011
Albert Partridge	17th	May	2011



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A CHRISTIAN VIEW OF VIETNAM

A visit to Ho Chi Min city this year revealed a city of motor cycles. I last visited Vietnam in 1998 and then the city was full of rickshaws and pedal cycles, how things change. What a vibrant bustling city full of life. The city of Ho Chi Min, formerly Saigon and still referred generally by the old French colonial name, has been modernised out of all recognition. But who would have associated the country with Catholicism.?

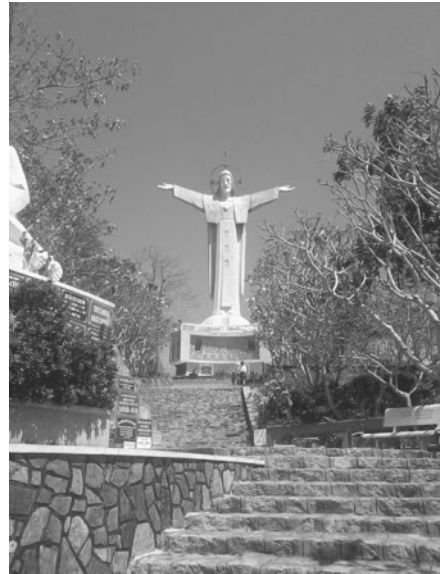
A journey by hydrofoil down the Saigon River of about two hours took us to Vung Tau city which is on the southern tip of Vietnam, close to where the Mekong river forms a delta as it enters the sea. There is a road but it wanders through the jungle and is of poor quality so the boat trip is the best ride.

Vung Tau city is on a headland and looks over the China Sea and the city itself sits either side of the promontory. It used to be solely a fishing port but oil has been discovered not far offshore and as a result it is a boom town.

On the high ground of this peninsular is a statue of Christ the King, which was built in 1977. Although the statue is 15 meters high and the whole is 176 meters high it is said that it is higher than the statue of Christ the king in Rio de Janeiro. There are 720 steps to climb to get to the base of the statue.(I only made it to 650 steps.) The viewing platform is in the sleeves of the arms.

Fortunately for me they are resting areas set at different levels, with shade and seating. Also there are religious statues and figures depicting biblical stories.

My wife Valerie and sister Ann made it to the top and climbed the 133 steps inside the statue to the arms. I was unable to ascertain the reason for the statue to be located on this site, but the French were very strong in the area and there are cannon and artillery pieces still in situ to



protect the entrance from the sea into the Saigon river. Also the Japanese invaded the area during World War two and the hillside is riddled with tunnels, which were put to good use by the Viet Cong during the American war. These tunnels caused problems with the digging of the foundations of the statue.

Down at sea level below the mountain is a Buddhist temple which is considered to be important to the Buddhists although it is difficult to obtain fully the information from the guide books as the English translation is quite confusing. I gleaned from the books that the first missionaries arrived in 1533 and since that date there have been 30,000 Christian martyrs. Andrew Phue Yew was the first and is venerated as such.

You may ask, why go to such out of the way places, well firstly it was a gift from my son Andrew and his wife Olga. They had already visited the area on business and paid for a holiday there. Secondly Vietnam is now one of the TIGER economies of the Far East. But it is still a Communist country. Thirdly they have thousands of miles of pristine beaches, a tropical climate in the south, a sub tropical climate and a temperate climate up to the Chinese border. It is so full of history and architecture and in addition the people are extremely friendly and helpful. The currency can be a bit of a problem there being 40,000 Dong to the pound, and the notes are very similar.

We stayed at the Caravelle in Ho Chi Min city and at the Imperial in Vang Tau.

We would love to go again and may be one day.

Mike Bartlett



The Cardiff Nativity

In the middle of the hustle and bustle of the Christmas shopping rush, a life-size puppet camel stands in front of a church building on The Hayes pedestrianised promenade. It's freezing: certainly no weather for a camel, never mind three fully grown men dressed in multi-coloured silk cloaks. Their presence attracts bewildered glances from some passers-by, while others know exactly who they are.

They want to tell a story. It's a story of vulnerability and family, of hardship and community: some of the issues facing debt-ridden shoppers today. It is a story that has been part of the public consciousness for hundreds of years but has begun to ebb away more recently according to research carried out by the Daily Mail and Theos, a public theology think tank.

Sally Humble-Jackson, 58, a chiropodist from Cardiff has been involved in artistic productions in the past, showcasing animation films in the former Soviet Union soon after the fall of communism. But she launched "*Christmas: The Story*" in December after more than a year in the making, bringing together more than 300 volunteers from across the city to produce a theatrical combination of mime, puppetry and storytelling to revive an age-old story: .

The nativity story is widely known as a Christian story about the miraculous birth of a baby named Jesus by a virgin called Mary in Bethlehem, today in Palestinian territory. Some of the details of the story have been debated, for example, the narrative of the New Testament does not mention of the number of wise men, although traditional adaptations of the story cast three wise men, equating to the

number of gifts presented to the baby.

But presented as a story in a theatrical production, the nativity project has brought the Cardiff community together.

“Not everybody who is acting is a churchgoer, our designer is not. People care about this story regardless.”

“So from a community point of view it has been great.”

“We are looking at building this story back into everyone’s Christmas in the city making it an indispensable part of Christmas”

“We’re not evangelising, we don’t want to convert anyone we just want this story as a story back in peoples’ Christmases.”

The idea for the production came about when Sally was volunteering at a Cardiff prison after she was given the task of sharing the nativity story with inmates for a carol concert. “They thought it was a babyish story and bravado,” she said. But what really shocked her was when one of the Cardiff-raised young offenders read the story aloud, pronouncing the wise men’s gifts:

“Gold, Frankenstein and mirror.”

Sally said this perplexed her and said: “(the) things you take for granted in your own culture have suddenly changed and changed unexpectedly, and fast.”



“From a cultural point of view I wouldn’t like my children to go into an art gallery with some friends and look at a painting of the nativity and make a ridiculous comment out of ignorance.”

“The symbol of a newborn baby is a symbol of helplessness, dependence family love hope for the future.

Everything that a new baby

symbolises it does across cultures and it’s all about the best of being human.”

“If you take that away and left with just the material stuff... The whole thing starts to become grotesque if there isn’t a greater reason for doing it, which is to do with family love.”

“We are going to carry on doing Christmas whether we like it or not, big business is going to make sure of that... If we are going to do that

then this story is full of all the best about Christmas”

Church representatives from across the Cardiff churchgoing community welcomed the production.

Diocesan Administrator of the Archdiocese of Cardiff, Rev Mgr Robert Reardon said: “I welcome such an initiative. It gives an opportunity for people to appreciate the story of Christmas.”

Assistant Bishop of Llandaff, Rt Rev David Wilbourne said: “Bumping into camels and wise men between John Lewis and Waterstones will certainly jilt many people out of their shopping reveries or nightmares, perhaps more effectively than the traditional manger display. This wonderful play brings the true drama of the Nativity right to the heart of Cardiff, reminding people that Christmas is about so much more than stressful shopping and present buying.”

Back on the street, the occasional couple stops to take a picture with the life-size camel, others queue to see the production, while others speed past.

But Sally hopes this story will remain in the public consciousness for years to come. *Christmas The Story* was performed 11 times a day for 18 days, with each production lasting 20 minutes at the Tabernacl Welsh Baptist Church in the heart of Cardiff. Up to six teams were drawn together with 30 people in each to mime the nativity story to a soundtrack directed by Peter Knight, a founding member of Mappa Mundi Theatre Company. Work has already started in putting the production together for this December so if you are in town shopping in December why not go to the Hayes and see this production, especially if you have children.



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