



Welcome to A&B eNews with National and International News  
First of all I would direct you below to the statement from the Bishops of England & Wales on 50th Anniversary of the Abortion Act.  
Please share.

I would also direct you to the details of the Funeral of Canon Gerald Coates at Arundel Cathedral on 7th November.

Please do share this eNewsletter with others and invite people to subscribe by sending me an [email](#) - you can unsubscribe at any time.

A reminder that you can also add parish and other events and courses on the [Diocesan Website](#) at any

Rt Rev Richard Moth, Bishop of Arundel & Brighton



The information contained in this email is included in good faith. Please take up any queries with information from outside the

time.

It is interesting to see a number of good programmes on TV and Radio including Bad Habits about 5 party girls with Nuns in Norfolk on Channel 5, Gunpowder on BBC 1, Meditations from a Monastery on BBC 4 and BBC Radio 3 Evensong for Romero. If you miss them they are available on catch up.

Finally see below a job vacancy in Portsmouth Diocese.

With every prayer and blessing,  
Mark Woods

diocese with those who have provided it.

Items marked in red are ones that have been added to the eNewsletter this time around.

[The Art of Dying Well](#) and its podcast series won the Jerusalem Award for digital audio. You can see the link to the website below. You will find it a useful resource for the upcoming All Souls day.

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## Statement of Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

**In a rare joint statement, the presidents of the Catholic Bishops' conferences of both England and Wales and Scotland** are marking the 50th Anniversary of the 1967 Abortion Act by noting the deep prevailing unease over its implementation while calling for a new discussion grounded in respect for the intrinsic value of life.

The anniversary of the Royal Assent of the 1967 Act falls on Friday 27th October. Since then, there have been more than 8m abortions in the UK, many of them of disabled babies.

Over the last fifty years, the bishops of our countries, along with many other people, have spoken consistently in favour of the intrinsic value of human life and both the good of the child in the womb and the good of the mother. This anniversary provides an opportunity to lament the loss of life due to abortion and seek a change of minds and hearts about the good of the child in the womb and the care of mothers who are pregnant.

Fifty years ago, few envisaged the possibility of that there would be almost 200,000 abortions in Great Britain in 2015. Every abortion is a tragedy and few consider that abortion is the desirable or best solution to a pregnancy, which may be challenging on account of many different factors. The complex set of conditions in which a woman finds herself pregnant and may consider having an abortion may limit the exercise of freedom and diminish moral culpability. When abortion is the choice made by a woman, the unfailing mercy of God and the promise of forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation are always available. There is always a way home to a deeper relationship with God and the Church, as recent Popes have emphasised, which can heal and bring peace.

**Today the language of 'choice' dominates discourse about marriage, gender, family and abortion.** This needs further exploration. Choice has come to mean doing whatever I feel to be right for me - a very subjective view of the good - rather than taking into account a wider set of fundamental values. This is a very inadequate understanding of free choice, which requires an education in important truths about what is truly good and the possibility of other options. In this case, these must include the good of the unborn child, care and support for pregnant mothers, and the responsibility of the father.

This statement presents a number of different challenges for the future: a new understanding of the intrinsic value and worth of every human life in the womb, a better protection of unborn children diagnosed with a disability, a great need for education in moral responsibility about human sexuality and the meaning of sexual expression within marriage. Many professionals face the challenge that respect for conscientious objection against abortion has been eroded. Personal

conscience is inviolable and nobody should be forced to act against his or her properly informed conscience on these matters. We encourage greater debate about this right and these challenges in our society.

Finally we thank many people, of religious faith and none, who have sought to protect unborn life and the life of the mother over the last fifty years; mothers who have continued their pregnancies in difficult circumstances, politicians who have sought to reform the legislation to better protect unborn life, those people whose prayers have been offered for greater respect to be shown to the wonder of the life in the womb, for mothers and those whose lives are cut short by abortion. Together let us better cherish life.

You find the statement here:

<http://catholicnews.org.uk/abortion-act-joint-stmt-231017>

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## Clergy Funeral

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Canon Gerald Coates who died peacefully in the morning of Tuesday 10th October at Holy Cross Care Home, Cross in Hand, Heathfield.

His funeral arrangements are as follows:

Reception of the Body and Vespers at Arundel Cathedral on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November, at 5.00pm

Funeral Mass for Canon Gerald at Arundel Cathedral on Tuesday 7th November, at 12.00 midday followed by a Buffet Reception in the Cathedral Hall.

Burial will take place the following day with family members in attendance.

May he rest in peace

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# Job Vacancy

## DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

An exciting new appointment has arisen for the post of Director of Communications for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. The Diocese is seeking to appoint its first Director of Communications following a detailed Communications Review.

The Director will write the Diocese's Communications Plan based on the recently agreed Communications Objective of **'bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church'** and lead and manage Diocesan Communications (externally and internally). Working throughout the Diocese this is a tremendous opportunity for a suitably experienced person to play a key role in shaping and delivering a culture of good communication and raising the profile of the Church and the Diocese to Church members and the wider public. Reporting to the Head of Department for New Evangelisation, but working closely with the Bishop of Portsmouth.

For further details and an application form/job description/person specification/Equal Ops Monitoring Form please see the Diocesan Website at [www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

For informal enquires please contact David Lawes (Head of Department for Administration) Email: [dlawes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:dlawes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)  
Closing date for applications: Friday 17th November 2017. Interview date: w/c Monday 4th or Monday 11th December 2017. Proposed start date: Early 2018

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National & International Events

Pax Christi Seminars - Non-Violence Works!: October 2 is the International Day of Nonviolence. As the call to the Christian community to engage in study, formation and the practice of nonviolence is being reaffirmed by Pope Francis, Pax Christi are offering a series of days on Non-Violence. For details on dates and how to book go to their [website](#).

Premier Digital Conference 2017: The annual Premier Digital Conference will take place on Saturday 4 November 2017 at The Brewery, Chiswell Street, London. It looks at how Christians can use social and other media to get across the Christian message. For more information and to book a ticket (early bird prices available) click on the [website](#).

Taizé Volunteers in Schools: From 5-18 November Taizé shall be sending two young gap-year volunteers to make visits in UK schools. They could go into RE lessons / help lead assemblies / etc for Year 10 and above. Past experience shows that students' interest in a trip to Taizé is awakened by contact with young adults only a little older than themselves who are spending a gap year in a monastery!

If you would like the volunteers to come to your school(s), then please contact Jane Shields in Wakefield who will be arranging their schedule:

[jane@laloge.co.uk](mailto:jane@laloge.co.uk), 01924 377921

Priority will be given to schools which are actively planning a visit to Taizé in 2018.

**National Celebration of the Young Christian Workers in England & Wales:** YCW will be celebrating their 80th year in England and Wales on 18th November 2017 from 4pm, with a Mass celebrated by the Rt. Rev. John Arnold, Bishop of Salford at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Evangelist in Salford, followed by a celebration in the Cathedral Assembly Room.

In England and Wales, the first YCW group was founded in Wigan in 1937, with Father Gerry Rimmer as the Chaplain and Patrick Keegan, a young factory worker, as President. Patrick would go on to become the first lay man to

address an Ecumenical Council of the Church when he addressed the Second Vatican Council on the role of the laity.

All members, past and present, friends and supporters are welcome.

First World Day of the Poor: Instituted by Pope Francis at the conclusion of the Jubilee of Mercy in 2016 on 33rd Sunday in Ordinary time which this year is on 19 November. You can read his message for the day [here](#).

2017 'Celebrating Young People Awards' - 23 November: The Awards celebrate those young people living out Catholic social teaching in their lives and communities. This year the Award Ceremony is timed to take place just a few days before National youth Sunday in November. A young person or group (aged 11-25) who you nominate could join us for the glittering ceremony in London, with guest of honour, Archbishop Malcolm McMahon (Chair of the Catholic Education Service).

There are seven categories to nominate people for, including promoting peace and fostering community. There is also an award for an inspiring adult youth leader. Check out the categories and resources to help promote the Awards at [millionminutes.org/awards](http://millionminutes.org/awards). All young people nominated will be considered for the Pope Francis Award presented by Archbishop McMahon.

It couldn't be easier to nominate. Tell us about your nominee (or group) now - it will only take a few minutes: [millionminutes.org/nominate](http://millionminutes.org/nominate)

You will also find all the information about the Awards criteria and resources to use with your young people at [millionminutes.org/awards](http://millionminutes.org/awards)

**Catholic Bible Sunday** falls on 10 December 2017 and takes the theme 'Welcome the Word'. In partnership with Bible Society, we've created a resource pack to support scriptural engagement in the Catholic community. These Scripture-focused materials will help each of us to explore Advent, Christmas and beyond. We want to enable every man, woman and child to engage with the Bible in ways that are appropriate to them. Find more information here: <http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/Home/Featured/Catholic-Bible-Sunday-2017>

Catholic Rural Conference 2018: The conference which runs from Monday 5th to Wednesday 7th February in Garstang, nr. Preston, Lancashire. Any Catholic interested enough to come is welcome. For more information and booking form contact Fr Robert Miller on 01747 870228 or [rwhm274@btinternet.com](mailto:rwhm274@btinternet.com).

World Meeting of Families 2018 in Ireland: Dublin has been chosen by Pope Francis to host the next World Meeting of Families from 22-26 August 2018 and we have already started to prepare for this event.

[Please click here to be included in future newsletters from them.](#)

You can now book to register for the event on their [new website](#).

You are now able to apply to volunteer for the Meeting on [www.worldmeeting2018.ie/volunteer](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/volunteer).

Adoremus - National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress - Liverpool 2018: The bishops of England and Wales have announced that they plan to hold a National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress in Liverpool next year (**7-9 September 2018**). Eucharistic Congresses are gatherings of clergy, religious and laity which promote an awareness of the central place of the Eucharist in the life and mission of the Church. Participants at the Congress will take part in a series of Catechism sessions, focusing on different dimensions of the Eucharist and the daily celebration and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. On the first day of the Congress, there will be a Theological Symposium, with workshops for Parish catechists, (especially for those involved in First Holy Communion programs), RE teachers, Hospital and Prison Chaplains, Seminary Communities and Extraordinary Ministers. The sessions will focus on Scripture, Ecclesiology, Eucharistic Language and Catechism and a Workshop on the Rites and Music for Eucharistic Adoration.

The Echo Arena in Liverpool (which can accommodate 10,000 pilgrims) will be the home to a six- hour stage programme on the second day of the Congress, which will include a Congress Mass, keynote speakers and a drama highlighting the beauty of reverence and devotion. The day will conclude with

Adoration. On the final day of the Pilgrimage and Congress, Sunday, there will be pilgrimage Masses and a street procession, open to all.

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## National and International Appeals and Programmes

CAFOD is part of the DEC Rohingya crisis appeal. You can donate directly to CAFOD at [cafod.org.uk/RohingyaCrisis](http://cafod.org.uk/RohingyaCrisis) or by calling 08085 858 885

New 'Slow TV' series visits three Benedictine monasteries: Three Benedictine monasteries: Pluscarden, Downside and Belmont feature in a new three part TV documentary series due to be shown on BBC Four in October. According to an entry on the Pluscarden website, the genre of this documentary is **'Slow TV'**. **Following the model of 'Into Great Silence' about La Grande Chartreuse**, "the idea is to invite viewers into a world where prayer, meditation, contemplation, worship hold a central place." Watch out for it in the coming month.

A Church for **the Poor"** **new Radio Series** - starting 1st October: The **programmes cover a diversity of "poverty" and how the Church is helping** the Hungry; Homeless; Sick and Dying; Refugees and those in war zones; in Slavery; no religious freedom; those trapped in Debt; etc. The programmes will be broadcast <http://www.heavensroadfm.com/listen-now/> from Sunday 1st October

Calling all those working in healthcare: **St Mary's University Twickenham** is pleased to offer a new foundation degree for Practitioners in Healthcare Ethics, Theology and Care starting in October 2017. This is a part time two year programme for people working in healthcare settings, from care homes, to hospices and hospitals and hospital chaplaincy. Lectures and seminars take **place at St Mary's one evening a week and additional lectures and resources** are available online. This form of blended learning recognises the reality of having to work and study at the same time. By studying with us you will have

the opportunity to link theory with practice, and to identify and work through challenges. You will be encouraged to reflect deeply on those moments that are formative for you as a healthcare practitioner and often life-changing for people you meet on the journey. If you are interested in applying or finding out more please contact [matthew.james@stmarys.ac.uk](mailto:matthew.james@stmarys.ac.uk)

The National Office for Vocation has launched the new season for **vocation discernment to the Religious life**. Young people considering a vocation to be **a nun, monk, sister, priest or brother can join a “Compass” group in October** and work through the programme which runs over five residential weekends and the Easter Triduum, ending in May 2018.

The course will take place at Milleret House in Central London, which is run by the Religious of the Assumption sisters, with the co-leaders being a monastic priest and apostolic religious sister. The Compass group will spend Holy Week at Worth Abbey in West Sussex for a retreat.

The programme is based on the group helping each other to find their way forward. Alongside the group meetings, participants receive individual spiritual guidance. Topics covered include discernment, vocation, prayer, ministry, the vows and the nature of contemporary religious life.

For more information and leaflets contact: <http://www.compass-points.org.uk/>

Synod on Youth Website: The Vatican has launched a new website focusing on the upcoming Synod of Bishops on 'Young People, Faith, and Vocational Discernment.' which will take place in October 2018, Please share this website with Youth leaders and Young people

<http://youth.synod2018.va/content/synod2018/en.html>

The Art of Dying Well website has received a very positive response from the public and the media. Based in the Catholic tradition but open to all, it features real-life stories about dealing with the final journey. Please add a link to your site – [www.artofdyingwell.org](http://www.artofdyingwell.org) – Adding the link will boost how the Art of Dying Well website ranks in Google searches for terms related to death and dying,

thereby helping people to easily find the site when they are searching for help with these issues.

**The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network:** Please share the Monthly Intention of the Holy Father [www.thepopevideo.org](http://www.thepopevideo.org) and his new, "Urgent Action" intentions announced each month; there will also be, in some dioceses, a local intention too. **There's no cost** to join, but there are lots of resources, online and printed – see [www.popesglobalprayer.net](http://www.popesglobalprayer.net) where you'll also find a reflection on **each month's Intentions that can be used in parish bulletins and websites.** Fr. David Stewart SJ is ready to visit parishes and Chaplaincies to promote the network in your Catholic community – just ask him: [dstewart@jesuit.org.uk](mailto:dstewart@jesuit.org.uk) @jesuitsinbritain

Catholic Women Preach: A new website offering reflections on the Sunday readings by Catholic women. An additional resources for preparation for Sunday Mass. Click on [www.catholicwomenpreach.org](http://www.catholicwomenpreach.org)

LIFE Charity Pregnancy Help: Through their network of Care Centres around the UK, National Helpline or Text to Talk service, LIFE Care provides counselling and support for anyone facing an unplanned pregnancy, suffering the loss of a baby or coping after abortion. Just click on the [Life Website](#). **Life have recently launched a new Social media page aimed at reaching people who really need their support. To help them to find LIFE log on to our Facebook page to "Like" and "Share" us!** <https://www.facebook.com/pregnancymatters/>

Churchmarketplace is a national collaborative buying group, a not-for-profit organisation, created by the Catholic Church to help our community. They have negotiated contracts you can trust, saving you time and money on all your purchasing needs. To find out more, please visit the website [www.churchmarketplace.org.uk](http://www.churchmarketplace.org.uk)

Cinnamon Network aims to make it as easy as possible for local churches to transform their communities by reaching out to those in greatest

need. They help churches respond by providing a menu of best-practice Cinnamon Recognised Projects that can easily be replicated. Alongside the projects **they offer advice, funding, support and leadership training**. For more information go to their [website](#).

National Churches Trust: The National Churches Trust have launched an initiative. It is the new maintenance grant. This is a fantastic grant that can/will help those who are in the planning stages of a project to get access to some hard found start up funds. More [here](#) on this and other funding.

Marriage Matters is an online collection of 60-word snippets, adapted from the Sunday Mass Scripture Reading reflections found in **I Am With You** Year A. These can be placed in a newsletter, bulletin, website or blog. The idea is to support, encourage, inspire, challenge and motivate couples to deepen their relationship with one another and with God. See [website](#).

Million Minutes - a Catholic Youth organisation inspired by Catholic Social Teaching is offering **small grants** for projects which support youth-led activities linked to Catholic Social Teaching. See their [website](#) for more details and information.

The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors now has its own [website](#) for you to view. You may also be interested in The Centre for Child Protection which is part of the Pontifical Gregorian University which also has a [website](#).

Do support and help promote '[We're all Equal](#)' and '[Don't Screen Us Out](#)' two important campaigns; one to remove disability as a ground for abortion and the other to ensure Down's syndrome babies are not screened out by a new test.

This Worldpriest website has one overarching aim – to unite priests and laity so that everyone can come into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. They want [www.worldpriest.com](http://www.worldpriest.com) to be a place where you receive answers to questions of faith, where you can find information on church teaching, resources to support our priests, prayers for all occasions and where you can

discover the truth of our faith – that God loves us and provides for us on a daily basis, in every situation. You can also sign up for their regular newsletters.

The Ephatta website puts in touch people looking for a temporary accommodation with other people willing to open their door and welcome them. Members can list a couch, a private room or an entire home. Hospitality can be **provided for any event: holidays, pilgrimages, gatherings, professional trips...**

They created the [Ephatta website](#) because welcoming and travelling are unique ways to make meaningful encounters and strengthen our faith. As [Ephatta](#) means “be opened”, the website gathers those who want to open to others, whoever they are.

Maryvale Institute: The Institute offers various long-distance formation courses especially in evangelisation and catechetics from ongoing education courses to undergraduate and post graduate degrees including an Ecclesiastical Licence in Catechetics recognised by the Holy See. For more information on all their courses visit their [website](#).

Interreligious Newsletter from the Catholic Bishops' Conference; You can subscribe at <http://eepurl.com/cavnJ9>, It is a newsletter aimed at Catholics who are interested in interreligious matters, and their friends.

Readings in different languages - Handy downloadable (pdf) Sunday readings in about a dozen European languages, for those who have different language groups in their parish. Download [here](#).

Papal Blessings for weddings, anniversaries etc - As from January 2015 only available online from the Vatican @ [www.elemosineria.va](http://www.elemosineria.va)

Boarbank Hall, Cumbria run by Augustinian Canonesses offers courses throughout the year. See their [website](#).

Sarum College Courses and Events in Coming Months. [See their website](#). They now have a new brochure for the academic year 2017-18 which you can see [here](#).

Ammerdown Retreat Centre - Various events and retreats. [See their website.](#)

