



TIMES OF THE LITURGY

Sunday - 7.45am - Lauds | 8.15am - Low Mass | 9.15am - Dominican Rite Mass (Extraordinary Form) | 11am - Sung Conventual Mass | 6pm - Low Mass | 7pm - Vespers.

Monday - Friday - 7am - Lauds | 7.30am - Conventual Mass | 6.15pm - Devotions and Meditation | 6.30pm - Vespers. [N.B. First Fridays of the month, Vespers in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament with a period of Adoration from 6.15pm.]

Saturday - 9am - Lauds | 9.30am - Conventual Mass | 4.30-6pm - Confessions | 6.15pm - Sung Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary | 6.30pm - Vespers.

THIS WEEK

- Sun 19 **PENTECOST**
- Mon 20 Our Lady, Mother of the Church
- Tue 21 *feria*
- Wed 22 *feria*
- Thu 23 OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST
- Fri 24 Translation of St Dominic
- Sat 25 St Bede the Venerable
- Sun 16 **THE MOST HOLY TRINITY**



Lauds, Mass, and Vespers are broadcast daily on Radio Maria. To listen visit:
<https://radiomariaengland.uk/>

SUPPORT US

Our ministry relies on the generosity of our friends and supporters. If you would like to support us make a donation in the cloister, visit our website, or speak to or email the bursar, Fr Albert.
cambridge.bursar@english.op.org

CATHOLIC LEGACY WEEK, 20-26 MAY

Catholics are encouraged this coming week to consider leaving a gift in their Will to support Catholic charities. Catholic charities such as ours depend greatly on the generosity of ordinary Catholics like you to support our charitable work. Did you know that gifts in Wills provide one fifth of the Dominican Friars' overall income?

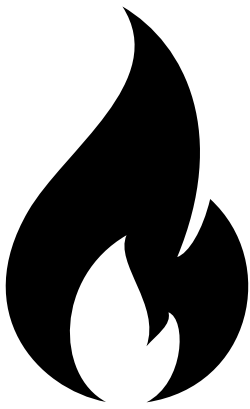
To celebrate this week, our Development Office encourages you to send in little stories of how the Dominican Friars have enriched your life, to be displayed on our website (you can be anonymous if you prefer). If you would like to take part, please email <development@english.op.org> or visit <www.english.op.org/legacy2024>.



CORPUS CHRISTI

Sunday 2 June

11am Mass followed by a Procession, and a bring and share picnic in the garden.



TODAY (19 MAY) FROM 2-6PM THERE WILL BE AN ECUMENICAL CELEBRATION OF PENTECOST AT PETERSFIELD GARDENS AND ZION BAPTIST CHURCH, EAST ROAD, CAMBRIDGE. WITH LIVE MUSIC, INSPIRING SPEAKERS, AND A BOUNCY CASTLE – FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!

Our next Communio/ Blackfriars Study Group meeting will be on Wednesday 5 June at 7.30pm in the Old Library. We will discuss an interview given in 2016 by Pope Emeritus Benedict in which he reflects on the theme of 'the mercy of God'. This theme has been central to the teachings of Pope John-Paul and Pope Francis, and it gives a better way of understanding what was achieved in Christ for our salvation than the long influential idea of 'the honour of God'. The Pope Emeritus then explores what this means for the mission the Church has in proclaiming the redeeming power of Christ for all.

Calling practising Catholic teachers: Are you working in one of our Catholic schools? If not, would you like to? Perhaps you've always been interested in teaching in a Catholic school, but the opportunity has not arisen. If you are interested in following your vocation to teach in a Catholic school you are warmly invited to an initial information giving meeting, to be held on Zoom, on Monday 10 June 2024 at 6.30pm. You will have an opportunity to hear from the Diocesan Schools Service and the CEOs of our two Catholic Multi-Academy Trusts. To receive a meeting invitation, please contact the Schools' Service Administrator, Jane Delph, at <ssc@rcdea.org.uk>.

What is knowing? From 23 to 26 August 2024, the Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst, Clitheroe will be offering a residential course on Divine, human, and artificial intelligence. For more information, please visit <<https://christianheritagecentre.com/events>>

Bishop Peter invites all married couples and their families to the annual Marriage Celebration Mass! This will take place on Saturday 1 June, starting at 11.30am, at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich. Those couples celebrating significant anniversaries are invited to fill in the online Booking Form and so have their names read out during Mass, and receive a certificate. Certificates are for one year, five years and every multiple of five, until 60 years, then every individual year after 60 years. The Mass will include a renewal of Marriage Vows for all couples, and there will also be a photographer present to take family/couple photos with the Bishop. After the Mass there will be tea, coffee and cake. There is no charge for the day or for the photos, but donations are welcome. To book a place please fill in the Booking Form at: <www.rcdea.org.uk/marriage-mass-registration/> For all enquiries please contact: Dr Antonia Braithwaite <mflcoordinator@rcdea.org.uk>.

NORMS FOR DISCERNING SUPERNATURAL PHENOMENA

My return to the faith, and my vocation, this is Fr Euan Marley writing, is bound up with a visit to Lourdes. It was not the first visit I made as I attended a convent primary school, run by Franciscan sisters of the Immaculate conception who visited Lourdes every year. I went with them on a school trip when I was eight, of which I have vivid memories. Nonetheless I became conflicted in my faith, until a second visit, forced me to choose between faith and the rejection of faith. I went to Lourdes because I had not been on holiday for two years and decided to go on whatever trip anyone suggested to me. To my astonishment, someone asked if I could take up a place in a minibus to go to Lourdes, with another week in France on the way back. So, I said yes, and this changed my life. Lourdes means a great deal to me, but actually no catholic is strictly obliged to believe that Our Lady appeared there. St Bernadette has been canonised, and there is a memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes on the 11 of February. Nonetheless, a declaration that something supernatural has happened by Church authorities, usually the local Bishop or a group of Bishops, is not irreversible.

Bishops sometimes proclaimed that certain phenomena were to be believed as being of supernatural origin which masked the fact that there is no obligation to believe that a particular set of phenomena actually were of supernatural origin. Also, experience has shown that even if something had actually happened, some people might misuse these events. So the new norms make clear that while there can be a negative decision on an event, there should not be a positive insistence on accepting these events as real. The Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith has therefore issued a proclamation on new norms for proceeding in the discernment of alleged supernatural phenomena. The new norms replace the previous norms of the 25 th of February 1978. It is up to the faithful to choose to invest time and energy in these events, unless it is clearly forbidden by the Church. This is normally expressed by the local bishop, but the Pope might choose to reserve the decision to himself or the Dicastery in some circumstances. I remember visiting Syracuse where there was a shrine dedicated to the belief that an image of Our Lady had shed real tears. This case is mentioned in the document, and I was amused during my visit in 1981, that the shops were selling towels with the image of a huge church at the shrine, even though at that time, this church had not yet been built. It was finished some years later. The new norms now clarify that there should not be a positive declaration of the truth of various phenomena but merely a declaration that *Nihil obstat*, which means that nothing stands in the way of acceptance of the phenomena, though the Holy Father can still exercise his authority to make a positive declaration. The document is available online but I have included here the six headings for the various norms taken directly from the document. The Latin headings are in all the vernacular editions of the document.

17. Nihil obstat – Without expressing any certainty about the supernatural authenticity of the phenomenon itself, many signs of the action of the Holy Spirit are acknowledged “in the midst” of a given spiritual experience, and no aspects that are particularly critical or risky have been detected, at least so far. For this reason, the Diocesan Bishop is encouraged to appreciate the pastoral value of this spiritual proposal, and even to promote its spread, including possibly through pilgrimages to a sacred site.

18. Prae oculis habeatur – Although important positive signs are recognized, some aspects of confusion or potential risks are also perceived that require the Diocesan Bishop to engage in a careful discernment and dialogue with the recipients of a given spiritual experience. If there were writings or messages, doctrinal clarification might be necessary.

19. Curatur – While various or significant critical elements are noted, at the same time, the phenomenon has already spread widely, and there are verifiable spiritual fruits connected to it. In this situation, a ban that could upset the People of God is not recommended. Nevertheless, the Diocesan Bishop is asked not to encourage this phenomenon but to seek out alternative expressions of devotion and possibly reorient its spiritual and pastoral aspects.

20. Sub mandato – In this category, the critical issues are not connected to the phenomenon itself, which is rich in positive elements, but to a person, a family, or a group of people who are misusing it. For instance, the spiritual experience may be exploited for particular and undue financial gain, committing immoral acts, or carrying out a pastoral activity apart from the one already present in the ecclesiastical territory without accepting the instructions of the Diocesan Bishop. In this situation, the pastoral leadership of the specific place where the phenomenon is occurring is entrusted to the Diocesan Bishop (or to another person delegated by the Holy See), who, if unable to intervene directly, will try to reach a reasonable agreement.

21. Prohibetur et obstruatur – While there are legitimate requests and some positive elements, the critical issues and risks associated with this phenomenon appear to be very serious. Therefore, to prevent further confusion or even scandal that could erode the faith of ordinary people, the Dicastery asks the Diocesan Bishop to declare publicly that adherence to this phenomenon is not allowed. At the same time, the Diocesan Bishop is asked to offer a catechesis that can help the faithful understand the reasons for the decision and reorient the legitimate spiritual concerns of that part of the People of God.

22. Declaratio de non supernaturalitate – In this situation, the Dicastery authorizes the Diocesan Bishop to declare that the phenomenon is found to be not supernatural. This decision must be based on facts and evidence that are concrete and proven. For instance, if an alleged visionary admits to having lied or if credible witnesses provide elements of proof that allow one to discover that the phenomenon was based on fabrication, an erroneous intention, or mythomania. 23. In light of the aforementioned points, it is reaffirmed that, as a rule, neither the Diocesan Bishop, nor the Episcopal Conferences, nor the Dicastery will declare that these phenomena are of supernatural origin, even if a Nihil obstat is granted (cf. Par. 11, above). It remains true, however, that the Holy Father can authorize a special procedure in this regard.'

I would say that the most important concern is charity, both in its fullest sense of friendship with God but also in the looser modern meaning of a certain forbearance. The negative nature of the proclamations of the Church on these phenomena, and sometimes too on points of doctrine are designed to allow us to use our freedom well. What is not forbidden is not compulsory, and what is not compulsory is not forbidden. There is much which is a matter of choice in the life of the Church but choose well.

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