



CAAPA NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2020

Hello everyone,

We hope this finds all our members, their families, friends and loved ones all safe and well, and coping with the continuing lockdown – and with the heat!

Here at CaAPA HQ (frequently the Putney garden of our **MC Michael Slater!**) we haven't received many submissions for this month's Newsletter. (Everyone must be on holiday!) So in addition to some reminiscences from Michael and our Memorial of past members we've selected a number of recent articles for your delectation and delight!

Please do send in anything you think the members will find interesting - and consoling - during this challenging time.

Jeremy Rowe has suggested that we possibly publish some – or all – of the collected Playlets that have been a feature of CaAPA's calendar for the past few years. I would urge all of the writers to email me their playlets (from the *Women in the Church*, *Refugees* and *Homelessness* events at the CAA) in the next few months, as we would like to see how feasible this is. But thank you Jeremy for the idea (and to Nadia, Robin and Penny's enthusiasm for the initiative)!

*** **NB: please send any messages to kennethmichaels@hotmail.com for inclusion in future newsletters** ***

*There are also plans afoot to have a Mass recorded for CaAPA to highlight the plight of all members of the entertainment and creative industries during the lockdown. Our Chairman **Richard O'Callaghan** expressed a wish that we include employees of the catering and hospitality and airline industries in the bidding prayers, as they have been similarly affected.*

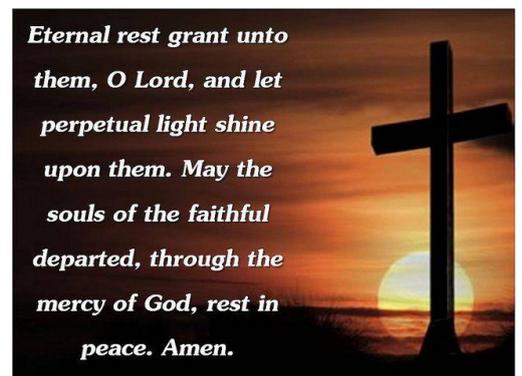
MEMORIAL LIST FOR AUGUST

- 1993 Alan Rye
- 1995 Monica Murray, Vice Chairman
- 2000 Sir Alec Guinness: C.H. CBE, CaAPA Vice President

(Michael Slater writes):

Monica Murray, although not an actress, was steeped in the arts, and gave such service to the Catholic Stage Guild.

It was through Monica that I was introduced to the Guild, when she invited my wife Ann and myself to Sunday lunch at her home in Richmond on Palm Sunday.





She asked me if I would like some wine. "I have given it up for Lent," I said. "Oh nonsense! This is a day of celebration," replied Monica. I thought this is a lady for me!!

There was a wonderful priest years ago - Fr Cormac Rigby - who used to look after all the broadcasts from Westminster Cathedral, including the visit of St John Paul.

We were chatting one evening at the Club for Acts and Actors (in Covent Garden) and reflecting on **Fr Cormac Rigby** and Monica said, "Oh yes, I go to bed with him every night!!!" *Shock all around!!!*

"Oh no! "On the BBC's Book at Bedtime"!

Sir Alec Guinness.

(From the Tablet - after a Mass at Corpus Christi):

As the Mass ended, autograph hunters were waiting outside the church for Sir Alec Guinness, who was recently made a Companion of Honour. **Michael Slater**, the *Master of Ceremonies for the Guild*, took advantage of his cassock to clear a way through the crowd. He recalled, "As I saw Sir Alec departing along Maiden Lane, I realised what a master of disguise he is. As he put on his hat at a jaunty angle and strode off into the night, the image changed from the Actor Knight to Actor Laddie'.

And now two positive stories from overseas:

Friends of the Holy Land water tank project offers vital lifeline

Jul 16th, 2020

Screenshot: New water tank being hoisted onto roof of family

home in Bethlehem

Source: FHL

Friends of the Holy Land (FHL) write: Lack of water is one of the major daily problems faced by our Brothers and Sisters in the West Bank. Families in Bethlehem get access to fresh water just once every 25 days.

The public water supply system is in very poor shape. Existing back up water tanks on many roofs are also old and rusted, particularly in older towns such as Bethlehem. Water carried in tanker lorries is often contaminated. As a result, more than 40% of children suffer from chronic diarrhoea and other diseases related to lack of water and hygiene. Now with the Coronavirus, when handwashing and hygiene are more important than ever, access to clean water is even more important. FHL is working in partnership with **Pro Terra Sancta** and, with the help of local tradespeople, has already installed 20 water tanks and solar panels for Christian families in the Bethlehem area.



See a video about the project here: www.cmc-terrasanta.com/en/media/terra-santa-news/20521/pro-terra-sancta's-project-to-guarantee-water-to-needy-families-in-bethlehem



FHL operates an office in Bethlehem to support vulnerable Christians. In addition to meeting their direct emergency needs, when families fall into financial difficulty, FHL's team in Bethlehem also work with other partner agencies to support vulnerable Christians with medical costs and school fees. Both of which can be very expensive, often accounting for as much as a quarter of a normal household's yearly income.

Friends of the Holy Land have two major projects in Bethlehem, School of Joy providing education and therapy to disabled children and St Martha's House which is a day centre for elderly women, mainly widows or those whose family have emigrated. FHL also provide long term support to **St Luke's Hospital in Nablus**, by supporting a medical exemption fund for the local Christian population.

Syria: Cathedral rises from the ashes of persecution

John Pontifex

Jul 17th, 2020



Restored Maronite Cathedral of St Elijah

A restored cathedral in Aleppo, which was bombed countless times, is to be officially re-opened - a sign of the enduring presence of Christianity in a city where Islamists had threatened their very existence.

Catholic charity **Aid to the Church in Need** (ACN) provided key funds to repair the **Maronite**

Cathedral of St Elijah, which was hit by missiles and mortars as Aleppo became the epicentre of the Syrian civil war.

In an interview with ACN, **Maronite Archbishop Joseph Tobji of Aleppo** said the re-consecration of the cathedral on Monday (20th July) had a "symbolic and practical meaning". He said:

"In the symbolic sense, it is a message to the parishioners and Christians in Aleppo and the world that we are still in this country despite our dwindling numbers and the restoration of the cathedral is proof of this."

ACN staff were on the scene in early 2017, days after the ceasefire in Aleppo between regime and rebel forces and saw the cathedral in its bomb-blasted state, with a huge hole in the roof, spanning at least a third of the nave.

ACN quickly committed to helping to rebuild the cathedral, which dates back to 1873 and which replaced a small 15th century church built on the same site.

Dr Thomas Heine-Geldern, ACN (International) Executive President, sent a message to the people of Aleppo to mark the cathedral's re-opening, describing how the charity "has been with you throughout the most difficult times". He added: "We see the **cathedral of St Elijah** and it is a miracle. It is wonderful to see it shining with its former splendour. I hope that it will once again become the centre for the whole Christian community just as it was before this terrible war." Aleppo's Christian population has plummeted since Syria's civil war started, falling from 180,000 before 2012 to 35,000 today.



Archbishop Tobji said he hoped the cathedral's restoration would encourage Aleppo's Christians to feel they have a future in the city. He said: "We Maronites have no place to bring us together other than this cathedral and the decision to restore it was self-evident, just like a family who wanted to renovate our only house that brought us together."

Between 2011 and 2019, ACN supported 900 projects in Syria, providing both emergency and pastoral aid and this year the charity has more than 100 ongoing projects in the country.

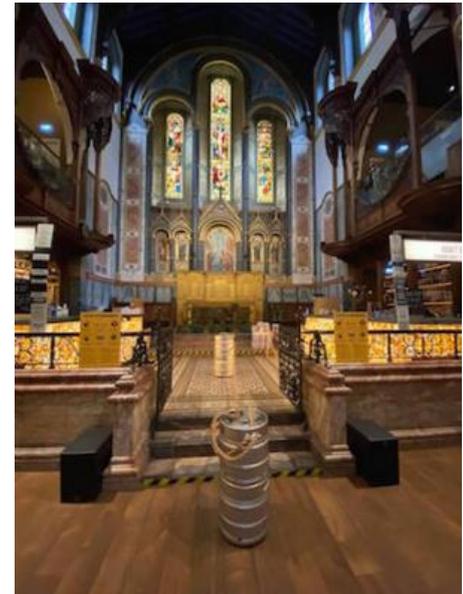
Now, a less heartening story from closer to home:

Viewpoint: The shocking conversion of a Mayfair church

Anthony Bailey OBE Jul 19th, 2020 (Updated Jul 20th, 2020)

Beer barrels on the Sanctuary

It always saddens me when I see places of worship - of any faith - being remodelled for other purposes as a result of changes in demographics, a drop in public worship or growing secularism in some societies. That being said, I have seen some wonderful examples of places of worship duly transformed into community outreach centres, homeless shelters, schools and nurseries and public housing. These seem in many ways not in conflict with a building's previous use. Yet to see and visit such a site as the former **St Mark's Anglican Church** in *Mayfair's North Audley Street* really shocked me.



Now known as **Mercato Mayfair**, not only has it been turned into a series of bars and fast food restaurants, but actual altars and chapels are used as part of the furniture of those bars together with religious imagery. This includes memorials for the dead, which are used as commercial or entertaining back drops. None of these beautiful decorations have been covered up or removed to a place where they can be given the due relevance and respect they deserve. To see beer barrels on the sanctuary and altar was really quite shocking and baptismal fonts used as ice buckets, drinking stands and a cycle store.

Owned by the *Duke of Westminster's Grosvenor Estate*, having ceased to be an active church in 1974, St Mark's was for many years known locally as the American Church in London, due to its close proximity to the then US Embassy in Grosvenor Square. Distinguished visitors to the church included US President *Dwight Eisenhower* and *Eleanor Roosevelt*.

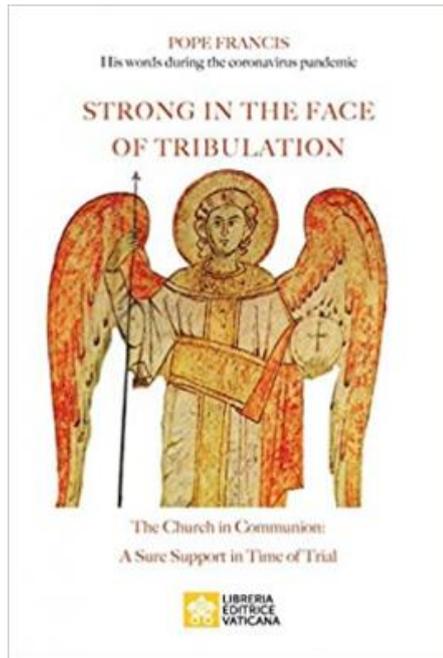
St Mark's was the venue for the society wedding of *George Lascelles, 7th Earl of Harewood* in 1949 which was attended by *King George VI* and other members of the Britain's Royal Family. A wedding anthem specially composed and conducted by Benjamin Britten was performed at the service too the local history book tells me. A great black and white video of this royal wedding can be found at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7-tDM_NVE8. Harewood was the elder son of the *6th Earl of Harewood and Princess Mary, Princess Royal, the only daughter of King George V*



and Queen Mary. Harewood was the eldest nephew of both King Edward VIII and King George VI and was a first cousin of Queen Elizabeth II.

I left disappointed to find here in Britain, scenes that would not have been out of place in the USSR or communist Albania, where places of worship were forcibly closed and used for all manner of things.

Next, an inspirational series of homilies from the Pope for these stressful times:



Vatican publishes book of Pope Francis's 'lockdown' homilies

Jul 23rd, 2020 (Updated Jul 25th, 2020)

Source: Vatican News

The Vatican Publishing House issued a downloadable publication containing Pope Francis's daily homilies from Casa Santa Marta and prayers suggested for the Coronavirus pandemic.

As a sign of his closeness to those who were ill, under quarantine, or for whatever reason, were unable to leave their homes, **Pope Francis** began transmitting his daily morning Mass as Italy went into lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic.

From 9 March to 18 May, the Mass Pope Francis celebrated every morning was transmitted throughout the world. Thousands of people, regardless of

religious affiliation, watched or listened through the various Vatican Media channels, and other radio and televisions stations or digital platforms that picked up the transmission. For many, Pope Francis's Mass became a staple for coping with the adverse effects of the Coronavirus pandemic and subsequent lockdown.

Digital edition

Playbacks of the Mass and summaries of Pope Francis's homilies were made accessible through the Vatican News website and Youtube channel.

The complete texts of his homilies was published as a downloadable file. Entitled Strong in the Face of Tribulation: The Church in Communion - A Sure Support in Time of Trial, the text also contains blessings and prayers, including the prayer used during the extraordinary moment of prayer with Pope Francis on 27 March; as well as the decrees of the Apostolic Penitentiary regarding the special indulgences granted because of the special circumstances created by the coronavirus pandemic.

Father Giulio Cesareo, editorial director of **Libreria Editrice Vaticana (the Vatican Publishing House)**, underlined how important Pope Francis's homilies were. "He is a father," Father Giulio said, "a spiritual guide who accompanied us as we lived that period. His homilies are precious because they are not only valid for back then. We still experience conflicts, shame, difficulties in praying. We were perhaps more receptive and attentive to what he told us back then.



But it is important to keep his words with us so as to allow ourselves to be continually nourished by the beautiful things he said that concern life".

Print edition

Since the suspension of the daily transmission of the Pope's Mass, many readers asked for the online edition be made available in print. Thus, the booklet that "accompanied them as they lived through faith the first phase of the coronavirus pandemic" could also be a concrete keepsake of the closeness of both Pope Francis and our Lord at this devastating time. The printed edition is now available through Amazon.

Another inspiring item – from a lay perspective:

Viewpoint: Lockdown over seventy

Jo Jacques

Jul 23rd, 2020

Jo Jacques

As lockdown began, I hit 70. In other times it would have been a pause to party and then continue with life, continuing with my other responsibilities as school governor, helping with childcare and the other activities those in their 70s and more carry out in our society.



However, lockdown meant a complete cessation of this. Suddenly I had been defined as elderly and vulnerable. I was unable to help in my usual way, as were many other over 70 year olds of my acquaintance. No wonder charity shops had to close, not just because of risks of infections but also so many of the staff are over seventy. The fund raising, shaking a tin, organising activities all had to stop, together with the vital child care for families, support of neighbours, volunteer driving and pastoral activities within our parishes, all of which is frequently done by those in the above 70 age bracket.

With the raising of retirement age universally, and people continuing in paid employment for longer the over seventies have had a particular importance. Many charities rely on that age group to carry the activities in fund raising, staffing charity shops, helping in food banks and other ways. They are also major spenders in concert halls, theatres, galleries, which of course, are now closed. And of course, our parish churches are full of active, energetic over 70s. Suddenly the over 70s are invisible, advised to self-isolate, not to visit shops and to keep their distance. The younger age groups had much the same instruction, but they were welcomed as helpers in the different roles previously undertaken by the older members of society. The furloughed younger people now had the time, and probably more energy to be really helpful at this time.

My concern is the future. The over seventies have been unseen, invisible for several months. Will they be welcomed back again into the playing full parts of society? Or will the elderly remain invisible because of their increased risks of infection. Many of our families have been supportive of their older members. While they were furloughed, they have had time to spend hours on Facetime or zoom. Now the return to work is happening across our society will those stuck at home still be remembered, will they become even more invisible.



In January this year there was an international congress in the Vatican 'The Richness of Many years of life'. And Pope Francis spoke to the participants of the importance of older people in society. He recognised that where for some old age may be a time of frailty and decreasing strength, for many, 'it is the beginning of a long period of psycho-physical well-being and freedom from work commitments.' With the definition of 70 as a time of increased vulnerability and with the reluctance of the authorities to accept anyone in the age group as capable of activity we now appear to be condemning an age group which has so much to offer to a healthy society.

Pope Francis spoke how civil society needs value and meaning for the third and fourth senior stages. He spoke of how 'there is not only the past, as if, for the elderly, there were only a life behind them and a mouldy archive. No, the Lord can and wants them to write new pages, pages of holiness, service, or prayer.' Pope Francis continues to urge us, 'the elderly are also the present and the future of the Church. Yes, they are also the future of a church that, together with the young prophesies and dreams.'

There is a risk in living, we will all die sometime. Lumping all those over 70 in one bracket - from the working active 70-year olds to those who are frail and may be in the fourth stage of life seems to be a over simplification of the potential risks. Condemning the elderly - over 70s - to just memories, isolated in their homes should not continue. We need to accept the risks and re-enter a different world from pre-lockdown. And find relatively safe ways of continuing to be a visible part of the community serving each other as best we can.

Reading Pope Francis' speech to the congress gives me as a 70-year-old some hope, and some courage. As a society we do need to recognise that just because you are seventy you don't want to stay at home. We want to get up and be full and active members of society in the best ways possible.



A fascinating item for sale!

Jan Graffius

Jul 26th, 2020

Mary Queen of Scot's prayerbook at Stonyhurst

Source: Jesuits in Britain

Christie's are about to auction a rare Book of Hours which reputedly once belonged to **Mary, Queen of Scots**.

Dr Jan Graffius, Curator of Historic Libraries and Collections at **Stonyhurst College**, looks at the story behind another of Mary's Books of Hours, the famous British Jesuit Province prayer book which Mary took to her death and which now sits in the

Stonyhurst Collection.

The Province's Book of Hours of Mary, Queen of Scots is a beautiful, lavishly bound book of the Hours of the Virgin printed in 1558 in Lyon. The exterior is covered with a velvet chemise binding, a deliberately wasteful use of rich



fabric. The velvet is deep red silk damask on the outside, and the inside has a long plush pile, pale fawn in colour, intended to resemble fur. Four gold tassels are attached to each corner.

The front has silver gilt letters reading MARIA, a gilt pomegranate and a Tudor rose. The back bears the letters REGINA and an enamelled coat of arms surmounted by a queen regnant's crown. The owner is easily identified: the pomegranate was the badge of *Katherine of Aragon*, the Tudor rose was that of *Henry VIII*, and the royal arms on the back belonged to *Mary Tudor*.

The book was commissioned by *Queen Mary I of England*, the oldest daughter of Henry VIII around Easter 1558, but by November of that year Mary Tudor was dead, and the book was still in Lyon. It seems likely that the book passed to the dead queen's cousin, *Mary Stuart* (who had married the French Dauphin earlier that year), possibly on the initiative of the printer, *Robert Granjon*, seeking payment for a book customised for a royal client at great expense. In 1560 Mary Stuart returned to Scotland as an 18-year-old widow, taking the book with her. Following an uprising, Mary was imprisoned in Loch Leven Castle. On 24 July 1567, she was forced to abdicate in favour of her one-year-old son. In 1568 she fled Scotland and sought help at the hands of her cousin, *Elizabeth I*. Mary had once claimed Elizabeth's throne as her own and was considered the legitimate sovereign of England by many English Catholics, including participants in a rebellion known as the Rising of the North. Perceiving Mary as a threat, Elizabeth had her confined in various castles and manor houses for more than 18 years. During all of this time, the book was in Mary's possession.

Mary was eventually found guilty of plotting to assassinate Elizabeth. On February 7th 1586 Mary was informed that she was to die the following morning. She spent her last night settling her affairs, distributing her personal possessions amongst her ladies, *Elizabeth Curle* and *Jane Kennedy*, and praying. At this point the Province's red velvet book passed from Mary, Queen of Scots to Elizabeth Curle. At seven the next morning the queen was taken into the great hall at Fotheringay, accompanied by Elizabeth and Jane. Mary carried a crucifix and Book of Hours and wore a blood-red petticoat and bodice, the colour of Catholic martyrs.

Elizabeth Curle was the sister of Gilbert, Mary's trusted secretary, and had served the queen for eight years as her lady in waiting. After Mary's execution, Elizabeth moved to Antwerp to join the substantial group of English and Scottish Catholics in exile and remained there until her death in 1620. She left the red velvet prayer book to her nephew *Hugh Curle*, who had joined the *Society of Jesus*, inspired by the execution of *John Ogilvie* in Glasgow in 1615. On his death in 1638, Hugh's possessions passed to the Jesuits, and the book ended up at the *English Jesuit Seminary* at Liege.

Along with many other possessions of the Jesuits of Liège, it came to Stonyhurst in 1794, and has been kept in the *Arundell Library* there since 1857. The Province's red velvet Book of Hours of Mary Stuart is a highly evocative relic of the 16th century Reformation, and a powerful connection with one of history's most romantic figures. It is one of the most popular attractions for the thousands of school children and members of the public who visit Stonyhurst's historic libraries and museum every year.



The *Province Prayer Book* remains one of the most highly regarded of the artefacts on display in the *Stonyhurst College Museum*.

Mary Queen of Scots' prayer book is up for sale at Christie's on 29th July, with an estimated auction price of £250,000 - £350,000. You can find out more about this in Tatler here: www.tatler.com/article/mary-queen-of-scots-prayer-book-for-sale

Janet Graffius is Curator of Historic Libraries and Collections at Stonyhurst College

And now – 3 articles specifically showbiz:

Streetwise Opera perform The Linden Tree - Jul 29th, 2020

Baritone **Roderick Williams**, pianist **Christopher Glynn**, the **Brodsky Quartet** and **Genesis Sixteen** join **Streetwise Opera** in this short film which was premiered on Wednesday night at the **Rydale Festival**.

Streetwise Opera is an award-winning performing arts charity for people affected by homelessness. Ordinarily, it runs a programme of free singing and creative workshops delivered weekly in homeless centres and arts venues in five regions across England. They have performed many times at events for **the Passage** in Victoria and at a special annual service for homeless people who have died, at **St Martin in the Fields** in Trafalgar Square.



Streetwise Opera is also a critically acclaimed opera company that empowers the people who take part in its workshops to create and perform in extraordinary new productions working alongside exceptional professional artists. During lockdown, Streetwise Opera has continued to work with those affected by homelessness, delivering a rich weekly programme of online singing and creative workshops, offering support to individuals by phone and post to combat social isolation, and running new design and creative writing projects involving those living in hostels. Streetwise participants include people from all walks of life, from those in temporary accommodation to those who are further ahead in their recovery from homelessness.

Review: Down to Earth with Zac Efron

Ellen Teague - Jul 30th, 2020

Zac Efron in Down to Earth (image Netflix)

I must say I have enjoyed seeing a Hollywood actor, with a huge following of young people - use his celebrity to highlight care for the natural world and sustainable development.



I was alerted to widespread interest in the new Netflix environmental series '**Down to Earth**' by activity on Twitter and just amazed to see issues from Biodiversity and Biopiracy to the sangre de grado tree and a vegan diet investigated by none other than Zac Efron. Who is he? He rose to fame in the early 2000s for his role as Troy Bolton



Catholic Association of Performing Arts

in the *'High School Musical'* trilogy series. More recently, Efron starred opposite *Hugh Jackman* in 'The Greatest Showman'. He has more than 15 million followers on Twitter!

So, his travels to six countries with Darin Olien, a guru of healthy living and superfoods, to learn about sustainable living practices was a welcome surprise. Their eight-episode series has attracted attention way beyond the development and environment experts or creation theologians who live and breathe the concerns highlighted.

Perhaps most intriguing for Catholics was the episode visiting France to look into 'Water'. It started with a look at the Paris water system, where Eau de Paris, a public organization, provides good quality tap water throughout the city, including more than 1,000 public drinking fountains. Then the pair moved to Lourdes to look into healing associated with the spring uncovered by St Bernadette in 1858. "Water can provide more than just hydration," Efron said; "there is also a spiritual aspect to it". **Fr Jim Phalan CSC**, chaplain at the **Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes**, told them, "Lourdes is not about magic, it's not about any kind of superstition, it's symbols, through water, through light and a way of making your prayer concrete." After taking part in an evening torchlight procession, Efron reflected "whether or not you believe in the power of prayer, when you witness thousands of people at a candle light vigil like this there's no denying the energy.... I feel like I'm a part of something much greater than myself."

In Iceland, they visited a power station, where hydropower is used to generate electricity. Indeed, it is one of 15 power stations in Iceland that help to generate 75% of the country's electricity. So, the suggestion was that geothermal energy innovations should be used wherever possible rather than fossil fuels.

London featured, with an episode on overcoming pollution. As a Londoner who remembers the London smog as a child, this has some truth in it, but current findings on air pollution and Efron's visit to the Thames Estuary for a litter pick proved that much still has to be done. Cleaning the riverbank showed the extent of plastic pollution, particularly the tiny pieces ingested by animals. 7,000 volunteers a year work on keeping the Thames and its riverbank clean and the worst culprit is the cotton bud's plastic stick. Efron found it was several hours work just cleaning up the space immediately around him, and he expressed admiration for those who clean up more systematically.

The pair visited the *London School of Economics (LSE)* which explained how it is trying to equip the next generation of global citizens to live more sustainably and make cities greener. The LSE has a green wall with 6,400 plants and provides natural insulation. There are beehives on the roof because pollinators are central to food security. Some students are working on putting a monetary value on the environment - people seem to understand the value of the natural world through this path even if they are ignorant of its value otherwise. Commodifying the environment is not something I favour, but we are all getting desperate about the turning of Earth into "an immense pile of filth" as Pope Francis put it in *Laudato Si'*. We didn't hear of it, but let's hope the LSE is also looking into alternative economics!

After their day's work the two ate at a restaurant with millet and cauliflower croquet and sweetcorn and truffle on the menu. But was their meal tasty? The comment was, "superfoods have more micronutrients than eating a donut".



Visits to alternative communities included Peru, where villages live directly off the rainforest, and they met a chef who uses only locally sourced food. An "incredible meal" included avocados, fennel leaves and local flowers. Juice came from fruit of the Amazon jungle. Efron and Olien endorsed healthy sustainable eating - knowing where food comes from and food that has a high nutrient value. But they also highlighted the issues of deforestation and biopiracy in eco-regions that are amongst the most biodiverse and vulnerable on the planet. They visited the *International Potato Centre in Lima*, which has the world's largest collection of potatoes - 4,500 species - and aims to preserve their genetic diversity in case of a catastrophe. Genetic modification (GM) of potatoes was criticised as being unnecessary and creating a less healthy version of the real thing. Corporation-bashing - criticising the GM companies - was subtle but it was there. In the Peruvian Amazon the pair noted how industrial Palm Oil cultivation is linked to deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions. Efron couldn't quite leave Hollywood behind. As they waded through a swamp supposedly looking upwards for camu berries and the Una De Gato vine, he was looking downwards, for leeches. "I feel like Jumanji!"

There was an intriguing episode on Longevity, where they visited a village in Sardinia with an extraordinary number of centenarians. Quite apart from the simple living and low-protein diet, Efron was impressed by the families cooking together and then eating together around a table, sometimes three or four generations together. Francesco, 97, took him for one of his daily walks - which ended up in a bar - and Efron reflected that he smiled the whole time, just loving life and living each day to the full. He told 30-year-old Efron to "watch the steps" as they climbed the hilly streets back to his house. Efron's time on the island left him contemplating a break from Hollywood in favour of a life lived like the Sardinians.

In fact, Efron's insights, while not new to experts, might be reaching a new audience. "Famine isn't always about scarcity of food, it's about distribution." "Fossil fuel burning vehicles are a key issue in pollution." "We need to rethink how we consume." He urged people to ride bikes, use renewable mugs, and eat one extra serving of vegetables a day. "I can't look at a bottle of water, or flip on the light switch like I used to" he said; "when I see a concrete wall I want it to be a green wall; when I see a roof I want to see beehives."

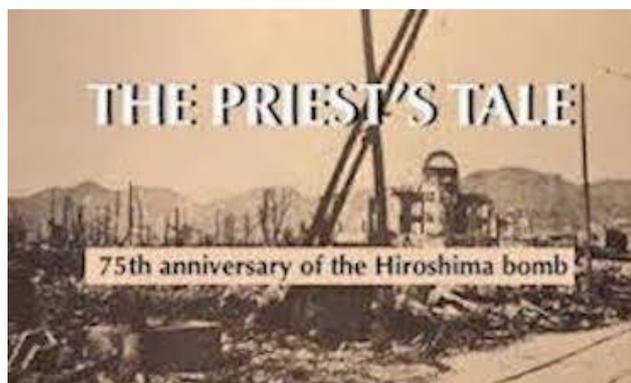
The episode 'Surviving a disaster' included a visit to Puerto Rico which is prone to climate-related disasters. They visited a poor community, whose people survived 14 days with water up to the hip after one hurricane, and recovery would mean preparing for severe weather to strike again. People found ways to help each other. Community shelters were built for the most vulnerable areas and community kitchens mushroomed to serve vulnerable individuals and families. Chemical-free farming connected to local restaurants, markets and consumers was discussed. Also, economic livelihoods for fishing communities where produce is consumed locally. Efron reflected that, "as climate changes, so must Puerto Rico."

Little did Orien know that he would soon be learning something about the impact of climate change himself. The filming was in 2018, and the series ended on a sobering note as Olien was personally affected by extreme weather, in the form of wildfires that ravaged his Malibu neighbourhood in Los Angeles. Orien's house was among those burnt to the ground and we saw him return to the smouldering ruins. "Amazon people were saying in the last few days that our planet is different" reflected Orien; "Living in an unsustainable way is affecting people's lives, including mine."



There has been scepticism about two wealthy celebrities from Hollywood travelling the world in search of "healthy and sustainable" practices to import into their own lives. They stayed in Hilton hotels when they were in cities! But 'Down to Earth' dishes out humble pie to anyone who still thinks the United States has a lifestyle to be emulated. Efron talks more than once about leaving Hollywood where he now recognises he has been living an unsustainable and unhealthy lifestyle. His reflections that, "the more you learn the more you realise how vulnerable the planet is" and "we don't understand our massive impact on the world" may sensitise many to key questions of our time. He hopes so: "We've got to take care

Online theatre - Two tales from survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki



Jul 31st, 2020

Source: CND/Pax Christi

To mark the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombs on *Hiroshima* and *Nagasaki*, Sands Films Studios Theatre, Rotherhite, present live streamed performances telling the story of two people who survived - a Jesuit priest and a young doctor.

THE PRIEST'S TALE is an adaptation by actor/playwright **Michael Mears** of one of the survivor's accounts from **John Hersey's** classic book **HIROSHIMA**.

Father Wilhelm was a German Jesuit priest living in Hiroshima at the time of the first atomic bombing. His account is a compelling and clear-eyed description of his experiences that day and in the subsequent months and years - told with compassion and warmth.

At 7.30pm on August 6th, the 75th anniversary of the Hiroshima bomb, Michael Mears performed this story live, with live violin accompaniment by **Chihiro Ono**. (Duration approx. 55 mins.) Directorial supervision by **Rosamunde Hutt**. This event was co-hosted by the **Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre**.

See: <https://vimeo.com/438259377> or www.facebook.com/events/934559037019595/

THE DOCTOR'S TALE is a version by actor/playwright **Michael Mears** of **NAGASAKI 1945**, an account by a young doctor working in a small hospital in Nagasaki at the time of the second atomic bomb, detailing how he and his few staff, with very limited supplies, survived that day and the following weeks. At 7.30pm on August 9th, the 75th anniversary of the Nagasaki bomb, Japanese actor **Leo Ashizawa** gave a livestreamed reading of this story, with support from Michael Mears and with live musical accompaniment by **Chihiro Ono**. (Duration approx. 75 minutes.)

See: <https://vimeo.com/438273483> or www.facebook.com/events/3587327054630140/

The organisers hope to raise money through donations to offer the two Japanese performers payment, for **Sands Films** streaming the event, and for CND.

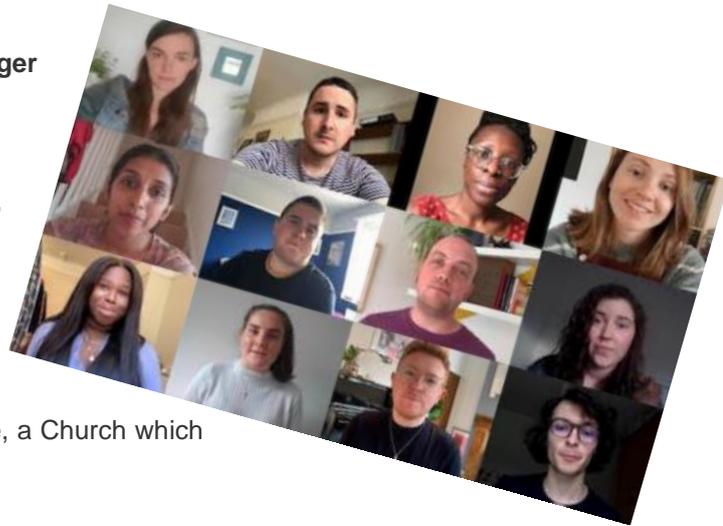


More inspiration – from the next generations!

Hopes for the Church after lockdown: Video from a Younger Generation

Aug 2nd, 2020

In a new video, put together by **Forming Missionary Disciples**, young adults share their hopes for the Church after lockdown, recognising Pope Francis' call to contribute their gifts and energies to the Church.



One shared their hope for a church that "isn't afraid of dialogue, a Church which isn't afraid to be challenged, to learn, to adapt and to grow."

Since the start of lockdown many have taken the opportunity to take stock. The same can be said of the Church with many sharing their hopes for how the Church might continue to renew and reform herself. This contribution, from a selection of voices of those in young adulthood, hopes to give encouragement to those trying to help the Church reach out to the peripheries.

Chris Knowles, who coordinated the project, said that "although nobody really relished the idea of going on camera, this project has been a great opportunity to have conversations about what we hope for the Church in our lifetimes, especially with those whose is not often heard".

Forming Missionary Disciples is a UK-based project that, as a response to Evangelii Gaudium, tries to help form those in the Church of a younger generation contribute to living the Gospel authentically in the world. See their website here: www.formingmissionarydisciples.org.uk

Watch the video here: <https://youtu.be/tvBM9voPxFs>

Upcoming activities in London – with social distancing!

London: Walk in the steps of St John Henry Newman

Aug 9th, 2020

St John Henry Newman



The writer and broadcaster **Joanna Bogle** is leading two special walks to celebrate the life and message of **St John Henry Newman**.

Wednesday August 19th meet 6pm Walk across London Bridge - with its story of St Olaf and Viking battles - to the birthplace of St John Henry Newman in the City. Church of the Most Precious Blood, O'Meara Street, London SE1 1TD (nearest tube/overground London Bridge).

Wednesday August 26th meet 6pm - Visit Richmond Palace and its links with Henry VIII etc - and walk along the river to St John Henry Newman's childhood home at Ham.



Meet at St Elizabeth's Church, The Vineyard, Richmond TW10 6AQ. (Nearest tube/Overground: Richmond). We'll visit Richmond Palace and its links with Henry VIII etc - and walk along the river to St John Henry Newman's childhood home at Ham.

The group will be socially distanced as they walk. All are welcome - no need to book, just turn up! A donation of £5 is suggested.



Who knew that St Clare was/is the patron saint of television?!

St Clare.

Celebrated on August 11th

Founder of the Poor Clares. Patron of television. Born in Assisi to the Offreduccio family, at 18 Clare was so impressed by the preaching of St Francis she renounced all her possessions and took the habit of a nun. She was formed at two nearby Benedictine convents. Francis then offered her and her companions a small house next to the church of San Damiano which he had restored.

In 1216, she became abbess of a community of women who wished to follow the rule and spirit of Francis. They lived without owning any possessions, never ate meat and did without shoes and stockings.

Clare said: "They say we are too poor. Can a heart which possesses God really be called poor?"

Like the Franciscan Friars, the Poor Clares soon spread to other parts of Europe, especially Spain, Bohemia, France and England. Clare lived all her life in Assisi, praying and serving the community.

Twice, Assisi was in danger of being sacked by the armies of the **Emperor Frederick II**. Although she was ill, Clare was carried to the wall with a monstrance containing the Blessed Sacrament, at which, her biographers say, the armies fled. In art she is often depicted holding a monstrance.

Clare died in 1253 and was canonised just two years later.

Lord, give me patience in suffering, and grace in everything, to make my will conform to thine, so that I may truly say, 'Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.'

(Thomas More: *Devout Prayers* – written in the Tower of London 1534 -1535)

A reminder that archive copies of the Newsletter are available on the CaAPA website Members' area. You can access this only if you have a login and password. Do set up an account next time you visit, if you haven't already registered.

Please do forward anything you feel will be of interest to the Members for publication next time.

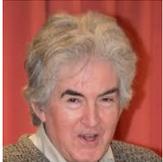


Catholic Association of Performing Arts

And we also hope that you've been inspired to write on the theme of **Action for the Church in Need**, for our intended event in November at the CAA (subject to confirmation).

***** Once again, please send any messages to kennethmichaels@hotmail.com for inclusion in future newsletters *****

In the meantime, please stay safe and may God bless and protect you, your families and friends.



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www.catholicassociationofperformingarts.org.uk/

Our diverse group of members, whom are comprised of actors, directors, writers, singers, musicians and other entertainers, share in a creative community where they can also grow in their spiritual values. We also aim to serve the wider community by presenting productions for charitable causes or by taking productions on tour to schools, local theatres, parishes and elderly homes.