




### **Blueprint for a better world**

**Christine Allen, director of the Catholic international development charity in England and Wales, CAFOD, says the encyclical, FRATELLI TUTTI, is a “radical blueprint for a post-coronavirus world.”**

Fr. Hugh writes. I wonder if you would agree with me that there are some words which suddenly begin to be used so often and in a rather strange way that they lose the true force of their meaning? How do the words “icon” and “iconic” strike you? I am sure you have heard and read them frequently over the last few years, but could you say with perfect confidence that you know what they mean? I couldn’t, so if you could I would be glad if you would enlighten me. Of course I know what an icon is, a holy picture in the Greek or Russian Orthodox tradition, but when it strays from that I don’t have much of a clue.

This is a pity, because a true understanding of its meaning could help us to appreciate more deeply the gospel that we hear this Sunday. Some Pharisees and Herodians, not normally kindred spirits, join together to trap Jesus by asking him whether it is right to pay taxes to Caesar, the occupying Roman power. Jesus, aware of their mischief, refuses to answer their question directly. Instead he asks them to let him see one of the Roman coins. In the translation we have Jesus, looking at the coin, then says to them, “Whose head is this?” It would actually be better translated as “Whose image” or “Whose likeness” is this? And, lo and behold, the Greek word used for image or likeness is “icon”. So Jesus is telling them that if Caesar’s image is on the coin then you had better give it back to him. It belongs to him.

But we have to take this further. Have we not always been told that we are made in God’s image, in God’s likeness? So if Caesar deserves to be given the coin with his image, how much more must we give ourselves and our whole life to the God to whom we belong, to the God whose image is stamped all through us? Surely this is what Jesus is really telling us, rather than any facile notion of a rigid distinction between our civil and religious lives? There is no area of our lives in which God is not interested and he wants us to use the gifts he has given us for the building up of the human community in a spirit of love and peace and justice. Fr Hugh Duffy SJ.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF THE PARISH:** Rose Smith, David Froud, Barry Henwood, Lourdes Saunders, Sally Lees, Carmel Rippington, Joyce Smith, Angela Hagley, Pat Hayden, Barbara Atkin- Spivey, Calvin Thompson, Mary Atfield, Margaret McNeil and Simon Hamerton 

**FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Violet Walsh and Michael Murray. RIP 

**Knowing the Bible in order to know Christ.**

During this month our daily Gospel readings are taken from the Gospel according to St Luke: the “Gospel of Prayer” as it so often portrays Jesus at prayer.

Luke’s Gospel includes some of the most memorable narratives in the entire New Testament: The Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son, the Lost Sheep. Luke also focuses on marginalised people, the sick and highlights the role of women more than the other Gospels.

Many of us get our Gospel narratives piecemeal, from the readings at Sunday Mass, or Daily Mass, and so our knowledge of the full story of Jesus, remains incomplete. So it might be good to read the Gospel of Luke all the way through and see what it might have to say to you. In fact, one of the most surprising things for Catholics, and other Christians, is the experience of reading straight through the Gospel. When you read a Gospel from start to finish, you can get a better sense not only of Jesus’s life, but also of who Jesus was for the writer of this particular Gospel, and the community he’s writing for. St Luke was writing for non-Jewish believers – people like us. So St Luke’s Gospel is OUR GOSPEL.

St. Luke was obviously a well-educated and gifted man with many skills and abilities. In the first few verses of his Gospel Luke establishes that his sources were some of the very people who were “eyewitnesses and ministers of the word.” Moreover, Luke is the only one of the evangelists who lays out a full and in-depth account of the Annunciation and Incarnation to Mary as well as her visit to her cousin Elizabeth. Luke accomplishes through his account of the Good News what an artist seeks to do visually through a picture. Luke brings the reader of his writings into a direct encounter with the living Christ.

So this month, why not try to read Luke’s Gospel, or at least as much as you can, and see how it helps you to meet Christ?

#### POPE FRANCIS RELEASES A VIDEO MESSAGE ACCOMPANYING HIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR OCTOBER



<https://youtu.be/757xZuDEtHA>

**He calls for the promotion of greater integration of the lay faithful, especially women, in areas of responsibility in the Church.**

*“No one has been baptized a priest or a bishop. We have all been baptized as lay people. Lay people are protagonists of the Church.*

*Today, it is especially necessary to create broader opportunities for a more incisive female presence in the Church. And we must emphasize the feminine lay presence because women tend to be left aside. We must promote the integration of women, especially where important decisions are made. We pray that by the virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church, without falling into forms of clericalism that diminish the lay charism”.*

### **MORE CHUCKLES**



### **BREAKING NEWS : St Vincent de Paul Society.**

As we move further into Autumn we become more conscious of the needs which begin to make themselves felt. Living costs increase, folk become more lonely as the days shorten and this year the Pandemic has created its own additional problems.

We are hoping to kick off with the food bank collection again. We will do this in the porch way of the Parish Hall on Friday mornings after Mass until 11.30. commencing November 6th.

Visits are not easy to arrange in current circumstances, but phone contacts can be managed so, let Peter know on 07731 776668 and we will endeavour to help overcome some of those periods which are just too lonely, too quiet and too long.

Inevitably Corona Virus will produce its own demands upon individuals and families. Do not be afraid to ask!

Our work is not restricted to our immediate locality. Currently, we support three Indian villages with regular financial assistance and also fund the education of 10 Indian scholars annually.

If you would like to assist in funding the work of your parish SVP then any donation would be welcome, as would offers for volunteer help or full membership. New blood is needed! Call the number above. Finally and most importantly, please pray for our work and those that we try to help. The St Vincent de Paul Society is a prayer based group and our work is supported by that prayer. Thank you to you all. Peter Mc Gargle

### **Church Repository**

During the week beginning Monday 19th October, after the 10am mass, I will be selling Christmas cards, Card gift wallets, Calendars, Diaries, etc at the church entrance. Please come and support your church. Thank you. Fiona