



No.223

# GOOD NEWS

*Catholic Charismatic Renewal Serving The Church*

**Family Prayer...  
Just Do It!**

Patti Gallagher Mansfield

**Vatican II  
And Dei Verbum**

Charles Whitehead

**Christ Has Died, Christ Has Risen**

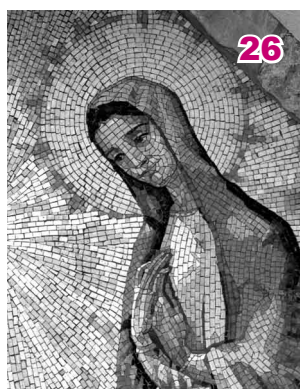
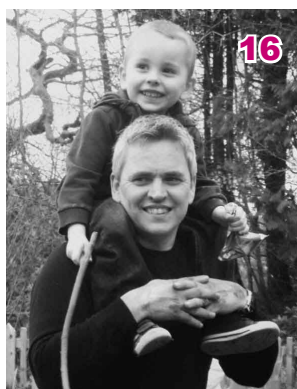
Fr. Chris Thomas



March/April 2013

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**Front cover: Glenstal Abbey, Murroe, Co. Limerick**

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**GOODNEWS** is a bimonthly Catholic magazine drawing from the insights of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, but seeking to serve the whole Church. Through its teaching articles and testimonies of what God is doing in our countries at this present time, Goodnews seeks to help the general reader experience and understand the importance of the charismatic dimension of the Christian life, which the Pope in 1998 underlined as co-essential to the Church's hierarchical dimension. Through its coming events section, it enables readers to find out about good retreats, conferences, events and seminars that will help them grow in their spiritual life.

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by Kristina Cooper

Hopefully by the time you read this Spring will already be here with its reminders of new life after the long cold winter. As you will see from the news pages, the official opening for the new Catholic Charismatic Renewal Centre will be taking place on 4<sup>th</sup> March, although the Goodnews has been in the crypt for a few months now. It is perhaps significant we formally moved in, just as the Year of Faith was starting and surely the calling of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, in common with the Year of Faith, is to help people come into a personal relationship with Christ and receive the empowering of the Holy Spirit.

Evangelisation is key to all this and we continue with our new columnist Rosemary Swords and her series on practical evangelisation. This month, she concentrates on how effective Christian books, cds etc are and how simply giving someone the right book can be life changing. One book you might like to give others is "50 Days of Freedom", the Easter to Pentecost prayer guide, which is only £2, and provides reflections and prayers to help people open themselves up to the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Peter Hutley, has shown that drama too can be a powerful tool of evangelisation and for the last two decades has been using his organisational and creative skills to put on plays about the life of Christ, both at his estate in Surrey, and more recently the Passion of Christ in Trafalgar Square.

In the past it was presumed that children from Catholic homes would pick up the faith by osmosis from their parents, their school and from activities at the parish. This is no longer the case and it becomes more and more important for parents to become more intentional about evangelising their children. Their children face a very different world than their parents did growing up. We hear from mother and son, Rosie and John Withers from Wales, and how their faith influences their lives. Key to their experience was the family saying a decade of the rosary every night. Patti Mansfield, one of the pioneers of the Charismatic Renewal from New Orleans recalls some of her experiences with praying with her children and the importance of trying to do this, however, inadequate this might seem. One of the points made by Michaela von Heereman is that children who practice their faith can feel very much outsiders among their non-believing peers and at the church where parish life is not particularly geared to their needs. It is thus very important

to take them to events where they will meet young people of their own age and realise they are not alone. We give some ideas of where parents might take their children. Not everyone has a stable family home and opening one's home in some way to those who are alone – whether it is young people on the streets, students, or simply single people can be a powerful witness of the Christian lifestyle and of a God who loves everyone. In the "Evangelising Power of a Home", we hear the stories of Linda and John Smith who have always had an open home and used this to evangelise young people, and Teresa Barnes a teacher, who opens her home on Tuesday evenings for prayer and fellowship and in the process a little community called Sancta Familia has formed.

To mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Vatican II we have invited a number of people to reflect on the four major documents of the Council. This month Charles Whitehead unpacks Dei Verbum on the Word of God and explores the relationship between Tradition, the Teaching Magisterium and the Bible in understanding Divine Revelation. That the Word of God is forever alive and relevant is made clear in Alistair Emblem's reflection on the Magnificat and how it can also be seen as guidance for a good charismatic prayer meeting. In this Year of Faith Fr Chris Thomas on the Agape page, reflects on the basic gospel message and what this means for our everyday lives. We also have a tribute to Peter Viner, a quiet man of the Lord, who died just before Christmas.

In the light of the current controversy about "Gay Marriage", we have a testimony on our Readers' Feedback page about "Encourage" a Catholic ministry to those with same sex attraction, whose members support each other in trying to live chaste lives and follow Christ. We also hear news of Miriam Mason Sesay, who was awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours list for her sacrificial work in education in Sierra Leone. We also learn about a weekend with Neal Lozano in Dublin. He has worked for 30 years helping people to remove the psychological and spiritual blocks in their lives that have stopped them from being able to walk in the Freedom of Christ. We also have our usual Coming Events, and Irish section, the Other Half and book and CD resources to help you grow in your spiritual life.

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# EVANGELISATION II

## PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE



Rosemary Swords, a full time evangelist and a member of the Elijah Community in Dublin, continues her new series on Evangelisation and gives some practical advice on how to be effective.

### GIVE IT AWAY.

I love books, so it was no surprise that I should be sitting on a train with one in my hand. However reading on the train makes me sick – but I had another purpose. A pretty young student was sitting opposite me. ‘I’ve just finished reading this book’, I said, ‘I usually give them in to the second hand bookshop, but this was so good I thought I have to pass it on to someone. Would you like it?’ She smiled and accepted the book, which was a somewhat worn copy of Jackie Pullinger’s adventurous life story ‘Chasing the Dragon’. We didn’t talk much about the book, I told her a little about it to whet her appetite, but mostly we chatted about her studies of music, and after a few minutes I reached my stop and we parted company. I have no idea what happened to her. The book may have moved her and changed her life completely, or it may have gone in the bin on the way out of the station, who knows? What I do know is that when I was searching for God, a book that someone had given me years before had a profound impact on me. It was David Wilkerson’s ‘The Cross and the Switchblade’; after languishing on my shelf for several years, it was at hand just when I needed it, and the Holy Spirit took care of the rest.

Giving things away is a very easy first step in evangelisation. Blessed John Paul II reminds us that our generosity is an expression of God’s love for us: ***“The Son of God, who became incarnate two thousand years ago out of love for humanity, is at work even today: we need discerning eyes to see this and, above all, a generous heart to become the instruments of his work*** (Novo Millennio Inneunte, 58). Thanks to the media – books, CDs, DVDs, leaflets, magazines, there is no shortage of good quality material which you can pass on to other people.

### WHAT TO GIVE AWAY – AND WHAT NOT TO GIVE!

Choose material wisely – as an evangelist you are seeking to provoke interest and curiosity in the person of Jesus Christ and his message. Things which contain people’s personal stories of their experience with Jesus, their conversion story or testimony are useful. Be mindful that you are encouraging the recipient in their first steps towards Christ, not to levels more suited for a mystic or theologian! You may have a very interesting CD teaching on the intricacies of Gregorian chant – by all means share it with your choir director, but not with random people on the train! Similarly, material which is bombastic about sin and

repentance is not so useful. There is a place for discussing sin and repentance in the process of evangelisation, but it is further down the road, after a relationship of trust is established. At this early stage enquirers may merely be curious. Material which seems to confirm their suspicion, that Christians are all neurotically focused on hating themselves and others, will not win any souls for Christ.

**GIVE A WIDE RANGE OF MATERIALS.** Music CDs for example, can be very powerful, and there are a number of excellent films which are available cheaply on DVD. If you are giving it away to someone who does not know you, try to include some leaflet with information on where they can go for further help and information. When you do know the person, try to choose something which might grab their interest. I was delighted to find the book ‘Unforgiven’ which tells the story of a pilot who came to know God during WWII, to pass on to a friend with an interest in aviation. Or perhaps you have already had a discussion with someone on a topic – follow up the conversation with a CD. You don’t have to moan about the fact that you can’t explain it as well as that wonderful person you heard at the last conference – these days you can put the CD into someone’s hands and give them the benefit of world class speakers.

**BE AVAILABLE TO FOLLOW UP, BUT DON’T OVERWHELM** - Don’t overwhelm someone with material. If they ask for more, be of help, but otherwise take the time to let the Holy Spirit be at work. Similarly, let them discuss it with you if they bring it up, but don’t subject them to an inquisition the next time you meet. When they know that they can trust you to respect their space, they are far more likely to let you in than if you make them feel hounded. Keep up the prayer and fasting for them and let the Holy Spirit set the pace.

**GIFT GIVING IS A LANGUAGE OF LOVE** - We are told that giving gifts is one of the ways we express love. If it is done gently and humbly, with the willingness to accept refusal with a smile, this method of evangelisation rarely meets with a rebuff. It is easy to start with total strangers – someone on the train, someone serving in a shop or restaurant. When you see how easy it is, move on to those you meet more regularly – take a book with you to the hairdresser, for example. Be careful not to exploit a situation where your power or authority over someone could make the experience seem coercive – giving items to your



employees or students, for example, would have to be approached with caution.

Finally, this does not need to be a very expensive ministry. Set aside some money from your tithe. Booklets and magazines (like Good News) are fairly inexpensive. What about getting one Good News to read and one to give away?

For those of us who fall at the first hurdle – 'I don't know what to say!' this is a great way to start evangelising. Instead of being stumped, let someone else do the talking for you. Like the donkey carrying Jesus into Jerusalem, you can have a humble but essential role to play in something amazing.

## Action plan

1. Get your hands on some good magazines, books, CDs or DVDs to give away.
2. Get into the habit of keeping something with you – be ready for the right moment.
3. Set a target – can you give away something once a month? Once a week? Every day?
4. Think about the people you have been praying for (last month's plan). What can you give to them? Scripture to ponder Acts 8:26-40.

See below for more literature and booklets, good to read and great to give away.

Rosemary website [www.rosemaryswords.com](http://www.rosemaryswords.com)

## GIVE IT AWAY – GIVE IT AWAY – GIVE IT AWAY – GIVE IT AWAY –

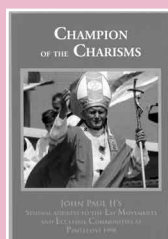
In recent years Pope Benedict has called on the Charismatic Renewal to promote the culture of Pentecost in the Church. This means helping people to understand the fullness of their Christian faith and the role of the Holy Spirit in their lives to bring about conversion and personal transformation. In response to this the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the UK over the last couple of years have produced several prayer guides for the Easter to Pentecost period, to help Catholics open themselves up in a deeper way to the graces of Pentecost.



**50 DAYS OF FREEDOM** - Written by Jenny Baker, Matt van Duyvenboyde and Anna Cowell in 2012 which encourages people to contemplate on how the Holy Spirit brings us freedom. A daily reading with a verse from the Bible, a short reflection, a quote from the Tradition of the Church, a prayer and a suggestion, Pentecost novena

and prayers to the Holy Spirit. **Price (incl. postage): 1 copy £2.70; 2 copies £5; 10 copies £22; 15 copies £33; 20 copies £45; 50 copies £110**

*Discounts for bulk orders over 100 copies available.*



### "Champion of the Charisms"

Pope John Paul II's seminal speech given in 1998 in St Peter's Square at Pentecost to 400,000 members of the Lay Movements and Ecclesial Communities from all over the world.

**Price £1 incl. p&p**



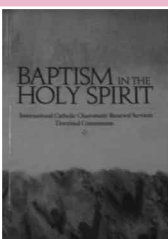
**"Fuller Life in the Holy Spirit"** - by Charles Whitehead. A thorough unpacking of the work of the Holy Spirit and what it means to be baptised in the Holy Spirit in clear understandable language. Suitable for both individual reading and small group work - RCIA or confirmation class.

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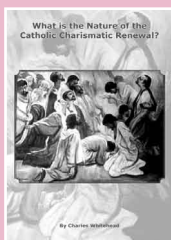
**UNBELIEVABLE** - Stories of personal witness of God's work in their lives.

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**"BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT"** - ICCRS Doctrinal Commission report. Highly readable presentation put together by the ICCRS theological commission looking at the biblical and patristic foundations of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and pastoral issues. Perfect to give to parish priests or those involved in catechesis or adult

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### "WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THE CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL?"

- A reprint of Charles Whitehead's best selling booklet in which he explains with his usual clarity and simplicity the nature of CCR for those who find it difficult to understand. **Price £2 incl. p&p**

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**Tel 020 7352 5298 – Email: [ccruk@onetel.com](mailto:ccruk@onetel.com) – (cheques payable to "CREW TRUST")**



## PETER HUTLEY

**Goodnews meets the man behind the Passion of Christ in Trafalgar Square**

Peter Hutley the owner of the Wintershall estate in Surrey, where the famous "Life of Christ" pageant takes place, seems the epitome of old money – energetic and lean with impeccable manners, he exudes authority as he drives around in a four wheel drive, keeping an eye on what's happening on his land. I am thus really surprised

to learn that he left school at 14 and is a self made man. He is 86 and claims he still needs to work because he doesn't have a pension. One suspects, however, it is also because of who he is. He didn't inherit Wintershall, but he bought the estate in 1963 with money he had earned through his business interests – mainly in property development as he says he had always wanted to be a farmer. Undaunted he learnt about farm management by correspondence course.

Hutley may have earned a fortune but for the last twenty years or so he has been spending a lot of this in the service of the gospel, particularly in producing the "the Life of Christ" at Wintershall and more recently "The Passion of Christ", which has now become an annual event on Good Friday in Trafalgar Square. His work was recognized in the New Year's Honours' list this year when was awarded an OBE for "charitable services to the community and (unusually, particularly for a Catholic) services to Christian understanding". He is a great ecumenist with a very open attitude to people generally. He comes from a non-conformist Church background and he says his father was poor but very hard

working. When he went into the army, however, Hutley was asked what religion he was. He recalls, "I hesitated so the Irish Catholic sergeant major, simply wrote down "C of E" and I just went along with that."

**"The plays have been a forum for me to express my faith. I know the greatest gift that I can give anyone is to help them find God and through these plays I am hopefully helping at least to provide the information for this to happen and for the world to become a better place."**

*Peter Hutley*

He became a Catholic 18 years ago. His wife and one of his daughters had received a lot of blessings from going to Medjugorje and he went out to help with a town planning project. He found going to Mass every day and living with the Franciscans there touched him deeply. "It just was marvellous for me and when I came home I desperately wanted to become a Roman Catholic". Always the man of action, he went to the local friary near Wintershall and informed the parish priest, whom he knew well, that he wanted to convert. He suggested to the priest that he could fit it in the following weekend, as he had a

very busy schedule. The parish priest gently informed him that this wasn't how things were done and that he needed a time of preparation. Peter Hutley comments, "It turned out to be a year. I came round about one or two evenings a week. It was beautiful. Pure holiness - bringing me into tune with the Catholic way of life and following the Lord." He was received into the Church in 1995. Afterwards he said he found out that his greatest friend, who he had been in the army with was also a Catholic. "He said 'welcome to Mother Church'" and that's how I felt.

His career as a pageant writer/producer began in a small way. He needed the Holly Barn (now a full time theatre with seats) for the farm and told his children that if he managed to buy it, he would do something for the Lord in return. He remembers, "We did get it and it was sometime before Christmas when one of my sons reminded me of my promise and asked me what I was going to do." He decided the barn would be the perfect venue for a nativity play, which they cleared out for the occasion. About 40-50 people – mainly family and locals turned up. The production was deemed a great success and they did it the following year. But this was not enough for Hutley, ever the creative impresario, he set about re-writing the play to make it more evangelistic and more exciting and interactive for the audience. Flaming beacons now light up the drive for the performance and the production begins outside with shepherds huddled round a real bonfire recounting the history of Israel, while high in a tree the angel Gabriel suddenly appears. Then the audience are led by the star into the barn for the rest of the story. The show has a cast of 60-70 people – of all ages and backgrounds but a good few retired people – solicitors, estate agents and people whom Hutley comes across in his work.. Many of the cast travel from all over the south of England and London to take part in the rehearsals and performance, while Hutley oversees in CEO fashion, as well as playing the part of Simeon. Part of the attraction, no doubt, for the cast is the sense of tradition and Christian community. The majority who take part are church goers and see the plays as an opportunity to share their faith but others come for other reasons and find faith in Christ through participating. No longer is it just family and friends who come to watch the Nativity, but up to 6000 people come for the ten performances of the Nativity in the lead-up to Christmas. Numbers Hutley admits, however, have been slightly dropping in recent years. He comments, "I have relied on grandmothers bringing their grandchildren, but now most of the grandchildren are 20 or so we will have to wait for these 20 year olds to have their own children!"

### One of the actors almost got hypothermia

Such was the success of the nativity (which has now been going for 22 years) that the next obvious step was to do the Passion of Christ at Easter. This turned out initially to be more problematic. Hutley remembers, "It is very cold at Easter on the estate and one of the actors turned blue and almost got hypothermia at one performance. I had almost decided to stop in 1998. But then Pope John Paul II called on the Church to do something special for the Millennium. In a flash it came to me that rather than just doing the Passion, we needed to do the whole life of Christ and do it at a warmer time of the year."

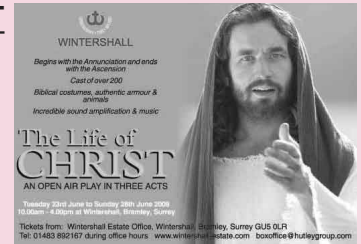
Since then annually for the past 14 years at the end of June, thousands of people have trooped to Wintershall for the spectacular five hour pageant, "Life of Christ", which has become Surrey's Oberamagau. Although a professional actor plays the part of Jesus, the rest of the 200 cast are volunteers. The action which follows the birth, life, miracles, teaching, death and resurrection of Christ, is in the open air. And the audience follow Jesus to different locations on the estate – whether it is the feeding of the 5000 or the crucifixion, which all help to bring alive the gospel story. Hutley comments, "It has a great impact on audiences and it really



**THE PASSION OF CHRIST** will be at 12 noon and 3pm at Trafalgar Square on Good Friday (29<sup>th</sup> March).

### THE LIFE OF CHRIST

takes place at Wintershall, 30 miles outside London, 25<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> June daily from 10am to 4pm.



**Wintershall, Bramley, Surrey, GU5 0LR**  
tel 01483 892167

charms and excites children. Doing it has had a big impact on me and my family too. Not only have various members of the family taken part but we have really studied the life of Christ and the gospels and tried to know more and more about Jesus and how to follow him." One of his daughters who lives in Scotland, even does the play there.

### The Lord always provides

More recently Hutley was inspired to put on the Passion of Christ in Trafalgar Square. It is indeed the perfect location and this year will be the fourth year it has happened. The red tape and costs for doing this have been enormous, as might be imagined, but he says his request was welcomed by Boris Johnson and the Moslem manager of the square was particularly charming and helpful. "I was told they were delighted that Christians want to do something like this in the square." He reckons it costs about £100,000 to stage and publicise the Passion, and he has big publicity posters advertising it in the 13 main underground stations. But he says he doesn't worry about the costs, "the Lord always provides" and people donate. Even so, it is always Hutley who has to take the risk of these events and be prepared to take the shortfall if they are not covered.

Hutley feels that there is massive evangelistic potential with these dramatic gospel presentations in the public square, particularly in the capital, where there is a market for quasi Christian entertainment helping people to understand the meaning of the festivals they celebrate. His dream is to do the nativity at St Paul's cathedral. "I have promised them if they let me do it, I will bring up 100 sheep for the square outside which would be a real attraction for the children." He comments, "I have always had a strong faith. It is logical. The more I have seen of planet earth, which is so beautiful; the more you realize it is so unique and good that it couldn't have been a fluke. But I have also seen a lot of suffering in the world and you feel you must do something. The plays have been a forum for me to express my faith. I know the greatest gift that I can give anyone is to help them find God and through these plays I am hopefully helping at least to provide the information for this to happen and for the world to become a better place."



# EVANGELISING THE FAMILY

by Kristina Cooper

One of the changes that came about through Vatican II was a new sense of the Church being the whole people of God and the call and responsibility of each Christian rooted in their baptism to proclaim the gospel in their particular circumstances. Yet seen in so many social indicators – baptisms, marriages, Mass attendance – it is becoming increasingly difficult for Catholics in the West today to pass on their Christian faith and values to their own children, never mind going out to evangelise others.

Michaela von Heereman, a member of the Pontifical Council for the Family and herself a mother of six children, shared her insights about why it is so difficult to pass on faith these days in an interview on ZENIT (8<sup>th</sup> June 2012). She commented, "If there is something that children and young people fear, it is to be an outsider. If they come from practicing families they are usually doubly outsiders.

They are outsiders in their parishes, where they are in the minority and where parish activities are rarely tailored for their age group and they are outsiders in school where they want to make friends. .... If a young person goes regularly to church on Sunday he is a real exception, and he has to justify himself in front of his contemporaries as to why he goes."

Friends of mine sent their two sons to a good Catholic secondary school but by the time their boys were 13 and 15 they were the only children in their class still going to Mass and they started to complain. The eldest decided he didn't want to be confirmed. For a time the boys chose to go along to a very good Christian youth group run by a local Anglican church, where they had a couple of friends, but they eventually dropped out of this too. Now both in their early 20s, neither of them go to church and the eldest says he is an atheist.

In the past, parents could rely on the accepted norms of Christian civilization to support what they taught their children at home. Now this is no longer the case and children going out into the world thus need to be spiritually and intellectually equipped to defend their values and behaviour, because they will be challenged about them in a way that their parents never were and they might have to pay a heavy price for this. Another couple I know have a teenage

daughter, for example, who goes to an excellent all girls Catholic school. Their daughter is extremely committed to her faith and a really lovely girl inside and out. However she is the only one, among her contemporaries, at the school to go to Mass and gets victimized because of this and because she refuses to join in the general bitchiness and gossiping, which goes on. Her mother confided in me that she feels guilty that it is because of the way they have brought her up that she is now having such difficulties fitting into the toxic consumerist culture. She commented, "I hate to see how she is suffering, because it wasn't like that when I was young and I want her to enjoy her teenage years as I did."

Although there are still many good Catholic schools and teachers around, parents today can no longer presume that their children are being taught by committed Christian believers even if they

go to Catholic schools. I remember at the beginning of Lent a couple of years ago in my own parish, a local Catholic primary school sent a group of about 100 pupils for the Ash Wednesday service. I was shocked when I realized that although the pupils were dutifully sent forward, of the ten adults accompanying

them – presumably class teachers, classroom assistants and parents – only one adult went forward to receive ashes and once she had, she immediately retired to the bathroom to wash it off. How can we expect the children to have faith I thought, if the significant adults around them don't?

This means that there is more need than ever for parents to take on a catechetical as well as a witness role at home with their children, bringing them up to be disciples of Christ, rather than simply hoping they will pick up their faith as they go along by a process of osmosis. In today's climate the family must truly become the "domestic church" that the Church calls her to be. This does not mean having to have formal catechism classes but to find ways of incorporating the Catholic faith in every day life.

Simple things like grace before meals and night prayers as well as trying to find imaginative ways of celebrating the liturgical year at home can be very effective. This might include such things as

**Children need to be equipped to defend their values and behaviour, because they will be challenged about them in a way their parents weren't**

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**Rosie Withers, who is married to Richard, has five children, of whom John is their third child. Below she shares some of her experiences of Faith and how she has tried to pass this on.**

My mother was Catholic but my father wasn't. I was a very quiet child and had a contemplative spirit. I remember certain passages from the bible always struck me and I wondered why we didn't see miracles any more when they had happened in Jesus' day. A great turning point in my life came when I was 17. I went on a school retreat led by Fr John Edwards SJ, I had a conversion experience and understood for the first time Jesus' personal love for me. Later in the retreat I experienced a physical healing. I had broken my foot in an accident the day before and was in agony and in a wheelchair. In Mass before the Eucharist I said to Jesus, 'If you are truly present here in the Eucharist, show me... heal me.' I then lifted my foot off the wheelchair and tentatively put it on the floor and it didn't hurt, so I got up and cautiously started walking on it and it still didn't hurt. I ended up jumping up and down for joy and ran to Fr John to show him. But he didn't seem surprised and said, 'Of course, Jesus can do anything.' This incident had a profound effect on me and I knew it was a great grace from God to encourage me in my faith.

I initially thought I might be a nun, but instead when I met my husband Richard, I realized God was calling me to marriage. Instead it was my eldest daughter who would enter religious life. She is now a contemplative nun with the community of St John and St Dominic in Spain. My husband wasn't initially a Catholic but would go to the retreats and got a lot from them. When we were expecting our first child Richard decided to convert, as he felt it was important for our children to be born into a family united in faith. Recently he was ordained a deacon in the Church. It was Richard who first heard about Youth 2000 and organized for some of the children to go with him. I remember that once they had been they loved it and wanted to go again. Our eldest daughter was about 12 and was particularly struck by the prayer of the rosary which she thought was beautiful and asked me if they could say this at home too. I always thought that the rosary was old fashioned and that the children would find it boring and repetitive and wouldn't like it. But to my surprise they were fine with it. We didn't do the whole thing, just one decade a night. We would light a candle,



someone would get out the guitar and sing too and we would pray intentions. It sounds very pious, but we aren't Holy Joes. We are just a very ordinary family. When I went the first time to Youth2000 I was profoundly moved by the experience. Richard and I had been helping out each summer at a local Anglican youth festival in Devon where we had been impressed by the wonderful contemporary Christian music and the very positive response of the young people to it. Here in the Youth 2000 marquee there were hundreds of young people experiencing the same kind of music, together with solid teaching and formation all centered on the Eucharist. – even Fr John Edwards SJ was there. I couldn't believe it, it was all I had ever wished for in our Church. And we have been avid supporters of Youth2000 ever since, going to all the major retreats every year. It has provided a wonderfully positive peer group experience and great fellowship and friendship especially for the children."

I credit the spiritual graces our family have had and the fact that they all still practice their faith, to Our Lady's intercession. Our second son, Andrew, has Down's Syndrome and when he was born he suffered from partial deafness which meant he couldn't hear some sounds. Because of his disability I was very concerned that this would make it even more difficult for him to learn to speak or communicate. I prayed to Our Lady and asked her to intercede for him to Jesus. To my amazement the next time I took Andrew, who was 14 months old, to the

audiologist for tests, they found he had been healed and could hear perfectly normally. I came out with such joy. Things like this have happened throughout our lives, and it has helped to remind us of the reality of God and of His great love for us!

I wasn't surprised or disappointed when our eldest daughter, after being accepted at medical school, gave it up to enter the convent. She is a great example and inspires us with her great love of God. My understanding was that our children were God's before they were ours ..... that He was simply graciously sharing them with us for a time.

My prayer is that God would do what he wants with them. I have encouraged them all to seek God's will. It seems to me that this is the only important thing in life, and it is where their deepest happiness lies.

Continued from page 8

encouraging “fasting” in Lent from sweets or television or at Christmas putting up a family crib and organizing family nativity plays.

In past editions of Goodnews (see our website [www.ccr.org.uk/archive/gn1109/g05.htm](http://www.ccr.org.uk/archive/gn1109/g05.htm)) we have written about the “Wednesday Word”, a fun sheet specially developed for families to reflect on the Sunday readings in their homes ([www.wednesdayword.org/](http://www.wednesdayword.org/)) and about some of the special Advent traditions practiced by the Fitzgerald family from Cor et Lumen Christi which encourage their children to do good deeds to give Jesus as a Christmas present. Another Cor et Lumen initiative is the Night of Light, celebrating the eve of All Saints rather than the traditional ghouls and ghosts and Trick or Treat of Halloween (Redemptorist Publications have lots of suitable material for families and the Catholic faith [www.rpbooks.co.uk](http://www.rpbooks.co.uk); also [www.loyolapress.com/](http://www.loyolapress.com/))

Michaela says the key thing parents must do with their children, as in all evangelistic endeavour, is not to keep their faith private but to witness personally about what God means to them. She comments, “They must always tell their children what they have experienced with God and why they are joyful and convinced Christians. They must speak of God and of the great works he has done for us and not wait for the school and the community to transmit the necessary knowledge of the faith.” Key to passing on faith she says is spending quality time with children, communicating with them and talking through values and beliefs. I know from personal experience how effective this can be. I used to spend hours sitting in my parents’s bedroom chatting things through with my mum while she knitted on her bed. I wasn’t aware of how much what she said was influencing me until I went into the world and found that when I had the freedom to do what I wanted, I chose the Christian values I been taught

at home, rather than going with the crowd, because I knew they were the right thing to do. This can be an uncomfortable place to be as a young person. They have to be trained and equipped to face this situation and they need as much peer support and help as possible so that they don’t feel they are weird.

As parishes are usually full of older people, it is very important for parents to make sure that their children are exposed to those of their own age who come from other committed families too and who practice their faith in an attractive way. This is why catholic charismatic conferences like Celebrate and New Dawn, which bring together families to spend a week of fun and faith are so important. So are other Catholic youth gatherings like World Youth Day ([www.JMJYouth.com](http://www.JMJYouth.com)) and Youth 2000 ([www.youth2000.org](http://www.youth2000.org)) where young people can interface with others who share their faith. **(See page 16 for more resources.)**



**John Withers, who is 20 and studying at Leicester university, is a leader in Youth2000 in the UK. He talks about his faith background and how he learnt to stand up for his faith from an early age.**

I remember the first time I came to Youth2000 at Walsingham I was 8 years old. At that time I didn’t relate so much to the Blessed Sacrament and the talks, but it was the joyful atmosphere and singing... and football ... which were very attractive to me. I used to spend hours playing football with a boy I met there who became a good friend. One year, however, I remember he didn’t come and I wondered where he was and I found him kneeling in the tent praying in adoration. I was about 12 then and it was the first time that I realized there was something deeper in all this. In fact this boy is in the seminary now.”

Over the years, John says, coming to the Youth2000 retreats and his own family background have helped him grow in his faith. “Since I was small we have always said a decade of the rosary every night as a family and that I think has helped to keep us together. As time went on I started to get involved in the Youth2000 gatherings with helping with the music and leading the retreats too. They have really helped me a lot. It’s much easier to talk about your faith when you are with people that you feel safe with and accepted.”

He is president of the Catholic Society at his university and I asked him if it was difficult to be a young Christian in further education in today’s climate. He replied, “It’s not as hard as it is sometimes portrayed. At university there are so many different people and ideas that no one is going to judge you that much. At Freshers’ Week for example our stall was between the Islamic Society and the Free Thinkers and we were all engaging with people. In fact at the moment, the Church is the main body standing up against some of the government’s







proposed reforms and this is actually attractive for young people who aren't Catholics and they want to know why the Church is taking the stand they are and people engage me with questions because I am very upfront about my faith." He says he learnt to defend his faith from an early age because although he came from a committed Catholic family, he didn't go to a Catholic school. He comments, "I think it was better for my faith not to go to a Catholic school. The teachers all knew I was a Catholic and so I would always be asked what do Catholics believe about Mary etc. I have learnt that you get respect for your beliefs if you are prepared to stand up for them."

This was certainly put to the test when he left home. He explains, "In my first year at university I shared a flat with 26 guys aged 18-20. As you can imagine a lot of them were sleeping around. There was actually admiration for my views, however, and that I didn't believe in sex before marriage. They knew that it was a struggle but that I stuck to my principles. In my first year I shared a room with a guy from Essex who was into body building and always talking about his multiple girlfriends. Even though we were very different I tried to get on with him and we became good friends. I remember one time he had just broken up with his girl friend and he had invited all 26 guys from our flat into our bedroom for a party. This guy's moral compass was way off and he had downloaded some porn for the evening. I didn't say anything but just got up and left and went to the kitchen to make a cup of coffee. It was amazing. One by one, all the guys came out of the room and came to see me and say they were sorry for what had happened. Some of them had felt awkward about it too and my room mate came and apologized to me. I was amazed.

He continues, "I don't know what I will do when I get my degree. I want to be as open as I can to God's will. I don't want to make a choice before I have discerned this. Some of my friends have already signed contracts with companies but that's because they are worried about the future and they don't know enough about God and that he might have a plan for them. My plan is to discern what God's plan for me is."



# Family prayer...

## Just Do it!



**Patti Gallagher Mansfield, a pioneer of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal lives in New Orleans. Shares her experiences of family prayer**

"Honey, someone wants you to write an article about how our family prays," Al chuckled. That will be a short article, I thought. How does our family pray? Poorly! Gone are the days when I would glibly give advice on parenting. With three teenagers and an eight-year-old to keep us humble, Al and I have learned to say, "We're just doing our best and trusting God... a lot." Like you, we're Catholic parents trying to raise Catholic kids in today's anything-but-Catholic world.

Family prayer. How do you begin? Just begin! How do you do it? Just do it! I'm not being facetious or naive. Make up your mind, then do it. Sometimes we're waiting for optimum conditions... once the baby's older, when football season ends, after taxes. I've learned that there's never going to be a perfect time free from stress, illness or an impossible schedule. "Anything worth doing is worth doing poorly," said Chesterton. So, quit making excuses and begin praying poorly.

Al and I fell in love while serving in the lay apostolate, so the whole notion of praying together was a given. For most Catholic couples, this isn't the case. One of my friends recently persuaded her husband (a non-practicing Catholic) to come to Church for three minutes. She desperately wanted to be present as a family unit at a parish Eucharistic adoration service. I shared in her joy on this special occasion. But what pleases me even more is her commitment to family prayer on every other occasion. You see, each day Ann prays with her two kids. These little ones are growing spiritually because Ann isn't hiding behind her husband's lack of faith. She's "just doing it."

Or take my friend, Linda, who's divorced and the mother of four. Every day she visits her handicapped twenty-year-old son in a rehabilitation home so that they can pray together. How moved I was on a recent visit to witness the peace and joy in Linda's son. The presence of God in his room was palpable. I am in awe of her

courage and faith expressed in this daily commitment to family prayer. God's grace shines through in the most broken family situations when even two or three gather in His name. Didn't Jesus promise it? "I will be in the midst of them" (cf. Mt. 18:19-20).

### We Pray Liturgically

Every Sunday the Mansfields attend Mass in two shifts. We got into this habit when the children were very young and my husband found them too distracting. I came to enjoy my hour of quiet prayer without a baby in tow. Other Catholic families insist on celebrating Mass together. I remember rushing into Mass late one Sunday after our third child was born. Sitting in the front pew was another mom who had just given birth to her fifth. The baby was sleeping quietly in his carrier, the other children were lined up like little angels next to her husband and she looked disgustingly thin and well-rested. Some people can do that, I thought. Not us.

Al has been very strong in encouraging the children to follow along in their missalettes, join in the responses and dress appropriately. "Worship the Lord in holy attire," the psalmist tells us. Marie-Therese is no longer in hand-smocked dresses on Sunday, but we feel that part of our prayer and witness as a family is reflected by our clothing. No cut-offs and tees, even if "everybody else is doing it."

Patrick, our youngest, is preparing for his First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion this year. Unfortunately, for many children there will be no "Second Reconciliation". They'll receive Communion for years without ever confessing their sins. In our family we believe that there is such a thing as sin, that we commit it and need to express sorrow for it in regular confession. Al has made it a practice to bring the kids to Church for this sacrament. The kids know that we adults go to confession every month too.

### We Pray Spontaneously

Our active involvement with the Catholic Charismatic Renewal has taught us the importance of spontaneous prayer. I'm talking



about prayer that's simple, from the heart, in our own words. It's a personal expression of our faith and confidence that Jesus is near us and wants to act on our behalf. From birth (and even while they were in utero), we have prayed over our kids in a spontaneous way, often imposing our hands as a blessing. You'd be amazed at how readily children learn this kind of prayer. And they put us to shame with their expectant faith.

My friend, Ann, told me how five-year-old Kevin asked Jesus to "make the rain go away" when it threatened to ruin his baseball game. Ann, seeing the ominous clouds, tried to explain that sometimes our prayers aren't answered the way we want. But Kevin kept on believing and by the first pitch, the sun was shining brilliantly!

Once Al had a headache and our seven-year-old son, Peter, offered to pray with him. "Jesus, please heal Daddy's headache. Thank you, Jesus! Is it gone?" Peter repeated his prayer three times before the headache lifted. That's perseverance! This same Peter, now seventeen, had some car trouble while he was alone on the road. "Did you pray?", I asked him. "You bet I prayed!" came the ready reply. An auto mechanic "just happened" to pass by and offered assistance after that prayer. I've been encouraging him since he first got his driver's licence to pray to his guardian angel when he gets behind the wheel. In typical teenage fashion, he's shrugged me off. But when he was in need, he remembered to pray and got results!

Marie-Therese and I headed off to buy her Confirmation dress last year and I expected a battle. You know, necklines...hemlines. Before getting out of the car, I suggested we pray. "You lead, M.-T." Her prayer was to the point. "Jesus, please help us find a dress we can agree on." Guess what? We did, quickly and painlessly. Without that prayer, we might still be at the shopping centre!

### We Pray On Our Knees

For the Mansfields, night prayer has always been on our knees... more or less. Sometimes the kids are slumping over a chair with only one knee on the floor, but "knees" are part of our "family tradition." Al has made sure they know the traditional prayers of the Church, like the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be and Act of Contrition. When my four-year-old committed the prayer, "Soul of Christ", to memory, I knew I'd better learn it as well. Praying rote prayer may seem boring and uninspired, but we feel it's an important component in training our children in the Catholic faith. You can't always count on these prayers being taught at school or RE classes.

At night prayer we've sometimes prayed a novena. I remember the first year we had a kid in high school and were feeling the pinch. Al made copies of a novena to St. Joseph and we prayed for financial help. The youngest child distributed the copies and held his own upside down. He wanted to be included nonetheless. On the eighth day of the novena Peter asked, "Is the money coming tomorrow?" Talk about faith! In fact, a month later, an anonymous donor cancelled our high school debt. This was a sign to the whole family of God's loving providence and St. Joseph's

powerful intercession. It meant so much more since they were all actively involved in the petition.

### We Pray At Meals

While the kids eye the food impatiently, we pray the traditional grace before meals introducing a little variety here and there. At Advent we bring down the wreath and sing, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." The kids fight over who lights the candles, but it's still fun. On each person's name day he or she has a dinner plate that reads, "You Are Special", and gets a feast day gift. Marie-Therese has tried to count all Marian feast days as her own but we've limited her to only one! During the Easter season we always sing, "O Queen of Heaven, Be Joyful." Now that we have two Latin scholars we're singing the Regina Coeli version much to my husband's delight.

### We Pray On the Road

A car trip of any length for the Mansfields includes the Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet. Many Catholic families incorporate the Rosary into their daily prayer. I admire them. My mother recalls how the family Rosary was prayed in Italian every night as she was growing up. Sure, the kids are going to squirm or complain. Mine try to sit in the van so I can't see them through the rear view mirror while we're praying. Sometimes they sneak a book low on their laps in order to read while we're praying. But it's still a way of presenting ourselves and our needs to the Lord through Mary's intercession. And that's powerful.

Let's remember to keep a sense of humor. If you attempt family prayer, it's a must.

### Pray As You Can, Not As You Can't

How do we pray? As I said at the outset, the Mansfields pray poorly. But at least we've decided to "just do it." A good spiritual maxim for every family is this one: "Pray as you can, not as you can't." Forget the ideal. Find what's possible for your family. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you. After all, He is the best teacher of prayer. "*For we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit intercedes for us...*" (Rm. 8). And this Holy Spirit is at work in our children; every now and again, we can catch a glimpse. Patrick was about four when we were at the airport together. "Look, Mom, there's a man on crutches. He needs our prayer." "Yes, Patrick," I replied, "you lead". Right there with the planes buzzing overhead this little one prayed aloud, "Dear Jesus, please bless this man and heal his legs. Thank you, Jesus." Where did Patrick learn to pray that way? In a family that prays poorly.

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**More teachings CDs from Patti and her husband Al are available from their website [www.ccrno.org](http://www.ccrno.org)**

# The Evangelising power of a home

**Kristina Cooper reflects how attractive a Christian home can be and how it can be a source of refuge for those needing a place of safety and security.**

When we talk of families we tend to think of the nuclear family of mother and father and children but God can create all kinds of extended networks of love and welcome which can substitute for the family home, when these are absent.

I am single and have never had children, but for eight years God had me open my inner city flat to the teenagers from the housing estate where I live. Most of what I did was simply to provide beans on toast and a warm and safe place for them to congregate. They were not really open to being formally evangelized or catechized but I was able to teach most of them the Our Father, as this was our “grace before meals” and however paltry I felt my spiritual input was, my flat was known among them as “God’s house”. Even if they weren’t sure about God themselves, they had faith that I believed in him and it made them feel safe to be around someone who did. Even though they have stopped coming now, I still run into some of them now and again in the street and they will smile and introduce me to their children, or promise to pop by one day.

It is common for baby boomers with large houses to have their adult children living with them when they find it difficult to find accommodation. Cathy and Stuart Edwards, some friends of mine in the parish, however, have extended this welcome beyond their own children and over the years have had several young people staying with them for longer and shorter periods. These have included a young parishioner, who was having problems with her own parents and couldn’t live at home, and a young married couple from Slovakia, who were finding it economically difficult to survive and couldn’t find suitable accommodation.

**There was always someone knocking on the door because people knew I would be home**

John and Linda Smith, are evangelical Christians who have always had an open home since they were first married in their early twenties. Linda remembers, “My husband was brought up with a very open house and his parents always had people in and so it wasn’t difficult for us to do this. We had a six bed-roomed house which helped. We had five children and I stayed at home

to look after them. There was always someone knocking on the front door because people knew I would be home. John and I have always been involved in youth work and Sunday schools. John is very friendly and good fun and kids just love him. He felt God telling us that we should start one in our home. In faith he ordered bibles and hymn books. I was a bit concerned at the time as we couldn’t afford it, but he was sure that the Lord would provide. And of course He did and someone put a brown envelope with the exact money we needed through the front door.”

**It became much more than a bible study**

The couple then sent invitations via their children to their friends at school and the project was a great success. Fifteen to twenty children turned up each week, and the couple had three groups in different rooms in the house, led by friends who had volunteered to help. Linda recalls, “These Sunday school kids became like an extended family and we got to know them at a much deeper level than we would if it had just been at the church. Our kids loved it too, especially the singing. They are very sociable and became friends with the children who came to the house. Afterwards we would have tea and toast and muffins and it became much more than a bible study. We ended up doing a summer camp and going camping with them all. Whatever we did we included them too.”



John and Linda Smith

The couple, who are now in their 60’s, live in a village on the edge of the Cotswolds in a small thatched cottage where their open house spirit has continued. Linda commented, “we noticed that in the village there is nothing much for the young people to do and the kids would hang round in the street as there was a British Legion place two doors away from us. We would often see them pass the house on their way to the sweet shop.”

Before long a little group of them had started to drop by the house to play cards in their conservatory. Linda says, “We would teach them card games we knew and if it was cold we would invite them into the kitchen for crumpets and cocoa. Some friends gave us a pool table which was even more of an attraction as they had to pay at the Legion. Then another boy gave us his table tennis table, which we kept in the garden.”



## You don't have to change your life or do anything special

Before long they were sharing their faith with youngsters, who were amazed at some of the couple's God experiences. Linda comments, "If something cropped up we would say, let's see what the bible says and they were really interested to hear what it said.. In faith we bought ten youth bibles for them, which the local Anglican Church said they would pay for, which really encouraged us to carry on." As before they began to include the children in their lives, whether it was practical things such as helping with the garden or cooking in the kitchen, or inviting them on sponsored walks, barbeques or quizzes at the local church. "People were flabbergasted that these teenagers who were normally hanging around on the streets were prepared to come to church."

She continues, "I know this type of thing has happened to other people too. Parents are so busy these days and kids today can be lonely and bored and need support. You don't have to change your life or do anything special. You just have to be yourself and let them join you in your normal life. One of the boys, Connor, said to me one day, "When I grow up I am going to open my house to kids too."

## Sancta Familia – Home from Home

This attraction of a home atmosphere is a very powerful one not just for teenagers as I remember last year when I was at the New Dawn conference in Scotland. I had arrived at an awkward time and was looking for something to eat and didn't quite know what to do, when I found myself swept up into a little group going to eat pasta in one of the flats. The room was bursting with chat, while two people stirred pots and sorted out lunch for the gathered group. The sense of family was tangible and I realized I had stumbled into that special atmosphere which is Christian community.

I wondered how this mix of old and young, priests and lay people knew each other. Eddie Lally told me the story: "It all began really some years ago because of the New Dawn conference in Walsingham. I used to be very involved in the CCR but for family reasons had dropped out for a while. I ended up helping Marino Restrepo, however, while he was visiting Glasgow and Teresa whom I didn't know at the time, rang me because she needed someone to drive a mini bus of pilgrims that she had organized to Walsingham."

## She goes and has a nap for two hours

The group had such a wonderful time and Eddie and Teresa and Trisha in particular became very good friends. Afterwards they all had a yearning to continue their fellowship and agreed to meet the following Tuesday at Teresa's flat for a meal. Before long this started to become a weekly occurrence. Not only did the little group eat together, but they also started to pray together too – the rosary and night prayer and intercession – sing worship songs and chat about the Lord – often until 3 in the morning. Others started to come too. These included the chaplain from Glasgow university, and others he sent along who needed a bit of nurturing. Teresa comments, "often people at the chaplaincy are far away from



Sancta Familia

home and are in transit and they need to feel this sense of family and people who are there for them, which we help provide. One of my friends has a very demanding job and when she comes on Tuesdays she goes upstairs and simply has a nap for two hours. She says it's the only place she feels at home enough to do this apart from her mum's house."

## Hunger for community

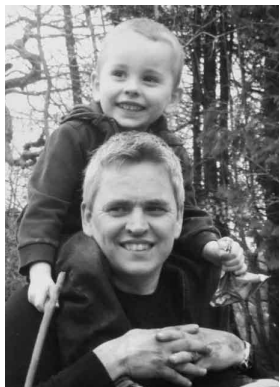
Teresa says she never knows how many people will turn up on these open Tuesdays as there is a relaxed attitude to the evenings and no pressure on people to come every week if they can't. The flat is freezing, says Teresa, "and in the winter we have to cover ourselves with blankets to keep warm, but this doesn't stop people coming." Now they have even come up with a name for their little prayer community – Sancta Familia. This they feel sums up their charism of being family for those in transit and who need a welcoming hearth to come to for a while. Teresa comments, "although we are all in prayer groups of different kinds, we all had that hunger for something more, for community, and the Lord has brought us altogether in an unexpected way and given us this gift of each other."

# Family

# Events

## Family Weeks at Craig Lodge

**Ruth Black reports**

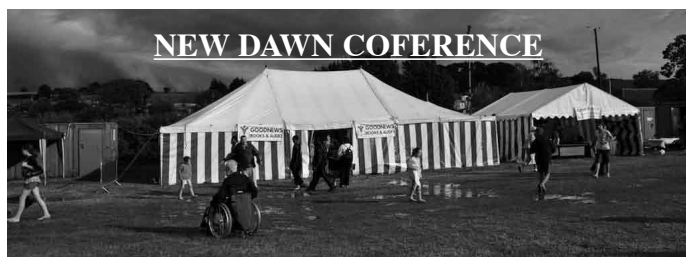


Craig Lodge – retreat centre and home to a Community – grew out of a family's response to Medjugorje. Over the years of ministering to young people the crucial role the family plays in our faith experience became more and more evident to us. We wondered if we could somehow reach out to families and find a simple way of encouraging parents trying to bring up their children to know and

love their Catholic faith. A few years ago, very tentatively, we advertised our first Family Week retreat. It was a huge success and we have included them in our retreat programme ever since, increasing the number to six this year due to demand! The format remains very simple. Young Community members organise activities for the children in the morning allowing parents to attend a short talk and discussion on faith and family life. There are prayer times tailored to children and daily Mass. Our hope is that our Family Weeks make parents feel special and renew a sense of awe at the vocation God has entrusted to us. They offer families a chance to spend time with the Lord and to draw on all the treasures of our faith – the Blessed Sacrament, Reconciliation, prayer, Our Lady, the Saints. These weeks remind us we are not alone in what can seem to be the daunting task of bringing up our children to know and love Jesus and his Church.

**2013 Family Week Retreats: 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> April, 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> July, 30<sup>th</sup> July-3<sup>rd</sup> August, 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> August, 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> August, 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> October Full retreat programme at [www.craiglodge.org](http://www.craiglodge.org) More info T: +44(0)1838 200216 E: [mail@craiglodge.org](mailto:mail@craiglodge.org)**

*No family should feel they cannot come because of cost.*



The New Dawn in the Church Conference at Walsingham, which takes place annually in the first week of August (this year 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> August) is ideal for families, as it is in the open air, in the beautiful Norfolk Countryside, with a programme for both children and adults. Accommodation in b&b, camping or cottages. **For details see [www.newdawn.org.uk](http://www.newdawn.org.uk) or write to:**

**New Dawn, St Emilies, Oakhill Park, Liverpool, L13 4BP.**

**Tel: 0151 228 0724 - E: [admin@newdawn.org.uk](mailto:admin@newdawn.org.uk)**

**YOUTH2000** runs weekends and days throughout the year for parishes on request but the two main events are the annual gathering at Walsingham over the Bank Holiday in August, which gathers 1000-2000 young people and families and the New Year Retreat which takes place in the London area. Details for all retreats can be found on the Youth2000 web site [www.youth2000.org](http://www.youth2000.org) or contact **Fiona Mansford** tel 07503 651716 email [info@youth2000.org](mailto:info@youth2000.org) or write Youth2000, St Mary of the Angels Presbytery, Moorhouse Road, London W2 5D3



Every year the **CELEBRATE CONFERENCE** welcomes a large number of families, many that have been coming since the children were babies. We now have a generation that have grown up attending Celebrate and are beginning to lead the youth streams at the main conference and at the regional weekends. Seeing so many children and young people praising and worshipping God all in their different age related ways gives such hope and expectation for the Church of the future. Why not come and see for yourself?

**Ilfracombe Main Conference 31<sup>st</sup> Mar-6<sup>th</sup> April**  
[info@celebrateconference.org](mailto:info@celebrateconference.org)

**East Anglia 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> April**

Philip Walters [eastanglia@celebrateconference.org](mailto:eastanglia@celebrateconference.org)

**Cleethorpes 27<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> April**

Rick Jones [cleethorpes@celebrateconfer.org](mailto:cleethorpes@celebrateconfer.org)

**Cardiff 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> May**

Mary Cameron [cardiff@celebrateconference.org](mailto:cardiff@celebrateconference.org)

**Twickenham 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> June** Mike & Maureen Goldsmith

- [twickenham@celebrateconference.org](mailto:twickenham@celebrateconference.org)

**Brighton 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> July** Nick & Helen Wells

[brighton@celebrateconference.org](mailto:brighton@celebrateconference.org)

**Macclesfield 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Sept TBC** Martina & Chris Power

[northwest@celebrateconference.org](mailto:northwest@celebrateconference.org)

**Southampton 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> Sept** Lynda & Peter Szymanski

[southampton@celebrateconference.org](mailto:southampton@celebrateconference.org)

**Torquay 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> October**

Mary Taylor [torquay@celebrateconference.org](mailto:torquay@celebrateconference.org)

**Bristol 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> October**

Tony Wadley [bristol@celebrateconference.org](mailto:bristol@celebrateconference.org)

**St Albans 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> November**

Tim Stevens [stalbans@celebrateconference.org](mailto:stalbans@celebrateconference.org)

**ALL INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON  
[WWW.CELEBRATECONFERENCE.ORG](http://WWW.CELEBRATECONFERENCE.ORG)  
TEL 01442 875361**