

# ParishMonthly

Our Lady & All Saints Catholic Church, Otley

[www.olasotley.org](http://www.olasotley.org)

January 2017



## Father Lawrie's New Year Message

**Looking** ahead to a New Year, it's easy to forget that we are still in the Christmas Season. Perhaps it's as important to look back for inspiration to lead us into days and months to come. We did after all spend four full weeks of Advent preparing for the coming of "Emmanuel", "God with us", so let's not let His coming to us slip through our hearts and minds. In a world of conflict, upheaval, uncertainty and for many the tragedy of war and its effects, it's tempting to see little positive in the world. But as those enlightened by Christ, we are the ones called to bring God's presence into our world as it is, not as we'd like it to be.

In the 17th Century, the great Spanish writer Miguel de Cervantes wrote his masterpiece "Don Quixote". It tells of a deranged knight, Don Quixote, as a play within a play, performed by Cervantes and his fellow prisoners as he awaits a hearing with the Spanish Inquisition. (He was eventually found not guilty). In turn nearly 360 or so years later it was the inspiration for the musical 'The Man of La Mancha' with a book by Dale

Wasserman, lyrics by Joe Darion and music by Mitch Leigh. The best remembered song was "To dream the impossible dream" and it tells of how Don Quixote along with his down to earth squire Sancho attempt to put right the upside down world as Don Quixote sees it. The fact that he was inept, misguided and unsuccessful didn't stop him from dreaming it could be done.

We would do well to reflect on the words of the song and perhaps adopt it as a theme for the coming year. The Bible is after all full of dreamers. St Joseph was told the impossible would happen when 'suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit"' (Matthew 1:20).

Perhaps like St Joseph we too can truly welcome the Christ into our hearts, our homes and our parish in a new way this year.

I wish you and yours a happy, healthy and holy New Year and a simple suggestion: "Dare to Dream"!

### Father Lawrie

*To dream the impossible dream  
To fight the unbeatable foe  
To bear with unbearable sorrow  
To run where the brave dare not go*

*To right the unrightable wrong  
To love pure and chaste from afar  
To try when your arms are too weary  
To reach the unreachable star*

*This is my quest to follow that star  
No matter how hopeless No matter how far*

*To fight for the right  
Without question or pause*

*And the world will be better for this  
That one man, scorned and covered with scars  
Still strove with his last ounce of courage  
To reach the unreachable star*

# Prophets in the Old Testament: Moses

"He was one hundred and twenty years old when he died, his eye undimmed, his vigour unimpaired. Since then, there has never been such a prophet in Israel, the man God knew face to face"

That is what Scripture has to say about this remarkable man. He probably has more influence on Judaism and its culture right up to the present than any other person in history and his impact on our Christian faith to this day is profound. Jesus mentions him and he figures in the Transfiguration story. His name is Moses.

We probably know more about him than any of the other prophets: his birth to a Hebrew couple, his rescue and adoption by Pharaoh's daughter and his upbringing as a prince of Egypt. All this changed when he became aware of his roots, killed an Egyptian for abusing a Hebrew and had to flee. He took refuge in Midian, a remote

district east of Sinai, and married one of the seven daughters of Jethro, the local priest. Moses settled in Midian for many years during which time Pharaoh died and the slavery of the Hebrews in Egypt grew worse. It was then that Moses received his Prophetic call in a very dramatic way. You can read all about it in Exodus starting at Chapter 2 v23 and reading to the end of Chapter 4, as space does not permit me to recount the whole story and there is much more to come.

Moses appears to have had a speech impediment and God chose Aaron, his brother, to be his mouthpiece and the two of them set off on their prophetic mission to speak God's words to Pharaoh, the world's most powerful man. It is interesting to note that at the time of their first interview with Pharaoh Moses was 80 years old and Aaron 83!

We all know the outcome, Pharaoh's obduracy about releasing the Hebrews from slavery and the nine plagues, water to blood, frogs, mosquitoes, gadflies, death of the Egyptian's livestock, boils, hail, locusts & darkness, followed by the death of all the first-born of the Egyptians. Not surprisingly, Pharaoh relented and let the Hebrews go. After a change of mind Pharaoh's army pursued the Hebrews and were destroyed at the crossing of the Red Sea, an event we recall during the Easter Liturgy.

There follows an account of the Hebrews' wanderings in the wilderness for many years, under the leadership and guidance of Moses, whose patience was often put to the test. We have the miracle of the manna & quails, the water from the rock and the battle against the Amalekites. The Ten Commandments were handed down followed by the incident of the golden calf.

**Frank Bowe**

## A Good Book: The Path to Rome by Hilaire Belloc

If you ever happen to be passing near the Northumbrian Town of Alnwick, it would be well worthwhile to give the Castle and Gardens a miss, and continue to the disused Railway Station in the Centre where you will find one of the bibliophile's greatest treasures: "A Second Hand Bookshop". There I was lucky enough to pick up a copy of the 'sixth impression' of Belloc's famous work for £8.50. They will try to get you a "First Edition" if you ask nicely, but it will cost you more than a King's ransom.

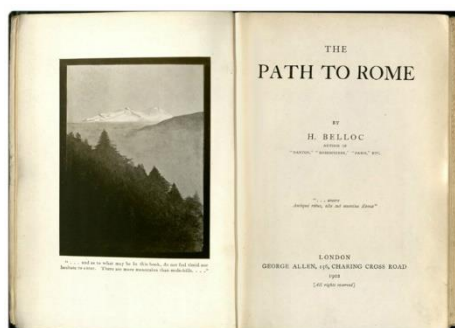
This book has been in continuous print since first publication at the beginning of the Twentieth Century. What is its appeal? The title would perhaps indicate a personal journey of a man converting to the Roman Catholic faith: a kind of "RCIA course" before its day. There is indeed much philosophy and theology to be found. But the book is primarily a record of a real physical journey made by the author alone from the Valley of the Moselle, across the Jura Mountains and the Alps down the Apennines and

eventually into the "Eternal City".

It is easy to forget that the man who wrote "Cautionary Verses", which includes the famous story of the "lying Matilda", was born in France in 1870 and possessed dual nationality: British and French. And that he died as recently as 1953.

"The Path to Rome" is an enchanting travelogue, used still today. Fr Gerry Hanlon told me recently that as a younger priest he and a fellow priest had faithfully followed the route described and found the illustrations with which Belloc embellished his text truly remarkable and exact. This book then also invites a dialogue from time to time between the author and a fictional reader who quizzes him

about a variety of things he describes and the language he uses. Belloc seems to have hit on the benefits of having another person to spark his ideas off. Belloc is a "bon viveur". He eats at any hostelry that serves good wine and simple wholesome food. He walks prodigious distances in the days before the advent of mass transit. He is able to see nature and visit remote sites. The pace is altogether different from that of today and it is this which gives it charm. There are no chapters in the book but helpful headings on each page which assist the readers to know what is coming. The text is "bravura" English. He not only sketches scenes but uses words to stimulate the imagination. Whatever village he comes upon he seeks to take part in the morning Mass. Belloc would not have been at ease with our vernacular liturgy. He is a religious man and his path to Rome is a kind of allegory of all our lives as we journey from birth to death, often blind to the beauty of people and things around us, until all is revealed and our eyes are finally again opened to the God who made it all out of love. **Father Paul F Moxon**



# Camino de Santiago de Compostella

## The Camino Francés

Our journey on the Camino probably started a number of years ago when (I suspect like many others) we watched a film called "The Way," starring Martin Sheen and directed by his son Emilio Estevez. The film charts the journey, along the Camino Francés, of a Father who has lost his faith but through the journey, happily finds it again.

The idea of the freedom of such a journey appealed greatly to us, as did the wonderful landscape.

So this year on Saturday May 27th at 7.25am, we set off from St.Jean Pied de Port in France to embark on our great adventure! 864kms along the track at 5.44pm on June 29th we reached our final destination - the 0.0 waymarker at Cape Finisterre Lighthouse in Northern Spain. We walked for 33 days consecutively, experienced the most beautiful landscapes imaginable and also discovered architecture that was inspirational. Sensational birdsong, wonderful wild flowers and dancing butterflies were our daily companions. Elated, tearful, thankful, sad to be finishing and very much exhausted after a day of walking 39kms over 12 hours, we stood at that waymarker and reflected on an amazing journey. The Camino is a totally individual experience that can be exactly what YOU want it to be.

No rules on how far you walk - it can be done in stages over a number of years. No rules on daily distances - as much or as little as suits you. Age is no barrier and we met Pilgrims young and old from many different countries - curiously not many Brits! Bags can be carried every step of the way or they can be ferried forward to your end of day destination. You can stay at the municipal Alburges or in Hostels or Hotels. You are guaranteed a warm welcome as a Peregrino (Pilgrim) and the camaraderie between fellow travellers is wonderful.



“

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We were lucky enough to see the Botofumeria ritual (a huge thurible swings across the Cathedral almost touching the roof!) at the end of the Pilgrims' Mass at Santiago Cathedral - a truly moving experience. The Spirit of the Camino is certainly tangible and we both feel that the journey has had a profound effect on our outlook on life. We now feel "de-cluttered", calm and truly thankful for each day of life, and would recommend the Camino to all. In fact we enjoyed the journey so much we are looking to plan another Camino next year - The Camino Portugués - from Lisbon to Porto to Santiago de Compostella.

Buen Camino!

### Ruth and Paul Hickman

*The Way of St James, more commonly known by its Spanish name the Camino de Santiago, is the pilgrimage route to the great cathedral of Santiago de Compostella in Northern Spain.*

*Legend has it that the remains of St James the Apostle were taken from Jerusalem to Spain and buried in what is now Santiago de Compostella. His tomb was discovered in the 8<sup>th</sup> Century and by the Middle Ages this had become one of the most travelled pilgrimage routes in Europe. Today hundreds of thousands of pilgrims set off from a variety of starting points in France, Spain, Portugal and beyond. The most popular route, and the one taken by Ruth and Paul, is the Camino Frances, starting from either Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port on the French side of the Pyrenees, or from Roncesvilles on the Spanish side.*

*If you "Google" the Camino, you'll see there are lots of videos compiled by pilgrims who have walked the Camino. Their reasons and their routes may be very different, but there is one thing they all have in common...spectacularly beautiful scenery! ... easy to see how Ruth describes the whole experience as "amazing!"*

*Joe McGuinness*

## Greetings from Liverpool!

Hello everyone from Liverpool. My spiritual journey has brought me to Liverpool Hope University where I am now working as a Catholic Chaplain Assistant. Everyone in the University from staff to students has made me feel so welcome. Liverpool Hope has a rich history dating back as far as 1844. It is situated in a leafy suburb with lovely grounds and amazing architecture.

It is an ecumenical university which strives for academic excellence enriched by Christian values with the motto 'Faith, Hope and Love'. The university also supports the teaching, learning and researching opportunities for all students and staff.

My role as a Chaplain is being part of a wide Chaplaincy team where I work alongside a Free Church Chaplain, an Anglican Chaplain and a Methodist Chaplain. We provide spiritual support for students as well as a listening ear for staff and students throughout the year. We also pride ourselves on hospitality

where we host different events for students in the Chaplaincy room.

My role is to lead and promote the Catholic Society. I organise events alongside Fr Stephen throughout the academic year. We have gone on a Beatles trip with international students and social evenings as a group. We also have Mass on a Sunday for Catholic students and it is time for students to gather together as a community with Christ.

I am also volunteering as a hospital Chaplain in Liverpool Royal Hospital which I enjoy. I visit patients and families who need spiritual guidance and support through tough situations and sickness.

I have settled in with the locals as everyone has Irish connections or are Irish. I have even brought students to the Irish centre so I could teach them some Irish dancing.

My journey so far has been fantastic and I am so blessed for this new opportunity. Thank you everyone in Our Lady and All Saints for your prayers and support. I wish you all a Happy and Healthy 2017.

**Helen Kingston.**



## Parish Retreat Day

For a day of quiet and reflection, a Parish Retreat day is being held on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January at the Briery Centre in Ilkley, and will be led by Sr Anne Hammersley CP.

Full details can be found on the Notice Board in the porch and on the parish website. Or for more information please contact Linda Pennington on 07950322880 or Beth Street on 01943 607287

## 3 Marathons for 3 Charities

The opportunity to sponsor Danny Cooney for his marathon running will expire shortly. Anyone wishing to support Danny should do so before January 21st when all moneys need to be collected.

All supporters and any other interested Parishioners are invited to coffee in the Parish Centre after both Masses on Sunday 8th January.



## Baptisms

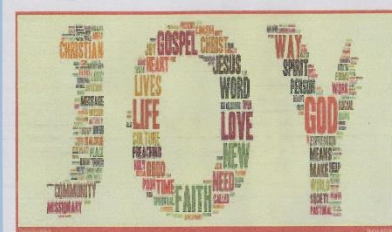
**Evie Jessica Johnson**  
**Olivia Millie Johnson**  
**Neave Frances Johnson**

Joy is like a candle shining bright, fighting through the darkness, joy is like a baby laughing

for the first time, joy is the happiness on Earth and joy is Lord God himself, joy is part of the plan God has made for us and if we follow it we can give joy to over people.

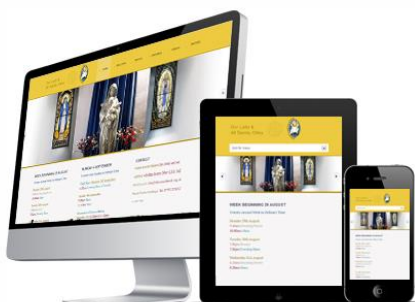


*By Ella*



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