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## ECCLESIOLOGY MODULE AUTUMN 2011

### PREPARATION FOR WEEK 4

*Same time next week:* WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2011

**REQUIRED READING:** [\*The Search for Christian Unity\*](#), pages 10-26, 42-71

**REQUIRED PREPARATION:**

Find out whether you have a local “churches together” and, if so, what it does.

**STRONGLY RECOMMENDED PREPARATION:**

Attend a non-Catholic service of Christian worship. Throughout the service ask yourself: “How is this different from Catholic worship? What idea of ‘being church’ is underpinning it?”

(Next session’s task will be to attend a non-Christian place of worship, you may wish to seek an opportunity sooner rather than later.)

Suggested Further Reading from Session III:

[\*The Common Good and the Catholic Church’s Social Teaching\*](#)

***What does the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales do?***

<http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/Catholic-Church/The-Bishops-Work>

The values of the Gospel – peace, love, truth, justice, charity – are unchanging, eternal truths. Yet the world is changing constantly. The Church therefore has a prophetic calling to read these ‘signs of the times’ and interpret them in the light of the Gospel.

The Church is called to reflect on the interface between Christianity and society. Do our schools, hospitals and prisons reflect the depth of Christ’s love for humanity? Do our laws protect and cherish all humans, rich or poor, sick or well, as made in the image and likeness of God?

In England and Wales, our work includes promoting marriage and family life, work in the education and healthcare sectors, environmental concerns, supporting the priesthood and religious life, dialogue with Christian Churches and members of different faith communities and much more.

Internationally, the Church works and collaborates with people and organisations in many countries around the world. The breadth of the Church's work takes in aid and development, global justice and peace, support and solidarity with the Church overseas and missionary work to highlight but a small cross-section.

**On the Bishops’ Conference Website, certain topics are highlighted as “the work of the Bishops”. These change from time to time. In September 2011, the following were included in the links:**

**[Catholic Parliamentary Internship \(CPI\)](#)**

Providing the opportunity for young Catholics to make a difference in the public square

**[Catholics in Healthcare](#)**

Catholics in Healthcare is an informative microsite for Catholic health and social care professionals offering resources, news and more

**[Dialogue with Other Christians](#)**

Like any family, the Church has several branches. Each is different (Roman Catholic, Methodist, Anglican to name but a few) but all share a common source: Jesus Christ.

**[Dialogue with Other Religions](#)**

Christ asks us to love unconditionally. This means Christians need to be wholeheartedly committed to reaching out to every neighbour and to be concerned for the common good.

**[Environment](#)**

God has given the earth to us to enjoy and cherish, so care for God’s creation is a vital part of Christian belief.

**[Gypsies and Travellers](#)**

The Church has a network of priests, sisters and lay people who have a ministry to Gypsies and Travellers or are connected with agencies, parishes or schools which serve Gypsy and Traveller communities.

**[Heritage and Patrimony](#)**

A Church for us is more than a building – it is a Sacred space, filled with God’s presence. Everything within that space – the paintings, the statues, the stained glass – exists for a spiritual purpose.

### [Holy Land](#)

The Christian community in the Holy Land represents a physical link between the modern world and the life and times of Christ - the Church in England and Wales works for peace and justice for all in the Holy Land.

### [International Justice and Peace](#)

"If you want peace, work for justice." Pope Paul VI

### [Life Issues](#)

All life is sacred, a gift from God. To end life prematurely is to deny that God has a plan for every human, created as we are in the image of his son Jesus Christ.

### [Marriage & Family Life](#)

Celebrating Family: Blessed, Broken, Living Love is a national programme of support for marriage and family life within the Catholic community in England and Wales.

### [Mental Health](#)

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has established a short term Mental Health Project 2010 - 2012 to further encourage and inspire us as communities of understanding.

### [Middle East](#)

The Middle East is an important region for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The media focus often falls on Iraq and Afghanistan but the Department of International Affairs is committed to acting in solidarity with the Christian communities throughout the region sharing in the pastoral life of the local Church as it experiences intense political and social-economic pressure.

### [Migration and Refugees](#)

Human beings have migrated throughout history. It is not a new phenomenon. In the recent past, the issue of migration was not considered controversial, particularly when numbers were small and governments were able to count on broad electoral support for their immigration policies. Today this has changed; migration has gone to the top of the public policy agenda as a major concern of world politics, including the 'securitisation' of migration issues. For us as Christians, it is essential to recall that all human beings, regardless of the labels given to them, are entitled to full respect of their human dignity and rights; we are challenged by the Gospels to respond to all 'dispossessed' people, extend hospitality and work for justice.

### [Vocations](#)

What are you called to do? What is God calling you to? That is what the Church means by vocation.

### [Youth](#)

Youth ministry in England and Wales

## The Church as Agent of Charity

Extracts from [\*Deus Caritas Est\*](#)

#19 Love is ... the service that the Church carries out in order to attend constantly to man's sufferings and his needs, including material needs.

#20 Love of neighbour... is first and foremost a responsibility for each individual member of the faithful ... it is also a responsibility for the entire ecclesial community at every level: from the local community to the particular Church and to the Church universal in its entirety. ... Love thus needs to be organized if it is to be an ordered service to the community.

#25a The Church's deepest nature is expressed in her three-fold responsibility: of proclaiming the word of God (*kerygma-martyria*), celebrating the sacraments (*leitourgia*), and exercising the ministry of charity (*diakonia*). These duties presuppose each other and are inseparable. For the Church, charity is not a kind of welfare activity which could equally well be left to others, but is a part of her nature, an indispensable expression of her very being.

#25b The Church is God's family in the world. In this family no one ought to go without the necessities of life. Yet at the same time *caritas-agape* extends beyond the frontiers of the Church. (Good Samaritan) ... Within the ecclesial family no member should suffer through being in need. (Galatians 6:10).

#28a The State may not impose religion, yet it must guarantee religious freedom and harmony between the followers of different religions. For her part, the Church, as the social expression of Christian faith, has a proper independence and is structured on the basis of her faith as a community which the State must recognize. ... The Church cannot and must not take upon herself the political battle to bring about the most just society possible. Rather, the Church wishes to help form consciences in political life ... even when this might involve conflict with situations of personal interest.

#29 The direct duty to work for a just ordering of society ... is proper to the lay faithful. As citizens of the State, they are called to take part in public life in a personal capacity.

#30 The Church's charitable organizations, on the other hand, constitute an *opus proprium*, a task agreeable to her, in which she does not cooperate collaterally, but acts as a subject with direct responsibility, doing what corresponds to her nature. ... The Church can never be exempted from practising charity as an organized activity of believers, and on the other hand, there will never be a situation where the charity of each individual Christian is unnecessary, because in addition to justice man needs, and will always need, love.

#30b Church agencies, with their transparent operation and their faithfulness to the duty of witnessing to love, are able to give a Christian quality to the civil agencies too. ... [John Paul II] asserted the readiness of the Catholic Church to cooperate with the charitable agencies of [other Christian denominations].

#31a Christian charity is first of all the simple response to immediate needs and specific situations: feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, caring for and healing the sick, visiting those in prison, etc. The Church's charitable organizations, beginning with those of *Caritas* ... ought to do everything in their power to provide the resources and above all the personnel needed for this work. ... Those who work for the Church's charitable organizations must be distinguished by the fact that they do not merely meet the needs of the moment, but they dedicate themselves to others with heartfelt concern, enabling them to experience the richness of their humanity.

#31c Those who practise charity in the Church's name will never seek to impose the Church's faith upon others. They realize that a pure and generous love is the best witness to the God in whom we believe and by whom we are driven to love.

#32 Paul VI established the Pontifical Council *Cor Unum* as the agency of the Holy See responsible for orienting and coordinating the organizations and charitable activities promoted by the Catholic Church. ... In conformity with the episcopal structure of the Church, the Bishops, as successors of the Apostles, are charged with primary responsibility for carrying out in the particular Churches [such works of charity].

27 September 2011 Last updated at 17:27

## SHREWSBURY CATHEDRAL APPEAL TO MAINTAIN OPENING HOURS

Priests at Shrewsbury's Catholic Cathedral have said it may have to reduce opening hours, unless more volunteer stewards can be found.

The building on Town Walls is open at weekends and weekday afternoons from Easter until the end of October.

However a shortage of volunteers could mean opening hours are restricted.

Father Chris Matthews said: "We're really desperate for help... I'm really hoping we won't have to lock the doors."

Shrewsbury Cathedral is the mother church for the Catholic Shrewsbury Diocese, which covers a wide area, including Cheshire, Shropshire and parts of Merseyside and Greater Manchester.

'Cracking team'

According to Father Matthews the cathedral had 2,000 visitors this summer, although he admitted that many people in Shrewsbury do not know where the cathedral is.

Father Matthews came to Shrewsbury in September 2007 when the building was only open for services.

He said they had subsequently decided the cathedral should be open for longer.

Volunteer stewards are on hand whenever the building is open to the public for security and hospitality reasons.

"We have a really good cracking team of volunteers, but they're small in number," he said.

Commenting on the prospect of reducing opening times the priest said: "It'd be very sad if we do, after three or four years of keeping the place open so often."

Shrewsbury Cathedral opened in 1856 and includes stained glass windows by Margaret Rope, which attract visitors from around the world.

13 September 2011 Last updated at 09:44

## BISHOP DALY CALLS FOR AN END TO CLERICAL CELIBACY

The former Bishop of Derry Dr Edward Daly has called for an end to clerical celibacy.

Dr Daly, who was a bishop for almost 20 years, said there needed to be a place in the modern Catholic church for a married priesthood.

He also said that many young men who considered joining the priesthood turned away because of the rule.

Dr Daly, 77, addressed the controversial issue in a new book about his life in the church, *A Troubled See*.

The former Bishop worked in Derry at the height of the troubles.

A photograph, showing the then priest waving a white handkerchief on Bloody Sunday, has become one of the most enduring images of the troubles.

Speaking on BBC's Good Morning Ulster programme, Bishop Daly said allowing clergymen to marry would ease the church's problems.

Popularity contest

"There will always be a place in the church for a celibate priesthood, but there should also be a place for a married priesthood in the church," he said.

"I think priests should have the freedom to marry if they wish. It may create a whole new set of problems but I think it's something that should be considered."

Dr Daly said he found it "heartbreaking" during his term as Bishop when priests, or prospective priests, were forced to resign or unable to join the priesthood because of the celibacy rule.

"I'm worried about the decreasing number of priests and the number of older priests. I think it's an issue that needs to be addressed and addressed urgently," he said.

While Dr Daly accepted he might be out of step with current Vatican thinking he said he was "not engaged in a popularity contest".

A spokesman for the Catholic Church said he did not wish to comment on Bishop Daly's remarks.

"Bishop Daly was speaking in a personal capacity," he added.

30 September 2011 Last updated at 17:56

## LA SALLE COLLEGE PUPILS WELCOME POLICE VISITS

Catholic bishops and the police are collaborating on a new initiative to overcome resistance to officers visiting Catholic schools.

The first schools to be targeted will be in areas where police have not been welcome in the past.

One such area is west Belfast and La Salle College will be one of the schools police will be visiting.

"This area at one time would not have been welcoming to the PSNI," school principal Paul Barry told Radio Ulster.

"But we have moved on and we all have to take our own responsibility to move the community forward to better times."

He said police commanders had asked him how to improve relationships with young people in the area.

"I've always advised them to look for opportunities to engage with the young people in activities other than normal police activities," he said.

"This has been happening for a number of years - the police have been coming to give various talks on safety for the students of the college.

"The students have been very receptive to the messages being brought to them and very appreciative of them."

In February, a number of boys at the school did a week's work experience with the police.

"It was the best work experience I could have asked for," one of them said.

"It was something I wanted to do - I went to the careers advisor in school and they set us up with it and we got a crowd of us to go and do it. It would be something I'd seriously consider doing in the future."

### **'Fabulous idea'**

Another pupil told Radio Ulster he would strongly consider joining the police.

"I'd have no problem with it whatsoever," he said. "I don't see why people shouldn't, it's not a big problem nowadays, people seem to accept the police for what they're doing."

Those views were echoed by parents of pupils at the school.

One mother said she thought the police visits were a "fabulous" idea.

"It's about time people in the local community here supported the likes of the police, the fire brigade, ambulance, everybody," she said.

"There's so much recruitment from Catholics now into the police service so it can only be good."

The initiative is the result of negotiations between the PSNI, the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) and the Catholic bishops.

Bishop of Down and Connor Donal McKeown said he wanted it to become normal for the police to be in every school in Northern Ireland.

He said while police had visited Catholic schools for years "this is much more and agreement by the CCMS council and the police about how it will be done, what sort of regularity would be involved so that every school didn't have to invent its own answer when approached by a local PSNI officer".

The bishop said he hoped it would lead to a police service which represented all sectors of society.

"The purpose of this wasn't just to get more people from Catholic schools to join the PSNI, but really in the service of the big picture of ensuring that we have a truly representative police service in Northern Ireland.

"In other words the aim was not just to get ethnic Catholics for want of a better word, but to get an adequate representation of people who consider themselves to be nationalists," he said.

"I also made the point that it was very important to ensure that those who join the police service are not primarily from just middle class communities, but that the disengaged communities of working class or benefit class among nationalist and unionists are reached out to as well."

30 September 2011 Last updated at 12:55

## JERSEY STABBING: FUNERAL MASS FOR FOUR VICTIMS

A funeral Mass has been held to remember four people stabbed in St Helier.

Marek Garstka, who was 56, his 30-year-old daughter Izabela Rzeszowska and her children, five-year-old Kinga and two-year-old Kacper, died at Victoria Crescent in St Helier from stab wounds.

They were cremated in private services on Thursday before their ashes were taken to St Thomas' Church.

The ashes will be repatriated to Poland.

Catholic Dean of Jersey, Monsignor Nicholas France, and Father Jan Swiatek, Jersey's Polish Catholic Mission Priest, took the service.

Monsignor France said there was a good turnout. He said: "I think this is an opportunity always to remember, we can learn from what has gone before us.

"Above all, work to sustain the sense of solidarity that has been a special mark of these past few weeks."

The other two victims, Marta de La Haye and her daughter Julia, were remembered at a special Mass on Saturday.

Damian Rzeszowski, 30, has been charged with six murders and is being held in a secure facility in the UK.

28 September 2011 Last updated at 12:16

## LANCASHIRE AND SALFORD RELAY OF PRAYER FOR LONDON OLYMPICS

Thousands of youngsters attending Catholic schools in Lancashire are preparing for next year's Olympics with a Relay of Prayer. It involves all 208 schools in the Salford Diocese, which covers a third of Lancashire's Catholic parishes. They will transport a specially created torch 449 miles during the eight months leading up to the start of the games.

Father Paul Cannon from the Salford Diocese said he hoped the event would "bring people together".

He said: "The aim of the relay is to mark the significance of the Olympic Games by looking at the links between religion and sport."

Following a launch at Thornleigh Salesian College in Bolton, each school has been randomly assigned a country that is taking part in the Olympic and Paralympics Games.

'Go on skis'

The pupils have to learn everything they can about their country before the Relay of Prayer begins in November. Mr Cannon said: "On Monday 28 November the torch will leave Thorneyholme Catholic Primary School in Dunsop Bridge and it will travel to every school. Each school will carry the torch to their nearest neighbouring school. They can travel by any means they want. They can go on horseback, ride a bike, walk or go on skis as one school in the Rossendale Valley is threatening to do.

"They then lead an assembly to the school receiving the torch based on what they have learned about their assigned country. So they pass on what they have learned as they pass on the torch."

The relay will culminate at with a special service at Salford Cathedral on Friday 6 July 2012.

The 1600 youngsters and teachers who attended the Relay of Prayer launch at Thornleigh were joined by Bolton Wanderers manager Owen Coyle and Olympic diver Nick Robinson-Baker.

'Working together'

Bacup opera singer Sean Ruanne sang to the audience and was impressed with their enthusiasm for the event. He said: "When you look at all the children here today, it shows the children, the schools, and the Catholic Church are all working together to build a better community."

Stonyhurst College deputy head teacher Andrew Gordon-Brown, who was part of the South African rowing team in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, said he sees the Relay of Prayer as an obvious initiative to take part in.

"We have brought 12 of our youngsters here today who are all keen on sports. Hopefully there is an excitement from them that the world's greatest sporting occasion is coming to the UK and we have a year to celebrate that.

"To launch something now which will run around the diocese will really get that spirit going."

One of the pupils from Stonyhurst, Beatrice Smith, said the relay is also a good way of making the Catholic faith relevant to young people: "The thing is they are now making it much more exciting and getting everyone involved.

"This is a really great way of getting young people interested and it is really great."

29 September 2011 Last updated at 08:12

## ASSEMBLY DECISION DUE ON CHILD ABUSE INQUIRY

The executive is meeting to decide on the form of an inquiry into complaints of abuse at children's homes and other institutions in Northern Ireland.

The inquiry is expected to deal with allegations regarding religious and state-run institutions stretching back to the 1940s.

The executive has been considering what to do about historic allegations of child abuse since spring of last year.

Former Health Minister Michael McGimpsey began examining options then.

Over the summer Stormont's two junior ministers Martina Anderson and Jonathan Bell have been liaising with victims about exactly what kind of process might address their needs.

BBC NI political editor Mark Deveport said: "The details remain under wraps, but the best guess is ministers will approve a phased approach starting with a story-telling or evidence gathering process, and moving into a full blown legal inquiry later."

Amnesty International has said anything less than a statutory inquiry would not work.

Its spokesperson Patrick Corrigan said: "That has been the experience of other jurisdictions.

"Victims and campaigners in the Republic of Ireland for instance, have told me as recently as this week that if the executive here goes for a non-statutory inquiry, that really, it is destined to fail and they should save their time and save the victims' grief."

New legislation

Current legislation for a statutory investigation limits the time period to between 1973 and 1989.

First Minister Peter Robinson said if it was widened with new legislation, it could take up to two years.

Mr Robinson told the assembly that if it had to bring forward legislation "it could be 18 months to two years before we would be proceeding".

He said there was a possibility of combining some statutory and non-statutory elements.

In 2009, Stormont assembly members backed the holding of an inquiry into the extent of child abuse in Catholic church and state-run institutions in Northern Ireland.

It followed the damning Ryan Report in the Irish Republic which uncovered decades of endemic abuse in some religious institutions.

The Stormont executive announced in December it would hold the inquiry and a task force is considering what its nature should be.