

May  
2020

EDGEWAYS

**The Sacred Heart Parish magazine**

**Vol. 32 No. 5**

*sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk*



## **Fr John's birthday**

**Parishioners 'Zoom' in to  
send their best wishes**

## **Bob's Italian organ tour**

**\* FREE \* but donations are always welcome**

**EDGEWAYS** – now in its 32nd year – is published every month except August. Thanks to the Parish Council, it is now free, although any donations towards our running costs are more than welcome in the box to the right of the inner church doors. Articles from readers are always welcome.

## Contact the Editor

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or via our mail basket by the bookshop in the Presbytery, or email [editoredgeways@icloud.com](mailto:editoredgeways@icloud.com)

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*Our next edition will be published when Covid-19 allows.  
Look for details in the parish newsletter*



### SACRED HEART PARISH SOCIAL CLUB

**President:** Rev John Clark

**Chairman:** Sr Patricia

We are a small group of friends doing a large amount of work to facilitate the Social aspects of the Sacred Heart Parish.

We organise and fund a Senior Citizens party in January every year. We organise an annual BBQ for the Parishioners. We provide bar facilities to various Parish Organisations. We donate surplus funds to various Charities.

- Manna, Passage
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To Join please contact: Sr Patricia – 07973 950755

# We should take note of 'lessons learned' during the lockdown

In last month's *Edgeways*, when we surveyed the parish team and parishioners about how they were coping with the Covid-19 lockdown, several respondents mentioned how they thought "nothing will be the same again". Several predicted changes not only in their own lives, but in the wider community at large and in the parish, in particular.



**Canon John receives online greetings from parishioners during his locked-down birthday on May 15**

It has become increasingly obvious as the lockdown has unfolded is that when it is all over, one aspect of parish life will undoubtedly change: communication.

Thanks to the internet, and particular online applications such as Skype and the ever-ubiquitous Zoom, parishioners have been in enterprising in adopting such technology and adapting it to the needs of their faith, spirituality and social entertainment.

Our priests and parish team members have been able to keep in touch with parishioners seeking help; Sadie Smith has kept the parish bereavement group going; our Youth Minister Eleanor Bowman and Adult Faith Formation Officer Kelly Hockey have been able to continue their activities via "virtual reality"; even yours truly here at *Edgeways* have kept the magazine going despite our printing presses falling silent.

At large, parishioners have come up with their own ideas for keeping intra-parish dialogue going. We report on two such enterprises in this issue. The Discovery group, which started pre-lockdown as a small group of parishioners interested in exploring their own and each other's spirituality,

has kept going through the use of online media such as Whatsapp. And then there was the inaugural online parish quiz evening, by all accounts a huge success.

Above all, the streaming of daily Masses from the Sacred Heart has brought the very bedrock of our Christian faith into our homes, all with the mere tapping of a keyboard and click of a mouse.

The US military is particularly fond of the phrase "lessons learned" at the moment, keen to incorporate such lessons into its planning in future weapons development and financing. While one is naturally hesitant about adopting anything from the military, US, UK or elsewhere, in this case such a mindset has its advantages.

Once the Covid-19 dust has settled – and we must all hope and pray that day is not far off – it would be a good idea for the parish team, the PPC and other interested parties got together to discuss the "lessons learned" from our shared experiences during lockdown.

We will be an even better parish for it.

# Discovery: Keeping parishioners connected during lockdown

*Sacred Heart parishioners have come up with many ingenious ways to stay connected while the church doors are locked and we've been almost permanently housebound. One such means is the Discovery Group, as ADELITA MARCHANT explains*

**Q:** How did the Discovery group start?

**A:** We ran two six-week courses for a total of about 25-30 parishioners before the lockdown, in January-February time, and the group has continued since then.

**Q:** What is Discovery?

**A:** Discovery is a small-group faith programme for people interested in deepening and sharing their faith in a small group setting.

**Q:** How has the lockdown affected your group?

**A:** We had planned on running a half-day retreat and the next course following Discovery (called Source), but had to review what we could best offer following the lockdown.

**Q:** How have you adapted to the lockdown?

**A:** We have come together in a WhatsApp group called "Prayerfully", supporting each other through prayer during this difficult time.

Prayerfully has helped remind us that God is present with us through every moment of the day and there are a number of suggestions for prayer and reflection that



**The Discovery Group has been keeping their spirituality alive via WhatsApp during the lockdown**

people offer throughout the day as well as requests for intercessory prayer.

We have also been regularly meeting on a Saturday morning via Zoom for prayer and reflection.

We are exploring different ways of praying and have had sessions on imaginative contemplation, prayer through art, prayer through nature, the Holy Spirit and reflections on the Sunday readings.

**Q:** What are the positive things that have come out of the lockdown?

**A:** The WhatsApp group and meeting every Saturday has brought us much closer together and allowed us to support each other.

It has reminded us that we are completely dependent on God and that he is the centre of our lives.

People have commented that it is lovely how inclusive the group is with "no single person dominating the group" and it feels truly supportive through prayer.

**Q:** What have been the challenges?

**A:** It has been a challenge trying to create a sacred and reflective space online and we are all adapting to Zoom and learning new ways of how to do things!

**Q:** Where will you go from here?

**A:** We will carry on with what we are offering so that our group deepens its roots in Him and with each other so that we are refreshed to serve others in the Parish when we come out of this period of lockdown.

About 15 people attend our Saturday morning group. If anyone would like a bit more information about the group or what we do, please email [adelita.marchant@gmail.com](mailto:adelita.marchant@gmail.com).

## True Definitions

**Lecture:** An art of transferring information from the notes of the Lecturer to the notes of the students without passing through the minds of either.

**Conference:** The confusion of one man multiplied by the number present.

**Compromise:** The art of dividing a cake in such a way that everybody believes he got the biggest piece.

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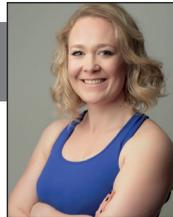
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## Parishioners get quizzical

One of the more entertaining ways the parish has kept in touch during lockdown was an online quiz on May 8. **ADELITA THURSBY-PELHAM** and **NIAMH O'CONNOR** explain how it worked

**Q: How did the quiz come about?**

**A:** The lockdown prompted the quiz. Six weeks into the lockdown, the reality sank in that we were not looking at a short-term absence from parish life but that in all likelihood, it would be some time before we would be able to join as a community again. Niamh and her family had enjoyed some online quizzes by Zoom with friends and we thought that it would be a fun way to get people who are active in parish life, together.

**Q: How did it work?**

**A:** Everybody formed teams either with those they are living with or remotely with friends and family. Everyone dialled into the Zoom meeting so that they could chat and hear the questions and then the teams liaised between themselves remotely on other electronic devices (e.g. by phone) so that they could discuss their answers privately. Answers were then submitted by team captains to our quiz email address where our backroom boys totted up the scores.

**Q: How many people took part?**

**A:** We counted 56 people altogether at one time, although we think there may have been a few more.

**Q: Who were the winners?**

**A:** The competition was very tight, with little between the teams, but the top three were: (1) Eleanor for the Children's Liturgy Team; (2) the Falernians (a combined Team of the Harrison and Pereira families); (3) The Taylors (a combined team of

Geraldine Taylor and family and supporters from the Ursuline High School).

**Q: Do you have any questions from the quiz so that parishioners can challenge themselves at home?**

**A:** We had a number of subject rounds ranging from "Sport" to "Food and Drink", but people's favourite round, however, was "How good a Catholic are you?" and that was the round that most people used their joker card in order to double their scores. Here are the questions from that round:

- (1) On any given week (when there are no days of Holy Obligation and excluding funerals and weddings), in total how many Masses does the Sacred Heart Parish offer for a whole week?
- (2) Which former parishioner was responsible for founding Sacred Heart Church?
- (3) What date is Pentecost on this year?
- (4) There are three chapels at the back of the church (behind the sanctuary) Who are the chapels dedicated to?
- (5) What is the date of Canon John's birthday?
- (6) In addition to the relics of some Roman Martyrs, the relics of two very well known English Martyrs are stored in a bronze reliquary under the altar at Sacred Heart Church. What are the names of the two English martyrs?
- (7) What date is the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on?

**Q: What were the highlights of the night?**

**A:** Seeing the faces of and being able to

connect with the parishioners, Canon John and Sr Dorothy (who was a fantastic quiz master) was really lovely, but also quite poignant.

Q: Were there any hairy moments?

A: Not knowing whether the quiz would actually work was quite hairy, as well as having to add up scores, although we had help from our backroom boys Eamonn and Patrick. I think the most hairy moment was controversy over the date of the Feast of the Sacred Heart – apparently it is on a different date this year to other years. However, quiz master Sr Dorothy came to the rescue and resolved the matter.

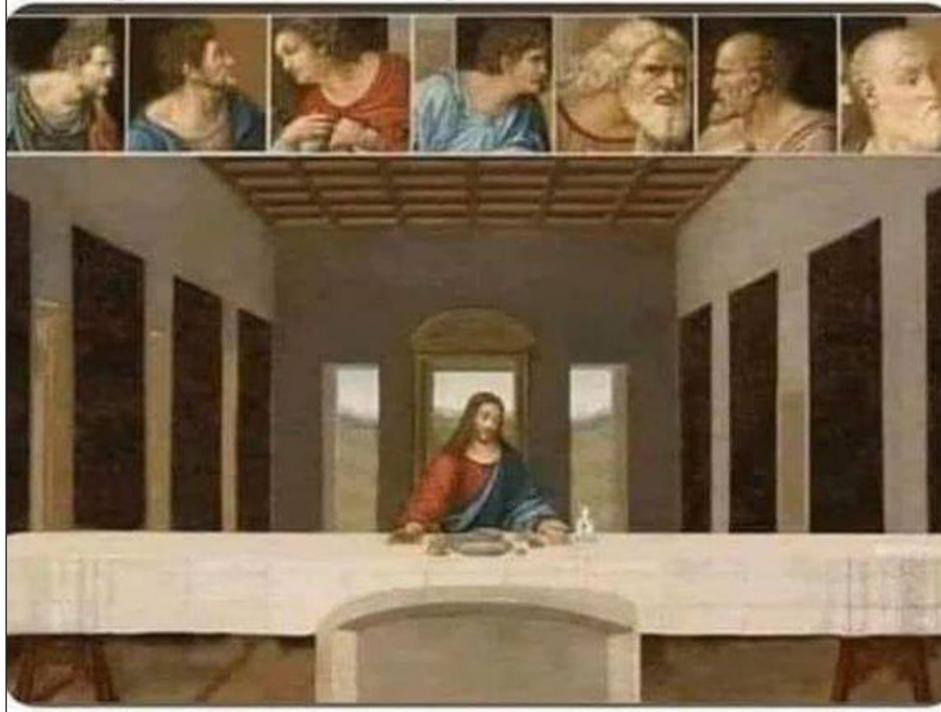
Q: Would you do it again?

A: Definitely! If there's enough interest we would be happy to run it again now that we know we can do it! If anyone is interested in doing the quiz please email us at [sacredheartquiz@gmail.com](mailto:sacredheartquiz@gmail.com) by 30 May 2020 so that we can gauge whether we will run it again.

*Editor's note:* In case you are wondering, the Feast of the Sacred Heart is a moveable solemnity, which falls on a Friday 19 days after Pentecost. This year it falls on June 19; last year it was June 28; next year it will be June 11. The earliest date it can fall is May 29 (which it did in 1818); the latest is July 2 (which it did in 1943).

## The Last Supper revisited (via Zoom)

"Alright, does everyone have sound?"



Back in 1991, *"The Fate of Glassingall"* was published by Impact Books/Harrap.

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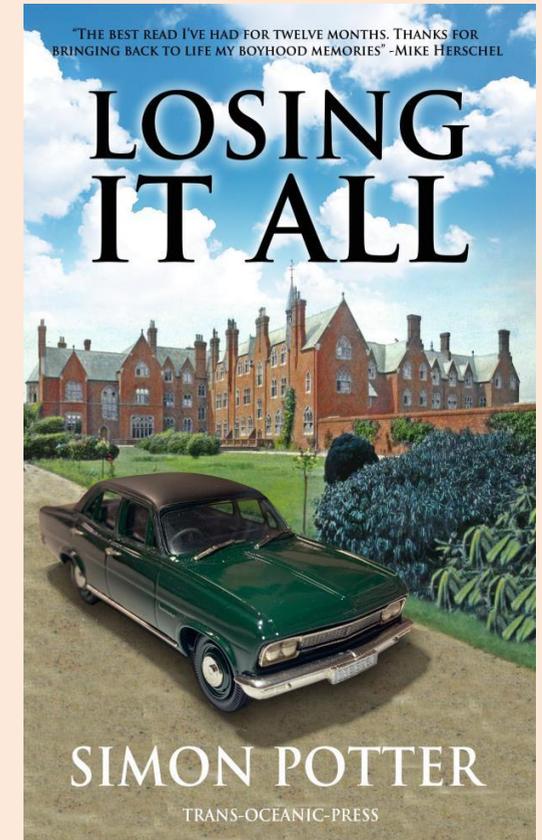
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# Bob's Italian organ tour

*Our musical director BOB RATHBONE reminisces about some of the memorable organs he has played during trips to Italy, in the days – remember them? – when foreign travel was as simple as booking a ticket and boarding a plane*

These photos were all taken on school trips to Italy I made with Wimbledon College Choir, some of them on my recce visits to sort out singing venues.

They remind me of very

happy times working with great sets of pupils, who always sang their hearts out to the amazement of the local parishioners and clergy.

However, not all Italian organs are in the best of shape!



**VENICE:** The amazing Basilica of Sta Maria Gloriosa dei Frari is famous for many things, not least that it is the final resting place of Claudio Monteverdi, one of my heroes in music.

We sang Mass there twice, in 2013 and 2015, and on both occasions performed Monteverdi's wonderful motet *Cantate Domino*.

I must admit to being slightly daunted conducting it, but on both occasions I turned and gave a thankful nod towards Monteverdi's gravestone. The photo at the organ has in the background Titian's masterpiece *The Assumption of the Virgin* (Titian is also buried in the Basilica).



**ROME:** St John Lateran (above) is the most important Basilica of the Roman church, the seat of the Bishop of Rome (who is also of course the Holy Father). Rather than play the main organ, which is too far away from where we were singing, I had to play this one in the transept. You can see my thoughts on it – it was so out of tune I had to transpose chords given to the choir. All the great polyphonic masters who worked there, including Palestrina and Lassus, must have been spinning in their graves.

**ROME:** Oratorio S Francesco Saverio del Caravita (left) is a Jesuit community based next door to the magnificent church of S Ignazio. The equally beautiful oratorio chapel holds a weekly parish Mass in English with all the musical trimmings; the organ is an electronic Wyvern, but quite fine with a very good speaker system high in the west end. This was in 2017, the first and only year I played rather than conducted (my excellent successor Ifor Thomas conducted on this occasion).



VENICE: The former Jesuit church of Sta Maria Assunta (or I Gesuiti) is a gem of art in stone: everything, including the curtains draped around the pulpit and the High Altar, is crafted in stone and around the apex of the exterior is a fantastical riot of statuary. It is an incredible edifice, but sadly the same cannot be said of the organ, which was literally falling to pieces. I managed to get a few squeaks out of it, but immediately decided we would sing entirely a capella!

VENICE: (Left) Basilica SS Giovanni e Paulo is the largest church in Venice – this photo of me trying out the organ does not give the sense that this gallery is about 100 feet up! No safety rail – and I’m not one for heights at all. We sang a recital here, and the organ was played by pupil Martin Willems, our organ scholar at the Sacred Heart at the time.



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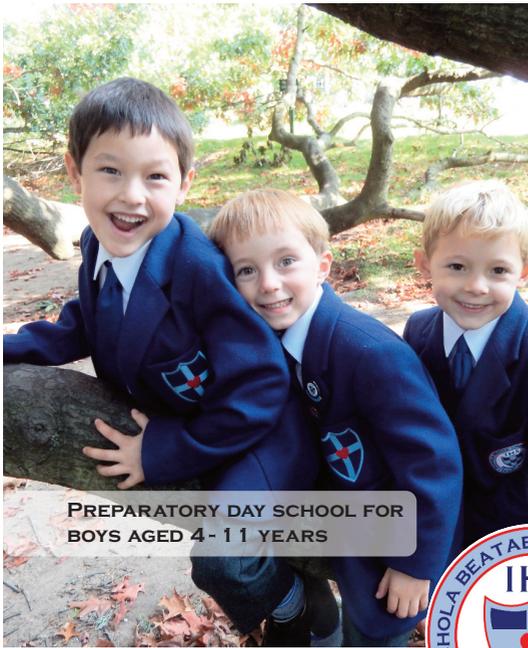
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### PARISH PICTURE PUZZLES

# Where in the Sacred Heart parish would you see these?

For several years, Edgeways ran a picture quiz, asking readers to identify from details the various features in and around the church. As access to the church is denied us at present, here are some of those picture posers to test your memory – with clues. Answers at the bottom of page 18



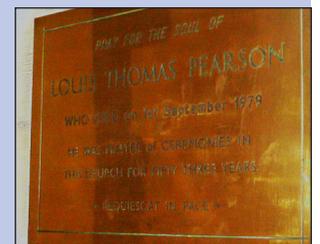
1. Where are these precariously perched angels to be found? They are in a chapel that has never been popular – indeed, when it was opened in 1915, the bishop refused to consecrate it, considering it liturgically wrong to step down stairs to an altar. The church's architect, Frederick Walters, is said to have burst into tears when he first saw it.

2. The founder of a new Catholic order begs for alms in Protestant London in 1530 – which he did so successfully he earned his keep for a year. One of a series of paintings by Albert Chevallier-Taylor (1862-1925) – but of whom, and where?



3. Lighting the way forward to enlightenment for those who are less fleet of foot! The drainpipe is a clue.

4. This plaque commemorates Louis Thomas Pearson, who died in 1979 after serving as the parish master of ceremonies for more than 50 years. It's not visible from the nave, although it is very close to it.





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**For more information please contact Clare on 020 8942 4137 or [clare.jefferies@homeinstead.co.uk](mailto:clare.jefferies@homeinstead.co.uk)**

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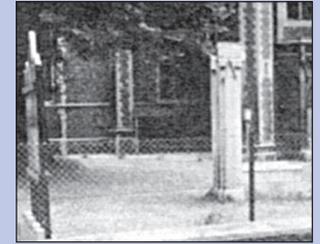


## PARISH PICTURE PUZZLES



5. This angel is part of a carved memorial originally intended to honour Wimbledon College boys who had died in the First World War. But the donor, Mrs Small, of Donhead Lodge (later the home of the prep school), decided she did not like it, so the memorial was never finished.

6. A cheeky one this, as it no longer stands and thus can't be seen. But do you know what it was and where it might have been found? It was damaged beyond repair when a tree fell on it during a storm in 1955.



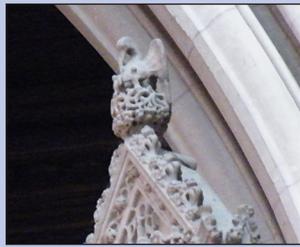
7. Who is this chap, and what's he doing? Once you work out where he's doing it, it all starts to make sense where it can be seen! For a clue, see *John 2:1-11*.

8. Where can you see this finely wrought metalwork? It's a detail from one of a pair of objects that could be said to be "hidden in plain view"!



9. A roll-call of names – but whose names are they? Former Sacred Heart parish priests? Victims of the First World War? Notable legatees? Work out who they are and you will have a clue where this can be seen.

10. One for the twitchers among us: you can actually see a pelican nesting in the church. The pelican's place in Christian iconography is due to the legend that, in extremis, the mother pelican will pierce its own breast in order to feed its starving chicks.



11. Squiggle, squiggle, squiggle. We have no idea what these hieroglyphics mean, if anything, but whatever they are, they pre-date the Wingdings font you have on your PC.

12. Where in the church would you see an carved angel bearing this message? It's not in view within the main part of the church, but the more adventurous parishioners who have visited one of the church's "hidden gems" – the chapels behind the sanctuary – will have an idea where it can be found.



13. Where in the church would you see this angelic chap, "lording" it over us all?

## ANSWERS

1. The Holy Souls Chapel at the top of the north aisle; 2. The St Ignatius Chapel on the north aisle; 3. Above the access door for the disabled; 4. On the pillar behind the pulpit; 5. On the right-hand side of the oak surround of the marble Pietà; 6. The Sacred Heart's original war memorial stood outside the church near to where the parish noticeboard now stands; 7. On the wall above the Upper Hall entrance; 8. At the base of the two main candlesticks on either side in the sanctuary; 9. The Martyrs' Chapel on the south aisle; 10. Atop the tabernacle in the sanctuary; 11. In the book held by St Anthony by the stairs to the choir loft; 12. The chapel of Our Lady; 13. The rood in the nave.

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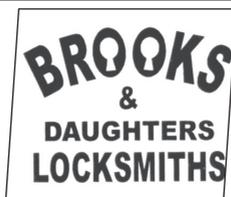
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# Aid for churches in even greater need

*Parishioners will be familiar with Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) through our support of Red Wednesday. But like dogs and Christmas, ACN is not just for Red Wednesday; it has been at the forefront of helping persecuted Christians whose daily burdens have been augmented by the suspicion and prejudice surrounding coronavirus, as ACN's US project director, REGINA LYNCH, explains*

What are we currently hearing from our project partners regarding the greatest needs in this time of the Covid-19 pandemic?

From our project partners in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Central and Eastern Europe, we are not so much hearing about medical needs but rather about the effects of the restrictions on the daily life of the Church. In most countries where ACN supports the local Church, governments have applied the same restrictions as in our donor countries. That means no public Masses, no public gatherings, schools are closed and more and more people have difficulty in earning a living. And these in countries where, for the most part, Christians are a minority – sometimes persecuted – and belong to the lower social strata.

The Church itself is hardest hit by the fact that there are no public Masses or the possibility to carry out the normal pastoral and social programmes in the parishes. In many of our partner countries, the collection at Sunday Mass ensures the survival of the parish. The money from the collection – or often instead it can be chickens, vegetables, rice etc – guarantees that the priest can eat, pay the Sisters serving the parish, buy petrol for his motorcycle for visiting the sick or even have a small sum to help the poorest of the parishioners.

As a pastoral charity, ACN wants to help the local Church carry out its primary mission of bringing God's love and word to people and ensure that it is not hindered in

this mission by a lack of financial resources. That means that we are providing subsistence aid to priests and to Sisters, both active and contemplative. We have continued to help the seminaries, as in many cases the seminarians are in confinement and the rector has no means to look after them.

For example, in the major seminary in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo, the rector sent us an SOS, as he could no longer rely on the local population to help feed the seminarians. We are providing funds for masks and other protective clothing to priests, Sisters and seminarians, for example in Chile or in Ukraine, where they continue to visit their parishioners, particularly the sick or the dying.

And in order to bring Mass and the Gospel message to the faithful at home via television or radio, we have funded the necessary technical equipment.

For the Christians in Syria, who were already struggling to survive after nine years of war, we are launching a special programme enabling each family to buy food and some form of protection against the pandemic. In Pakistan, another country where Christians face discrimination and sometimes persecution because of their faith, we are working on a programme to come to provide aid because we heard from the Church that the Christians were not receiving emergency aid from the government.

ACN started an emergency programme in order that the priests and Sisters could

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face the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. Thanks to the generosity of our donors since March, we have managed to send out more than 385,000 Mass stipends (more than US\$3.4 million) to more than 10,500 priests. More than half of these went to the Church in Africa, the continent where the Church and priestly vocations continue to grow but where the Church faces the challenge of an increasingly aggressive form of Islam, conflicts and natural disasters.

So far, we have made promises of some US\$880,000 as subsistence help to Sisters in all parts of the world and more requests are coming in. This has always been a strong focus of our help for Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America in particular, where the Sisters not only teach catechism or prepare the faithful for the sacraments in isolated regions in Siberia or in the Andes, but where the Sisters also care for orphans, for the abandoned elderly or for girls forced into prostitution.

One of the effects of the Covid-19 crisis is that we are being asked to help for the first time in dioceses where until now they have managed without our help. One example is the Diocese of Kamyanets-Podilsk in Ukraine, where normally the parish pays the Sisters. With the absence of Sunday Mass and the growing poverty of the faithful, the bishop no longer can give the Sisters what they need to survive.

The Archbishop of Chittagong in Bangladesh sent us an urgent appeal for the Sisters working in his archdiocese. With the schools, hostels and dispensaries closed, there is no income to pay the Sisters. Even before the crisis, the little amount that the faithful could contribute to the upkeep of the Sisters was not enough but now the situation has become dramatic. In My-



**Emergency help for families with food baskets in Homs and support to help protect them against the coronavirus**

mensingh, also in Bangladesh, the Holy Cross Sisters together with the bishop are putting all the money available into helping the people, who are suffering, but the Sisters need to survive and that is where ACN can help. In normal times the Holy Cross Sisters, like many Sisters in the developing world, teach the Gospel and also teach the people the skills they need to leave behind their poverty.

We should also not forget the contemplative nuns, who responded enthusiastically to our prayer campaign at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic but who also depend on the generosity of the faithful and their own small income-generating initiatives for their survival. The Carmelite Monastery in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, has difficulty surviving at the best of times by the production of hosts for Mass, but with the current restrictions there is no demand for the hosts and so the Archdiocese of Santa Cruz has appealed to generous donors of ACN to help the nuns through this difficult time.

We expect to continue these projects of support for priests and Sisters for the next few months, because even if in some countries public Masses are beginning to recommence, the economic situation will worsen and our help will be needed more than ever. In other countries the pandemic is still raging.

† To find out more about ACN's work, visit <https://acnuk.org>

# Prayer for the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus



*O most holy heart of Jesus,  
 fountain of every blessing,  
 I adore you, I love you,  
 and with lively sorrow for my sins  
 I offer you this poor heart of mine.  
 Make me humble, patient, pure  
 and wholly obedient to your will.  
 Grant, Good Jesus,  
 that I may live in you and for you.  
 Protect me in the midst of danger.  
 Comfort me in my afflictions.  
 Give me health of body,  
 assistance in my temporal needs,  
 your blessing on all that I do,  
 and the grace of a holy death.  
 Amen.*