



# THE ARCHANGEL

St. Michael's School and Parish • Harts Lane • Burghclere • RG20

No. 21

July-August 2019

## Vidi Speciosam

At the end of her earthly life, our Lady was raised body and soul into heaven.

The Assumption is our Lady's crowning glory, and the proof of her active participation in the plan of redemption.

Mary was conceived without original sin. She was full of grace, and her fullness never stopped increasing until she was finally carried body and soul to her heavenly throne.

For a creature so pure, so innocent and so full of grace, there could be no return to dust and to the slime of the earth as is common to the rest of humanity. God would not even wish her body to remain inert and lifeless until the general resurrection of the dead.

Our Lady's body had never been tainted with the least participation in sin. It had housed a soul that was full of grace. It had been redeemed and made holy in a wondrous manner, in anticipation of our Lord's great sacrifice.

Mary's body had participated in all the acts of adoration, praise and thanksgiving that touched the very heart of God. Her heart had loved, her head had bowed in deep humility before her Maker. Her body, with her soul, had conformed to every inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Her body had collaborated with the Holy Spirit in providing flesh, blood and bone to the second Person of the Holy Trinity. Jesus Christ, her divine Son, found in His mother a blood worthy of Him and of the great work He came to accomplish.

Mary's flesh and blood had fortified God: "Blessed is the womb that bore Thee, and the paps that gave Thee suck!" In her arms she had cradled her divine Child, and He, in turn, had rested in the sweet sanctuary of her bosom.

Her face and her smile had given joy to the human and sacred heart of her Son. Her gazed had encouraged Him, her physical presence had comforted

and strengthened Him, so much so that He would have suffered His passion for her alone, that He might possess this mother who was so worthy of Him.

Mary's immaculate heart comforted and fortified Her Son's most Sacred Heart as it bent under the weight of the sins of mankind. Her immaculate heart was pierced by seven sacred swords. By her spiritual but also physical anguish and sorrow, Mary became co-redemtrix of the human race, in union with her Son. Her body was a direct instrument in the salvation of the world.

Mary's body was in complete harmony with the fullness of grace that sanctified her soul. It could never, therefore, taste corruption and dissolution. God wished her body to share immediately in the glory of heaven. His mother, body and soul, was to be the prize and delight of His angels and saints. For, without Mary's fiat, the angels would have no queen, and the saints no heavenly home.

There is another reason why God wished to raise our Lady, body and soul, into heaven. God understands that we have need of a real mother, of flesh and blood, both here on earth AND in heaven. There would be little consolation for us if we could only pray to our Lady in spirit, whilst her relics remained earthbound. Mary would thus be nothing more than a great saint, the first among many. Pictures and statues would show one who was but who is no more. We would have to wait until the final resurrection of the dead to experience the comforting knowledge of Mary's smile and embrace.

Had God not raised His mother body and soul into heaven, Mary would merely be a memory, not a mother.

May our blessed and glorious Mother guide, guard and bless us, and lead us all to our own happy and glorious resurrection and assumption.

**Fr. John Brucciani, Pastor**

# Vocation & Family

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In the Gospels, our Lord tells us that many are called but few are chosen. We can apply this saying of our Lord to the subject of vocations. We suffer today from a crying penury of vocations. Too few young men and women desire to consecrate their lives to God and the Church. Fewer still find in themselves the resolve necessary to persevere in their religious formation, whether at seminary or in the convent. God remains as generous as in times of old. Divine love continues to call and to beckon souls to come and follow Him. He never tires in seeking to share a special friendship with souls entirely dedicated to Him. Why is it that His silent voice seems no longer to be able to conquer souls so that they submit and surrender their lives to Him and to the service of the souls for whom He shed His blood?

Without a doubt, the family is the primary soil in which a vocation first germinates and takes root. If the family is happy and healthy, the children will be happy and healthy. If the family is unhappy and disorganized, the children will be unhappy and unruly.

Healthy families are those where parents strive to create an atmosphere of order, discipline, and piety in the home. They endeavor to shape family life in such a way that it offers the children an environment of structure and routine. Although children are sometimes slow in accommodating themselves to family discipline and seem only to delight in the unexpected and the unforeseen, in reality their natures crave security and reassurance. Children are by definition unprepared to face the big, wide world, and although they are intrigued and enticed, they remain unconsciously aware of their incapacity to comprehend and to deal with the unknown.

Healthy families are, therefore, those that provide children with a setting that is made of regularity and routine. This, in turn, calls for discipline and perseverance which alone allow for the growth of virtue and good habits. The good example of their parents is of paramount importance. Most often, a child will only be as virtuous as his parents. Their behavior sets the tone. This is why children are so often shocked and disappointed when they perceive imperfection in their parents. Parents are, to them, oracles of honesty and truth. Children expect, therefore, their parents to practice what they preach and to practice it to perfection. Good example is the parent's primary educational tool.

Good habits perfect nature. They make us good men and women. When divine grace meets a well-trained mind and will, it is able to work divine wonders.

Piety is not an addition but an essential ingredient in the education of children. Family prayer and family participation in the liturgical life of the Church are vital elements in a child's formation. They open the soul to the workings of God's grace, which will eventually flower into fruits of holiness and generosity.

Family piety is first ordained to the sanctification of the family itself. A child prays not just for himself, but for his parents and siblings. He assists at Holy Mass, not just for himself, but as a member of his family, for his and their sanctification and safeguard. Such an outlook instills in the child an awareness and concern not just for personal good, but for the greater good of the community. In short, the child grows into an adult who is aware of his duties not just to himself, but to the great church community of which he is member: the Catholic Church.

Too often youngsters possess only an individualistic understanding of their duties to God. They remain oblivious and ignorant of their obligation not just to sanctify their own souls, but also the souls of their fellow members of the Mystical Body of Christ. Holiness is a corporate endeavor, not just an individual undertaking.

By creating in a child an awareness of his duties to God, to family, and to the Church, and by offering him an opportunity of practicing those duties, the child is able to see past his own spiritual needs and embrace those of souls further afield. This is an essential component of the decision process that leads to the choice of a priestly or religious vocation.

Parents must, therefore, be in earnest to open their children's minds to the spiritual duties and needs of their fellow men. This can only happen if the parents themselves set out on their own quest for holiness, for the good of their family, the Church, and the world. Piety must be a visible element in the life of all fathers and mothers.

It is no mystery that vocations are born most often to families whose parents are serious about their own sanctification. Whenever possible, they try to attend Holy Mass and other church services, in order to furnish their own contribution to the building up of the Mystical Body of Christ. Such parents are wise to include some of their children in their regular visits to church. Their family and their church need their prayers and their presence before the altar of divine sacrifice.

An ordered, disciplined, and pious family thus prepares the soul of the child by attuning it to the si-

lent sound of God's call. Like the young Samuel, the child will hear God's voice and spontaneously respond: "Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth." (1Sam.3:9) Of a now trained and disciplined disposition, the young man or the young lady will be able to embrace the life of abnegation and restraint required to persevere through training up to the moment of irrevocable consecration and oblation.

The sacrifice of one's life requires much courage, determination, and dedication. It is in and through the family, and through the example of dedicated and disciplined parents that a child is able to acquire the strength, understanding, and commitment necessary to respond to God's invitation. Most importantly, a good and healthy family is one where the child is taught the art of love. In their parents, children must see charity in action, between the parents themselves and between the parents and God. Blessed are those born and reared by parents who understand that their children belong first to God, who may wish to associate them in His work of redemption. They must, therefore, prepare their children for a possible calling, by giving them an ordered home, wise counsel, and good example. ☪



## Fr. John Gerard

By Michael F. Morley

Review by Elena Morley

Knowing what Mr. Morley's history lessons were like, I had great expectations of this new published work, Father John Gerard: and Mr. Morley did not disappoint. The true account is gripping and vividly written. The story is that of Father John Gerard's life during the infamous Elizabethan era, when priests were condemned as spies and secret agents. Aided by his fellow Catholics, Fr. Gerard uses all his ingenuity, bravery and faith in God to keep one jump ahead of the man hunt. Betrayal and loyalty in equally unlikely places, daring rescues and miraculously close calls fill this book with a pace that never slackens. Mr. Morley's views on the 'bad guys' are very clear throughout each description: but backed by the historically accurate accounts, they never detract from the narrative.

What really made the book for me, apart from the gripping storyline, was the personality of Fr. Gerard. Throughout every chapter, Mr. Morley brings to life his staunch, buoyant nature, his infinite Faith and optimism, and his general Britishness in the face of adversity. In extracts from his autobiography, Fr. Gerard also proves himself the master of The Understatement, and his wit is reflected throughout by Mr. Morley's own dry humour.

Years of experience teaching twelve- to fifteen-year-olds this very era of history, writing his own curriculum, has refined Mr. Morley's engaging narrative style. Those who balk at "historical biography", never fear that you will have to wade through choppy facts or Fr. Gerard's ancestry to Adam and Eve. In this book, facts are the settings, character sketches and diary entries of real people, events and places, woven into a fascinating true story whose pace never slackens. Fact is stronger than fiction, which is what gives this narrative its edge. ♣

### Founder's Spirit Conference

The 2019 Founder's Spirit Conference will take place at St. Saviour's House, Knowle, Bristol from August 24th-26th 2019. The cost is £60.00 per person. [Details on SSPX website.](#) All young people should look to attend. Excellent opportunity to deepen the Faith and to socialize. Age 18+

Sign up necessary. Contact James Dew

[foundersconference@gmail.com](mailto:foundersconference@gmail.com)

## SSPX Pilgrimage



### to Our Lady of Walsingham

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August — Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September  
2019

**For many Priestly and Religious Vocations  
and for the Solemn Consecration of our  
faithful, our families and our country to the  
Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary.**

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup>:** Pilgrims should meet at the *Slipper Chapel* for a prompt **12pm** start of the *Procession* into Walsingham, where *The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass* will be celebrated in the *Abbey grounds* shortly after our arrival there (~1pm).

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>:** *Holy Mass @ 10:30am* in the *Abbey Grounds*



*N.B.* The faithful should make their own arrangements for travel & overnight accommodation. [best at Catholic Pilgrim Bureau, NR22 6EG. ☎: 01328 820217]

## WEEKLY CONFESSIONS

- Saturday: 11:00
- 1st Friday during Holy Hour
- Sunday before Masses

## BENEDICTION & ROSARY

Sunday 18:00

CHAPEL CLEANING  
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED  
CONTACT  
[katsudlow@gmail.com](mailto:katsudlow@gmail.com)



## Worn Kneelers

Our kneelers are in a sorry state of repair. It is a good thing, as they show evidence of frequent use!

We are looking for a few pairs of skilled hands who can begin to replace the kneeler fabric, and, where necessary, the padding also. We have the fabric and will procure the padding as needed. Please contact Father O'Hart if you are able to assemble a team. It would be good if, by Christmas, the kneelers were repaired, ready for many more prayers! Contact:

[housemaster@sanctusmichael.com](mailto:housemaster@sanctusmichael.com)

## Kitchen Deep Clean

Looking for some kind souls to deep clean the kitchen and back dining room. There is a good day's work for two or three people. Contact Fr O'Hart.

[housemaster@sanctusmichael.com](mailto:housemaster@sanctusmichael.com)

## Painters Needed

Two junior classrooms are in urgent need of painting. Tubs, rollers and brushes ready and waiting for volunteers. Contact Fr O'Hart.

[housemaster@sanctusmichael.com](mailto:housemaster@sanctusmichael.com)

## DINING HALL TOILET CARERS NEEDED

[housemaster@sanctusmichael.com](mailto:housemaster@sanctusmichael.com)

Fr Hennick absent until 31st Aug.

Fr Brucciani absent until 25th Aug.

Fr Barrett absent until 10th Aug.

	Liturgical Calendar August 2019	Masses
1	Feria	8:00 am
2	St. Alphonsus Liguori (1st Fri., Holy Hour 6pm)	7:00 pm
3	Saturday of our Lady (1st Saturday)	7:30 / 42:00
4	<b>8th Sunday after Pentecost</b>	7:30 Low
		9:00 Low
		18:00 Benediction
5	Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major	7:15 am
6	<b>The Transfiguration of Our Lord</b>	7:15 am
7	St. Cajetan, Confessor	7:15 am
8	St. John Mary Vianney, Confessor	7:15 am
9	Vigil of St. Laurence	7:15 am
10	St. Laurence, Deacon and Martyr	7:30 / 12:00
11	<b>9th Sunday after Pentecost</b>	7:30 Low
		9:00 Low
		18:00 Benediction
12	St. Clare, Virgin	7:15 am
13	Feria	7:15 am
14	Vigil of the Assumption	7:15 am
15	<b>Assumption of the BVM</b>	<b>7:15 / 19:00 sung</b>
16	St. Joachim, Father of the BVM	7:15 am
17	St. Hyacinth, Confessor	7:30 / 12:00
18	<b>10th Sunday after Pentecost</b>	7:30 Low
		9:00 Low
		18:00 Benediction
19	St. John Eudes, Confessor	7:15 am
20	St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Abbot & Doctor	7:15 am
21	St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Widow	7:15 am
22	<b>The Immaculate Heart of the BVM</b>	<b>7:15 / 19:00</b>
23	St. Philip Benizi, Confessor	7:15 am
24	St. Bartholomew, Apostle	7:30 / 12:00
25	<b>11th Sunday after Pentecost</b>	7:30 Low
		9:00 Low
		18:00 Benediction
26	Feria	7:15 am
27	St. Joseph Calasance, Confessor	7:15 am
28	St. Augustine, Bishop, Confessor & Doctor	7:15 am
29	Beheading of St. John the Baptist	7:15 am
30	St. Rose of Lima, Virgin	7:15 am
31	St. Raymond Nonnatus, Confessor	



## Rosary for St. Michael's School

Thanks to parents' initiative, the holy rosary will be recited between Masses each Sunday for the protection and welfare of St. Michael's School. This extra spiritual help comes at a time when State intervention seeks to erode the fundamental parental right to their children's education.

Evening benediction and rosary will continue as usual.