



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: indeed it's the only thing that ever does.
(Margaret Mead)



PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

A Sleeping World Emerges

A sleeping world emerges to new possibilities,
weakening winter's icy grip,
and birdsong and bleating lamb
announce to all the promise
that in due season
creation bursts into life.
And whilst leaves that fell in winter
lie upon the ground,
soon to feed the earth,
in nature's wondrous cycle
of death and rebirth,
within the tree is a stirring of new growth.

LIGHT A CANDLE FOR AFRICA APPEAL

Thank you for your generosity in giving to our annual appeal to support our sisters in Congo and Rwanda. This year's appeal raised a wonderful £2368.75.

The prayer tree in the photo has your prayer intentions written on the labels attached and the Community have been praying for those intentions during Advent and Christmastide.

We have sent money raised by this appeal and the summer's tea box appeal to both Goma and Rwanda.

The sisters in Goma are struggling with how to help the swarms of people coming to them at the hospital who are ill with Covid - and they have no vaccines.

The sisters in Rwanda are using money to build an additional room in their centre for young people with learning difficulties in Muhanga.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Before we were overwhelmed with the new Omicron variant, we managed a few gatherings to celebrate Christmas locally with some of our children and 'older people'.



RIP



Some Old Fishes will remember Sister Mary Dismas (Jean Henderson) who was a member of the Community, Housemistress and teacher at New Hall in the 50s-80s before transferring to our Priory in Maarssen Holland.

She moved back to England spending her last years in the same care home in Bury St Edmunds where her sister (Mary Rose) had lived.

She died in December 2021 and six members of the Community were able to attend her funeral in the chapel of the care home run by the Sisters of Grace and Compassion.

St AUGUSTINE



"You are the mystery that is placed upon the Lord's table. You receive the mystery that is yourself. To that which you are, you will respond, 'Amen'."

COMMUNITY THEME

As part of our exploration of *COMMUNITY* (our theme for this year's reflection) we were delighted to welcome Sister/Dr Gemma Simmonds CJ to share her thoughts on 'Global Community in a time of crisis'. Gemma's thought-provoking reflections gave rise to many questions and comments. It is well worth watching the session via our website through this link:



[Global community in a time of crisis: towards a better future - 9 January 2022 - YouTube](#)



Please join us for our next session of input on our Community theme -

Tuesday 8th February - 6.45 - 8pm on Zoom.

To register for this event please follow the link:

[The Global is Local: building hope through action in the local community - Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre](#)

SISTER MARY FRANCIS



A book has been published by the Community as a tribute to Sister Mary Francis who died last year. The Community would be pleased to post a copy to anyone who wants one, on a first come first serve basis. We do ask for a donation via PayPal towards the costs via:

<https://canonesses.co.uk/contacts/donations/>
(reason for donation - "Francis Book"). Please also email crssuk@canonesses.co.uk with your name and postal address.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Reflective Zooms for the Triduum: Ash Wednesday 5.30pm; Maundy Thursday 5.30pm; Good Friday 7pm; Holy Saturday 10am.

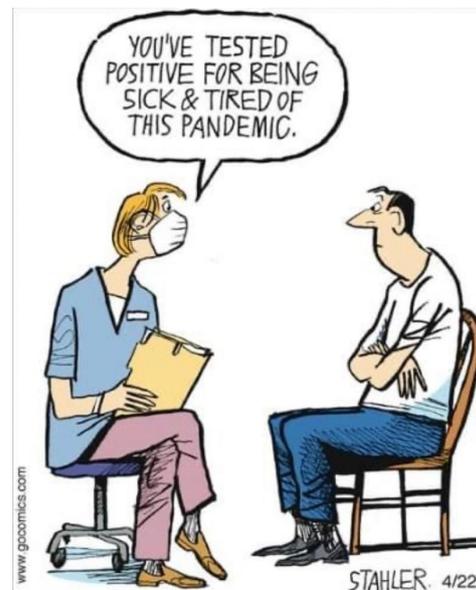
Lent course: We will be using the Church Action on Poverty course each Monday in Lent at 5.30pm on Zoom. If you would like a preview this is the link:

<https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/lent-course-for-2022-life-on-the-breadline/>

Tuesday 8th February: 6.45 - 8pm on Zoom. The Global is Local (see above).

Saturday 5th November: 2pm, New Hall, Mass for the Dead.

END WITH A SMILE!!



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