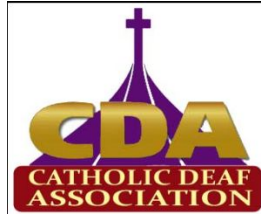


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April Newsletter 2026

Easter greetings from our CDA Chaplain:

“Wishing all members and all readers of our CDA newsletter the blessings and joys of a very Happy Holy Easter.

May the Risen Jesus Christ comfort you and bring peace.

God bless you all.”

Fr Paul Fletcher SJ



**The CDA wishes
English Catholics
a very Happy
St George Day
on 23rd April 2026**



Picture from St Telio Church, St Fagin Welsh Museum

Holy Week Mass times on Zoom at 8am



Thursday 2nd April 2026

Good Friday 3rd April 2026

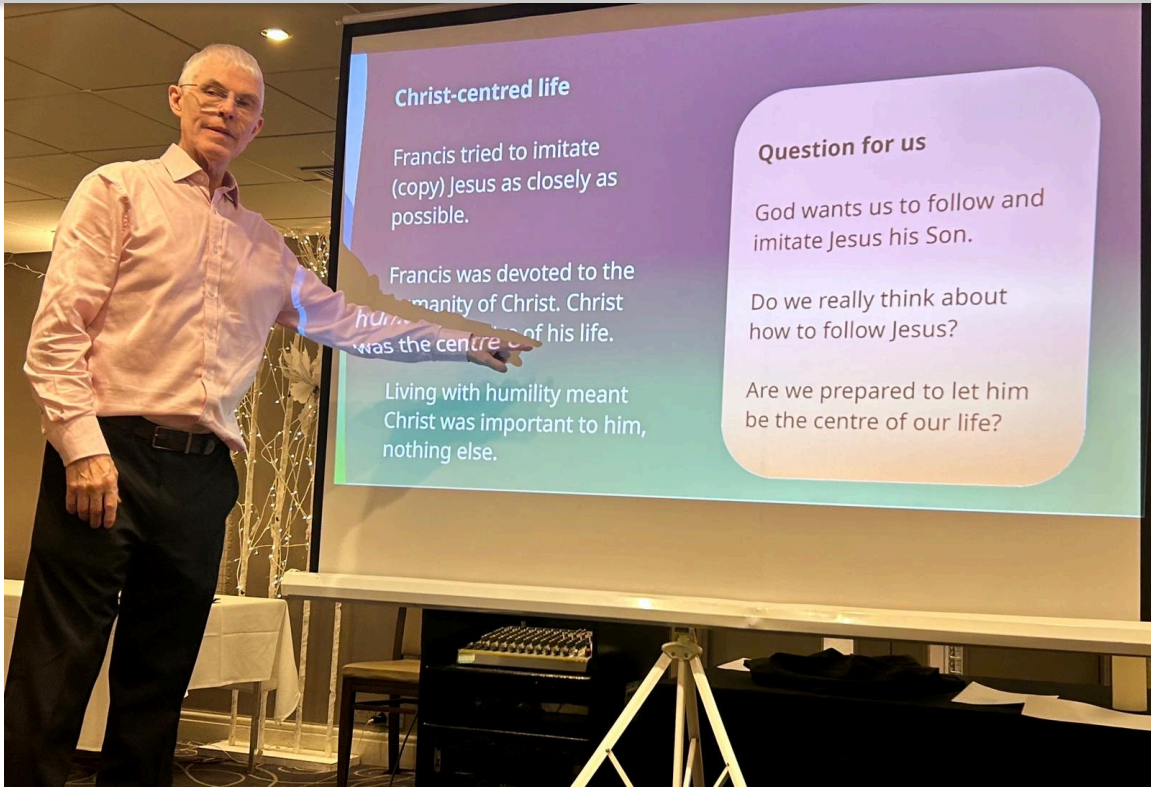
Easter Sunday 5th April 2026

Everyone is welcome to join, just go to CDA website front page
and click on Zoom Mass.

Blackpool Conference 2026

Over 50 people attended Blackpool conference. There were new faces, and old faces
not seen for a while. Many travelled from various places of UK & Ireland.





Peter McDonough teaching us about St Francis of Assisi



Food in Hotel Sheraton is lovely.
They offer alternatives for those with dietary restrictions



Beautiful smile on a beautiful day.

Sr Ruth Hirst OSC.

As far as Fr Paul knows, Sr Ruth is the only congenital signing deaf Poor Clare.



Awww, the smiles.



Sounds like it was a Boston Spa reunion that day!

Spotlight on Ian Urquhart



Photograph of Ian taken in Rome 2025 with CDA

Hello and welcome to CDA Spotlight. Thank you for taking the time to answer some questions so that we can get to know you better.

DH - What role did the Catholic faith play in your life growing up?

Ian - My mother was a practising Catholic but my father was Scottish Presbyterian. I was baptised Catholic and was taken to the local Catholic church in Hayes, Middlesex for regular Sunday Masses.

DH - What is the core value of your faith that you try to live by?

Ian - Communication, empathy, integrity and respect.

DH - How were you taught initially?

Catholic pupils were given one half-hour Catholic Catechism class by a Catholic teacher weekly, doing homework on the Catechism thus I learned a lot about the Church. The same teacher gave me lessons on how to prepare for my first Confirmation and in the end he acted as my sponsor in place of my mother. I stopped going to the local Church after passing my 21st birthday, as I couldn't follow the Mass dialogue.

DH - What have been your personal faith journey?

Ian - My personal faith journey consists of regular attendances at signed Deaf Masses, Holy Week services, pilgrimages to Walsingham and also a few aboard like Lourdes. And attendances at annual CCRS reunions. I used to revisit Walsingham so I am familiar with the Norfolk Village.

As for Deaf Masses, I am responsible for writing the monthly Bidding prayers and I used to sign them at each Deaf Mass in the past but not now as I decided to give other Deaf Catholics the opportunity to get involved by signing the Bidding Prayers in turn.

DH - Who first taught you about God?

Ian - It was my mother who first taught me about God, and later in school.

DH - Did that lead you to be a historian?

Ian - No, I started to read history at the age of 10. During my childhood and teenage years I read a lot about the history of the Papacy, even the Borgias! Also I read about the evolution of the Catholic Church. But I am always interested in the Popes thus purchasing many books on the theme.

DH - Did being a historian lead you to believe in God?

Ian - No. General History never encouraged me to believe in God but reading the Bible caused me to find faith in God especially the Story of Jesus Christ. I always enjoyed reading the Bible, especially the historical periods.

DH - Was there a specific moments or experience that solidified your beliefs?

Part 2 of Ian's Spotlight will be in May Newsletter

Walsingham CDA Pilgrimage



Join us at Walsingham for a CDA Pilgrimage on Saturday **16th May 2026**.

Meet outside Catholic Church of the Annunciation at 11.30am, next to the Black Lion pub in Friday Market; or inside the Church for a Service starting 12noon.

Please check poster in CDA website.

Walsingham Pilgrimage (Brentwood Diocese)

The Diocese of Brentwood has their annual pilgrimage to Walsingham on Saturday 23rd May 2026. This year they are providing a BSL interpreter. All are welcome.

Please contact Sr Marika Rebicsek via email: laudem-gloriae@outlook.com or via SMS text: 07709126407.

Justice and Peace conference

Peter McDonough was contacted by Liz Archbald who asked if he would deliver a Deaf Awareness session at their weekend conference 24th - 26th July 2026 in Hayes Swanwick centre, Derbyshire. Our Chairperson, Joselyn and Peter will both attend the conference on Friday and Saturday, having a stall with CDA banner and leaflets to promote CDA.

Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies

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CCRS course

Presentations in BSL

Group discussions

Research, study, thinking, reflection
and prayer

Deaf friendly with Deaf tutors



CCRS course - what is it?

An accredited course approved by the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales

8 modules exploring the Scriptures (OT & NT), the Person of Jesus Christ, the Church, its Sacramental life, Moral understanding and two specialist modules (Catechism and Pastoral theology)

Designed for Deaf persons interested in being involved in the local Deaf community, providing support and empowering them to share fully in the life of the church

Assignments can be typed English or BSL signed video. Successful completion leads to a **Certificate in Catholic Religious Studies**.

And an opportunity for faith and personal development

Where? St Joseph's Deaf club (St Patrick's Church, Livesey Street, M4 5HF)

Cost? We will make the cost as reasonable as possible. The more Deaf students who enrol, the lower the cost will be.

When? Hopefully from September 2026, one Saturday a month (not December, April, August)

Interested?

Contact Fr Paul Fletcher SJ (pmf1uk@yahoo.co.uk)

or Peter McDonough (peterjpmcdonough@gmail.com)

Fr Paul Fletcher and Peter McDonough announced they will give another CCRS course for people who want to be involved in the local Deaf community providing support and empowering them to share fully in the life of the Church. See flyer above.

The course will be held one Saturday a month (except December, April and August) over the next 3 years. Dates will be confirmed this summer.

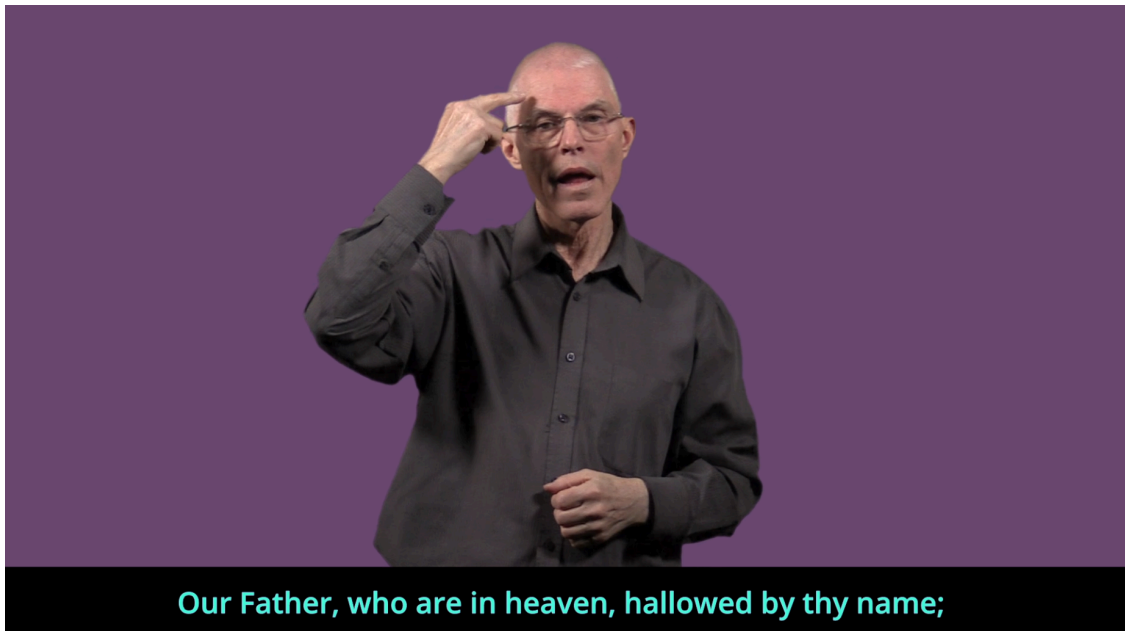
If you are interested in attending, or would like to know more, please contact -

Fr Paul Fletcher SJ - email: pmf1uk@yahoo.co.uk

Peter McDonough - email: peterjpmcdonough@gmail.com

Also check our website for more information.

MASS RESPONSES



A video of 'Mass responses', useful for learning and practising Mass responses in British Sign Language at Mass with the Deaf community is now available in www.catholicdeaf.org.uk under 'Catechism', or you can go directly to: <https://youtu.be/d-szZkpdsVg> It might be useful for the Deaf community especially those involved in preparing signed Masses. Please send your feedback to the Secretary: secretary@catholicdeaf.org.uk

Lourdes pilgrimage 2026

Father Paul Fletcher and James Fitzgerald (iBSL nterpreter) and 4 Deaf pilgrims will be visiting Lourdes with the HCPT 556 group, 15th—22nd August 2026. Fully booked - no more bookings accepted, sorry!

Our Lady of Medjugorje trip

David Morgan, a CDA council member, is organising a trip to Medjugorje, in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 7th -14th October 2027. Please contact David directly in St Patrick's church, Collyhurst, Manchester. Or email CDA secretary to pass on your interest.

Message from the Treasurer

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helps us provide support to the Deaf community across the United Kingdom and Ireland (North and South).

When you help a needy person, do it in such a way that even your closest friend will not know about it. Then it will be a private matter. And your Father, who sees what you do in private, will reward you (Matthew 6:3-4)

Upcoming Events

Walsingham CDA Pilgrimage - Saturday 16th May 2026

CDA AGM - Saturday 26th September 2026 (Westminster Cathedral Hall)

CCRS Course - September 2026 (Manchester)

Trip to shrine of Our Lady of Knock, Ireland - May/June 2027 tbc

Trip to shrine of Our Lady of Medjugorje - October 2027 tbc

Pope Leo's Intention

For priests in Crisis

“Let us pray for Priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that their communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

Remember - Easter Novena

Begin Easter Novena on 4th April to finish on Feast Day 12th April.

Prayer Wall

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Sr Marika Rebicsek (Essex)

Sr Angela (Manchester)

Fr Paul Daley (Salford)

Brian Davies (Greenford)

Karla Huggins (Southampton)

Roy Plumbley (Hove)

Angela Davies (North Wales)

CDA Faith Group

This is the WhatsApp group that is open to all CDA members where we can share our faith, information, announcements...

Please contact either [Peter McDonough](#) or [Maria Booker](#) to have your names added.

CDA Rosary prayers



[Wednesdays at 8am](#)

Join us for Stations of the Cross via Zoom. After Easter, Rosary.

Please contact [Maria Booker](#)

If you are not sure how, just come and watch. There is no pressure to get involved.

Deaf Catholic World on *Facebook* has daily Rosary prayers in ASL (American Sign Language) if you would like to join in, or watch and pray...

Saint of the Month

Saint George

Born - date unknown. Cappadocia, modern-day Turkey

Died - 23 April 303AD. Diospolis (Lydda), Syria Palaestina

Canonized 494AD by Pope Gelasius.

St Edmund the Martyr was the original Patron Saint of England in 9th Century onwards; his feast day was 20th November. In 1222, the Council of Oxford declared April 23rd to be St George's Day, and he replaced St Edmund as the Patron Saint of England in the 14th Century.

[St Edmund, original Patron Saint of England](#)

[Royal Society of St. George - Paris - St. George Facts](#)

Saint Quote of the Month

To honour Saint Francis of Assisi, we will have quotes of him every month.

This month is -

“If you have men who will exclude any of God’s creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have men who will likewise deal with fellow men.”



The portrait of St Francis of Assisi
closest to his time on earth 🙏

Did you know...?

German monks invented bowling (kegel) in 3/4th Century. German peasant carried a wooden club, similar to the Irish shillelagh, for protection. It became a customary test of faith in many churches for the parishioner to set up his club, called a Kegel, as a target, which represented the sinner. The monk would then roll a stone at it in an attempt to knock it down. If he succeeded, he was deemed to be free from sin. *Would Fr Paul be happy to bowl away our sins in Walsingham?*

Spanish Omelette

- **Ingredients:** 5/6 large potatoes, 1 large onion (or more according to taste) thinly sliced, olive/vegetable oil, 6/7 large eggs beaten, red/green pepper (optional), salt and pepper.
- **Instructions:**
 1. peel and thinly slice potatoes, wash and drain to dry.
 2. Fill a 28cm big frying pan, half full with oil, heat to hot.
 3. Add potatoes, onions and peppers to the oil and fry moderate heat until just soft not brown. Then strain oil out. Season with salt and pepper.
 4. Add the potato mixture to the beaten eggs, and mix well.
 5. Reheat pan without adding any oil as the pan should be greasy enough.
When the pan is hot, add the egg mixture and press down firmly.
 6. Then mix the mixture to allow eggs to sip through.
 7. Cook over slow/moderate heat uncovered for about 2/3 minutes until lightly golden brown (lift omelette to check).
 8. Put a large plate on top of the pan and turn upside down. The omelette should be on the plate, slide the omelette back into the pan to cook the other side for 2/3 minutes.
 9. Omelette is delicious served hot or cold, on its own, or with salad.
- Tip - you can make smaller omelette, use smaller pan and 3 large potatoes with 3/4 eggs.

from Maria Booker

Celebrity Catholic



Sylvester Stallone

Sylvester Stallone is well known for his Rocky and Rambo films. He was initially raised in a Catholic household, baptised and confirmed in the Catholic Church. When his acting career progressed, he became more secular and less religious.

However, when he faced a personal challenge - his daughter's ill health - his experience led him to reconsider his relationship with God.

[Is Sly Stallone a Christian? The Shocking Truth Revealed](#)
[Rambo IV "is also a Christian film," Sylvester Stallone confirms](#)

Deaf events

(NOT ORGANISED BY CDA)

Irish Sign Language led tours of Ireland are listed here.

[What's on | Heritage Ireland](#)

BSL via video tours of Wales are listed here.

[British Sign Language \(BSL\) at attractions in Wales | Visit Wales](#)

10th April 11-12pm - **Reginald's Tower** - Free, ISL led.

[Irish Sign Language Tour – Reginald's Tower | Heritage Ireland](#)

1st April 10 - 4pm. **Deaf Day**, City Lit, London.

It also includes exhibitions of deaf artists.

[Deaf Day | London | City Lit](#)

11th April 2026, 11am **BSL poetry workshop** - Coventry CV3 5GT (£15 per person)

Book your place at -

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11th April - 2pm - **Attenborough Art Centre** - free. need to book. Leicester, LE1 7HA - "Material Worlds exhibition"

[Attenborough Arts Centre | University of Leicester - Performances, Exhibitions, Workshops and Courses](#)

12th April 2-3pm and 3 - 4.30pm **National Botanic Garden of Ireland**, Glasnevin - Free, ISL led.

[Irish Signed Language Tour – National Botanic Gardens Glasnevin | National Botanic Gardens of Ireland](#)

19th April 2 - 3pm - **The John F Kennedy Arboretum**

[Irish Sign Language Interpreted Tour – The JFK Arboretum | Heritage Ireland](#)

19th April 2.30 - 3.30pm - **Dublin Castle** - ISL Tour - Free, must book

[Irish Sign Language Tour – Dublin Castle | Heritage Ireland](#)

25th April - 2-3.30pm - **Hunterian Art Gallery** - BSL led - Trudi Collier. Ticket £6. Hillhead Street, Glasgow, G12 8QQ - must book

[University of Glasgow - University events - Event listings - BSL Tour of 'Views of Glasgow: A Window into Communities'](#)

You can access Hunterian Art Gallery via Digital BSL video here -

[Hunterian Museum | BSL Hunterian Museum Tour](#)

24-28th August 2026. **Kerry Camino Charity Challenge** - Irish Deaf Society

[Kerry Camino Challenge 2026](#) (bear in mind, you need to commit to fundraise €2,000)

Information

If you know of a **Get Together** café, club, or fellowship, and would like this information included in the CDA Newsletter, or if your church offers a signed Mass that is not listed in the Directory on our [website](#)(or if the information there needs correcting/updating), please email the [Secretary](#).

News compiled by Dorothy Hester

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