

Subject: CDA May Newsletter

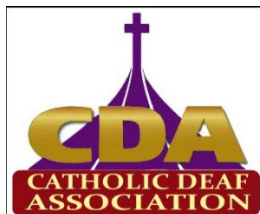
From: Catholic Deaf Association <catholicdeaf1971@62953545.mailchimpapp.com>

Date: 01/05/2026, 08:00

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May Newsletter 2026

This month's issue contains:

- Walsingham information
- Ian Urquhart spotlight - part 2
- Celebrity Catholics - Delia Smith
- Saint of the Month - St. Bede the Venerable
- Upcoming Events
- Prayer Wall
- free virtual tours
- BSL/ISL led tours
- etc





Spotlight on Ian Urquhart part 2

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

Ian - After reading the history of the Catholic Church I was convinced the Church is the original Christian Church dated back to the first Pope St Peter in the 1st Century A.D. In my 20s I used to attend another Christian communities' meetings and came to realise that their beliefs, practises, etc were much different than the Catholic ones. It lead me to determine I am to remain a Catholic.

DH - Did your understanding of Catholic faith change over time?

Ian - In the beginning I was an ignorant child being unable to follow the spoken local Mass but I regularly read the Catholic Douai Bible helping to build knowledge. After my first attendance at the signed Deaf Mass, I carried on learning more about the Mass, the prayers and meaning of each Masses, services, etc. Now I am familiar with the Deaf Mass and everytime I attend the Deaf Mass, it benefitted me a lot. It was meant to have a connection with God by the regular said prayers.

DH - What is the most rewarding part of your faith for you?

Ian - It benefitted me a lot by regular attendances at signed Deaf Masses and also pilgrimages to Walsingham. For me the Norfolk village is really a cosy place to be visit; as everytime I was there I felt at home.

DH - What do you think is the ultimate purpose in life?

Ian - The ultimate purpose is to be at peace with myself and others, I always take into account Jesus' words - Love Thy Neighbour (Matthew 29:39).

DH - How does your faith help you navigate difficult situations or suffering?

Ian - I always took a calm pause, thinking carefully and finally ending with prayers.

My faith did help me cope with the above by calmly saying prayers.

DH - What do you believe about what happens after we die?

Ian - I believe in the existence of spirits. After her death, my mother's spirit visited me in my home. I believe spirits are around after their death. I did not see my Mother's spirit, but felt it around my bedroom, when I felt a grasp on my shoulder. When I moved to a new flat I had invited my mother to visit my but she refused. After her death, I was comforted by the grasp on my left shoulder to know my Mother's spirit walked around my new flat. It was not the only one experience. Another was when I attended the evening shiva of one dead Jewish friend. While the Jewish prayers were said I suddenly felt a sort of breeze moving around my face.

DH - Is there a story or teaching that you find particularly inspiring?

Ian - The Parable of the Good Samaritans (Luke 10:25-37), it shows that a non Jew can have compassion for the injured victim.

DH - Are there any aspects of your faith that you find challenging or that you struggle with?

Ian - I find some Papal encyclicals and Canon Law challenging, thus I am not keen on Theology.

DH - What was your earliest memory?

Ian - As my Father was born in North East Scotland, I and my parents used to travel to Banff to stay with my paternal grandparents. One day I got lost in a nearby country park and wandered around until I was attracted to street lights thus I was found, but my grandfather was not pleased and rebuked me by keeping on shaking his fingers at me, but I could not lipread what he said!

DH - What was your favourite game or activity growing up?

Ian - Playing cards with my Mother.

DH - What kind of films and artist did you like?

Ian - Historical films. Hungarian painter Philip de Laszlo.

DH - What is the most important lesson you've learned in your life?

Ian - Always plan in advance.

DH - I need to tell my eldest son that! Looking back, what advice would you give to your younger self?

Ian - Never take things for granted.

DH - Have you always been interested in history? What genre or era?

Ian - I am always interested in history, reading a lot of history books since the age of ten. The Middle Ages.

DH - What was your first job and what was your favourite job?

Ian - My first job was ordering prints of record labels. My favourite was sorting out and adding cheques and dispatching them.

DH - A little bird tells me that amongst other jobs you had - Royal Mail and Thorn EMI, you also worked as a guide - what was the most rewarding aspects of being a guide?

Ian - I worked as a Guide/Lecture in Hampton Court Palace. The most rewarding aspects were good patience and flexibility with different deaf visitors to the palace.

DH - What is your favourite historical place you have been to and if you could time travel, where would you go?

Ian - French Palace of Versailles is my favourite and I would like to go to the Eternal City of Rome in late Middle Ages.

DH - What is the biggest change you have seen in CDA?

Ian - When I first joined the CDA Council, there were hearing members including the hearing Chair, but not now. There is a Deaf Chair and there is a Deaf majority in the council.

DH - Do you think the CDA should arrange trips to see Catholic related places?

Ian - I think CDA should arrange trips to see places like Ingatestone Hall with priest holes, Stonor Park associated with St Edmund Campion and Harvington Hall.

DH - Lastly, what is your guilty pleasure?

Ian - Caramel Surprise deserts!

DH - I will have one on a standby when I next see you, to thank you for your time and consideration answering so many questions. I was meant to pick 5 - 8 but it is hard to choose which when they are all fascinating.

Ian, the CDA thanks you for your time, we appreciate your insights and hope to have learned something from it.

<https://www.ingatestonehall.com/>

<https://www.stonor.com/>

<https://harvingtonhall.co.uk/>

Pope Leo's Intention

That everyone might have food.

“Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoiding wasting food and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.”



Celebrity Catholic

Delia Smith is well known for her cooking shows that were popular in 70s and 80s. And was exceptionally popular in the 90s often creating a “Delia effect”, becoming the first person to enter into an English dictionary by name. She is also known for being a Honorary Life President for Norwich City football club. Born into a non-religious family and baptised into Church of England, Delia converted into Catholic faith after being introduced into it by a friend at 22 years old. She is a devout Roman Catholic who has incorporate her faith into her work and public life. In additional to cookbooks, she has also written sereval religious books - Feast for Lent and Feast for Advent both (1983) and Journey into God (1988). Delia practices ‘silent meditation’ twice a day which she describes as bringing her freedom, silence and stillness. She has criticised modern militant atheism, in her book “You matter: The Human solution” focuses on secular spirituality, it was heavily influenced by the Jesuit priest and scientist Pierre Teihard de Chardin.

<https://www.christiantoday.com/news/delia-smith-on-faith>

<https://www.deliaonline.com/features/2024/11/delias-biographical-details>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/1688790.stm>

Website Updated

The website www.catholicdeaf.org.uk has been streamlined so the pages will load (appear) more quickly.

One important change is the addition of a **Members** page, on the right-hand side of the top menu. Access to this page is restricted to members only using password. Once logged in, members can access three key resources:

- **Signs of God Lectionaries** - full versions of all books (Cycle A, Cycle B, Cycle C, plus Feasts & Solemnities)
- **Roman Missal**
- **CDA Constitution**

Non-members can still view the first two resources via the **Resource** page but access is limited to the first four readings only.

Main Menu Page

The main menu now includes:

- Home
- Resource
- Who's Who
- Exploring Faith
- RIP
- Support
- Members

Home

This page contains the following subpages (ie below the 'home' tab):

- News UK
- News Overseas

Resource Page

This page contains the following subpages:

- Signs of God (videos)
- Signs of God (books) - Preview
- Roman Missal - Preview
- Liturgical signs
- Deaf Awareness Resource Pack
- Directory

The **Directory** provides details of signed Masses, including Church locations, times and other relevant information.

Who's Who Page

This page contains the following subpages:

- What we do
- History

Exploring Faith

RIP (ie Rest In Peace)

Support

Members

This page contains the following subpages:

- Signs of God lectionaries (books)
- Roman Missal
- Constitution

Please do send us any news and photos of what is happening in your area - anything you think will be interesting and relevant to our faith and Christian heritage.

Once again, we thank all the donors who have generously contributed to supporting the work of the CDA.

May God's blessings be upon you always.

Peter McDonough



Walsingham CDA Pilgrimage

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 Service starting at 12 noon.

There will be two groups - both will begin the first part of the Rosary after

Mass, then go their separate ways. One group walking the Holy Mile. The other group will be in Shrine of Our Lady. Both group will meet up to finish the last part of the Rosary.

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)

Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies

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.

Lourdes pilgrimage 2026

Fr Paul Fletcher and James Fitzgerald (BSL interpreter) 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.

Free Virtual Tours

Bear in mind, they are separate formats, navigation around virtual tours are different from each other.

Vatican Museum - <https://www.museivaticani.va/content/museivaticani/en/collezioni/musei/tour-virtuali-elenco.html>

Notre Dame - <https://www.friendsofnotredamedeparis.org/virtual-tour-of-notre-dame/>

Sagrada Familia - <https://sagradafamilia.org/en/virtual-tour>

Upcoming Events

Walsingham CDA Pilgrimage - Saturday 16th May 2026

CDA AGM - Saturday 26th September 2026 - start 10am Westminster

Cathedral Hall)

CCRS Course - September 2026 (Manchester)

Blackpool Conference - Saturday 6th March 2027

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

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

Remember - Pentecost Novena

Begin Pentecost Novena on 16th May to finish on Pentecost Sunday (24th May)

Sr Marika Rebicsek (Essex)

Sr Angela (Manchester)

Irena Lindsey (Brentwood)

Brian Davies (Greenford)

John Davies (North Wales)

Karla Huggins (Southampton)

Roy Plumbley (Hove)

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 Rosary. We do the full 4 Mysteries, however we use only 3 Hail Mary's instead of 10 to ensure we finish under an hour.

Please contact **Maria Booker**



Saint of the Month

Saint Bede the Venerable

Born - c. 672

Died - 26th May 735 A.D

Canonized 1899 by Pope Leo XIII.

Feast day - 25th May.

He was also declared a Doctor of the Church, making him the only native of Great Britain to achieve this designation.

<https://www.stmoluagscoracle.com/p/st-bede>

<https://stbedementor.org/About-Us/St-Bede-the-Venerable>

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

This month is -

“Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that you have received - only what you have given.”

Did you know...?

There are only 13 deaf ordained priest globally. National Catholic Office for the Deaf estimate 97% of deaf Christians do not attend church due to lack of access to signed Masses. If you have access to signed Masses, you are one of the 3% in the world that is blessed to have.

Deaf events

(NOT ORGANISED BY CDA)

4th May. 11am - 12noon. **Chartwell Highlights tour**. Westerham, Kent
John Wilson will be leading the tour in BSL. Normal admission fee applies for National Trust.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/kent/chartwell/events/ef0b202a-cb47-4424-aa3e-6435f4f0557e>

4th May 1 - 2pm **Emmetts Garden**. Sevenoaks, Kent
BSL interpreted garden tour. Normal admission fee applies for National Trust.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/kent/emmetts-garden/events/867ee3cb-032e-4583-9157-8340ba8c3c27>

8 - 10th May. **Deaffest 10th Film and TV award**. Wolverhampton

<https://deaffest.co.uk/deaffest-2026-plan-your-visit/>

9th May - 2,30 - 3.30pm. **Ross Castle Tour**, County Kerry, Ireland. Free. ISL led.

<https://heritageireland.ie/whats-on/irish-sign-language-tour-ross-castle/>

15 - 16th May **DeafEXPO** - Birmingham NEC

<https://deafexpo.co.uk/>

16th May - 2 - 3pm - **Kilmainham Gaol** - Dublin - free. ISL led.

<https://heritageireland.ie/whats-on/irish-sign-language-interpreted-tour-kilmainham-gaol/>

24th May - 4th July - **Eucharist Pilgrimage**, begins in St. Augustine, Florida and ends in Philadelphia. Epic 2,000 mile pilgrimage that anyone can join. It is a hearing organised event. However, there will be an interpreted Mass in Archdiocese of Philadelphia on the 4th July. More information will be added when I receive them.

<https://www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org/>

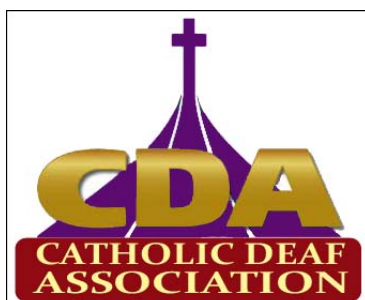
29th - 31st May - **Mardle Deaf Camp** - Norwich, Norfolk

<https://www.mardledeafcamp.co.uk/activities>

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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