

The Catholic Parish of St Luke

Benyon Grove, Orton Malborne, Peterborough. PE2 5XS

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

What are you most excited about in your life right now?

What's your biggest achievement?

What are you most proud of?

Tell us about your wife / kids!

How do you spend your free time?

What are your hobbies?

Our meeting on
Thursday 21st September
was attended by eight.

Our spiritual topic was :

St Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist

Some lively debate and discussion on the attitude of society on the world, especially with concerns on the younger generation.

The evening finished with supportive conversation and a variety of suggestions to progress the fellowship.

This was discussed over a Spanish Omelette & Crispy Salad Supper.

Gospel Reading—Sunday 24th September 2023
John 19:25-27

'Woman, this is your son'

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. Seeing his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother, 'Woman, this is your son.' Then to the disciple he said, 'This is your mother.' And from that moment the disciple made a place for her in his home.

NEXT THURSDAY'S MEETING
28th September 2023 at 7.30pm

Topic :

**History of the Catholic Church
in the United Kingdom**

The **Catholic Church in England and Wales** is part of the worldwide Catholic Church in full communion with the Holy See. Its origins date from the 6th century, when Pope Gregory I through the Roman

monk and Benedictine missionary, Augustine, later Augustine of Canterbury, intensified the evangelization of the Kingdom of Kent linking it to the Holy See in 597 AD.

This unbroken communion with the Holy See lasted until King Henry VIII ended it in 1534. Communion with Rome was restored by Queen Mary I in 1555 following the Second Statute of Repeal and eventually finally broken by Elizabeth I's 1559 Religious Settlement, which made "no significant concessions to Catholic opinion represented by the church hierarchy and much of the nobility."

For 250 years, the government forced members of the pre-Reformation Catholic Church known as recusants to go underground and seek academic training in Catholic Europe, where exiled English clergy set up schools and seminaries for the sons of English recusant families. The government also placed legislative restrictions on Catholics, some continuing into the 20th century, while the ban on Catholic worship lasted until the Catholic Relief Act 1791. The ban did not, however, affect foreign embassies in London, although serving priests could be hounded. During this time, the English Catholic community was divided between the upper classes, aristocracy and gentry, and the working class.

At the 2001 United Kingdom census, there were 4.2 million Catholics in England and Wales, some 8% of the population. One hundred years earlier, in 1901, they represented only 4.8% of the population. In 1981, 8.7% of the population of England and Wales were Catholic. In 2009, post the 2004 enlargement of the European Union, when thousands of Central

Europeans (mainly heavily Catholic Poles, Lithuanians, Slovaks and Slovenians) came to England, an Ipsos Morioka poll found that 9.6%, or 5.2 million people, were Catholics in England and Wales. In the 2021 census, 81.7% of the population of the two countries were white, down from 86% in 2011, with the Christian population (of Catholic, Anglican, non-Conformists, and unaffiliated Christians together) dropping to 46% (about 27.6 million people).

In North West England one in five are Catholic, a result of large-scale Irish migration in the nineteenth century as well as the high number of English recusants in Lancashire.

History

Part 1 : Roman Britons and early Christianity



St. Alban is regarded as the protomartyr of the Roman Britons.

Much of Great Britain was incorporated into the Roman Empire in during the Roman conquest of Britain, starting in AD 43, conquering lands inhabited by Celtic Britons. The indigenous religion of the Britons under their priests, the Druids, was suppressed; most notably, Gaius Suetonius Paulinus launched an attack on Anglesey in 60 AD and destroyed the shrine and sacred groves there. In the following years, Roman influence saw the importation of several religious cults into Britain, including Roman mythology, Mithraism and the imperial cult. One of these sects, then disapproved by the Roman authorities, was the Levantine-originated religion of Christianity. While it is unclear exactly how it arrived, the earliest British figures considered saints by the Christians are St. Alban followed by SS Julius and Aaron, all in the 3rd century.

Eventually, the position of the Roman authorities on Christianity moved from hostility to toleration with the Edict of Milan in 313 AD, and then enforcement as state religion following the Edict of Thessalonica in 380 AD, becoming a key component

of Romano-British culture and society. Records note that Romano-British bishops, such as Restitutus, attended the Council of Arles in 314, which confirmed the theological findings of an earlier convocation held in Rome (the Council of Rome) in 313. The Roman departure from Britain in the following century and the subsequent Germanic invasions sharply decreased contact between Britain and Continental Europe. Christianity, however, continued to flourish in the Brittonic areas of Great Britain. During this period certain practices and traditions took hold in Britain and in Ireland that are collectively known as Celtic Christianity. Distinct features of Celtic Christianity include a unique monastic tonsure and calculations for the date of Easter. Regardless of these differences, historians do not consider this Celtic or British Christianity a distinct church separate from general Western European Christianity.

Part 2 : Next Week

— **Conversion of the Anglo-Saxons**

FOR DISCUSSION

Pilgrimages
(See attached examples)

Event — “Towards Advent”
Saturday, 25th November 2023

Contributions to funding the Men’s Fellowship

Mens & Ladies Social
Wednesday 13th December 2023

THIS WEEK’S SOCIAL SUPPER

“Dan’s Foodie Surprise!”

plus
Tea, Coffee, Fruit Juice or Cola

plus
Paul Dardis
Voice & Guitar

Marc Maury

will be away for approximately 3 months
visiting family in Mauritius.

We wish him well

(a happy, joyous and peaceful Christmas)
and look forward to his return in January 2024.

God bless.
