



Catholic Association
of Performing Arts



CAAPA NEWSLETTER JULY 2021

Dear CaAPA members

We hope this Newsletter continues to find all our members, your families, friends and loved ones healthy and safe as we reach the end of the lockdown. And especially for anyone who finds themselves alone: we hope that your faith is giving you the courage and resilience to live with the changing guidelines, and able to keep spirits high despite the challenges. Summer is here and a new sense of hope!

The appeal for playlets on our theme **Action for the Church in Need** continues and we still welcome any submissions.

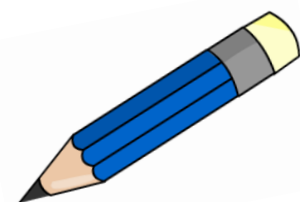
We also always welcome any news that members would like to share.

Are you involved in online projects – theatrical, musical, hobbies?

What are your future professional plans?!

How have you kept yourself busy during the lockdowns? Have you learnt new skills?

Please do write!!



(for this Newsletter we are indebted to Michael Slater, Robin Marchal, Fr Chris Vipers and Jeremy Rowe. And this would not be the Newsletter it is without the design talents of Nadia Ostacchini!)

We begin by remembering the past members of CaAPA whose anniversaries occur at this time. This includes those who have made an invaluable contribution to the life of our predecessor, The Catholic Stage Guild.

IN MEMORIAM (JULY)

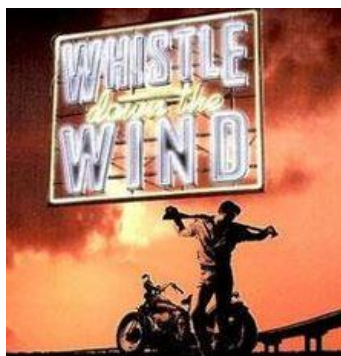
- 1996 BARBARA FELLOWS
- 2005 REGINALD EPPEY: COMMITTEE MEMBER
- 2007 JOHN NORMINGTON
- 2009 FR COLUMBA RYAN O.P. NATIONAL CHAPLAIN



Michael Slater recorded these memories of several of our past members:

REG EPPEY was able to use his talents as a singer and actor, not only in the theatre, but also by contributing to the liturgy at **Corpus Christi** during Holy Week and at memorial masses.

Reg was very much a gentleman and was thrilled to be cast in **Whistle Down the Wind** at the **Aldwych Theatre**. Sadly, in sharing a dressing room with some of the cast, he found their banter very vulgar, and this depressed him a great deal. He did at least find solace in his membership of **CaAPA** and was a most supportive committee member.





Catholic Association of Performing Arts



Stinging pathos: Pam Ferris, Robert Lindsay and John Normington as the grieving Rice family

JOHN NORMINGTON was known to his friends as 'Norm'. I saw him in his last performance; it was in **John Osborne's *The Entertainer*** at the **Old Vic**. He played the father, a very touching performance. He was very supportive of CaAPA and, whilst at the **National Theatre**, he paved the way for us to have a memorial mass for **David Healy** in the rehearsal room there. At the end of the mass the company of **Guys and Dolls** sang ***Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat*** in David's memory.

John was excellent in the title role **Pope Pius XII** when CaAPA presented it at the CAA as a contribution to **Holocaust Memorial Day**.

Kenneth Michaels adds: I also had the great pleasure of seeing **John Normington** on stage. This was in the NT's production of **Guys and Dolls** in the far-off 80s. Though he played a relatively small part as the grandfather **Arvide Abernathy** (another paternalistic-type role!) of missionary **Sarah Brown (Julie Covington)**, I remember being very moved by his performance and particularly by his song ***More I Cannot Wish You***.

You can still hear this if you have the cd of the NT production.

David Healy



FR COLUMBA RYAN - National Chaplain – was very supportive of CaAPA, most of all to the younger members by finding a quiet pub near Piccadilly where they could meet up with him for a social chat.

When Fr Columba was a parish priest in **Glasgow**, he had a very faithful dog who at Sunday mass would follow him into the sanctuary but would depart as soon as he started his homily!

One Friday evening we were a little late leaving the CAA, and we met some of the **Masons** leaving their Lodge Dinner. Fr Columba was not wearing his clerical collar, and one of the masons asked him, "Are you a variety artist or a concert artist?"

"I am a ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST!" was the prompt reply!

The masons retorted, "O well, you made short work of **John Paul II**.

He was only in the **Vatican** a few weeks, and you bumped him off!"

Fr Columba wasn't thrown; quick as a flash he said, "My dear fellow, that just shows how efficient the Vatican is!"





REQUIEM MASS FOR MARY REMNANT

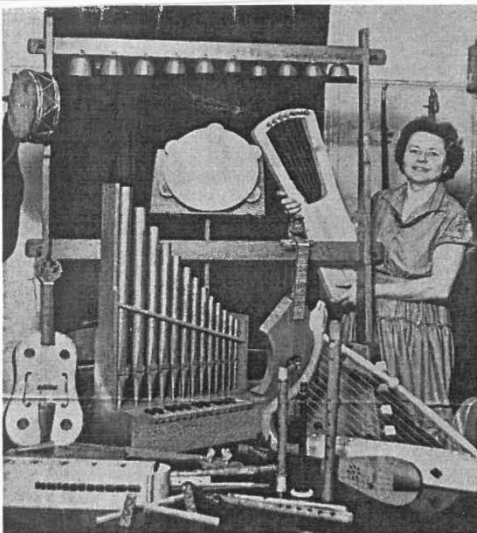
Michael Slater recalls:

I was so grateful to a neighbour of mine, who has supported CaAPA in the past - **Judy Morrison** and her husband **Paul**, who alerted me to **Mary's Requiem Mass** taking place. They had first met Mary many years ago when they were passing her house in Chelsea and Paul was being friendly to a cat sitting on a wall. Suddenly a window was flung open and a voice said, "*The cat cannot be trusted!*" Following this they became firm friends!

I only knew Mary at a distance, going to several of her concerts with medieval instruments.

There were several very moving moments during the Mass: ***Ave verum corpus*** composed by **Nicholas Lane**, who was associated with Corpus Christi Maiden Lane as organist for many years, and also composed an ***Annual Mass*** for CaAPA. He was a long-standing friend of Mary. ***In Paradisum*** by **Heledd Gwynant** was played on Mary's medieval chimes and this had many of us in tears.

Mary joined CaAPA in recent years and I regret that I was not able to know her better, as she was a very remarkable lady and a true artist, with so many connections to every aspect of cultural life and to the church that she loved.



REQUIEM MASS

in memory of

DR MARY REMNANT DSG

to be held at

THE LONDON ORATORY
Brompton Road, Knightsbridge, London SW7 2RP

on

SATURDAY 3 JULY at 11.00 am

and afterwards at a Reception in St Wilfred's Hall / St Joseph's Hall
The London Oratory

Robin Marchal writes:

Prompted by Members submitting their work for our ***Playlets Evening on the 26th October***, I recall, with nostalgia, the **Catholic Stage Guild's** production of **Daniel Pearce's *Mr Jonathan***. It was the first prize winner of our **National Playwriting Competition** and had its premiere/sole performance, as far as I know, at the **Fortune Theatre** in London on the 29th September, 1985.

It was well supported, and, in the circumstances, Daniel responded "*What a lot of hard work and skill had gone into it. I was delighted.*" Members might recall some of the names on the 'cast list'! Wonderful **Alan Foss**, then **Hon Sec of the 'Guild**, **Valerie Lush**, **Charles Pemberton**, once **Hon Vice-president/actor**, and friend, **Harry Saks** who is still with **Actors and Writers London**.

I have a copy of the script – its theme, ***Ecumenism***, ever a topic of unity amongst Christians.

Anyone interested in getting together at the CAA to do a reading?

Robin

I would certainly be interested Robin! Anyone else?



Here are several archive photos of the production:

SEPTEMBER 26, 1985

THE STAGE

SHOW PEOPLE



Anglican pleases the Catholics

ONE PERSON who obviously believes in ecumenism is Daniel Pearce, a Church of England priest whose play "Mr Jonathan" has won the Catholic Stage Guild award and is to be performed at the Fortune on September 29.

Pearce describes his play as "a comedy drama about a 'God-is-dead' style Catholic priest and a stridently committed fundamentalist university student".

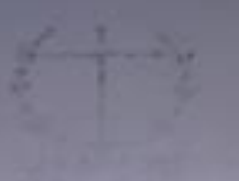
Daniel Pearce is unusual in other ways, for although he now finds himself in charge of an East End parish, St George in the East, he was born and brought up in California.

He became a Christian while on national service for the USA in the Korean War, after he had already written a couple of plays which were performed at Stanford University, where he studied.

He took up writing again while he was a monk in an Anglican order which had sent him to Rhodesia to run an African secondary school, and three of his plays won the Play of the Year contest run by the Association of Rhodesian Theatrical Societies.

His play "Man of Two Worlds" was staged at the Westminster earlier this year.

DANIEL PEARCE - ecumenical



CAST
(in order of appearance)

Greg Meyer	Alan Foss
Jonathan	Tony Lewis
Fr. Andrew	Harold Saks
Malcolm Clegg	Peter Czajkowski
Tracy	Judith Newell
Thelma	Valerie Lush

There will be one interval of twenty minutes

Producer	Charles Pemberton
Director	Robin Marchal
Designer	Joe Gallagher
Lighting Designer	John Cullen
Construction Manager	Simon Phillips

At the end of the performance Mr Lionel Jeffries will present the writer, Daniel Pearce, with his cash prize.

ENTERTAINMENTS



THE CATHOLIC STAGE GUILD
In association with



THE UNIVERSE
presents
"MR. JONATHAN"
By Daniel Pearce

The world premiere in the presence of The Right Reverend Bishop Agnellus Andrew, OFM.

**Fortune Theatre,
Sunday 29 September,
1985. 7.30 p.m.**

Tickets: £8 and £3
Discounts for parties of ten and over
Fortune Theatre Box Office
Telephone: 01 636 2236

MR. JONATHAN is the first prizewinner of the Catholic Stage Guild/"Universe" National Playwriting Competition.

THE UNIVERSE
FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 6 1985





Catholic Association
of Performing Arts



And now an announcement from our Associate Honorary Chaplain Fr Chris Vipers:

Dear Kenneth,

Very many thanks for sending the latest Newsletter. It is always such a fascinating read these days! Please include this in the next issue if you have room:

Greetings to you all from **St Mary Moorfields**, the only Catholic Church in the Square Mile of the City of London. We have a large **Crypt Hall** available as a **rehearsal/workshop/performance** space for any CaAPA members and friends.

To enquire about hiring our venue please email me at moorfields@rcdow.org.uk, or phone **020 7247 8390**. You would be very welcome here.

With all good wishes.

Fr Chris

Fr Chris Vipers

Parish Priest

St Mary Moorfields & St Joseph's Bunhill Row

4/5 Eldon Street, London EC2M 7LS

T: 020 7247 8390 / E:moorfields@rcdow.org.uk

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/moorfields/>



Thank you so much Fr Chris for this timely offer!

Another very welcome series of diary entries from member Jeremy Rowe:



Good morning.

I'm attaching the entries for the last couple of months. Let's hope we can enjoy greater freedom on all fronts in three weeks' time. I still believe there is a place for a day of **international inter-faith prayer** about **Covid-19**, and all the damage it has wrought. It seems so obvious that such a day should be proclaimed. What is getting in its way?

Us?

All the best,

Jeremy.





MAY JOTTINGS, 2021.

May 1st. St. Joseph the Worker We have had a tragedy in the neighbourhood. A lady, who was an assistant in the police force, and much loved locally, has been murdered. Her body was found on the edge of a wood, where she and many others regularly walked their dogs. The killing took place in broad daylight. The dog remained, unharmed, beside her body. The police so far have no evidence and can see no motive. How often on the television, we observe a resident saying, 'It's such a terrible shock? This is a quiet village, and everyone knows everyone else. Who would do such a thing?' That really is the question. Who would do such a thing?

Sunday, May 2nd. The disciples did not really believe that **Saul (Paul)** could be a disciple, after the death of **Stephen** and his **Pharisaic** persecution of **Christians**. They were afraid of this terrible man. But then **Barnabas** took control, and explained about the **Road to Damascus**, and Paul's teaching and preaching. Imagine what would have happened to the Church if Barnabas had not intervened. Instead, of rejecting him, they showed him around the Christian zone in **Jerusalem**. Then he had an argument with some **Hellenists**, who decided to kill him; so, they shipped him off to **Tarsus**, where he came from. Not a very auspicious start to his mission, you might say.

A Protestant in his or her own church sees bread and believes it is bread - and it is bread. A Protestant in a Roman Catholic Church sees bread and believes it is bread when it is the **Body of Christ**. There are some things that are almost too painful to discuss, yet it is the Catholic's bounden duty to pray for, and search high and low for, **Christian Unity**. On the front door of our church someone has stuck a poster which boldly demands 'Donate'. No matter whether you are initiated or not into the electronic scheme for paying into the collection, this word is the first thing that meets the eye of the person entering the church. No word about its being God's House, or that you may find love within it, no hallowing of the entrant into **Bethlehem** or **Nazareth** or **Jerusalem** or **Rome**; no dim memory of the **Apostle** saying, 'Gold and silver I do not have, but what I have I give you', only the stark reminder that you are privileged to pay, whether you are a firm believer or not. Just this one stark word, 'Donate'. Some things are not worth discussing, yet the Catholic has a bounden duty to seek high and low for Christian Unity, and to pray that common sense and the Divine greet one at the entrance to our Church. Yesterday, there was private prayer in our church for the murdered woman. A lady rushed out of the church in considerable distress because she could not find the way to obey the dictate of the door, 'Donate'. We have caused this distress. She did not ask, 'Where have they placed him?' but 'How am I meant to donate?' Shame on us! Take it down at once. (They did!)

'If you forgive others their failings, your heavenly Father will forgive yours, but if you do not forgive them, your Father will not forgive yours either.' I do forgive them, but theirs can be destructive residue. Argument and division and rejection come when there is no acknowledgement on either side.

As I see it – and my vision may be skewed – the greatest challenge facing the Church in this country is making real the concept of the *People of God*.

May 10th. 'They will do no hurt, no harm on my holy mountain' says **Yahweh** (Isaiah 65). About which age was Isaiah prophesying? Not yet has it come to pass, although the New Heavens and the New Earth are already with us, waiting at the door of humanity. It is just that we refuse to let them in.



May 11th. For a long time, I have wanted to undergo a silent Retreat at **St. Beuno's** in **North Wales**. For various reasons, including the latest one of Covid-19, this has not happened. However, I have found a splendid alternative. **Kevin O'Brien's** book ***The Ignatian Adventure*** leads the reader through a daily, weekly, and monthly experience of the Spiritual Exercises, managed during everyday life. I have just completed the adventure and can recommend it to anyone wishing to grow closer to God through prayer and activity. The book provides ways of getting to know the *Gospels* and *Christ* through *reading, meditation, and Ignatian contemplation*. The book shows a way of growing closer to Jesus through living with his disciples and appreciating their lack of full understanding. It is a way of getting to know the translated language of the Gospels better. It is a way of getting to know the landscape and geography of **Israel**, and of recognizing the spiritual deficiencies of the culture into which Christ was born. This leads us to comprehend the weaknesses and strengths of our own society. The book is written for the whole *People of God*, and there is no clericalism lurking behind it.

There is a good number of worthwhile books written by priests chiding at the history and practices of clericalism. Few of them, however, avoid falling into the trap themselves, because they concentrate on the misdemeanours and misunderstandings of the priesthood, at whom most of the books are aimed, rather than on the negation of creativity that lies in the hands of the People of God as a whole. As long as priestly documents and letters (however poignant) are spawned in place of practical initiatives from the laity as well, so long will clericalism reign over this nation's Catholics.

The Kingdom of God is within us, and, unless we are willing to search for the Kingdom, we shall be in danger of becoming an arid desert of technology. *'Rejoice in the Lord always'* does not preclude healing, improving, discovering, *'making all things new'*, and finding what it is that God wants us to do.

May 19th how did the **Pharisees** come to rule the roost? Because no one thought they had the right to challenge them – because, in fact, they had managed to convince the people that they were unchallengeable. Over time, they had created an almost invincible system, not because they were bad men, but because they did not understand that God had chosen them to enable those in their care to use their talents for God. The Pharisees and their **scribes** were suffocating **Israel**. And then **Jesus** came to set Israel free, but Israel preferred the system, and that meant they had to get rid of him. But you cannot get rid of God. Ever.

Pentecost ***The Bishops of England and Wales***, for the best of motives, have decided to create an umbrella for the **SVP** and other local Charities. They are probably measuring our activities by what as Priests they remember from the past, and by what comes to their attention from today's Presbyteries, as they visit the parishes in their Dioceses. My riddle is, what happens to the umbrella when it's not raining? I am told that the circular from the Bishops of England and Wales concerns re-cycling. That is fine, but what about a bit of *spiritual re-cycling*?

May 24th, More words about Paradox When we do not make room in our minds for paradox, and in particular for *historical paradox*, that is when we start to descend into fundamentalism. We arrive very swiftly at condemnation.



John the Baptist did not eat and drink, and so he was negligible; Jesus ate and drank, so he was negligible. People whose ancestors made money from slavery have to 'bend the knee' to black people, even though kneeling, properly speaking, is reserved for Kings and Queens and God; the environment is in a critical state, so that vegans are the virtuous ones; those who speak out against the completely new notion of same-sex marriage are to be cancelled; anyone accused by anyone else of touching them inappropriately will be struck off the list without a trial; we are expected to report our neighbour if we think he might be a paedophile; a child can tell the police if his or her parent is not observing the child's rights, etc., etc. the list will go on endlessly, because the nuances of paradox or the paradox of nuances are overlooked.

To say that Jesus is God says precious little about the life of **Jesus of Nazareth**. To say that God is Jesus is plain wrong. To say that Jesus is a god is pagan terminology. To say that Jesus is not God is opposed to Church teaching. To say that Jesus was made by the Holy Spirit is alien to our thinking. So, what should we say about him, remembering the Incarnation, and that he was fully human? And is he not still fully human? Was that decision not made forever? It was the **Evangelists** and **St. Paul** who consecrated him as a High Priest – Archbishop? Cardinal? Patriarch? Archimandrite? We do not have High Priests in the Catholic Church, and Jesus showed no sign of ascending the ladder into the Jewish hierarchy. There is something rather repellent about painting Our Lord wearing a heavenly mitre. **(Anyone intrigued by these important theological riddles should read *Jesus: Self-portrait by God*, by Enda Lyons: a mind-changing volume).**

May 27th. Christians awake! Once 'woke' in Jesus. Do not be poisoned by soundbites but seek and ye shall find. We are ZOOMing in on all sorts of things that need to be done in our church. We are setting our sights on evangelization of the villages.

During his life on earth, was Jesus Christ attracted to members of the opposite sex? If we say no, are we not in danger of diminishing his humanity? If we say, yes, why are we so reticent about declaring this? Would it not relieve millions of people of a misguided sense of guilt? Two adjuncts would be fitting. Jesus knew that sex outside marriage was forbidden and therefore closed to desire. Secondly, he recognized that marriage and family life were incompatible with the Mission entrusted to him by the Father. This, as we all know, did not eliminate the goodness and attractiveness of married life itself.

May 28th. An important ZOOM 'meeting' about evangelization in our 'lesser' church. *'I will sing a new song to the Lord.'* All these things we so strongly desire will come true if we entrust our lives to God. May we never lose our sense of humour in dealing with others, for therein lies one of the harmonies of the Holy Spirit. A meeting where no decisions can be taken or even suggested defers the meeting until the superiors or leaders, who hold themselves responsible and competent, can arrive at proper solutions and well-researched suggestions. However, the rule of transparency requires that the parish should be informed in some detail as to what is happening, as well as to the nature of the decision-making process. The parish has the right to know what may be happening to it.





May 30th. Trinity Sunday. There are riddles that can't be solved, and there are riddles that can be unsatisfactorily solved, and there are others that cannot yield to logic because we do not look them in the face. And then there are **Mysteries**, which we live within.

Three lavish on us all our talents,
One loving us just as we are.
It's up to us to keep our balance
Between the singing and the star.

Then, when the rifles spit their fire,
And shells burst with their roar of hate,
The trumpet and the praising lyre
Cry out we will no longer wait.



May 31st, The Visitation (Morning Prayer, from Magnificat)

O God, you sent the **Blessed Virgin Mary** to visit her cousin **Elizabeth** and to share with her the joy of your son's coming. Give us the will to do your will, that we may glorify you with her for all eternity, through Christ our Lord. Amen

NOTES FOR JUNE 2021.

June 1st. Evangelization in England in the twenty-first century Let's face it, none of us knows how to do it. Our bishops and priests don't know how to do it, because they are stuck in a **Reformation** and **Counter-Reformation** mindset. Because we have an established **Church of England**, we have over time become the **Protestants**. But we are not good at protesting against authority, because we regard ourselves an authority – as the Church that Christ founded, with Peter as the Rock of its foundation. And so, the protests are rather feeble. We don't wish (and quite rightly we don't wish it) to upset Her Majesty the Queen and her family. So, she is the Sovereign Head of Henry VIII's Church of England but will never be the Sovereign Head of the Church in England, which is at the heart of saving the souls of non-members of the Body of Christ. Or are they full members, in which case they do not need us? Or are they half-members, which, anatomically speaking, do not exist, except for amputation?

Evangelization is not the prerogative of the ordained minister and his team. Those who are being evangelized are much closer to the laity than to the ordained minister. The pastor is trained in the arguments; the layperson is trained in those elements of life that lead towards or away from conversion. We have to work together; we are responsible together. Suggestions need to come from both quarters as to how barriers may be broken down.

June 6th. Corpus Christi Heard in a sermon this morning: '*Unless we love the Mass, we cannot love Jesus*'. I love the Mass (though I am not terribly fond of the Tridentine Mass, at which this statement was made), but is the comment not, perhaps, a tiny bit too narrow for God's perspective? Maybe it is the hidden idea that they have to love the incomprehensible rituals of the altar servers at the Tridentine Mass that has driven some young Catholics out of the



church doors. It is a terrible thought that millions of Catholics have lost faith in the Mass, but perhaps a lingering sickness of superfluous clerical dignity on the altar, together with tedious longueurs, that has engineered that lessening of this essential. aspect of our faith. Once a church service even looks like something out of a museum, thousands of young people will turn away and throw the baby out with the bath water. **The Reformation** was partly our fault. We should learn from that giant mistake. The closer we draw to **Constantine** or the **Later Middle Ages**, the closer we draw towards division. and the further we wend away from the true **Canterbury**.

You sometimes hear a teacher or preacher saying that Mary was the greatest human being ever to live. Aren't they forgetting someone? *'Begotten not made'*. yes, but Jesus must have shared in our creatureliness, or he could not have been completely Man. Only the **Holy Spirit** could effectively work that paradox into our theology.

As far as I am aware, the Bishops of England and Wales speak out comparatively little about those things that cause Catholic laypeople most anxiety – self-identification, LGBT, same-sex marriage, gender in sport, sex education, Me Too, Black Lives Matter. Of course they do. Whoever said they don't? Are we to suppose that black teenagers never say nasty things about their white counterparts? That would indeed reveal an extraordinary moral superiority among the nations. Even abortion only draws reticent admonition from the bishops nowadays. Why is this? Is it because the Church of England usually gets there first? Why not join forces? Or is there fear at work among the episcopacy? We have entered an era of a New (and frightening) Inquisition. but it is global, rather than Spanish. Impersonally, it teaches its spies the techniques of *'offence archaeology'*. According to this method of torture, the life's data of any individual can be trawled in search of incriminating evidence. Did he or she ever utter a racist or sexist remark? Could the ancestors of the individual under internet surveillance have been involved in slavery in any way? Bend the knee, bend the knee. It does not seem to occur to the hooded organizers of this revenge society that they are guilty of malevolence, rather than justice.

We tend to blame the secular society for the lapsing of so many Catholics throughout the world. As they say, there are always two sides to any story.

June 8th. 2021. There must have been such joyful, innocent laughter among the Apostles, and it just kept coming: *'Did you see the look on their faces when the man picked up his bed and walked? Utter and wonderful amazement!'* *'Did you see the look on that kid's face when he realized what must have happened to his bread and fish? I've never seen such a look in all my life!'* One of them, possibly **Peter**, said, 'Did you see those people going into the Temple, when the crippled man went in dancing and singing between them? They began dancing themselves in rapture. They couldn't help themselves. And why? This Prophet who was enabling these things to happen, they did not really know who he was, or why he was blessed in this way. All they knew was that Only God could do these things in Israel. Only God cared enough about them to come among them now and do such things, to show that they were still his people, that he loved them, in spite of all their sins and follies. They sensed forgiveness of a kind that seemed to have been lost since the ancient days of **Isaiah** or **Ezekiel**. God had come to set them free, and God himself was present in **Jerusalem**, and not just in the Holy of Holies. This was the source of their great joy. Let us sing unto the Lord a new song. Let the priests join with us in our holy freedom. This was the source of the joy on all those faces. You have to laugh with them in amazement. Let us never get used to such great things happening.'



The Transfiguration was the first time **Moses** had ever set foot in the **Promised Land**. I wonder how he found it, stretching below him. I'm sure he was very grateful for the opportunity, and with the **King of Kings**.

June 13th. At the very heart of the Spirit there sits or stands and moves and lives a Man who wants what is best for us. He lives at the heart of the Spirit because he is *One* with the essence of the Spirit. Through him nothing is lost. *Thanks be to the Trinity.*

Evangelization is unarguably the correct word in the English language for the thing signified, just as *procreation* and *transubstantiation* are the correct words. Unfortunately, like them, it is petrifying. That is, it is both turning to stone, and it frightens off. What about *Speaking of the Kingdom* or even (*though I'm not fond of the word*) messaging from Jesus. And, when it comes to Twitter (as it inevitably does) how about following Pope Francis's suggestion as a starting point for any communication: '*God loves you*'. Shed the centuries and fly. I'm sure there are more beguiling terms. *Evangelization* needs to be preserved for documents.

Why did Jesus preach in parables, lest people should hear and understand? Perhaps the reality of the situation, as he drew huge crowds because of his miracles, was that he had to choose a means of communication that would test *intuitive understanding*. If they did not understand, it meant that they were not *listening to the Word in action*.

Freedom of Religion means accepting false gods into your land. How do we approach this reality? With compassion and hope, but without sacrificing Truth. Easier said than done.

June 15th. "**Whenever someone says to me, 'I'm tired of organized religion,' I feel like saying 'You'd better come and join the Catholic Church, then.'**" (fr. James Mallon).

Finished **The Man on a Donkey**. If this contained a case study Of **Henry VIII**, I wouldn't be surprised to find an expert witness expressing the notion the King was mad. The last chapter of the book bears this out. It also proves him to be a pitiful sadist when you disagreed with him. How this squares with his appointing himself to the position of *Supreme Governor of the Church of England* is beyond me.

June 18th. 2021. 'On 31 October 1992, **Pope John Paul II** expressed regret for how the **Galileo** affair was handled, and officially conceded that the Earth was not stationary, as the result of a study conducted by the *Pontifical Council for Culture*.'

This bland little statement covers a scene of almost incredible neglect. It is true that the **Magisterium** and the **Inquisition** believed they were in the right when, 350 years prior to this apology, Galileo was forced to recant and to renounce his belief in the *Copernican system*. The fact is that they were obdurate in refusing to consider the evidence as to how *God's Creation* is designed. The authorities of the Church were intent on protecting their beautiful but utterly archaic science at all costs. They could not face the *Truth*.





It has not been possible for me to find the document of apology. I just wonder if the **Pope** apologized to **Copernicus** at the same time. My real question, though, is this. To whom was the apology being made? For 350 years, because of a bigoted, backward looking perception on the part of those in charge, the **Laity** were kept in darkness where the planet earth was concerned. We cannot tell what deprivation that caused to the collective intellect at the time, but it is certain that people lived in a fog because of a fog that hid the true marvel of the universe. *Fear led to persecution.* The *Pontifical Council for Culture* took 13 years to arrive at a conviction that humanity had shared for at least a hundred years. Has the Church yet admitted the prospect of evolution? Leadership requires some degree of transparency. It is no good going into a secretive huddle in order to avoid alternative ways of looking at things.

Howard Brenton's 1980 translation for the *National Theatre* of **Bertolt Brecht's** fine play *The Life of Galileo* has a short Translator's Note, which contains the following statement:

Brecht, like a godless Milton of the twentieth century, one foxy eye on the great theme of the stars above, the other on the human mess below, set out to justify the ways of communism to men and women.

In the light of the Pope's apology, however tardy and dispassionate it was, I wonder if Benton would recant. We are, after all, singing from the same penitential hymn now. The play, in the light of the apology, seems to set out the ways of the Church to men: Truth may take an age to assert itself, but it is sure to do so eventually, just as a decade after Brenton's witty and entertaining translation appeared on the stage, the **Berlin Wall** fell and took with it an almost unimaginably bad way of governing. How many **Marxists** in the west are clinging to that same lack of freedom that they use to condemn the Church?

June 21st Are there only two genders? Yes. Man and Woman created he them. A hermaphrodite is a mixture of the two genders, but there are still only two, not an extra one. What about people who identify as one of many different genders? When I said that I was against euthanasia, a pupil said, '*So you want people to die in pain, don't you, Sir?*' That's what this voice is (I identify it): the voice of a belligerent child. If you say that men should not be allowed into women's toilets, '*You want to make people hate each other's sex, don't you, Sir?*' The self-righteous, virtue signalling voice behind self-identifying is a childish voice, and it is a childish voice with the poor to '*cancel people*', and to lose people their jobs. They – whoever 'they' are - are making fools of this country, as well as of themselves. The bubble will burst, and there will be just two genders left, and little choice as to the one to which a person belongs. The fun and limitation of Nature, and the fun of self-discovery. Let us have an end to the absurdity that is besetting our classrooms and our athletics grounds and our toilets!

June 26th. **Yves Congar** said that he had loved Truth as if it were a person. Would to God that I could say as much.

In books and in the Catholic press nowadays you find a lot of priests vehemently denouncing clericalism. You don't find so many members of the laity writing in the same way. Why is that, do we think?

June 30th. The First Holy Martyrs Where other religions are concerned, does Our Lord still have conversion in mind? Since he is the source and summit of *Faith*, how can he not do so? And if that is the case, what is our



Mission? Are we content with a nice smile on the way to Church and a helping hand in the supermarket? Do we have an obligation to seek the hidden Way? Perhaps it is friendship and brotherly love? Perhaps it is more because the *Word* needs words for expression.

Many thanks Jeremy for taking the time to write your interesting and always thought-provoking musings!



A priest grappling with **Lebanon's** crisis appealed for action to safeguard the future of the country's ancient Christian community in the week that **Pope Francis** held a historic meeting with Church leaders.

Father Jad Chlouk told **Aid to the Church in Need (ACN)** – which has increasingly highlighted growing problems for **Lebanon's** faithful – that the need for *international support* is now more urgent than ever.

His comments come amid growing concerns about the migration of Christians, the disproportionate impact on the community of last August's **Beirut** explosion, the country's economic crisis and fears for the survival of Catholic institutes.

The **priest** from the **Maronite Archdiocese of Beirut** said: "*Christians are experiencing tough times, doubt, and confusion after the pandemic, the economic crisis, and on top of all these, the explosion.*"

Regina Lynch, **director of projects** at **ACN**, described the extent of the crisis facing the Christian community.

She said: "***The Catholic schools are in danger of closing. The Catholic institutes like hospitals and clinics are struggling to survive, even to find the funds they need to buy important medicines and important medical equipment. So it's really five minutes to zero hour now at the moment in Lebanon.***"

Financial problems have led to an estimated 55 percent of the population living below the poverty line.

On Saturday (26th June) the Lebanese Pound plunged to a record low of 17,000,000 to US\$1 – having lost 90 percent of its value since 2019.

The meeting, held in Rome yesterday (Thursday), involving the Pope and Lebanon's Christian leaders, was described by the pontiff as "a day to reflect on the worrying situation in the country, and to pray together for the gift of peace and stability".

ACN has provided vital aid to Lebanese Christians following 2020's dockside blast, including emergency aid and repairs for church buildings in Beirut's Christian quarter.

And now an important appeal from Stella Maris. Though their special day came and went before this month's Newsletter was prepared, we felt it important to remind members of the vital work they do:



STELLA MARIS



Seafarers and fishers bring us food, fuel and medicines. *Catholic maritime charity Stella Maris* (Apostleship of the Sea) provides them with practical, pastoral and spiritual support. The charity is asking us to remember and pray for seafarers and fishers on Sea Sunday [which falls on 11 July] this year. **For more details and to donate, please go to: www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate/**

Roland Hayes - London Officer - Stella Maris:

39 Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1BX

Mobile: +44 7887 893763 / Mainline: 020 7901 1931 / [Visit our Centenary Website](#)

Registered charity in England and Wales number 1069833. registered charity in Scotland SC043085. Registered company number 3320318

For more info about our work or to donate go to: [Stella Maris GB](#)

Facebook: [@StellaMarisOrg](#) | Twitter: [@StellaMarisOrg](#) | Instagram: [StellaMarisUK](#)

... and another announcement, this time perhaps a little closer to CaAPA's familiar territory:



Dear CaAPA,

I hope this email finds you as well as possible in these dark and difficult times. I am writing in my capacity as a ***scholar-cum-musician*** specialising in *English convent music from the 17th and early 18th centuries*. I am also the co-manager of a young, up-and-coming ensemble based in England specialising in the vocal religious music of *Medieval and early modern women* called **Sub Rosa**. I am emailing as **Sub Rosa's U.K. premiere** is coming up, and it is an event I believe **English Catholic performers and artists in particular might be interested in.**

For our U.K. premiere, ***we are putting on a concert in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford on August 7th at 8 pm featuring newly uncovered music from English convents in exile, alongside music from Italian convents of the 17th century.***

The event will also feature letters, diaries, poetry, and other such stories from the nuns that offer insight into the lives of these drastically under-researched women. It will feature music from never-before-examined musical books from the ***Westminster Diocesan Archives***, the archives of the ***municipal library of Douai***, the ***Sepulchrine archive in Durham***, and many more.

I am emailing as I am pleased to say this concert will also be ***live-streamed***, available to any and all around the world. As this project - and indeed, my own scholarship - relies heavily on performance practice, theatrical interpretation, and re-enactment, it feels only right to contact you and let you know that at least some long-forgotten music and liturgy is being remembered and re-constructed. If you believe this to be of interest to some of the CaAPA community, both my co-manager and I would be most grateful if you would consider sharing this event with them via email, social media, what have you. ***We are also on twitter (@SubRosaEnsemble) and Facebook***, if you fancy having a wee look!

Many, many thanks in advance for both your help and your ongoing important work. Please do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions. In the meantime, all the very best, and may things only continue to get better.

Most sincerely,

Caroline Lesemann-Elliott

<https://carolinelesemannelliott.com/>

<https://subrosaensemble.com/>





Catholic Association
of Performing Arts



I'm sure all of the membership wish you luck in your debut concert and will try to watch and listen on 7 August!

And finally great news from one of our members!

Jane Garioni has been cast in a future edition of *Eastenders*. She says, "it's always great to be asked back!"

We all look forward to seeing you - and it - later in the year!



FUTURE DATES FOR THE DIARY

.....(hoping there won't be a new surge in Covid cases!)

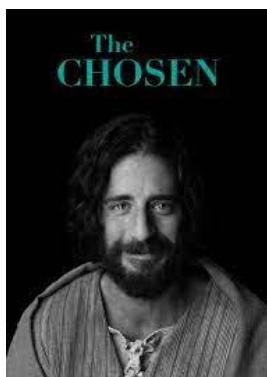
Wednesday 6 **OCTOBER** 7pm at CAA Covent Garden: book launch:
Beth by Julia Scott

Tuesday 26 **OCTOBER** 7pm at CAA: CaAPA playlets evening:
Action for the Church in Need

Tuesday 16 **NOVEMBER** 7pm at CAA: CaAPA AGM

Tuesday 14 **DECEMBER** 7pm at CAA: CaAPA Christmas Dinner

Nadia Ostacchini, has suggested the following FILM:



The Chosen is the first multi-season series based on true stories from the Gospels, and you can watch it **FREE** online! Season One is free-to-air by downloading The Chosen via the App Store or Google Play on your phones or go to the 2nd link below. It is the highest crowd-funded TV series or film project of all time, has had over 150 million views, is being translated into dozens of languages and six more seasons are to be premiered or produced! In the meantime, episodes from Season Two are being premiered throughout this year. Watch the Official trailer here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1-FoFj8Jbo and then watch on: <https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen>

Please do send in any items you have written, or think may be of interest to members, for inclusion in future Newsletters to kennethmichaels@hotmail.com

Until next month, may you all remain safe.

God Bless.

Kenneth Michaels

(Hon.Secretary)

[@Wearecaapa](https://twitter.com/Wearecaapa)



www.catholicassociationofperformingarts.org.uk/



**PS: Join us
on Facebook
& Twitter!**

Our diverse group of members comprise actors, singers, directors, writers, musicians and other entertainers who share their spiritual values in a creative community.