

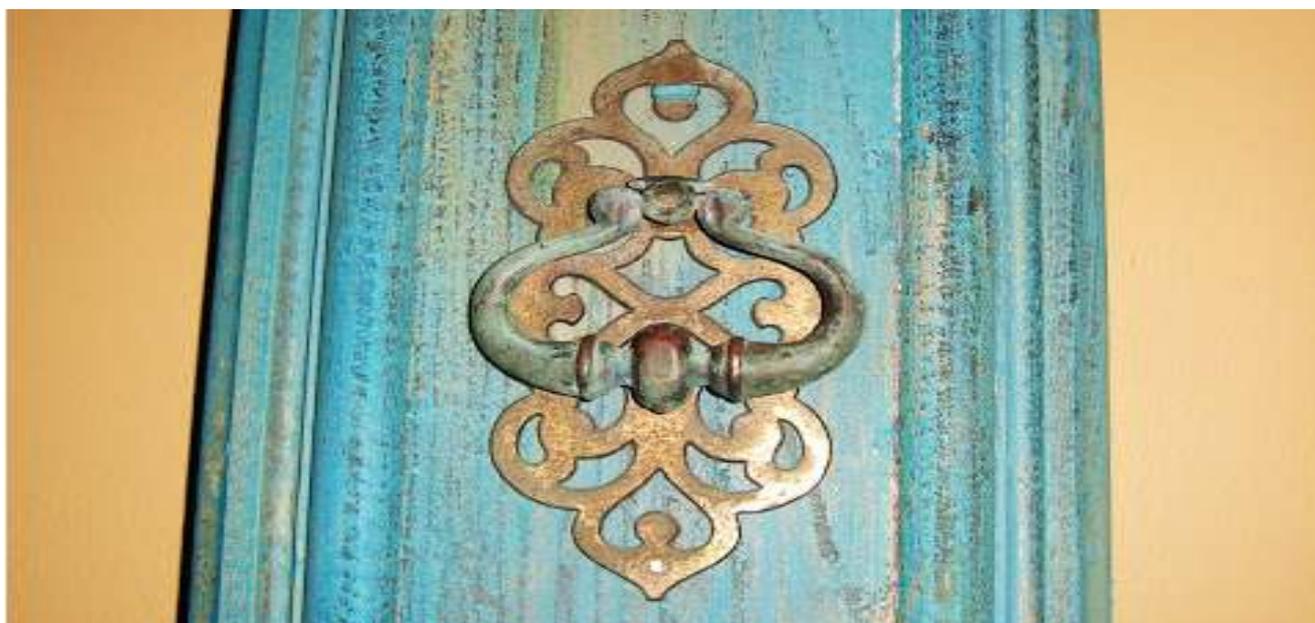
**CWO 1993 – 2013 Twenty years of prayer and action  
Challenging Institutional Sexism in the Roman Catholic Church  
E-news August 2013 issue 62**

Welcome to issue 62 of the e-news. Editor Pat Brown. Please visit CWO's website [www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk](http://www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk) News and previous issues can be seen there. Please send items for September e-news by 16 September. Also contact me for further information about anything in this e-news where contact details are not given [info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk](mailto:info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk)

Below is a flier for CWO Annual Gathering 2013. Many thanks to the midlands group for all their hard work in organising this.

They have requested that, if you can, you bring food to share. This is obviously difficult if you're travelling so they aren't expecting everyone to do this. They will be providing a lunch and, as it's a 20<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration, you never know, there might be something special.

A rather more unusual request is that you bring some door furniture. I hesitate to say knobs and knockers but that's what they want! Or you might bring a lock, hinge, doorstop, wedge, doorbell – there are many possibilities. When you see the title of the gathering you might understand why.





## Catholic Women's Ordination

Challenging Institutional Sexism in the Roman Catholic Church

Welsh Congregational Church

Loveday Street, Birmingham B4 6NP

**Saturday 5th October 10.30am - 5pm**

Coffee and CWO AGM 10.30am for 11      Lunch 12.30pm

Afternoon Workshop 1.30pm      Liturgy 4.30pm

# Knock, and it shall be opened

**Catholic women in the church today**

an afternoon workshop with

**Camilla Gilmore**

**Pippa Bonner**

**Katharine Salmon**

**Myra Poole**

**celebrating 20 years of the women's ordination campaign**

Venue near St Chad's Cathedral. Nearest rail station Birmingham Snow Hill.  
Everybody welcome for lunch and workshop. Directions or other details:  
contact [info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk](mailto:info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk) or ring 07460 625630

**all welcome**

**entry free**

**food welcomed**

## Praying in difficult places!

I have two very deep commitments that often leave me in a perfect cleft stick. On the one hand, for many years now, I have been longing for the Roman Catholic Church to open the ordained ministry to women. On the other, I'm firmly convinced that the RC Church, in the span and profundity of its traditions, holds the fullest expression of Christianity, and so I continually seek to participate in its life. As I'm sure many CWO members have experienced, this frequently leads to being present at liturgies or events provided by the institutional Church which I experience along the spectrum of distastefulness to repugnance.

Of course, there is refuge and spiritual energy to be found in the kind of alternative liturgies that CWO has become so skilful in creating, but I don't want to depend on these exclusively. Instead, how wonderful it would be if they could feed into the transformation of the practices and mindsets of our wider Church. It is, after all, **our** Church in the midst of all the differences and disagreements as well as the network of loving connections across the world.

My first step towards resolving my quandary came at a lecture given by a cardinal from the Vatican which had my stomach churning with anger and revulsion. In an interval I chatted briefly with the young woman next to me. She was so innocently impressed by the very presence of a cardinal, but had no idea what to make of his actual presentation. I began to pray for her, and found the prayer extending to the whole audience, including the black besuited clergy at the front, and the cardinal himself. On leaving, I was amazed to find myself both at peace and able to laugh at the ridiculousness of the proceedings.

So the next time I found myself at a problematic Mass – the problem is often not an overt rejection of women, but a whole set of assumed rejections just under the surface – I tried praying in that way again. The result was not to muffle the pain I was registering, but to show me that I could bear it, and might even be part of changing hearts and minds without any of us knowing. This has become a habit, and I've discovered it lead to the next step ... praying in difficult places.

On a few occasions now, I've chosen consciously to go to a church, or an event, that is obviously hostile to women's ordination, and to pray from within the people gathered there. It's something about being a silent witness for truth and love in places where no other sort of resistance is feasible. To let oneself be vulnerable in such places is exhausting, I've discovered, both spiritually and physically, and there's no obvious or immediate benefit. But I have a strong intuition that some service has been done.

I haven't been shown what the next step is yet ...

*Olive P*

## **A Woman's Place is in the Re-Imagining of the Church**

Southwark Cathedral Feminist Theology Group is hosting this event. It will take place in the Garry Weston Library at Southwark Cathedral on the 26th September 2013, beginning at 18.30 with a drinks reception and ending at 20.30. The panel discussion is scheduled to begin at 19.00 and on the panel are:

Chris Howson, Chaplain to the University of Sunderland and Associate Minister at Sunderland Minster

Jo Ind, Journalist and writer

Robert Kagawa, Chaplain and Lecturer in Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Roehampton

Lucy Winkett, Rector of St James's Church Piccadilly and a WATCH Vice President.

All are welcome and there is no charge, donations are however appreciated. For further information please contact Alison at [Alison.33@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Alison.33@hotmail.co.uk)

## **Blessed are the peacemakers**

Blessed are you peacemakers who say no to war as a means to peace.

Blessed are you peacemakers who are committed to disarm weapons of mass destruction.

Blessed are you peacemakers who wage peace at heroic personal cost.

Blessed are you peacemakers who challenge and confront judges, courts and prisons.

Blessed are you peacemakers who help those who are hurting.

Blessed are you peacemakers who befriend perfect strangers.

Blessed are you peacemakers who open doors for acting justly, loving tenderly and walking humbly with God and all people of good will.

Blessed are you peacemakers who offer hope and healing.

Blessed are you peacemakers who care and comfort.

Blessed are you peacemakers who help find answers.

Blessed are you peacemakers who welcome, encourage and inspire.

Blessed are you peacemakers who delight in creation, art and creativity.

Blessed are you peacemakers who provide stability not insanity.

Blessed are you peacemakers who help restore faith and love.

Blessed are you peacemakers who see the good in others.

Blessed are you peacemakers who never give up.

Blessed are you peacemakers who give and give and give.

*Fr Paul Milanowski*

## **CWO Weekend Retreat at Noddfa, Penmaenmawr 27-29 June 2014**

- All CWO members welcome – female and male.
- Come and recharge your spiritual batteries...
- As Participants we arrange the informal programme ourselves and choose to take part in all or some of the sessions.
- All sessions aim to help us in CWO to enrich our lives through reflection, prayer, liturgy, song, creative activity and fun!
- Enjoy the companionship, delicious food, beautiful gardens, sea and mountains of Noddfa on the North Wales Coast.
- Share the group retreat and enjoy the space too...
- Noddfa can be reached by road or rail. We arrive during Friday afternoon or early evening (27th) for supper at 6.30pm. We finish Sunday (29th) after lunch.

If space permits, it may be possible to book extra days on an individual basis before or after our weekend.

The full cost is £100. The remaining £50 (cheque or cash) is required by Noddfa during our weekend.

You must book by 31st March at the latest. If we don't have enough people, the event will be cancelled and we need to give Noddfa this much notice.

Noddfa means refuge, a place of welcome and peace. [www.noddfa.org.uk](http://www.noddfa.org.uk)

Enquiries: [info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk](mailto:info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk)

### **Prayer Link**

Last month I asked whether people prayed for CWO between 6.00pm and 7.00pm on Wednesdays and/or for WOW! at midday on Saturdays. (see prayer link page 7). Nobody has answered. Does this mean no one's praying or just not at those times? Please let me know whether you think this request should stay in e-news.

If you can't make the Annual Gathering, it would be good if you could pray for CWO at the time it's happening.

## Links

Pope Francis' ecclesiology rooted in the Emmaus story  
<http://ncronline.org/news/spirituality/pope-francis-ecclesiology-rooted-emmaus-story>

Eilis O'Hanlon: Church a boys' club forever, amen

<http://www.independent.ie/opinion/analysis/eilis-ohanlon-church-a-boys-club-forever-amen-29470999.html>

Pope slams door on women's ordination  
<http://www.womensordination.org/content/view/453/42/>

You can be patient without letting yourself be bullied. We must show patience but not bow down before others, use our heads for thinking not bowing. You no longer need permission to look up.

Aung San Suu Kyi



Martin Luther King "I have a dream today"  
28 August 1963

## CWO Saints

Mary MacKillop  
Ruth Norton  
John Hatfield  
Celia Greenwood  
Michael O'Gara  
Sheila Houlihan  
Mary Daly  
Estelle White

Pat McGarron  
Marcella Althaus-Reid  
Astrid Klemz  
Jean Palmer  
Elizabeth Rendall  
Maureen Brown  
Tissa Balasuriya  
Jack Sutcliffe

*Pray for us*

## Websites

<http://www.acalltoaction.org.uk/>

Catholics inspired by Vatican II.

<http://www.gras.org.uk/>

Group for rescinding the Act of Synod

[www.we-are-church.org.uk](http://www.we-are-church.org.uk)

<http://womenandthechurch.org/>

Campaign for women's equality in Church of England

<http://www.womensordination.org/>

News of Fr Bourgeois and many other issues

[www.churchauthority.org](http://www.churchauthority.org)

Sign the Jubilee Declaration

[www.ccc4vat2.org.uk](http://www.ccc4vat2.org.uk)

Catholics for a Changing Church

<http://lgcm.org.uk/>

Lesbian and Gay Christians

<http://82.70.116.125/index.html>

Women Word Spirit

<http://www.womenpriests.org/index.asp>

Sign up for their regular newsletter

<http://ncronline3.org/>

National Catholic Reporter

<http://christianfeministnetwork.com/>

Christian Feminist Network - exploring faith and feminism

<http://www.spirituschristi.org>

A truly inclusive Catholic Church

<http://www.stcuthbertshouse.co.uk/>

Rachel is a professed hermit of the R C Diocese of Nottingham.

## Prayer Link

Wednesday between 6.00 and 7.00pm, please pray for CWO, its members and its mission.

Saturdays at noon, join with women and men all over the world to pray for the work of Women's Ordination Worldwide (WOW!)

Please take part in one or both of these prayer networks if and when you can.

## The CWO Prayer

Moved by a compulsion of the Holy Spirit, we cannot remain ignorant of this injustice in our midst.

We long for all humanity to be acknowledged as equal, particularly among your community of the church, so we pray grieving for the lost gifts of so many women.

We ask you, God of all peoples, to bring insight and humility to all those in positions of dominance, and an understanding that the ascended Lord called us all to act doing Christ's work here and now.

We ask this of you, God our Creator, Jesus our Redeemer, Spirit our Sustainer