

**CWO**  
**Challenging Institutional Sexism in the Roman Catholic Church**  
**E-news March 2012 issue 46**

Welcome to the edited issue 46 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 April e-news by 15 April. 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)

The day we have planned to mark the anniversary of Vatican II will soon be here. **Please let me know if you are planning to attend this event.** (See programme below) Please read the documents on our website which will inform this day. **Two new ones will be added in the next few days.** 'The Debate about the Ordination of Women in the Roman Catholic Church since Vatican II with special reference to Britain' and 'A summary of the Documents of Vatican II'

<http://www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk/news.htm>

Scroll down the page to "Whatever Happened to Vatican II.

Also see <http://www.womenpriests.org/authority/index.asp>

Come and help CWO regenerate the optimism which existed 50 years ago and plan how to take our Church forward

### **CWO Saints**

Mary MacKillop  
Ruth Norton  
John Hatfield  
Celia Greenwood  
Michael O'Gara  
Sheila Houlihan  
Mary Daly  
Estelle White  
Astrid Klemz  
Jean Palmer  
Elizabeth Rendall  
Maureen Brown

*Pray for us*

If you visit our website you will see that as well as our face book page

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Catholic-Womens-Ordination/27311398359>

CWO is now on linked in and twitter.  
Please join us on linked in

[http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Catholic-Womens-Ordination-4336317?goback=.gna\\_4336317](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Catholic-Womens-Ordination-4336317?goback=.gna_4336317)

and follow us on twitter @CWOcampaign

I'd also welcome pithy CWO statements to tweet (max. 140 characters including spaces)

## Whatever Happened to Vatican II?

A day of reflection and planning

Saturday 12 May At Andrew's Short Street Waterloo  
10.30am – 4.00pm

All welcome

### Programme

10.30 – 11.00	Registration and refreshments
11.00 – 12.15	Kathleen Walsh introduces the day followed by questions from the floor
12.15 – 12.45	Liturgy
12.45 – 1.30	Lunch
1.30 – 2.30	Discussion in groups
2.30 – 3.00	Feed back from groups
3.00 – 4.00	Plan action

### Sunday Radio 4 18 March

CWO member Pippa Bonner was interviewed for *Sunday* and was featured in a discussion about the bishops' letter about gay marriage. Her invitation to be on the program was in response to a letter she wrote to *the Times*. She also had a letter published in the Radio Times about the programme *Catholics* which won "letter of the week". **It is worth writing letters!**

In her recorded interview, Pippa mentioned CWO and the fact that there is no forum in the RC Church to raise issues. She mentioned collegiality and 50th anniversary of Vatican II. These comments were not used but what they did use was excellent

Pippa – *"This is our church we're talking about and there are gay and lesbian Catholics and it's their church too. So for some of us to be able to have the sacrament of marriage and some of us not to because we happen to be gay or lesbian seems to me to be wrong.*

*Sacraments are God given channels of grace and healing but my view is that they are being increasingly corralled by the Roman Catholic Institutional Church"*

On the same subject Rabbi Aaron Goldstein said, *"When we allow dogma to take the place of love then religion is dead"*

## **Women Bishops in the Church of England - Please write to your MP**

Frank Field has tabled another Early Day Motion urging the Church and Parliament to move forward with the draft women bishops legislation unamended and with all speed. It is EDM 2688 and the text is:

That this House welcomes the moves by the General Synod of the Church of England to pass legislation permitting women to be bishops; notes that the Synod has now concluded its consultation with the dioceses on the Women in the Episcopate: draft Bishops and Priests (Consecration and Ordination of Women) Measure; further welcomes the result of those consultations, with 42 out of 44 dioceses voting in favour; is encouraged by the overwhelming support shown by 85 per cent. of bishops, 76 per cent. of clergy and 77 per cent. of the laity voting in favour; encourages the House of Bishops to commend the Measure for final approval as currently drafted; and calls on Her Majesty's Government to work with the governing authorities of the Church of England including the Archbishops' Council, the House of Bishops and the General Synod to ensure that the express wishes of the overwhelming majority of those consulted across the Provinces of Canterbury and York are met by expeditiously tabling the Measure in Parliament for its approval.

## **Wales and West Group**

A study day was held on Vatican II in Newport on 17 March - it was a small but select group! We were very fortunate to have such excellent speakers and many many thanks to Mary Anstey and Myra Poole. Mary started the day with a superb presentation which very much set the scene and greatly increased our understanding of the Council and *Aggiornamento* and *Resourcement*. Mary also took us through earlier Councils and the documents from Vatican 2, ending her presentation on a note of hope. Mary showed us a wonderful icon from the 1st century depicting women priests and gave some examples of what the church said after Vatican 2 about freedom of speech - which appear to ring hollow now in our present struggle for women's ordination.

After lunch, Myra picked up the themes from the morning and facilitated group discussions, which were quite lively at times! We explored our hopes and dashed hopes from Vatican 2 and some of our current lived experiences in parishes. Myra gave us a fascinating insight into women's role in Vatican 2 (one of Mary's slides showed where the women sat at the council up high away from the main body of men) and then a broad history of CWO, with interesting vignettes. Both Myra and Ruth were there at the beginning and they talked about the faithful witness given at Westminster.

The group is meeting on Saturday June 9th in Chepstow - so please keep this day for your diary. Further details will be in future e-News

*Amanda Ryan*

## 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*

*Everything will be alright in the end; if it's not alright, it's not yet the end.*

Sonny - The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

## Inspiring link

Joan Chittester for International Women's Day

[http://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=318325101550096&id=135188603186389](http://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=318325101550096&id=135188603186389)

## Sri Lanka

Read Sue Williamson's blog about her recent trip to Sri Lanka.

<http://sues-travel-notes.blogspot.com>

## CWO Retreat 3-5 August

Once again we are holding a retreat for all CWO members at Noddfa. Cost £88. To reserve a place, please send deposit (non refundable) of £50 to Noddfa, Conwy Old Road, Penmaenmawr, North Wales, LL34 6YF . Please book by 31 May and state any dietary or other needs.

## **S O S Stop Our Silence...**

I become increasingly convinced that we need to speak out more and encourage others around us to do so too.

Many of us in CWO seize whatever opportunities we can to:

- To speak out for the ordination of women, and greater equality for women.
- To encourage lay women and men to offer their gifts and skills in an increasingly clericalised RC Church. With fewer priests and closing and clustering parishes what are some of the answers? In CWO we say: the ordination of women. Many of us want more involvement of lay women and men in an empowered Church.

### **We are a sacramental Church.**

Sacraments are channels of grace, gift and healing. They are to be approached prayerfully. It seems to me and others that the Vatican is increasingly "corralling" the sacraments and there are greater numbers being excluded, than included, from the sacraments.

- Women are automatically excluded from the sacrament of ordination.
- Gay and lesbian partners are excluded from the sacrament of marriage. (It is now known homosexuality is biologically determined and not a lifestyle choice. We are all equally created in the image of God:men and women, homosexual and heterosexual. In CWO we believe we that the incarnated God is human and we, as humans, equally image God. The Church evolves. It once believed the world was flat and supported slavery.)
- Non Roman Catholics are automatically excluded from the Eucharist in RC churches except in exceptional circumstances. Divorced and remarried Catholics are also denied Holy Communion.

Unless we want others to think of us as increasingly discriminating against women, homophobic and anti-ecumenical I believe we need to speak out, more strongly than ever. I find many of my fellow parishioners support movement in all of these ideas but don't speak out because they are afraid "to rock the boat", feel disempowered or they don't think the Bishop will listen. How can this change?

This is the 50th Anniversary of Vatican II. The notion of collegiality was an important concept that came from Vatican II. It led us to believe that diocesan Bishops would be able to listen to the concerns of their people and take these to the Vatican, and that the Vatican would consider our concerns. What has happened to collegiality and a listening RC Church? There are some oases in this desert but increasingly fewer...

WE NEED TO **STOP OUR SILENCE**

SILENCE IMPLIES COLLUSION

*Pippa Bonner*

## Websites

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

Women Word Spirit

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

Catholics for a Changing Church

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

Group for rescinding the Act of Synod

<http://womenandthechurch.org/>

Campaign group for women's equality in the Church of England

<http://ncronline3.org/drupal/>

National Catholic Reporter –

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

Lesbian and Gay Christians

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

Sign up for their regular newsletter

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

A truly inclusive Catholic Church

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

More news of Rome  
Petition, Fr Bourgeois and many other issues

## CWO Annual Gathering

Please make a note of the date 29 September at St Andrew's Waterloo.  
More details later

## Holy Rood House Thirsk

There are many interesting days and residential courses and retreats.

You may wish to book overnight accommodation, or stay for the whole weekend at Holy Rood and take advantage of their provision of complimentary therapies, creative arts and spiritual accompaniment.

Please visit their website or email with enquiries.

[enquiries@holyroodhouse.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@holyroodhouse.org.uk)

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

Holy Rood House  
10 Sowerby Road  
Thirsk  
North Yorkshire  
YO7 1HX

*The absolute religious genius of Jesus is that he ignores all debt codes, purity codes, religious quarantines, and the endless searching for sinners. He refuses to divide the world into the pure and the impure, much to the chagrin of almost everybody—then and now. Unlike most churches, he is not into "sin management." He is into transformation.*

*Jesus is shockingly not upset with sinners! He is only upset with people who do not think they are sinners. In most of history, religion thought its mission was to somehow expel sin and evil. As if it could. After Jesus we find out that the real sin lies in the very act of expelling. Jesus knew there is no place to expel it to. It only hides underground.*

*Either we carry and transform the evil of human history as our own problem, or we increase its power by hating and punishing it "over there." It will eventually come back to bite us. Jesus taught us how to hold, absorb, and transform the human situation, not to deny it, punish it, or project it elsewhere. He then dramatically illustrated this pattern on the cross, and it became resurrection!*

Richard Rohr



## **Saint Hildegard Doctor of the Church - International Conference Bingen - Disibodenberg - Eibingen – October 25-28 2012**

Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179) - seer, mystic woman, healer, composer, politician and soon also to be a Doctor of the Church!? Her elevation into this position, and, also connected to this, her official sanctification might be declared in October 2012 by the Pope in Rome.

In order to reflect on and celebrate this event properly, the newly-founded *Scivias Institute for Art & Spirituality* (in co-operation with the city of Bingen & other partners) invites you to an international conference in Bingen and to the "Land of Hildegard".

Qualified teachers from Germany, America, England and Spain give lectures and hold workshops in the German and/or English language. The question as to what we can learn from Hildegard as a teacher shall be asked and answered earnestly in the fields of theology, literature,

music, art, medicine and politics. The results of the workshops shall be presented at the end of the conference and end in a celebration of Saint Hildegard's life and work.

Conference locations are in Bingen at the *Rupertsberger Gewölbe* (the remains of Hildegard's original convent!), at the *Museum am Strom*, at the *Hildegardisforum* on the Rochusberg; and, in the „Land of Hildegard“ at the site of the ruins of *Disibodenberg*, at St. Hildegard's Abbey and at the old Parish Church in *Eibingen*.

Accommodation for conference participants is reserved in different price-classes at *NH-Hotel Bingen* (20), *Hotel Krone Bingen* (20), in the Guest House of the *Kreuzschwester* (10) and in *Bingen Youth Hostel* (10 Plätze). The Conference fee is € 150,00. It includes entrances, a buffet with Hildegard-food and a concert with Hildegard's music.

Application is necessary till August 30, 2012 at the latest. Early bird bookings are most welcome!

Scivias Institute for Art & Spirituality

[www.scivias-Institut.de](http://www.scivias-Institut.de) – [annette.esser@scivias-institut.de](mailto:annette.esser@scivias-institut.de)

Dr. Annette Esser – Winzenheimer Str. 23 – 55545 Bad Kreuznach, GERMANY



## Call for Papers - Liturgy as muse

Religious institutes as protagonists in renewing liturgy, sacred art and music and church material culture (1903-1962)

International conference of the European Forum on the History of Religious Institutes in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries (RELINS-Europe) Leuven, Belgium, 8-9 November 2012

The intended focus of the 2012 Relins conference is the role – to which still too little attention has been paid – played by religious and religious institutes in the reform and renewal of religious art and the material culture of church architecture and of worship between 1903 and 1962, along three main themes.

1. Religious Institutes and national/international networks
2. Motives, ideas and significance of the religious protagonists
3. Conflicts and public perception

All these questions and themes will be discussed at the 2012 RELINS-Europe conference. RELINS-Europe ([www.relins.eu](http://www.relins.eu)) is an international forum that aims to foster international, comparative research on religious institutes in (Western) Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries. Previous conferences were organized in 2001 (Rome – Historiography of Religious Institutes), 2002 (Vallendar – Legal Position of Religious Institutes), 2004 (Rome – Religious Institutes and the Roman Factor), 2005 (Fribourg – Religious Institutes and Catholic Culture), 2006 (Rome – Missiology, Science and Modernity), 2008 (Leuven – Patrimony, Business and Management of Religious Institutes) and 2009 (Ravenstein – Educating a Catholic Elite).

The conference is scheduled to take place in Leuven (Belgium) on 8 and 9 November 2012 and will be hosted by KADOC-KU Leuven ([www.kadoc.be](http://www.kadoc.be)). Proposals for papers (max. 500 words, including a title), together with a curriculum vitae and a list of publications, should be addressed to Kristien Suenens ([kristien.suenens@kadoc.kuleuven.be](mailto:kristien.suenens@kadoc.kuleuven.be)) before March 1<sup>st</sup> 2012. Replies will follow no later than May 1<sup>st</sup> 2012.

There is a Vitality, a Life Force, an Energy, a Quickening, that is translated to you into action, and because there is only one of you in all time, this expression is unique. And if you block it, it will never exist through any other medium and will be lost.

*Martha Graham*



## CWO Merchandise

These items are great way to advertise CWO without costing you very much. I often see people in my rear view mirror admiring the wit of my car sticker!

You can leave the pens lying around in places where it might be difficult to leave a CWO leaflet. The badges attract a lot of attention with the slogan based on the letters of ROME. We now have mugs which as well as being practical are a good way of advertising CWO. You might like to send one to your bishop!

		how many	unit cost	total
Biro - CWO logo, website and phone no	Purple with silver lettering Black ink		0.80	
Car sticker CWO logo website and phone number	Purple on dream		1.50	
CWO rectangular badge	Purple with white lettering <b>Renewed</b> <b>Ordained</b> <b>Ministry for</b> <b>Everyone</b>		1.00	
<b>NEW!!!</b> Mug CWO logo website "CWO's my cup of tea"	Purple on white Buy for your office, church tea room, meeting room		4.50 each 3 for £12 10 for £35	
P & P *see below				
Donation (optional)				

### PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

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### \*Postage and packing

orders up to £10	3.00
orders £10 - 20	5.00
orders over £20	free