

**CWO 1993 – 2013 Twenty years of prayer and action**  
**Challenging Institutional Sexism in the Roman Catholic Church**  
**E-news June 2013 issue 60**

Welcome to issue 60 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 July e-news by 16 July. 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)

Work has been done on a video taken at the CWO 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary vigil at Westminster Cathedral and it is now ready to be accessed from our website. It should be available before next month's e-news so I will give you links then. A few other videos will also be added so I'll keep you posted. Mary Colwell has worked extremely hard for us. I think you will all be pleased with the result. Thanks and prayers to Mary.

There was an error in the heading of the last e-news. It should have read May rather than April! You probably didn't even notice as no-one has commented but I've changed it in the one on the website.

Among the links below is one for a petition to support married priests. We in CWO pray that no-one is excluded from ordained ministry. However, if there is a decision to include married men we hope that they will stand in solidarity with us and wait until we are all able to test our calling.



Peter Dodson suggests a hymn for CWO

### A Touching Place

Christ's is the world in which we move,  
Christ's are the folk we're summoned to  
love,  
Christ's is the voice which calls us to care,  
And Christ is the one who meets us here.

*To the lost Christ shows his face;  
To the unloved he gives his embrace;  
To those who cry in pain or disgrace,  
Christ makes, with his friends, a touching  
place.*

Feel for the people we most avoid  
Strange or bereaved or never employed;  
Feel for the women, and feel for the men  
Who fear that their living is all in vain.

Feel for the parents who've lost their child  
Feel for the women whom men have  
defiled,  
Feel for the baby for whom there's no  
breast,  
And feel for the weary who find no rest.

Feel for the lives by life confused  
Riddled with doubt, in loving abused;  
Feel for the lonely heart, conscious of sin,  
Which longs to be pure but fears to begin.

You can hear it on youtube

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mw1Yt9xNVtE>

## **CWO Annual Gathering Saturday 5 October 2013**

This will reflect our twenty years of  
prayer and action  
10.30am – 4.00pm  
at the Welsh Congregationalist  
Church, Loveday Street,  
Birmingham B4 6NP

The AGM will be in the morning  
followed by lunch. In the afternoon,  
local members and supporters in  
the Midlands are planning for an  
afternoon of celebration and  
reflection on where we are as  
women in the church, after twenty  
years of CWO in the UK and many  
decades of social and theological  
development by women and men  
across the world from early in the  
twentieth century up to the present.  
We will also be asking what the  
next steps might be towards the  
future which God calls us to.

More details soon so watch this  
space and please put the date in  
your diary

I didn't want to live in the Apostolic  
Palace. I go there only to work and  
for audiences. I live in Saint  
Martha's House, which is a boarding  
house, where we were guests  
during the Conclave. It houses  
bishops, priests and laymen. I am  
visible to people and I lead a  
normal life. A public Mass in the  
morning, I eat at table with  
everyone, etc. All this does me  
much good and avoids my being  
isolated.

Pope Francis

Rebellion against tyrants is obedience to  
God

Emily Davison

## 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*

## The Earth is the Lord's: Renewing the Covenant of Creation

A conference run by Modern  
Church 15 - 18 July.

<http://www.modernchurch.org.uk/conference/2013.htm>

I do not believe that just because you're opposed to abortion that that makes you pro-life. In fact, your morality is deeply lacking if all you want is a child born but not a child fed, not a child educated, not a child housed. That's NOT pro-life. That's pro-birth.

Sr. Joan Chittester

## Links

Bishop Geoffrey Robinson's petition to Pope Francis to stop sexual abuse

<http://www.change.org/en-AU/petitions/pope-francis-the-vatican-for-christ-s-sake-stop-sexual-abuse-for-good>

Francis at 100 days – the world's parish priest

<http://ncronline.org/news/vatican/francis-100-days-worlds-parish-priest>

Petition for married priests

[http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/married-and-ordained-to-the-priesthood?utm\\_source=supporter\\_message&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=petition\\_message\\_notice](http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/married-and-ordained-to-the-priesthood?utm_source=supporter_message&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=petition_message_notice)

Lucy Winkett's address to London Watch

<http://womenandthechurch.org/news/revd-lucy-winkett-address-at-the-london-watch-meeting-st-jamess-piccadilly-on-17-april-2013/>

and WATCH's response to House of Bishops' Report

<http://womenandthechurch.org/>

Mobilizing at the Margins: An Interview on Women, Leadership, and Faith

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/religion/news/2013/05/31/64870/mobilizing-at-the-margins-an-interview-on-women-leadership-and-faith/>

New lay Catholic association set up to stem "crisis" within the Church

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/new-lay-catholic-association-set-up-to-stem-crisis-within-the-church-1.1414774>

## Letter about shortage of priests

I heard recently that in our diocese because of priest retirement there will be two parishes without priests in a few months. I think this is now "crunch time" as in recent years many of our parishes have already closed down or amalgamated to cope with the "shortage" of priests. We have now arrived at the point where despite this there are no more male celibate clergy or male deacons to go round. This is likely increasingly the case in other dioceses too.

I have just written to our Diocesan Administrator (as we currently do not have a bishop) and our two Vicars General. Some of the letter is in italics below. I have written as a lay person and not on behalf of anyone else. I have said it is not currently within their power to have women or married priests but to pray and think now about more **real** lay collaboration. This is lay collaboration on a much more inclusive scale than now where it depends on the inclination of the Parish Priest and is sometimes peripheral, ad hoc and can be more about "maintenance than mission." I think a change of mindset will lead to reform and women's ordained ministry.

This is part of what I wrote:

*"It is to be hoped, if the notion of collegiality from Vatican II is to be revived with Pope Francis, that the whole area of priesthood and lay collaboration can be revisited, concerns shared with Rome and collaborative ministry expanded. It seems to me and numerous other active Catholics that many God-given gifts are not being sufficiently discerned, welcomed and put to good use, systematically, by dioceses and parish clergy who are overworked and many of whom are nearing retirement.... It would be good to think that in the not too distant future there will be the will and discernment necessary to recognise that with prayer, good governance and selection procedures, some training, and committed preparation of the people in parishes to receive some of these changes, our parishes could stay open and flourish and be more supportive to the fewer parish priests and sisters that struggle to juggle and keep "all the balls in the air."...*

*"As a member of Catholic Women's Ordination I have not mentioned women priests to you. I believe that will happen within a reformed Catholic Church. Also I am not mentioning married priests either as I know it is not within your power to explore either option at present. However with women and married men available to test out a vocation to the priesthood and then perhaps become priests, it is unlikely there would be a shortage of priests. Parishes would not have to close down and communities that have formed over many years have to be absorbed in to yet larger communities with ever fewer priests running between Masses, visiting and meetings etc. Meanwhile, there are many of us lay people, women and men etc. etc."*

## Letter about shortage of priests (continued)

In CWO we are campaigning for ordained women's ministry in a reformed Roman Catholic Church. We also want women and men's gifts to be discerned and used now in collaborative parishes so that no more have to close down or share the dwindling number of male celibate priests even more thinly.

Perhaps others could write to their bishops too...Crunch times are times of opportunity, especially while we wait to hear about Curial reform from the new Pope. However we can't depend on him alone. I believe we each have to take responsibility for our future NOW...

Pippa Bonner

What some call "liminal space" or threshold space (*limen* in Latin means a threshold, a starting line in a race, or a beginning place) is a very good phrase for those special times, events, and places that open us up to the sacred. It seems we need special ("sacred") days to open us up to all days being special and sacred; we need special and sacred times to universalize to all time. (It is only some forms of late-blooming Protestantism that never recognized this need.) Even ancient Initiation Rites were both intensely sacred time and space to send the initiate into a newly discovered sacred universe.

What became All Saints' Day and All Souls Day (November 1-2) were already called "thin times" by the ancient Celts, as also were February 1-2 (St. Bridget's Day and Candlemas Day when the candles were blessed and lit). The veil between this world and the next world was considered most "thin" and most easily traversed during these times. On these days, we were invited to be aware of deep time—that is, past, present, and future time gathered into one especially holy moment. On these pivotal days we are reminded that our ancestors are still in us and work with us and through us; we called it the "communion of saints." The New Testament phrase for this was "when time came to a fullness," as when Jesus first announces the Reign of God ([Mark 1:15](#)) or when Mary comes to the moment of birth ([Luke 2:6](#)). We are in liminal space whenever past, present, and future time come together in a "full" moment of readiness. We are in liminal space whenever the division between "right here" and "over there" is obliterated in our consciousness.

Richard Rohr

## 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

## 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>R</b> enewed <b>O</b> rdained <b>M</b> inistry for <b>E</b> veryone		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

Name

Delivery address

Post code

Contact email or telephone number

Send to Pat Brown, 4 West Park Gardens, Leeds, LS8 2HD

\*Postage and packing (increased from last time as postal charges have gone up)

orders up to £10	4.00
orders £10 - 20	6.00
orders over £20	Free