

**CWO 1993 – 2013 Twenty years of prayer and action
Challenging Institutional Sexism in the Roman Catholic Church
E-news September 2013 issue 63**

Welcome to the edited issue 63 of the e-news for non-CWO members. Some surnames are abbreviated and email addresses not included. Please contact me for further information about anything in this e-news where contact details are not given info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk Pat Brown editor. Please visit CWO's website www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk News and previous issues can be seen there. Please send items for October e-news by 16

They say a week is a long time in politics but this week has seen a lot happen in our Church. The open letter to Pope Francis [<http://www.catholicchurchreform.com/letter.html>] and his widely publicised interview [http://www.thinkingfaith.org/articles/20130919_1.htm] informed the press conference held on Wednesday 25th September (report to follow). I'm sure they will also inform our Annual Gathering on 5 October in Birmingham.

The Pope said "We have to find a new balance; otherwise even the moral edifice of the church is likely to fall like a house of cards, losing the freshness and fragrance of the Gospel." He is a brave man and we must support him.



"The church's pastoral ministry cannot be obsessed with the transmission of a disjointed multitude of doctrines to be imposed insistently"



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 or ring 07460 625630

all welcome

entry free

food welcomed

Please bring some door furniture. Maybe a doorknob lock, hinge, doorstop, wedge, doorbell or knocker – there are many possibilities.

Report on the WOW Steering Committee and Open Forum at St. Columba's Centre Woking UK

This was my last meeting representing CWO as their delegate to WOW. During that time I have built up many friendships and seen people change and develop, myself included I hope. This was particularly strong meeting for CWO as Cathy Wattebot had been asked to take minutes and Katharine Salmon to translate for the French delegate. Pat Brown was also an observer for the first 3 days and Michael Ward also came to observe. It was great to have so many CWO members present for the SC Meeting but many more came for the Open Forum on Saturday afternoon. Changes of delegate from Ireland (now We Are Church Ireland) France and Germany were noted

As a thank you for the hospitality I had received from other members of the Steering Committee, I decided to give each delegate our new CWO mugs as a present. The response was unprecedented. An observer from Poland was so impressed with the mugs, having our logo on, but even more strikingly the strapline - 'Challenging Institutional Sexism in the Roman Catholic Church', that a template of our mugs has now gone to Poland and Canada are also asking for them. Everyone was thrilled to have the mugs and each person was going to display their mug in a very prominent place for all to see. Hopefully we can get our mugs to reach an even wider audience.

The Steering Committee meeting was taken up with the usual administration but there was a full report of WOW's presence in Rome during the Papal conclave, with the setting off of pink smoke with wide media coverage. There is a plan for a further action in Rome next year to which anyone interested would be invited. There was also much discussion about how we are going to organise the next WOW Conference in September 2015. More details to follow in further e-news.

The Open Forum on Saturday afternoon started with a panel presentation by Fr. Tony Flannery CSSR (founder of the Association of Catholic Priests in Ireland), Rev. Anne Stevens from WATCH (Women and the Church –Anglican) and Katharine Salmon from CWO. They all spoke to the title of 'One in Christ: Women and Men working in solidarity for change'. Each had suffered in different ways, but as an RC priest Tony Flannery had felt the full wrath of Rome and Katharine had suffered her own experience of exclusion. All spoke very movingly and then we broke into groups to work out questions for the panellists. This gave everyone a chance to speak in a smaller setting. It became clear from the answers to the questions that as far as the priests in Tony Flannery's ACP, most would be fearful about speaking about women's ordination for fear of being cut off without a penny. Maybe eventually their solidarity will enable them to speak out. Anne Stevens made it clear that the Anglican women regretted accepting the diaconate before they were accepted as priests, a discussion which we had had among ourselves earlier. Katharine is still asked to translate and speak at quite orthodox RC gatherings and long may that continue.

Report on the WOW Steering Committee and Open Forum at St. Columba's Centre Woking UK (continued)

Miriam Duignan of Womenpriests.org was a consummate chair and at the end we all sang "We shall overcome" to Joan Baez's lead from the March on Washington.

Prior to that I read out the following:

"We have a dream that one day soon women will walk alongside men in equal partnership in the spiritual leadership of the universal church.

We have dream that one day soon women will represent the divine in both language and imagery so that the Christian message may be seen as showing true equality to all humanity"

Sue W September 2103

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, breathe down upon our troubled world.
Shake the tired foundations of our crumbling institutions.
Break the rules that keep you out of all our sacred spaces.
And from the dust and rubble, gather up the seedlings of a new creation.

Come Holy Spirit, enflame once more the dying embers of our weariness.
Shake us out of our complacency.
Whisper our names once more, and scatter your gifts of grace with wild abandon.
Break open the prisons of our inner being
And let your raging justice be our sign of liberty.

Come Holy Spirit, and lead us to places we would rather not go;
Expand the horizons of our limited imaginations.
Awaken in our souls dangerous dreams for a new tomorrow,
And rekindle in our hearts the fire of prophetic enthusiasm.

Come Holy Spirit, whose justice outwits international conspiracy;
Whose light outshines spiritual bigotry,
Whose peace can overcome the destructive potential of warfare,
Whose promise invigorates our every effort
To create a new Heaven and a new Earth,
Now and forever.

Amen.

This prayer was brought to a Birmingham ACTA meeting by a Columban priest, Ray Collier. Ray says "As far as I know, the prayer was composed by Sir Francis Drake before battle and a group of American Sisters saw a copy of it some years back and modified it for their meetings."

'In search of emancipatory language and liturgy'

A GENDER STUDY DAY

with Nicola Slee

on Saturday 19 October
10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Building on the success of previous WATCH/Queen's study days, this day will provide another opportunity for theological reflection and sharing on a topic of vital importance.

The day will include: a key-note lecture by Nicola Slee, opportunities for discussion and sharing and workshops in which we will create a closing act of worship.

Cost: £25 waged, £10 unwaged (includes lunch)

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL and places are limited.

Please complete the booking form and return to r.scattergood@queens.ac.uk

Further information from sleen@queens.ac.uk

Nicola Slee is Research Fellow at the Queen's Foundation, a poet and feminist liturgist. She is the author of numerous books and articles, including *Praying Like a Woman* (SPCK, 2004), *The Book of Mary* (SPCK, 2009) and *Seeking the Risen Christa* (SPCK, 2011). Her most recent publication is *The Faith Lives of Women and Girls*, co-edited with Anne Phillips and Fran Porter (Ashgate, 2013).

Prayer Link

I am asking again what I asked 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.

St. Hildegard of Bingen, Doctor of the Church - Feast day 17 September

This is her famous spiced cookie recipe, also known as her calming "nerve cookies." Of her cookies she said, "Eat them often and they will calm every bitterness of heart and mind - and your hearing and senses will open. Your mind will be joyous, and your senses purified and harmful humours will diminish."

Hildegardplätzchen (St. Hildegard Spice Cookies)

½ cup softened butter
½ cup honey or ¾ cup sugar
2 eggs
3½ cups flour *
1tsp baking powder
2 tsp. ground cinnamon
2 tsp. ground nutmeg
½ tsp. ground cloves
½ tsp. ground cardamom
½ cup chopped almonds or walnuts (optional)

*A mixture of all-purpose and spelt flours may be used in this recipe. St. Hildegard advocated the use of spelt over other wheat-based flours because the former is easier to digest and contains more protein.

Cream together butter, honey and eggs.
In separate bowl, mix together dry ingredients.
Make a well in the middle of the dry ingredients.
Pour liquid ingredients in well and mix into dry ingredients.
Chill in refrigerator to cool, to make it easier to work with (optional).
Form into walnut sized balls.
Place on greased and floured cookie sheet.
Bake at 350 degrees for 12 to 15 minutes.
Enjoy!

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. Please contact me as soon as possible to book a place. 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

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

Just wanting
something isn't
enough.
You must know how
to get it.
You must also dare
to do it
and be able to do it.

Aung San Suu Kyi

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

We Are Church in the UK is a call to recognise that all the Baptised, are part of the Church.

<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

Sign the Jubilee Declaration

<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