



WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

Speaking with the heart. "The truth in love" (Eph 4,15)

Sunday, 21 May 2023

Dear Father,

We celebrate World Communications Day on Sunday, 21 May, and as the Lead Bishop for Communications, I have been reflecting recently on the big news stories of the past 12 months - both inside the Church, and beyond. It has very much been a tale of monarchs and popes. Firstly, we mourned the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II who served our countries steadfastly and faithfully for just over 70 years and welcomed the announcement of a new King - His Majesty King Charles III.

We have also prayed fervently for the successors of St Peter. Recently, of course, we prayed for Pope Francis as he recovered from a respiratory infection in hospital but, as 2022 drew to a close, it became apparent that Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI was in poor health and close to returning to the Lord. We prayed, as a Catholic community, for the repose of his soul and we were able to celebrate his life and considerable contribution to the Church. In a special way, we gave thanks for his memorable Papal Visit to the UK in 2010.

The motto for that historic visit came from St John Henry Newman - Heart speaks unto Heart. How fitting that speaking from the heart is the central theme of Pope Francis' message for this year's 57th World Communications Day. In recent years, the Holy Father has reflected on the building blocks of good communication. The heart, he says, is the common factor motivating us "to go and see" and "to listen". It enables us, having listened, to "speak the truth in love". You can read or download the full message here: cbcew.org.uk/wcd23-papal-message/

Please encourage your communities to assist this crucial work by generously supporting the second collection which is taken up on the day. Please visit, and encourage others to visit, the Bishops' Conference website: cbcew.org.uk. Here you will find the latest news, features, events, podcasts and more. You can also sign-up for the communications team's weekly newsletter.

With every blessing,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "+ John Arnold".

Bishop John Arnold
Lead Bishop for Communications
Bishop of Salford