

# ACTA Newsletter for the Birmingham Diocesan Area



14<sup>th</sup> September 2018

**Welcome** - All the ACTA Steering Team send greetings to all our members and supporters. Please forward this to friends and family. If you have items for inclusion in the next newsletter in a few months please email [mjriordan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mjriordan@hotmail.co.uk).

**ACTA National Steering Team will be meeting THIS SATURDAY in Birmingham. If there's anything at all that you want raised at that meeting, please email [mjriordan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mjriordan@hotmail.co.uk) before 11am on Saturday September 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you. Minutes will be circulated to you asap.**

## ACTA National Conference in Cardiff this year

**- 'It will always be Pentecost in the Church – Oscar Romero'**

**Dr Anna Abram** will be speaking on relationships within the *institutional* church and **Dr Gemma Simmons** will focus on relationships within the *discerning* church. Places still available – see how to book at [acalltoaction.org.uk](http://acalltoaction.org.uk). Please email [mjriordan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mjriordan@hotmail.co.uk) if you can offer a lift, or if you'd like a lift.

## The Clandestine Church in Slovakia

In June this year the International Church Reform Network met in Slovakia and there are some fascinating documents that were made available to us about how the church survived under communism – and about how ordained men and women priests and bishops were dealt with after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. I'll circulate the articles as soon as permission comes through from the authors. **Please look up ICRN** to get an idea of the scope of this organisation. As ACTA national representative, I have been working with the Lobinger ministry group.

## **Catholic Theological Association - Annual Conference – last week at Swanwick.**

Thanks to our ACTA theological Consultant, Professor Tom O'Loughlin, four members of the national ACTA team attended this event. There were many excellent talks. The expert panel presentation on the current crisis in the international church about abuse and the episcopacy was particularly powerful.

**Translation update:** *Following Pope Francis' Motu Proprio, Magnum Principium, the Bishops of each country now have the right and duty to make decisions about the translation of the Mass in their own diocese.* ACTA members can find no news about any consultation or decision by the CBCEW for the use of the 1998 translation. We suggest continuing to write to the CBCEW secretary or Cardinal Vincent himself.



**LIVING THEOLOGY – with Mike Smith SJ.** The summer's Jesuit-led course in Birmingham was a great success – plans are underway for next year. Date is *probably* 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> June and hopefully at St Paul's again – but still to be confirmed.



**WOMEN WORD SPIRIT is a network of/for women interested in theology, ministry, liturgy and spirituality.** They publish a quarterly journal on a range of topics. Members and subscribers may be from a Catholic or other background, and some meet locally. Men are welcome to be subscribers too. For more information, please contact [cathy.wattebot@gmail.com](mailto:cathy.wattebot@gmail.com)



### **ACTA Membership**

Thank you for your continuing support of ACTA. Please help us expand our membership. Please tell people about the website [acalltoaction.org.uk](http://acalltoaction.org.uk) and invite them to meetings. They don't have to come to meetings at all to be a member. see [acalltoaction.org.uk](http://acalltoaction.org.uk)



## **2018-2019 Diary**



**September 30<sup>th</sup> 2018** first plenary of new season with distinguished theologian **Fr Peter Phillips**, Durham University Centre for Catholic Studies. **'Amoris Laetitia and Conscience'** At St Mary's Parish Centre, Vivian Road, Harborne, B17 0DN  
Coffee/tea at 1.30 for 2pm, close 4pm. Please circulate the attached flier and put the paragraph into newsletter at schools and churches wherever possible. Thank you.

**OCTOBER 13<sup>th</sup> 2018** Saturday morning! Raising funds for St Chad's Sanctuary for **Refugees and Asylum Seekers: Clothes and more - SALE & coffee & cake** at St Mary's, Harborne. 10.30 for 11.00am Many ACTA people work with refugees – so please forgive this non-ACTA event being publicised here.



**October 20<sup>th</sup> 2018** **ACTA National Conference in Cardiff - 'It will always be Pentecost in the Church – Oscar Romero'** see above for details.



**November 25<sup>th</sup> 2018** **Fr Joseph O’Hanlon** - our national ACTA scripture expert from Nottingham, author of ‘The Jesus who is, The Jesus who was’, and scripture contributor to our national ACTA website, is giving us a talk on **The Lord’s Prayer’** At St Mary’s Parish Centre, Vivian Road, Harborne, B17 0DN  
Coffee/tea at 1.30 for 2pm, close 4pm.



**February 24<sup>th</sup> 2019** **Chris McDonnell**, writer in the Catholic Times, campaigner for the ordination of married men, talking about the monk and mystic **‘Thomas Merton – a life for our time?’** At St Mary’s Parish Centre, Vivian Road, Harborne, B17 0DN. Coffee/tea at 1.30 for 2pm, close 4pm.



**April 28<sup>th</sup> 2019** **David McLoughlin, the theologian**, talking to us about **‘Renewing the Prophetic Imagination’** At St Mary’s Parish Centre, Vivian Road, Harborne, B17 0DN. Coffee/tea at 1.30 for 2pm, close 4pm.



**June 30<sup>th</sup> 2019** **How can we have an accountable Church?**  
**Sr Anna O’Connor and David McLoughlin have kindly agreed to facilitate an open forum on this topic** – in response to a discussion at the last local Steering Team meeting.



**September 22<sup>nd</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> 2019** **Changing patterns of Priesthood**  
We are approaching a distinguished speaker to speak on changing patterns of priesthood. Information to follow asap.

For national ACTA information, see ACTA website [acalltoaction.org.uk](http://acalltoaction.org.uk)  
Or contact the local Coordinator [mjriordan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mjriordan@hotmail.co.uk)



God bless and love, from Jean Riordan and all the Steering Team- Cathy Wattebot, Anna O’Connor, Christine Lewis, David McLoughlin, Moira Hobbs, Darryll Candy, David Blower and Cynthia Deeson.