



**Catholics for  
AIDS Prevention  
& Support**

*2015 Newsletter  
World AIDS Day  
December 1<sup>st</sup>*

# CAPS

CAPS

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# CAPS

## Catholics for AIDS Prevention & Support

CAPS

## Objectives

We are a network of  
catholics in Britain and  
Ireland promoting HIV  
prevention and support.

We aim to be a voice in  
the church for people  
living with HIV/AIDS  
and a catholic voice in  
the world of HIV/AIDS.

To promote education and prevention, treatment,  
care and relevant pastoral ministry for all those living  
with and affected by HIV/AIDS, particularly but not  
exclusively in the UK and Ireland.

To promote the practical, financial, emotional,  
spiritual, sacramental and pastoral needs of people  
living with or affected by HIV/AIDS and to develop  
appropriate responses.

To promote continuing reflection on all aspects of  
ethical, theological, and other challenges raised by  
HIV/AIDS, not least issues of social justice, through  
publication, seminars, and other relevant means.

Vincent Manning

## Chairperson's Message

'Jesus Christ is the face of God's mercy.' By proclaiming a Jubilee year of Mercy (8 December 2015 – 20 November 2016) Pope Francis invites us to think and live 'mercy' more deeply, as a whole way of life.

**“ Mercy is the bridge  
that connects God  
and humankind.**

'Mercy' is good news and it is a profound challenge. It is tender, but it is not weak. It means gentleness, kindness, and forgiveness – but it also suggests a great deal more.

The scholars who write Vatican documents

always choose their title words carefully. Francis' announcement begins '*Misericordiae Vultus*' – in English that means 'The face of mercy ...'

Mercy only really works face-to-face. The members of CAPS understand this from experience, and we try hard to live out mercy-in-practice. Our peer-led ministry, Positive

Catholics, is built on face-to-face caring and heart-to-heart conversations. It builds friendships, person-to-person. While tackling HIV/AIDS requires money, organizing, and political capital, it requires above all that we love each other and

take care of each other. May God help us to love face-to-face.

To dig deeper: the Latin word *misericordia* translates the Hebrew Bible word *hesed*. This word means 'loving-kindness,' 'faithfulness,' 'loyalty,' and 'steadfast love'. It speaks of a 'covenant commitment,' a promise to rise up and take action. In the context of Israel's religion, it is the duty of care that God freely embraces, and that God expects us to embrace for each other.

Mercy is a call to take action – both personally and in our communities. We can start by cultivating an 'attitude of welcome' within ourselves. Where there is no welcome, God's mercy can't come to life inside us. Whenever we notice ourselves viewing others with suspicion, dismissal, con-

demnation, or judgement, we know there is work to be done. Imagine the wide open arms of a loved one. If we can remember that feeling, we can work on our own attitude of welcome: we can envision ourselves ready to greet others, ready to invite that face-to-face openness in which love and sharing can grow.

True welcome is also collective. People diagnosed with HIV, and families affected by HIV, will often feel unsure about the quality of welcome that they would receive if they were to reveal their situation. This is because of the stigma that still attaches itself to HIV. Even within our churches, people are often unsure – will they encounter dismissal or welcome, judgment or faithful commitment?

Parishes can offer some

simple signs of welcome for people living with or affected by HIV. Here are three things you can do before World AIDS Day on December 1st.

- Post a sign on your parish notice board. Show that in your church, HIV is no secret, and that your congregation wants to learn to talk frankly about it. (You can cut out and use the back page of this newsletter.)

- Mention World AIDS Day in your Sunday bidding prayers; and pray about HIV/AIDS in your own private devotions. (Model prayers can be found on p. 23).

- Research the local agencies that provide help, support, or HIV testing. Be ready when someone confides in you, with a good referral and a non-judgmental listening ear. (You can call or email us to

learn more about resources in your local community, or to schedule a speaker.)

As Pope Francis reminds us, mercy is 'the bridge that connects God and humankind,' overcoming stigma, healing brokenness, restoring relationships with God and each other. May we put God's love into action in this coming year, and more and more in the whole of our lives.



John Falcone

## CAPS News Updates

### Media and Articles

The film, 'Love Tenderly Act Justly: Stories of HIV and Christianity' (Kip Loades, director), has been a tremendous resource in our outreach during the past twelve months. Produced and premiered for our 2014 conference on HIV and Faith, it has generated

resource, with a launch date in mid 2016 – keep an eye on the website! Wayne comes to us through the THT Work Positive programme, which prepares people living with HIV for return to paid employment.

CAPS members have also published three articles this year in national Catholic newspapers on HIV and Catholic faith. We outreach the Twittersphere weekly with HIV related news, stories on

**“ We presented  
'Love Tenderly  
Act Justly: Stories of  
HIV and Christianity'**

interest and attention every time it is screened. With the help of our new media intern Wayne, are developing it into an online media

the inclusion of LGBT people in the church, and other matters of social justice (CAPS@PositiveCath).

### Talks and Presentations

CAPS have given a number of talks and presentations over the past twelve months:

We presented 'Love Tenderly Act Justly: Stories of HIV and Christianity' and hosted a discussion at Farm Street Church, Mayfair, for WAD 2014.

CAPS was featured at the weekly 'Bread For the World' communion service and parish supper at St. Martin-in-the-Fields (C. of E.), Trafalgar Square; again the film was screened and discussed. (Feb 2015)

In the lead up to the 2015 Catholic Bishops' Synod on the Family, we presented papers and screened our film at a University of Roehampton symposium (Feb 2015) and at an international confer-



*CAPS Chairman Vincent Manning at St. Saviour's Dominican Priory, Dublin*

ence on Natural Law and Conscience, also held at Roehampton. (June 2015).

Our chairman gave a talk and screened our film for the Dominican community at St. Saviour's Priory in Dublin. (May 2015).

CAPS addressed the Pastoral Council of St. Mary's, Clapham on "Living with HIV in London – The Important Role of the Church." (Nov 2015)

Our chairman also spoke at The Tablet's 175th Anniversary Conference at Ushaw College, co-sponsored by the Centre for Catholic Studies, Durham. The talk was called "Finding Kairos in Crisis: Christian Faith and HIV." Other speakers included Profs. Paul Murray (Durham), Janice Soskice (Cambridge), Tina Beattie (Roehampton), and Stanley Hauerwas (Duke University); Revd. Timothy Rad-

cliffe, OP (one of our patrons); and Cardinal Walter Kasper. (Nov 2015)

### Public Policy and Public Health

CAPS added its voice to "Feeding Britain: Evidence Review for the All Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Hunger in the UK" (Dec 2014). As CSAN (the Caritas Social Action Network) noted, "a significant number" of Positive Catholics group members benefit greatly from the common meals at our meetings – in many cases, the only meal they eat that day.

CAPS continues to collaborate with HIV agencies: the Terrence Higgins Trust, Metro Centre, the African Advocacy Foundation, Positive Parents and Children, and the St. George's NHS Trust.



CAPS has become a junior partner in several NHS / Local Authority contracts in London; as a result, faith issues have for the first time become part of the specifications for providing HIV Support Services.

### Asylum Seekers

This year, CAPS has supported several positive persons seeking leave to remain in the UK. Most are Africans living with HIV who would find treatment and care impossible to access if they were returned to their countries of origin.

### Peer Support

Peer support is the heart of our ministry. As group members connect and form friendships, we learn to minister to each other; we find



*Positive Catholics Manchester: Minsteracres Retreat*

Christ; we learn again how to love and to serve. Members continue to visit each other at home and in hospital, helping with groceries and transportation, providing simple fellowship, attention, and love.

Positive Catholics groups in Manchester and London, and the LIFE Group in Essex continue to meet regularly; about 100 adults have attended one or more of these meetings over the past year, about half of those on a regular basis.

The SW London Fellowship continues to meet in Wimbeldon three times a month. While not explicitly faith based, the Fellowship shares our model of ministry: diversity; open welcome to anyone living with HIV; time for sharing, support, and information; a common meal that fills body and soul. Co-led by a small group of CAPS and Fellowship volunteers, it brings together about 45 people, many with complex needs. We are delighted that Jide McAuley will be giving

extra support to this group during 2016.

### Retreats

CAPS held four major retreats this year: Spring, Autumn, and two Summer retreats (one of them organized by Positive Catholics Manchester, who were able to offer places to new members from Newcastle and Leeds). Thanks to the generosity of the Congregation of the Passion, the English Benedictines, and other supporters, more than 60 adults and 12 children (many of them low income, refugees, or asylum seekers) received enough subsidy in lodging and travel to be able to go on retreat.

### “Thanks Be to God”

Thanks to all of our volunteers, funders, and

members, without whom CAPS and Positive Catholics could not accomplish so much, with so much love. Special thanks to Fr. John, Fr. Peter, Sr. Margaret and the Sisters of the Cross and Passion in Manchester for their continuing support and hosting of our Manchester group; to the clergy and parish of St. Mary’s Clapham for hosting the PC London meeting; to St. Winefride’s Parish, Wimbledon, for hosting our West London group. Thanks also to the people and parish of The Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, London; the Grant Bradley Trust; the Elton John AIDS Foundation; Mount Street Printers; the English Benedictines; and the Congregation of the Passion, for their generous support with finance or ‘in kind’ donations over the past year.

Robert Kaggwa, M.Afr.

## A Different Kind of Listening

Prophetic imagination is a gift of that we will always need. The Spirit who speaks through prophets, gives the freedom to dream and create connections. It may be that in this world so full of cracks and uncertainties we need a different kind of listening: listening to the stories and experiences of the ‘other’, the marginalised; listening to the ‘eccentric’ (were the prophets not often considered eccentric?); listening to secular movements of liberation; listening to the stories and aspirations of so many young people who have been disillusioned by the institutional Church; listening to their apathy; listening to the resist-

ance coming from the underside of history; listening to women and to the contribution of feminist spirituality. In the church and society people of different sexual orientation need to listen to each other's stories. Society needs to listen to the stories of immigrants and asylum seekers who come with their indigenous spiritualities. Of course discernment will be necessary but let us not be cautious ...in such a way that we stifle the Spirit of God.

The prophecy of Joel (2: 28-32), repeated in Peter's sermon at Pentecost refers to a multiplicity of experiences and testimonies of the Spirit (Acts 2: 17-18). It is an all-inclusive vision. Christians will need to embark on this process by exploring what the Gospel of God's inclusiveness and unconditional love has to say in our age of glo-

balisation where so many people are excluded in many different ways – a world in which so many people's stories are not listened to. This will require a renewed sense of Catholicity that is creative and inspired by the Holy Spirit, who never ceases to surprise and renew God's people.

A fuller version of this talk can be found at [www.indcatholicnews.com](http://www.indcatholicnews.com)

**Msg. Robert Vitillo**

## In Memory of Sr. Maura O'Donohue

This year we mourn the loss of Sr. Maura O'Donohue, Medical Missionary of Mary, who was a true pioneer in the Christian re-

sponse to HIV/AIDS. After serving the people of Ethiopia through many years of conflict, oppression, and famine, she was recruited as the HIV/AIDS Coordinator for CAFOD. She traversed the globe to raise awareness, calm fears, and interpret Church teachings. Through her work, Catholics became more compassionate, more active, and more non-judgemental towards those living with and affected by HIV. Maura 'retired' about four times after she left CAFOD but God always had more ministry for her to do – most recently, encouraging the Irish Parliament to tackle human trafficking. She was called home by our Loving Creator on Saturday, 2 May 2015. May the angels lead her into Paradise.



*April 2009 CAPS Westminster Cathedral Hall lecture with Professor Margaret Farley, RSM and Rev. Robert Kaggwa, M.Afr. (left).*

**Vincent Manning**

## In Memory of Fr. Robert Kaggwa

CAPS Trustee, Rev. Dr. Robert Kaggwa, M. Afr., died unexpectedly in January of this year, aged 55. Robert was Chaplain at Roehampton University, where he lectured in Theology and Religious Studies.

He was a 'prophetic' voice and presence for so many through his life and his ministry. To remember him we reproduce some words from a talk he gave at St. Annes Church, Soho on October 15th, 2005. Pope Francis has announced that the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy (which begins December 8th 2015) is "dedicated to living out in our daily lives the

mercy" which God "constantly extends to all of us." Robert's call to listen is surely an appropriate starting point, if we are to become bearers of God's mercy and love for each other.

(See 'A Different Kind of Listening,' p. 9.)



Cate Jacobs

## From the Low Place: The Church and the Challenge of Unconditional Love

For years I have identified with the unnamed woman in Mark's gospel, the one who suffered with a hemorrhage or a 'flux of blood.' Under Jewish law she would have been regarded as niddah, menstruating and therefore ceremonially unclean. Because of the constant bleeding, this woman lived in a continual state of uncleanness which would have brought upon her social and religious isolation. As an HIV positive woman my identification with her is perhaps obvious

– we both suffer with the stigma of 'unclean' blood and even today many of us still suffer social and religious isolation because of our HIV status.

But when I look back to the gospel and Jesus' words and actions, I find the most profound sense of mercy emanating from Him and I have to say I wonder where that is reflected in church and society today.

Do we find this level of compassion and unconditional love in our church congregations and from our church leaders? And if not, why not? Have we strayed so far from the 'way' that Jesus came to teach us, that we have lost sight of one of the deepest tenets of faith; love.

I have been researching what the Pope and the Catholic Church have to say about 'mercy'

“ *HIV Moon*

**I learnt to use tampons  
to avoid the red mocking  
reminder of blood.**

**I took to wearing bells  
in my hair and looking up  
words for unclean  
in the dictionary.**

*Cate Jacobs*



and ‘family’ and frankly I’m horrified at how out of touch and judgmental their attitudes are – there is little to be found that relates to the world I live in, where people live complex lives and ‘family’ isn’t definable by the hetero-normative model!

The dictionary defines ‘mercy’ as: compassion or forgiveness shown towards someone whom it is within one’s power to punish or harm.

Alternative words for compassion being: tender-heartedness, warmth, brotherly love, gentleness, tolerance, consideration, kindness, humanity, humaneness.

Do we find any of these qualities in doctrines that condemn sexuality, gender identity, family identity, contraception? I think not and I’m angry – where in any of this is there a place for

me and many others, or are we condemned to a life of pretense and sitting in the pews in silence.

There are many, at grass roots level, whose ministry among us is profound – the Passionists whose response to HIV and AIDS in the early days predated the care of ‘buddies’, the Benedictine communities at Downside and Douai who provide a space for retreat and contemplation for people of faith living with HIV, the nuns at Salford who provide a safe space for the Manchester group of CAPS to meet. There are priests and vicars, themselves HIV positive who continued to serve their congregations and brought about profound change in attitudes. Simon Bailey – a gay man, vicar and writer, who served his congregation and was nursed by them to the

end of his life. Individual clergy, theologians, lay people whose work makes a difference to HIV positive people.

I am fortunate enough to belong to an Anglican congregation that is both progressive and inclusive – we have active LGBT members and same sex couples in our congregation who have children. This year we are celebrating our 4th WAD service and will also be hosting an HIV testing outreach clinic. From the day I first walked through the door I have been accepted as me, HIV positive, divorced, mother, grandmother, poet and so very much more.

If only the different Church hierarchies could get beyond the labels that define us and remember that Jesus saw the humanity of everyone he encountered. He brought love

and compassion to those encounters and that is what made a difference, for there is something very powerful about being seen for all that we are and all that we are not, and still being deemed as worthy

of love. Something in such an encounter reaffirms the divine spark we all carry within. The spark of God’s image within us, God’s dreaming of us and through us. And if we could but dare to step into that

dreaming and live it, then perhaps we would experience the peace of God which passes all understanding, which is beyond religion or doctrine, and yet has the potential to change everything. It would

“

***Who touched me?***  
***(based on Mark 5:25-34)***

**From the low place  
I stooped in daily, with my head  
hung down, I looked up into eyes  
that saw beyond my veil of shame.**

**He cupped my face in one of his  
hands, rubbed the rough pad  
of his thumb across my chin,  
like a Father wiping a dirty mark  
from the face of his child.**

**He looked at me and said ‘Who touched me?’  
I didn’t think he’d notice the weight  
of a few grains of sand falling  
from the weft of cloth.**

***Cate Jacobs***



## ***Compassion***

**is the reaching of a breath  
from one who is full  
to one who is in need  
of the air of humanity.**

## **The pull**

**and rhythm of that breath  
a life line back to being  
in communion with each other.**

**It is the gentle let down reflex  
of our hearts channelling  
Gods love. The sigh of the Holy  
Spirit filling the space between us.**

**The tingle of the souls of our feet  
as we walk a mile in the shoes  
of another. Just a breath.  
From me to you.**

**Out and in.**

**Drawing us back to  
the knowledge  
we are beloved and equal  
in the eyes of God.**

***Cate Jacobs***

take a leap of faith – I’m in, are you?

And so I offer a humble thanks to the woman in Mark’s gospel – I thank her for her faith and her courage, for daring to step forward even though she was considered niddah, for touching the hem of Jesus’ garment, for reaching out from a place of humanity to one of divinity, for bridging the gap of prejudice and judgment; she is my hero and role model. She was met by Jesus with what she deserved; love and compassion, as we all are.

**John Falcone**

## **Look Up Not Down!**

CAPS supports the Rights of HIV Positive Migrants to Healthcare. In the run up to this

year’s General Election, UKIP Leader Nigel Farage caused controversy by claiming that HIV positive migrants were coming to the UK intentionally as ‘health-tourists’, to access HIV treatments. The statistics he used were highly misleading; but more than this his appeal to fears of ‘the disease-ridden-foreign-other’ seemed designed to bring out the worst in us. Farage is an intelligent man – he surely must have calculated that the toxic combination of xenophobia, racism, and fear of disease would have an effect in the minds of the voters. This was a particularly ugly manifestation of prejudice and HIV stigma shamelessly displayed. It serves as a reminder that we must never remain silent in the face of that kind of bigotry which appeals to deep seated fears, sows divi-

sion and discord, and has proven so dangerous in European History.

In response to this (and to other trends in relation to the withdrawal of NHS provision for migrants), Act Up London and London Artists Projects organised a rally in Trafalgar Square on 15 June 2015, which they described as “a joyful and peaceful action for HIV+ and HIV- migrants, their friends, family and allies.” CAPS Chair, Vincent Manning, was invited to speak in support of migrants living with HIV in the UK.

Vincent began by thanking Act Up London for their public stance in support of all people living with HIV, at a time when HIV seems to be slipping out of public consciousness. Speaking to about



ACTUP for Love, Trafalgar Square

100 HIV activists and passers by, Vincent went on to convey Pope Francis' prayer intention of "welcome and respect of refugees and migrants, wherever they seek shelter" to mark the start of Refugee Week. He reminded those present that the family of Jesus were also refugees, and that Pope Francis has encouraged us to 'pray to Mary who knows the pain of being a refugee'. He went on to denounce the language of blame and fear of migrants living with HIV as profoundly unchristian, and a distraction from the actual causes of so many of the world's problems: 'Do not look down at those who are poor and powerless, but look up to where power resides, and demand a change! As Catholics, we know that it is important to show God's love for any person living with HIV, wherever they come from, and whatever their situation. Migrants and refugees living with HIV today are Christ present, and we will be judged by how we treat them,' said Vincent.

Adela

## Positive Catholics Manchester Group Hold Retreat at Minsteracres

*Adela, one of the key leaders in Manchester Positive Catholics, expresses her gratitude for all the hands and hearts that helped to make our second Summer retreat of 2015 possible. In return, CAPS expresses our thanks for the service and ministry that the Manchester group is bringing to people of faith who are living with HIV in the north of England.*

I would like to thank you once again for making our retreat a success! Each participant brought joy and love to the group and we were happy to have new members from Leeds and Newcastle. I would like thank Father John Sherrington, CP for staying with us during our retreat. Talking and praying with us meant a lot and



brightened our day; we are praying that God blesses you as you go through your day encouraging others. We are grateful to the management of Minsteracres for offering us a two day retreat, and to the staff/ volunteers who worked tirelessly to make us enjoy our stay. We can't forget those who organise, raise and donate money to Positive Catholics - without you such retreats would not be possible to attend. Special thanks to Sister Margaret, Fr. Peter, and Vincent for every support you are giving us. May God bless you always!

**Lenny**  
**Positive Catholics at London Pride**

Going to PRIDE 2015

in London this year was exceptionally enjoyable ... probably for a combination of reasons.

It was a lovely summer's day, the crowds were very warmly supportive and vocal and it felt good marching along with the many other Christian groups and the whole parade of LGBTQI marchers and the amazing floats.

After the march we attended a really nice Service of Celebration at St. Giles-in-the-fields Church, held by 'Christians Together At Pride'.

On my way home I caught myself smiling in the reflection of a window – sitting in the number 38 bus with a big cheesy grin on my face. A year has passed since last Pride – a year and a half since my shock HIV positive diagnosis in February 2014. It left me reeling

for quite a while. But the grief and the pain are getting better; my emotional, physical and spiritual health have started to heal, and I feel so grateful. Thanks to the Holy Spirit and a little time. Thanks to the incredible development in HIV treatment, and to compassionate HIV peer support groups like Positive Catholics. So I decided to indulge the smile and the really good feeling and celebrate a happy day of living life, blessed with the heartening spirit of unity and love.

God bless us all!

*CAPS recommends the new 'Justice Magazine', exploring current issues in relation to Catholic Social Doctrine.*

*Available online at [justicemagazine.org](http://justicemagazine.org)*





### Loving God,

We remember all of your children who are infected or affected by HIV / AIDS.  
So many were denied human kindness and compassion,  
so many suffered rejection, hatred, even violence  
from those who claimed to believe in you.  
So many people, for so many reasons,  
still suffer from fear and stigma today.

Teach us today to act differently.  
Teach us to walk in the way of your life.

Amen.

*Renate Rothwell, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London*

### Loving God,

We celebrate the beauty, courage, and faith  
of all people who struggle,  
especially those with HIV/AIDS.

Inspire us to serve them as sisters and brothers.  
Inspire us to open our hearts and our parish  
to the wisdom and the grace that they bring.

Amen.

*Renate Rothwell, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London*

### Loving God,

May God bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships so that we may live deep within your heart.  
May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people so that we may work for justice freedom and peace.

May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war so that we may reach out our hand to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in this world so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.

Amen.

*A Franciscan Prayer, The Catholic Worker, London (Spring 2015)*

### **Sample Bidding Prayers for the Sunday before World AIDS Day (Dec 1<sup>st</sup>)**

Let us remember all those living with HIV and AIDS. We pray for all those infected or affected by HIV all over the world. We pray for the doctors, nurses, scientists and carers who work for healing in this devastating pandemic. We ask God to bless the work of CAFOD and Caritas International, who serve the poor in the name of the Church. We pray for all those involved in the 'Positive Catholics' HIV ministry here in the UK. May God fill all of us with compassion and solidarity.

As we mark World AIDS Day on December 1, let us pray for all people infected and affected by HIV and AIDS throughout the world. Let us pray that God's justice and mercy will extend to all who suffer in this pandemic. Let us pray for doctors and nurses, and for all Christians who put God's love into action. We remember too, the ministry of Catholics for AIDS Prevention and Support here in the UK, praying especially for the members of the Positive Catholics HIV peer support communities in Southwark, London, Essex, and Manchester.

## Dates

### World AIDS Day Tuesday 1st December 2015

Remember to include prayers for all those affected by HIV and AIDS at Mass on Sunday 29th November. Use the prayers provided in this newsletter, or compose prayers of your own and share them by email with CAPS.

People living with HIV are often unseen and unheard. Our public prayers around World AIDS Day give us an opportunity to show our concern; they help us express solidarity with all those affected.

### Prayer Wall Thursday 26th Nov (6pm) - Friday 4 Dec 2015

Farm Street Church  
114 Mount Street

Mayfair London W1K 3AH

Visit our side chapel Prayer Wall to share prayers for those living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, and for those who have died. Intentions will be remembered by our CAPS Prayer Support Group during Advent 2015.

### World AIDS Day Mass 6 pm Tuesday 1 December 2015

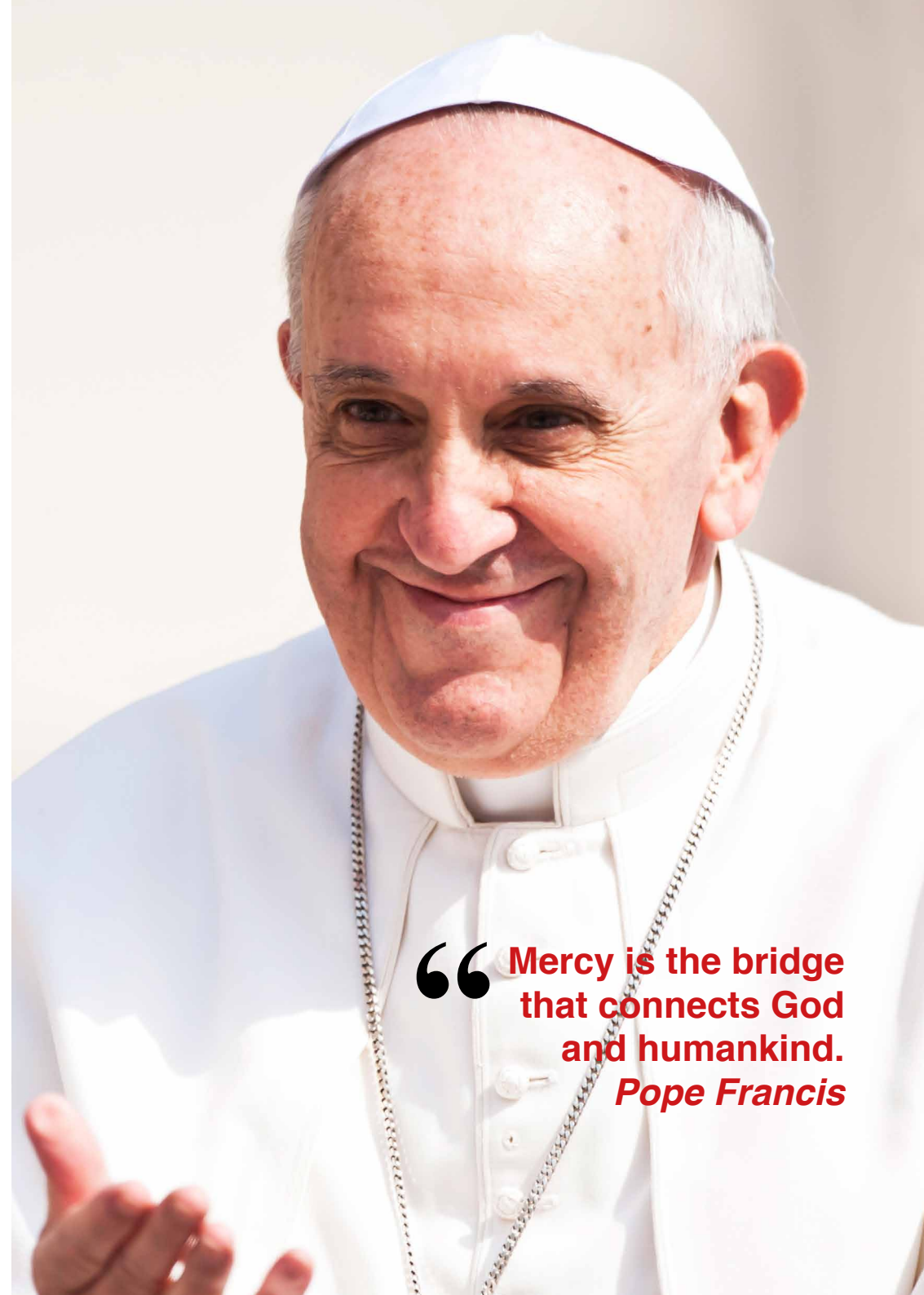
Farm Street Church

Talk after Mass by Ross White, CEO Mildmay Hospital. Tea and coffee. Please come along.

### Launch of our online Video and Print Resource Spring or early summer 2016 Watch this space!

### 21st International AIDS conference 18-22 July 2016, Durban South Africa “Access Equity Rights Now.”

This year, conference organizers call for access to treatment, prevention, care and support services – for everyone, everywhere. No more marginalization, under-funding, and criminalization.



“Mercy is the bridge  
that connects God  
and humankind.  
*Pope Francis*”

## Supporting CAPS

If you have felt encouraged in your faith, if you have been inspired by what you've read in this newsletter, please consider donating your time, your talent, or your financial support.

You can donate by contributing online through our secure PayPal connection: scroll down to the lower left side of our website, [www.caps-uk.org](http://www.caps-uk.org). Or call / email us for information on setting up a direct debit.

You can also support us by signing up for 'Give as You Live,' an online service that collects donations from over 4,000 retailers – sending a small percentage of your purchase's value to the charity of your choice. Register for free at [www.giveasyoulive.com](http://www.giveasyoulive.com); search and select 'Catholics for AIDS Prevention and Support'; and go shopping online with one of their registered retailers. At no cost to you, the website collects a donation from the retailer and sends it to CAPS.

If you have skills that you're willing to share in marketing, research, policy writing, computing, press/media, finance, or fundraising, please contact Vincent at [chair@caps-uk.org](mailto:chair@caps-uk.org) to arrange a conversation.

It is your generosity that allows CAPS and Positive Catholics to support and strengthen people who are in need.



## Making Your Church or Clinic a More Welcoming Place for People Living with HIV

Our new 'All Are Welcome' Card, on the other side of this page, is an easy way to let people know that they have found a welcoming church. It is an easy way to raise awareness about HIV and faith in your congregation or your local clinic. Together with the THT 'Faith in Communities Project' we have designed this card to be ecumenical, and to offer the best possible points of contact.

We invite you to cut this page out. Share it with clergy or other church leaders. Have a discussion with your pastor or parish council about what it means to display this card at your church. Stick it on your church bulletin board. Bring it to the clinic or surgery. Let people know.

Below is some basic information about HIV that can help shape the discussion:

- There are more than 35 million people infected with HIV globally.
- Although medicines have become more available, only 32% of children and 41% of adults who are eligible, actually received HIV treatment in 2014. Millions remain in need of essential treatment, care and support, especially in Africa, a continent that cries out for justice.
- 108,000 people are infected with HIV in the UK.
- Approximately 50,000 are living with HIV in London. (Southwark Diocese has the highest resident number of people living with HIV.)
- An estimated 1 in 5 people living with HIV in the UK do not know that they are infected.
- We know that there are significant numbers of Catholics and Christians living with HIV.
- It is very likely that in your Parish there are people living with HIV, or families who have a member living with HIV.
- Catholics for AIDS Prevention and Support (CAPS) is the only national Christian response in the UK (Archbishop Peter Smith is a Patron).
- The 'Positive Catholics' ministry is the only national Christian pastoral ministry to people living with HIV in the UK.

Laminated copies are available by mail for a small donation to cover printing and packing. Other Positive Catholics materials are also available for download from our website. A single flier or poster might be the lifeline that someone needs.







# All are welcome in this place

For faith sensitive HIV support:

Email: [info@caps-uk.org](mailto:info@caps-uk.org)

[www.caps-uk.org](http://www.caps-uk.org)

Phone: 07505 608 655

[www.positivecatholics.com](http://www.positivecatholics.com)

For advice and support:

Contact THT Direct: 0808 802 1221

For training, education and testing in your church:

Contact Terrence Higgins Trust's

Faith and Communities Project

Phone: 0207 812 1807

Email: [marcy.madzikanda@tht.org.uk](mailto:marcy.madzikanda@tht.org.uk)

