

# CATHOLIC NURSE JOURNAL

**THE ASSOCIATION OF  
CATHOLIC  
NURSES  
England  
and  
Wales**

**SALUS  
INFIRMORUM  
ACN**

**PRAAYER  
AND CARE**

**www.catholicnurses.org.uk**

**2019 CHRISTMAS 2019**



The Association of Catholic Nurses England and Wales is a member organization of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and CICIAMS the Catholic International Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants , CICIAMS General Secretariat , Palazzo San Calisto (Piazza San Calisto 16 ) Vatican City [www.ciciams.org](http://www.ciciams.org)

<p><b>National Ecclesiastical Adviser /Chaplain Fr Michael Stack</b> Email <a href="mailto:michael.stack3@gmail.com">michael.stack3@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>National Vice-President Gerry Yates</b> Laurel House , 35 Seaview Road , Herne Bay , Kent CT6 6JB</p>
<p><b>National President Janet Muchengwa</b> Flat 3 Centre View Appartments , 4 Whitgift Street , Croydon CR0 1EX Tel 02086499941 mail <a href="mailto:jmuchengwa@yahoo.co.uk">jmuchengwa@yahoo.co.uk</a> CICIAMS Association of Catholic Nurses E&amp;W Representative &amp; CICIAMS International Treasurer</p>	<p><b>Catholic Medical Association Representative / End of Life Care Adviser &amp;CICIAMS Ethics Committee-</b> <b>Teresa Lynch</b> <b>Bishops' Conference of England &amp;Wales Healthcare Reference Group- Patrick Gillespie</b></p>
<p><b>National Secretary /Journal /Association E &amp;W &amp;CICIAMS websites and Facebook pages Mary Farnan</b> ,26 Charnwood Rd, Great Barr , Birmingham B42 1JR Tel 0121 251 8515/ 07956527435 Email <a href="mailto:catholicnurses@msn.com">catholicnurses@msn.com</a></p>	<p><b>Major Tristan Griffin – CICIAMS -Association E&amp;W Link -Professional Issues Committee</b> <b>Stefan Cash- CICIAMS Association E&amp;W Link – Children &amp; Families Committee</b></p>
<p><b>National Treasurer Elizabeth Cooney</b> ,5 Shefford Rd., Seabridge, Newcastle under Lyme,Staffs,ST5 3LE. Tel 0178 261 7872 Email <a href="mailto:johncooney260@btinternet.com">johncooney260@btinternet.com</a> <b>CICIAMS -Association E&amp;W Link - Midwifery Committee</b></p>	<p><b>Honorary Member and Patron Dr Margorita (Gosia) Brykczynska</b> <b>Other Committee members :Ethel Corduff, Esther Mensah, Sandra Broome</b></p>

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### CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM FR MICHAEL STACK

#### What should you expect from a Hospital Chaplain?



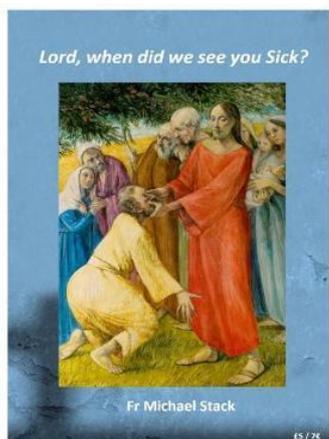
*Confidentiality , Good listening skills, Regular visits, Offering the Sacraments, Linking individuals and families and staff, Religious services, Sacraments and Prayer, Guidance regarding medical ethics questions, living wills, organ donation, life support decisions, Bereavement ministry in dealing with loss or death, Support to staff*

*Frequently a visit from a Chaplain may provide an opportunity to learn more about your spiritual self. The Chaplain is not to judge your spiritual life , but to help you discover or reconnect with it .*

*When you as a patient meet with a Chaplain , you can be honest and open. The Chaplain may not cure your illness or repair your injury , but a Chaplain can help you heal the hurts of your heart.*

*Full time Chaplains will be on call day and night , at the weekends and when patients are dying due to illness. Accident and Emergency brings the Chaplain into close contact with family and demands quick thinking once you are aware of the issues involved. Trauma cases can be very challenging and the spiritual needs of the patient and family requires calm.*

*My book ‘Lord when did we see You sick?’ reveals the real challenges hospital Chaplaincy is involved with both day and night , 24/7.If you want to know more , the book is available from myself at [Michael.stack@gmail.com](mailto:Michael.stack@gmail.com) £5 & £1.40 P&P.*



*With best wishes for  
a holy and blessed  
Christmas  
Fr Michael Stack*



**CHRISTMAS  
MESSAGE  
FROM JANET  
MUCHENGWA  
NATIONAL  
PRESIDENT**

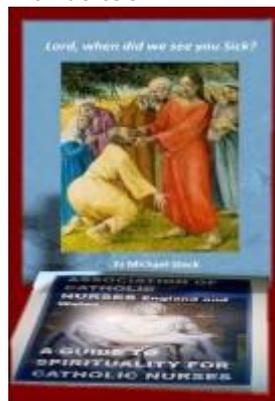


*My dear brothers and sisters, I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I am delighted to learn that the membership has stabilized around 60. It was lovely to see you at the AGM in Stock on Trent. It was sad to learn that some members from the Stoke and Newcastle branch have resigned as members of the local branch but fortunately many will continue as individual members of the Association at the national level. This means they will still be able to join us for the national events such as Annual retreats and the Annual General Meeting and Study day. Let us continue to encourage more members to join us. Once the Association pamphlet has been completed, it will serve as a reference for our new members. I would also encourage, especially the working nurses, to buy our new 2019 edition of our booklet on Spirituality for Catholic Nurses by Mary Farnan and Teresa Lynch (£3.50 a copy plus £1.50 P&PO as it has valuable information to help us in our daily lives as Catholic Nurses. Some copies have been sold at CICIAMS to raise funds for CICIAMS. As we prepare for the coming of Lord Jesus Christ this Advent, let us all remember the real meaning of Christmas. According to Pope Francis, Advent is a time for waiting and expectation. Pope Francis is also urging us as Christians in this advent season to humble ourselves and try and build peace in our souls, family and the world.*

*There is going to be a 7th Regional Congress taking place in Nairobi Kenya 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The theme is Embracing Nursing leadership in Non-communicable disease Management to enhance holistic care. For those who are interested to come, the registration form is on the CICIAMS website and early bird registration closes in March. We are hoping Fr Stack will be able to come with us too.*

*Finally thanks for the generous donations Fr Stack has continued to give the Association from the sale of his booklets 'Lord, When did we see You sick' and also thank you to Stoke & Newcastle and Southwark branches for raising £300 between them for CICIAMS. A big thank you also goes to Sr Betty and Sr Bridie for accommodating, feeding and watering us during our annual retreat and AGM at Coolock Convent in Newcastle under Lyme*

*Blessings and Seasonal greetings to all  
ACN President Janet Muchengwa.*





## **EXTRACTS FROM MESSAGES TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH FROM ROME ON THE SICK AND THE ROLE OF CARE GIVERS DURING 2019**

### **POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE WORLD DAY OF THE SICK FEBRUARY 11<sup>TH</sup> 2019 (CELEBRATED THIS YEAR IN CALCUTTA INDIA )**

Caring for the sick requires professionalism, tenderness, straightforward and simple gestures freely given, like a caress that makes others feel loved. Life is a gift from God. ...Precisely because it is a gift, human life cannot be reduced to a personal possession or private property , Especially in the light of medical and biotechnological advances that could tempt us to manipulate the “tree of life” (Gen 3:24) ....amid today’s culture of waste and indifference .... that “gift” is the category best suited to challenging today’s individualism and social fragmentation, while at the same time promoting new relationships and means of cooperation between peoples and cultures. Dialogue – the premise of gift – creates possibilities for human growth and development capable of breaking through established ways of exercising power in society. “Gift” means more than simply giving presents: it involves the giving of oneself ..... When we are born, we require the care of our parents to survive, and at every stage of life we remain in some way dependent on the help of others.



I would like to recall, with joy and admiration, the figure of Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta – a model of charity who made visible God’s love for the poor and sick. As I noted at her canonization, “Mother Teresa, in all aspects of her life, was a generous dispenser of divine mercy, making herself available for everyone through her welcome and defence of human life, of those unborn and those abandoned and discarded... She bowed down before those who were spent, left to die on the side of the road, seeing in them their God-given dignity; she made her voice heard before the powers of this world, so that they might recognize their guilt for the crime – the crimes! – of poverty they created

### **THOUGHTS OF POPE FRANCIS ON CARING FOR THE YOUNG AND THE OLD CASA SANTA MARTA 30/09/2019**

Pope Francis recalled a story his grandmother used to tell him about a family in which the father decided to move the grandfather to the kitchen during meal times because he would spill his soup soiling his clothes. One day he came home to find his son building himself a little table because he believed that eventually he also would be moved in the same way away from the family at mealtimes . Pope Francis spoke of modern societies that neglect the importance of children and the elderly,. When a country grows old and there are no children ..it's tragic! It's tragic also to lose the traditions passed down by the elder generations as lessons for the future

### **POPE FRANCIS SPEAKING TO HEALTHCARE WORKERS AT ST LOUIS HOSPITAL 21/11/2019 DURING HIS PAPAL VISIT TO THAILAND**

Commitment to health care goes far beyond the simple and praiseworthy practice of medicine. This is not only a matter of procedures and programs; rather, it has to do with our readiness to embrace whatever each new day sets before us. It is about welcoming and embracing human life as it arrives at the Hospital’s emergency room, needing to be treated with the merciful care born of love and respect for the dignity of each human person. The healing process should rightly be seen as a powerful anointing capable of restoring human dignity in every situation, a gaze that grants dignity and provides support.....All of you, as members of this hospital community, are missionary disciples whenever you look at your patients and you learn to call them by name. I know that at times your service can prove burdensome and tiring; you work under extreme circumstances, and for this reason you need to be accompanied and supported in your work. This speaks to us of the need for a health care ministry in which not only patients but every member of this community can feel cared for and supported in his or her mission. Please know that your efforts and the work of the many institutions that you represent are a living testimony of the care and concern that all of us are called to show to everyone, especially the elderly, the young and those most vulnerable.



## **ADDRESS OF POPE FRANCIS TO THE CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE WORKERS ASSOCIATION ROME 17/05/2019**

Starting with those who are most defenceless or in need of care because they are sick, or elderly, or marginalized, or because they overlook existence and ask to be welcomed and cared for. To all of them, in different ways, you provide an irreplaceable

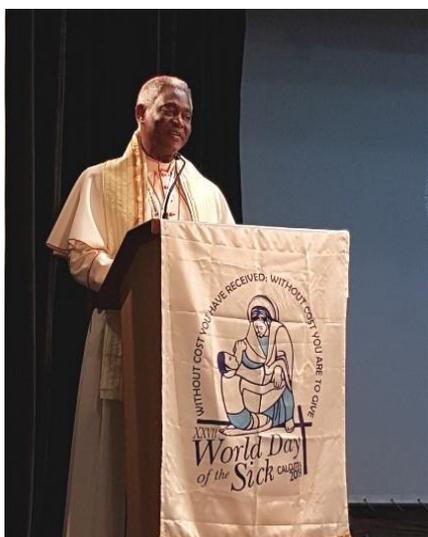


service whenever, as health workers, you offer them the care they need or the closeness that sustains them in their fragility... In recent decades, the system of care and care has changed radically, and with it also changed the way of understanding medicine and the relationship itself with the sick. The technology has reached sensational and unexpected goals and has opened the way to new techniques of diagnosis and treatment, but posing increasingly strong ethical problems. In fact, many believe that any possibility offered by the technique is in itself morally feasible, but, in reality, of any medical practice or intervention on the human being must first be carefully assessed whether it actually respects human life and dignity. The practice of conscientious objection – today, the you question – in the extreme cases in which a danger to the integrity of human life, is based on the personal need not to act contrary to his conviction of ethics, but also represents a sign to the healthcare environment in which we are located, in addition to comparisons of the same patients and their families.

The choice of objection, however, when necessary, must be done with respect, so that what must be done with humility does not become a cause of contempt or pride, so as not to generate in those who observe you an equal contempt, which would prevent us from understanding the true motivations that drive us. Instead, it is good to always seek dialogue, especially with those who have different positions, listening to their point of view and trying to convey yours, not as someone who takes the chair, but as someone who seeks the true good of people. Making travel companions of those close to us, especially the last, the most forgotten, the excluded: this is the best way to understand thoroughly and truthfully the different situations and the moral good that is involved. This is also the way to give the best witness to the Gospel, which throws on the person the powerful light that the Lord Jesus continues to project on every human being. Christ's own humanity is the inexhaustible treasure and the greatest school, from which to continually learn. With his gestures and words, he made us feel the touch and voice of God and taught us that every individual, above all who is last, is not a number, but a person, unique and unrepeatable.

Precisely the effort to treat the sick as people, and not as numbers, must be made in our time and taking into account the form that the health system has progressively taken. His company, which has placed in the foreground the needs of cost reduction and rationalization of services has changed the approach to the disease and the same patient, with a preference for the efficiency, which often has place in the second floor, the attention to the person, which need to be understood, listened to and accompanied, as much as he has need of a correct diagnosis and effective treatment. Healing, among other things, passes not only from the body but also the spirit, and the ability to regain trust and respond; to which the patient may not be treated as a machine, nor the health care system, public or private, can be conceived as an assembly line. People are never the same among themselves, they must be understood and cared for one by one, as God does: God does so. This obviously requires a great deal of effort on the part of health workers, which is often not understood and appreciated enough.

The care you give to the sick, so demanding and engaging, demands that you also take care of yourself. In fact, in an environment where the sick person becomes a number, you too risk becoming one and being "burned" by too hard work shifts, the stress of urgencies or emotional impact. It is therefore important that health professionals have adequate safeguards in their work, receive the right recognition for the tasks they perform and can benefit from the appropriate tools to always be motivated and trained. Precisely that of training is an objective that your association has always pursued, and I invite you to carry it forward with determination, at a time when the most basic values of respect and protection of everyone's life are often lost sight of. The training that you offer is not only the comparison, study and update, but put a special attention to the spirituality, so that it is rediscovered and appreciated this fundamental dimension of the person, often neglected in our time, but it is so important, especially for those who live with the disease, or is near to those who suffer.



**CARDINAL PETER TURKSON (PREFECT OF THE DICASTERY FOR THE PROMOTION OF INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT) MESSAGE ON WORLD DAY OF THE SICK CALCUTTA 11/02/2019 (TO THE CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF INDIA & OTHER CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS)**

Ever since her beginnings, the Church has always borne witness to special care and concern for sick and suffering people through the work of her members and her institutions, upholding the inviolable human dignity of such people during these special moments of human existence as well. In the parable of the Good Samaritan, which has been a model and a guiding image for the care institutions of the Church, the most specific message relates not only to the duty to care for those who are wounded, in this case a 'man who is half dead', but also the obligation to provide that care which is specific to the commandment to love one's neighbour. This care

and concern has its fundamental motivation in the mandate 'go and heal the sick' which was entrusted by Christ to His Church. This specific mandate, on the basis of the teaching and the action of the Lord Jesus, confers on the Church the task of taking care of and healing people who are sick, suffering, poor and in need of support. Side by side with providing care we should place the proclaiming of the Kingdom, because in the light of Christ human pain acquires new meanings. What pain represents in human life is not minimized, nor is its psychological and spiritual aspect denied, nor is the obligation to relieve pain and to prevent and counter the causes of every illness and all suffering contradicted, but it is affirmed that in Christ pain and suffering are a reality which in their final analysis open up to another form of life..... 'The call to human fulfilment does not exclude suffering'. But here we find the problem of today's culture. This is that 'widespread mentality of the useful' which Pope Francis calls, as has been observed, "the culture of waste" or the throw away culture 'that today enslaves the hearts and the intelligences of very many people' and asks for the elimination of human beings, especially if they are physically or socially weaker. Today's throwaway culture 'tends to hide physical weakness, considering it only as a problem that requires resignation and pity or that at times casts people aside'. It is precisely because of this 'throw-away culture', states Pope Francis that 'concern for human life in

its totality has become in recent years a real priority for the Church's Magisterium, especially for the most defenceless; i.e., the disabled, the sick, the newborn, children, the elderly, those whose lives are most defenceless'. Things have a price and can be sold or done away with, but people have a dignity an inalienable dignity..... The solemn celebration in India, among others, wishes to underscore the dimension of gratuity, especially towards the poorest and excluded, including sick people, in light of the experience of St. Teresa of Calcutta .May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Salus Infirmorum, help us in this endeavour Thank you!



**A SAINT FOR BIRMINGHAM 13/10/2019  
WHO IS CARDINAL NEWMAN ?**

'I am a link in a chain, a bond of connexion between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good'

In the 1830s John Henry Newman was an Anglican priest and a leading light and founder member of the Oxford movement which attempted to reintroduce Catholic beliefs



He converted to Catholicism 1845 and was ordained a Catholic priest in Rome 1847 returning to Birmingham as an Oratorian .In addition to establishing the Oratory Edgbaston Birmingham and becoming a renowned poet and theologian whose written works are internationally recognized and respected, notably for his constant search for truth and on the value of informed conscience, he also spent 30 years advancing Catholic education and working amongst the sick and poor of Birmingham. Cardinal Vincent Nichols , on the occasion of Cardinal Newman's canonization , tells us Newman's search for truth 'drove him to look closely at his own experiences, and feelings, sensing in them the call and promptings of God. He was utterly convinced that in all our experiences in this world, there is a sign, a shadow, an impression, like a fingerprint, of the presence of God.'



## **ANNUAL REPORT FROM TERESA LYNCH REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND CICIAMS INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC NURSES ETHICS COMMITTEE**

### **END OF LIFE CARE**

There is an increasing “tide”, moving towards euthanasia. Hospitals are increasingly encouraging patients to fill in “living will” type forms, provided by “ReSPECT”. These can easily lead people towards choosing a “keep comfortable” regime, probably without their real understanding. There is to be some revision of the Mental Capacity Act 2006 and very poor “Deprivation of Liberty” orders (2008) that have failed to protect individuals from unreasonable institutional control.. There are to be “maintaining liberty” safeguards instead developed. (ReSPECT is a process used in NHS and other care situations that creates personalised recommendations for a person’s clinical care in a future emergency in which they are unable to make or express choices.)

### **ABORTION**

Following discussion , the President of the Catholic Medical Association sent a letter to the President of the RCOG in relation to abortion pill "reversal" using Progesterone and the College's unwillingness to support it. Similar letters to the President of the RCGP and to the National Medical Director of NHS England have been sent although hopes for a response are not high. The following is an extract from the letter: “Women proposing to undergo “medical abortion” should be fully aware of what the procedure involves, and what their options and choices may be at different stages. We therefore, plan to publicise the option of Progesterone therapy through media outlets and through the organisations that have approached us for advice in this area. The information we will provide will be honest and unbiased, based on the best evidence to date regarding the potential efficacy, but also the limitations of Progesterone therapy as a Mifepristone-inhibiting agent and potential abortion preventing drug in pharmacologically-induced abortion. We presume the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists will have no objection to this plan to provide support for women in distress seeking assistance”.

**TRANSGENDERISM** There is a short helpful commentary by the National Catholic Bioethics Centre on transgenderism on the National Catholic Bioethics Centre website : Brief Statement on Transgenderism .The article states ‘The notion of being able to change one’s sex, most radically through surgical intervention, has increasingly become a part of public awareness and social discourse. The boldness of the gender ideology movement has now brought it to the forefront. Resolutions and policies of medical associations and legislative and regulatory actions promote so-called gender affirmation and gender transitioning, even in prepubescent children, and mandate the compliance of schools, health care providers, health care payers, social services, and others. Such regulations are coercive and based on a false understanding of human identity. Gender transitioning insists on affirming a false identity and, in many cases, mutilation of the body in support of that falsehood.

### **ASSISTED FOOD AND FLUIDS**

The CMA stated a new document, to be released by the Scottish Council on Human BioEthics, advises decisions on giving or withdrawal of “food & fluids’ are to be based on “? benefit” to patients, rather than best interest. In relation to conscientious objection, the draft guidance was clear that this should not be allowed either for individuals or organisations that hold that hydration and nutrition are forms of care that should be provided. “If individual clinicians could not sanction a best interests decision to withdraw CANH, they should hand over the care of the patient to a clinician who could.” Also, “Provider organisations, including care homes, that carry religious or other convictions that would prevent them from making and implementing particular decisions about CANH should be open about the fact when a best interests decision is needed....Where necessary, they should make arrangements for these assessments [regarding best interests] to be carried out in another establishment.” This will mean that doctors, nurses, other carers and organisations such as nursing homes and hospices with conscientious objections to the withdrawal of CANH would not be allowed to care for certain categories of patients with swallowing difficulties and cognitive impairment and could be forced into complicity in the deliberate ending of patients’ lives.

The University of Reading has set up a Declaration in Support of Conscientious Objection in Health Care that can be signed by clicking on <https://research.reading.ac.uk/conscientious-objection-in-health-care-declaration/>. There is also a supporting booklet by Professor David Oderberg on freedom of religion and conscience available free in pdf format by clicking on <https://iea.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Oderberg-Interactive.pdf>

**REPORT FROM  
MARY FARNAN  
NATIONAL  
SECRETARY**



1&2.Gosia with the international group

3.War time nurse uniform on display in the Krakow school of nursing we visited.

4.Anniversary of the Beatification Mass with Cardinal Peter Turkson in the Church of St Nicholas where the Hannah's body now rests



The !2 months since I attended the Vatican Healthcare Conference in Rome with Janet Muchengwa where we were fortunate enough to meet both Cardinal Peter Turkson and Pope Francis seems to have fled. Although the journey was self funded the conference was free and recommends itself to anyone wanting to attend future Vatican conferences. The self funded pilgrimage to Krakow attended by 6 executive committee members , also attended by and organized by our new Patron Dr Gosia Brykczynska was also memorable. Gosia, a writer and former nurse and lecturer ,from her time at the Royal College of Nursing has valuable experience as a historian and of working with nurses internationally. In the path of Hanna Chrzanowska first lay Catholic Nurse to be beatified we relived the suffering of the Polish population during World War II and witnessed the continuing strength and devotion to faith of the Polish population who emptied the streets of Krakow to fill the large modern Basilica and outside chapels for Masses at the nearby Divine Mercy Shrine on Divine Mercy Sunday standing hooded with umbrellas in the pouring rain. The anniversary of the Beatification Mass concelebrated by Cardinal Peter Turkson and a tram ride to Schindler's factory and the austere metal long grey steel canopied train station , a stark contrast to the modern rail station and shopping centre in the centre of Krakow , where families would have boarded to concentration camps brought home the reality of Hanna Chrzanowska's war time Poland and how fortunate we are to live in times of peace .On Facebook we have set up a page to Hanna Chrzanowska in addition to the Association of Catholic Nurses and CICIAMS FB pages we manage there and ask members to log on , take a look . The new CICIAMS group page is slowly growing and members can add anything they feel is of interest or relevant there– and we also still have the Association and CICIAMS websites that continue to attract international interest from Catholic nurses in other countries.

**ANNUAL RETREAT**

Saturday June 13th 2020 10.30am  
-4pm with Mass and Benediction  
Coolock Convent, Stubbs Gate ,  
Newcastle Under Lyme ST5 1LH



**2020 DIARY DATES 2020**

Saturday 17th October 2020  
10.30am -4pm with Mass , Talk and  
Benediction  
Coolock Convent, Stubbs Gate ,  
Newcastle Under Lyme ST5 1LH

Tel Coolock Convent 01782 614169 to book overnight accommodation

**2020 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2020**

Monday 16th March 11.30am- Bishops' Conference Buildings , 39 Eccleston Square, Westminster , SW1V 1BX  
, Saturday 13th June 9-10.15am Coolock Convent , Saturday 17th October 9-10.15am Coolock Convent

**ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC NURSES ENGLAND AND WALES MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE BY MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup> 2020**

Please Complete in BLOCK Capitals

Name .....

Address .....

Date of Birth ..... Tel No (s) .....

Email Address ..... Diocese ..... ”” .....

Qualifications .....

Brief details of Employment (optional).....

£15 Part Time /Associate (Health Care Assistants ) /Retired/Student Members or £30 Full Membership

Return form & subscription Mary Farnan, National Secretary 26 Charnwood Road , Great Barr, Birmingham B42 1JR or log on to <http://www.catholicnurses.org.uk/membership.html> and complete your membership form and payment or pay by bank transfer to A/c no sort code 20 24 61 Account number 20547778 but if you choose this option please email me at [catholicnurses@msn.com](mailto:catholicnurses@msn.com) to let me know you have paid so that I can update your membership record