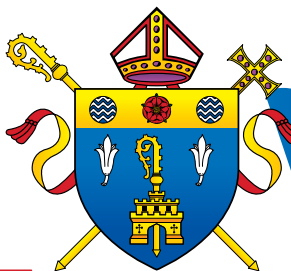


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The Official Newspaper to
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Issue 306 + February '19

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p12 Young People
Recognised



2019

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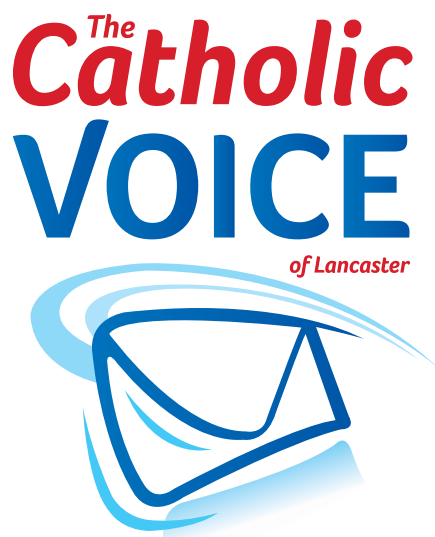
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EDITORIAL

We no sooner hit New Years Day and the talk is all about packing Christmas away for another year and the chatter of 'isn't it nice to get back to normal' and 'I must go on a diet' or go 'dry' for January. How easy it is to be sucked into the secular view of Christmas which now begins at the end of November, not with Advent, but with a constant stream of excess right through to New Year then abruptly comes to a stop on New Year's Day – a fleeting high of bonhomie!

But the stable in Bethlehem gives us the source of lasting happiness and teaches us that humbleness, devotedness and love should be our mainstay every day of our lives. Jesus is for life eternal not just for Christmas!

Bishop Paul adopted as his Episcopal motto '*Holiness before Peace*' and the *Catholic Voice* hopes that we all strive for Holiness in 2019. Elsewhere in this edition you will read about Bishop Paul's initiative for schools – the '*Year of the Eucharist*' which

began on the feast of Christ the King with Eucharistic Adoration taking place in all our educational establishments.

This has had a terrific impact on our young people and it would be great if what is happening in our schools could be reinforced by parishes encouraging families to attend Mass regularly and Holy Hours tailored to their needs.

It was Patrick Peyton who coined the phrase '*A family that prays together stays together*' – he was talking about the nuclear family but the phrase is just as valid for parish families and the diocesan family. So let us take this to heart and put prayer as a priority for us in 2019. Holiness will only come if we are prepared to spend time with the Lord and our example will encourage our young people to do the same.

The *Catholic Voice* would love to hear from schools on how the Year of the Eucharist is being celebrated and from Parishes on how you will be striving for holiness in 2019.



Diocesan Year of the Eucharist launched!



Last November, Christ the King Catholic High School, Preston were privileged to welcome Bishop Swarbrick to our school to celebrate the votive Mass for the feast of Christ the King. This fantastic occasion was particularly special for a number of reasons.

Firstly, the Feast of Christ the King holds a very special place in our collective hearts, naturally, as Christ the King is the name and patron of our school. Every year, this is a great opportunity for us to celebrate all that is great and good about our community and 2018 was no exception! We have had much to rejoice over from the last 12 months, including the best GCSE results we've ever had. The Feast of Christ the King is also marked as National Youth Sunday; a day on which the Catholic Church celebrates all that makes our young people so extraordinary. It was particularly special to be able to celebrate the achievements and successes of our excellent students in this way.

It was also an important occasion as this year, the feast of Christ the King kick starts the Year of the Eucharist within the Lancaster Diocese. It was wonderful to be able to begin this year with a visit from Bishop Swarbrick, who will be leading the Church in our area in the Year of the Eucharist over the next 12 months and the students responded to and engaged with this showing characteristic


excellence and respect. In preparation for the Mass, students were introduced to the importance of the Eucharist and the special place it holds within the Catholic Church. This theme will be ongoing and more instalments of the Year of the Eucharist are to come.

Finally, the day was an opportunity to remember a great loss to our school from the last academic year. As this was the first Christ the King feast without Miss Matthews, we took the opportunity to remember her in a lasting and meaningful way.

During Mass, Bishop Swarbrick spoke beautifully about Miss Matthew's life and legacy and offered his support and prayers, which we gratefully accept. After the school day had finished, there was a memorial service for Miss Matthews, attended by many students, staff and Miss Matthew's family.

During the emotional service, many of Miss Matthew's former colleagues and students spoke beautifully about her life and the ongoing impact that she has on our lives. Led by Mr Callaghan, a tree, flowers and a beautiful memorial bench were placed in the school grounds. These will remain part of our school indefinitely as a poignant reminder of a lady and a teacher who gave so much to our community.





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Faith in Action Awards

Just before Christmas, on 21st December, we gathered at St Wilfrid's church, Preston, to celebrate the achievements of a group of our young people. Bishop Paul presented ten young people with Faith in Action awards.

Faith in Action awards were set up by CYMFed a couple of years ago to celebrate the faith journeys of young people. Many young people are already doing a lot in our communities. Faith in Action Awards are a way to recognise this, and to encourage them to relate what they are doing to their faith. Taking time to prayerfully reflect on their actions, young people are challenged to see the relevance of faith in different parts of their lives, developing their relationships with God and the Church.

In our diocese, Metanoia Project have been offering Faith in Action Awards as part of their young leaders' "Yoke" programme. Young people have gained credits for their work with youth groups, retreats, service in their parishes, support for the homeless, and much more.

The award is offered at four levels: Pin for year 6 groups, Bronze, Silver and Gold for high school or college ages. The scheme works to strengthen relationships between young people and their parishes, schools and youth groups, with young people expected to undertake service in these different contexts, and as they progress to take initiative in taking forward their own ideas.

If you would like to know more about running Faith in Action in your youth group (high school ages) or school, please get in touch with Fr John at Castlerigg: director@castleriggmanor.co.uk



Taking part in the Faith in Action Awards Scheme I enjoyed strengthening my relationships, both with God and those around

me. I have developed the way I pray to include scripture and music, and take more time out each day to pray and reflect on the gifts and challenges He has set for me. This has continued into my life at university and has helped me have a more open mind towards worship. It also taught me how to pray and read scripture by myself, so my faith life doesn't suffer although I am away from my family and home parish.

As part of the programme I volunteered on a trip with the youth group to the Celebrate conference in Macclesfield. Seeing how the young people were open about their faith and couldn't wait to share their experiences really inspired me. The highlight of being a young leader for me was watching the young people in the youth groups grow in their relationships with God and one another, and Celebrate was the time this stood out to me most. These moments have stuck with me and made me more confident in talking to others about my faith since then.

Being a young leader taught me how



I have completed the silver award whilst taking part in the Yoke programme with Metanoia Project, and am working towards my Gold

award, and I'm currently in my first year at Cardinal Newman College.

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus says 'Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.' As Christian disciples we all aim to hear and learn from Jesus. We want to be yoked to Him to learn how to follow Him and His teachings more closely. The

Faith in Action Rachel – Gold Award

to manage my time effectively which has really helped me schedule time at university and made me more confident in making friends once I moved away from home. At the start of this scheme I was settled into a routine that never changed and so I feel like at that point my faith was not developing. By helping lead the youth group sessions I have become more organized and have learnt to follow my instincts as well as learning from both other leaders and the youth more about God and the way He works in our lives.

Throughout this scheme my knowledge of the Church and community grew and developed. I realised that to be good Christians we need to be part of the community because we are stronger together. This provides a support network so that we can practise our faith to greater effect and bring the joy of God to the lives of those surrounding us.

I also learnt that it is this community that makes the Church. Although our beautiful buildings of worship are called churches it is the people that are important. This has made pieces of

scripture such as "for where two or three gather in my name, I am there with them" (Matthew, 18:20) stand out more to me as my understanding and appreciation of their meaning has changed.

Being a young leader gave me more confidence in taking the presidency for my university's catholic society and has encouraged me to help to try to set up an initiative called 'upper room' which is faith related activities such as praise and worship and prayer ministry to give people more opportunity to enhance their faith and experience life differently while at university.

I used to have my future all planned out, I was going to go to university, do a masters, do a PhD and get an amazing job but I didn't make any room for God in my plans. Now I don't have specific plans for my future, but I do know I want to keep God at the centre of my life and deepen my relationship with Him.

I don't think I could have achieved these things without the Yoke programme and am so thankful to have had this opportunity.

Faith in Action Richa – Silver Award

Yoke program aims to encourage and nurture the contribution of young people in the church. It allows us to deepen our relationship with God and support each other.

I volunteer with the younger children at Metanoia youth groups supporting them to grow in faith, as well as regularly attending the Sent youth group to grow in my own faith with young people my own age. We also volunteer with the homeless drop in, lead sessions in schools, and helped preparing and delivering live stations of the cross. Playing an active role in our parish is also important; we serve on the altar, read, or welcome parishioners.

We take time to reflect in our journals, and in planning and training meetings. These meetings allow us to plan our own sessions and activities. A group of us are currently planning a session for students in our college in the new year and we led a

session about advent for our youth group.

In the October half term we went to Castlerigg along with other young people from Anointed and Sent youth groups which truly was a beautiful experience. It was an emotional rollercoaster for everyone involved but it was incredible seeing all of us grow closer and supporting each other whilst praising and adoring Jesus and his wonderful works and never-ending love for all of us. We prayed together and for each other as some of us shared our own personal testimonies about strengthening our relationship with God.

At the end of the year we had to complete a project reflecting on how we had changed as people and what we had gained during the program. It was incredible to see how much I had grown over the year due to the programme as well as how much my peers had grown and changed too.



Faith in Action Our Experience

By volunteering, I feel like I have helped the children strengthen their relationship with God by this I also feel like my faith in God has increased... I feel like I have changed as a person but also my views of the church has also changed. Now I see the Church like a compass directing me to become how God wants me to become – *Megha*

I have gained so much from being a young leader. If I had to choose one thing, it's the fact that I have made some amazing catholic friends with whom I can discuss anything about my faith – *Prabhu*

My self-confidence was greatly increased by the faith in action programme, especially in talking to people I don't know very well – *Rachel*

Yoke has strengthened my ability to step forward and take the initiative when it comes to leading and guiding people and not shy away from great responsibilities – *Navin*

I had always heard stories of people having relationships with God but wasn't truly able to experience it for myself. The trip to Castlerigg was a fun way in which I was able to discover God and myself. For the first time I felt God's presence and the feeling gave me pure joy. It's an experience that can't be described but felt – *Maria*

My highlight as a young leader so far has definitely been working with the younger kids and seeing them grow in faith. It has definitely made me realise the impact I can make and working with them has strengthened my faith immensely because they've forced me to think deeper into my own faith – *Richa*

During adoration I felt as though I could speak and listen to God more openly. When I opened my heart to God I felt as though he was answering questions and doubts that I had during the time – *Alfi*

My highlight as a young leader was the retreat, especially the adoration, because it gave me the opportunity to reflect on my faith and my relationship with God. It was also great fun spending time with everybody and learning more about one another – *Anjali*

This programme hasn't changed my plans for the future but has strengthened them, persuading me that helping with programmes in the church and helping others in society is what I am called to do – *Rachael*

I would definitely recommend the Yoke Programme to anyone considering it as I joined in September and I instantly felt welcomed and at home with Joe and Ruth and all the young leaders and the young people. Everyone genuinely is happy to be there and they all enjoy being there. We all have lots of fun but also we all explore and delve into our relationship with God further together – *Tom*

Following on from the young leader programme, I had to do something to be involved at my church at uni. This is through being a vital member of the local RC church Catholic Society. I am the committee member representing the first year pupils at uni and help plan and run our CathSoc weekly meet-ups – *Tushar*

I think my ability of talking to a larger group of people has been strengthened through not only giving a talk, but also from leading groups – *Anto*



Dates for the Diary

2nd March – Flame

The diocese will be taking groups from schools and parishes to this national gathering of 10,000 young Catholics at Wembley Arena. An amazing opportunity to experience our shared faith alongside so many others. Aimed at young people in year 10+.

8th – 10th March – Young Adults' Retreat

A weekend away exploring faith in the company of other young adults in the heart of the Lake District. Open to young people age 18+. A chance to get away from the business of life, meet other young Catholics, and spend time with the Lord.

24th – 26th May – Family Weekend

Family Weekend provides a great opportunity for families to spend time together, meet other families and draw closer to God. Come and take the opportunity to be fed spiritually and physically, whilst taking some time out.

25th July – 3rd August – Lourdes

The Youth Section will travel over land to join the diocesan pilgrimage in Lourdes. Each year the service offered by young people makes it possible for others to make this pilgrimage, but it is also a moment of grace for the young people, spending time in this holy place. Open to young people in year 10+, £595. Bookings are also open for the main (adult) section of the pilgrimage, and we are looking for adults to work with the Youth Section.

For more information about all of the above, and for bookings, please see the What's On section of our website:

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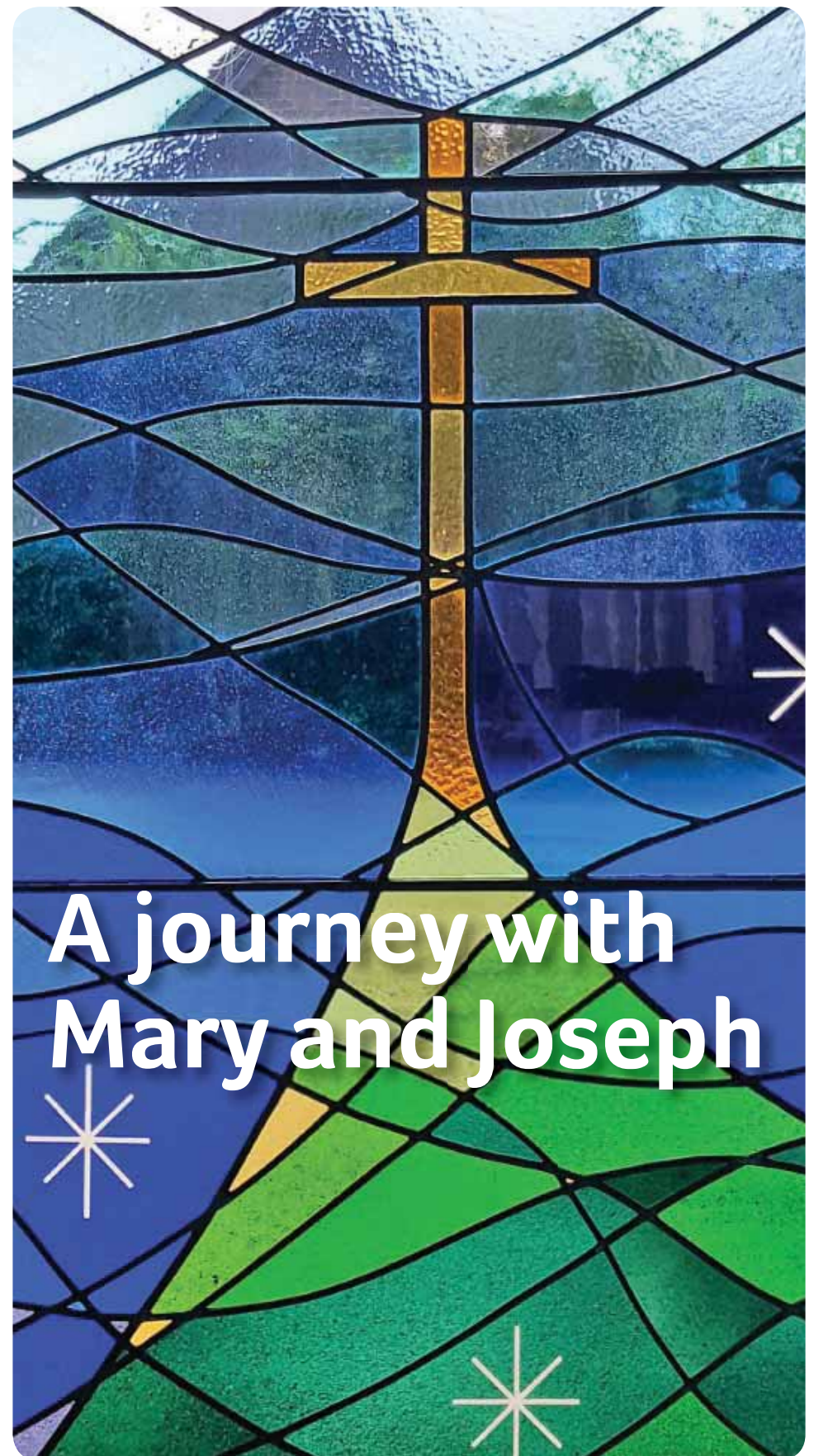
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In early December Women Together in the Diocese of Lancaster held an Advent day of Prayer in the Xaverian Mission Spirituality Centre (formerly Tabor) Preston. It was led by Father Nyagasaza Bideri who runs the Centre. It was a grey, wet and dreary looking day, but we received a very warm, hospitable welcome. Fr Bideri told us that it was to be a day of joy!

The greatest reality in our lives is our relationship with God. So, first, to help us allow God to heal our hearts from all that hinders His love embracing us, Father Bideri led us in an unusual reflection on the elder brother of the prodigal son and his troubled relationship with the father. In an interactive session, together we identified all the troubling elements that the elder son refused to let go of in himself. In naming these we could let go of all the same elements we recognised in ourselves. So we were ready then to open up to the love of God at work in the lives of Mary and Joseph before the birth of Jesus, tracing their spiritual journey through scripture and art.

We celebrated Mass together at midday and after lunch shared a very joyful session with carols and seasonal hymns illustrated on the computer as we enjoyed singing along. A half hour of silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament followed and we drew the day to a close with song and prayer and blessing, grateful to Father Bideri for this lovely introduction to the Advent Season.

Women Together has a long history in the Diocese of Lancaster since it was first established by Bishop Brewer to give women a voice and opportunities to deepen and develop their faith and encourage the service that flows from that. So on the same day the organising committee took the opportunity for a "grass roots" consultation with all who came. In the spirit of Pope Francis we know that we need to listen and learn from women themselves what kind of topics and days they want to share. We asked permission to use their contact details for future publicity as we will see what suggestions were made and what can then be planned ahead.

Philomena Grimley SHCJ

Your Letters

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- Please keep your letters concise (max 300 words),
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- Letters should not include any personal criticism or attacks
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 - publish a response if deemed appropriate

Dear Editor,

I was extremely saddened to read of the death of Fr Gerry Dunn.

I was also disappointed that you chose not to print a formal obituary, lovely though it was to read of the comments of the two former pupils of Cardinal Allen School.

Fr Gerry was much loved and appreciated during his years in Carlisle. He was also much loved by the staff and students of The Newman Catholic School during his period as school chaplain.

He was a gentle man who listened quietly, carefully and respectfully to the concerns and worries of those around him. His message always lifted our spirits and gave us hope and he led by example.

May he rest in peace.

Richard Reardon, Carlisle
 (Former Head of Mathematics, The Newman Catholic School)

Dear Editor,

I'm writing to you to say my neighbour & friend, who is 87 years of age, was received into the Catholic Church on 19 January.

Mrs Doran attends Mass every week at St Mary's Egremont. I asked why she didn't receive Holy Communion, to find she wasn't a Catholic, her late husband Edward was a Catholic and she went with him to Mass. So after her husband died she continued to go to Mass. Fr Peter Groody is delighted she is being received into the Church.

Mrs Doran's son lives in Lancaster and attends the Cathedral. I am writing to you hoping you will publish my letter to prove 'that it is never too late'.


Thank you and God Bless.

Teresa Rooney, Egremont

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Lourdes 2019



Preparations for our 2019 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes are well under way and Bishop Paul Swarbrick invites you to join him in this special year!

The dates for the pilgrimage are 26th July – 2nd August 2019 and the pastoral theme this year is *“Blessed are the poor, for the Kingdom of God is theirs”*. Fr Peter Sayer, Pilgrimage Director, asks you to consider coming with us this year, he writes...

Please join us on the 2019 Pilgrimage

We have over the last couple of years celebrated Lourdes anniversaries. In 2017 it was the 90th anniversary of our first official Diocesan Pilgrimage. In 2018 we celebrated the 160th anniversary of the first apparitions in Lourdes. 2019 sees more anniversaries. The 7th January will be the 175th anniversary of St Bernadette's birth and on April 16th we will celebrate the 140th anniversary of her death.

But we will also be remembering another saint in Lourdes, Benedict Joseph Labre, the beggar Saint, patron saint of pilgrims, the homeless, and the Hospitality of Our Lady of Lourdes. These two great saints give rise to the theme for the 2019 Lourdes Pilgrimages.

“Blessed are the poor, for the Kingdom of God is theirs.” (Luke 6:20)

“Being poor is not appealing, all those who are poor share that opinion. It is understandable; nobody likes to be poor. What is appealing, however, is to possess the Kingdom of Heaven. But only the poor may enjoy that privilege” - Madeleine Delbrel, “The Joy of Believing”.

Poverty is born from the discovery that I am a child of Father God. I exist because I am loved in an individual way by God. My being is totally relative to Him, though not without the mystery of my free will.

If I am the work of my Heavenly Father, nothing is mine, because everything is given to me by Him.

To be poor, then, is to use each thing according to its ultimate end, placing the expectation of one's good not in the possession of things, but in the realisation of the Kingdom of God. When we do that, we use, appreciate, and love each thing without turning them into a “god”. When they become gods, persons and things cease to be ours.

In a correct relationship with things and other people, we must not refuse them the esteem that is their due, for example we do not deny the value of a person if we are friends with them. At the same time, however, one does not expect the fulfilment of our own life. It is in the Kingdom of God that things and persons find their proper place.

When we live in poverty, we discover that we are lacking nothing since everything is given to us. Poverty is the recovery of the truth in our relationship with things, the truth in which God placed humankind at the dawn of creation and at the dawn of the new creation - the Resurrection of Jesus.

I look forward to being with you all on pilgrimage God Bless you.

We are blessed in this Diocese with a wonderful group of pilgrims who travel each year to Lourdes, however new faces, new life, and new targets are essential each year if the pilgrimage is to continue and grow in the longer term, and if it is to be representative of the Diocese as a whole. Have you ever considered coming on pilgrimage? If not, why not come and join us this year!

Sick Pilgrims

To be cared for by the medical and nursing team on the pilgrimage you must be a Registered Sick Pilgrim and

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you will be accommodated in The Hotel Eliseo. You should complete the Tangney Tours booking form with the relevant information and the Chief Nurse, Nikki Wisdom will make contact with you regards your needs. The Diocese can provide wheelchairs for those who require them. If there is someone sick in your parish or local care home that you know of who would benefit from going on pilgrimage, please encourage them to come this year.

Calling all helpers old and new!

Our care for the sick pilgrims is second to none and we are totally reliant on our volunteer helpers, doctors, nurses and carers. I invite you to do something special this year and volunteer to help – you will receive all the training you require. You will be placed in a team and will work alongside other like-minded volunteers, under the guidance of an experienced team leader on a rota devised by the Chief Nurse.

For many the experience of volunteering is life changing. Spending time with the pilgrims and enabling them to feel a part of the Lancaster Lourdes family is both fulfilling and rewarding and the reason why so many come back year after year. We hope that you'll join us in Lourdes, we promise it will be a satisfying and wonderful experience that you will never forget. Please contact Nikki at chiefnurse@lancasterlourdes.co.uk

Youth Team!

You are vital, please book now so that you can take advantage of paying monthly and we can proceed with training. Please note that a Catenian Bursary is available to every young person who goes to Lourdes – for further information please contact: youth@lancasterlourdes.co.uk

John Baldwin, Sick pilgrim 2018 writes "Now that the 2018 Pilgrimage has been put to bed I would like to thank all the Youth who took part in helping with the welfare of the less able pilgrims. My main carer

was a young man called Dan, his surname and background I am not sure of, but this young man went above and beyond with the help he gave me. Dan you are a star, thank you from the bottom of my heart and I hope that I will be able to renew our acquaintance this year. Also thanks to the young woman from St Claires Preston for being so chatty when I was on a 'downer' – you know who you are! God Bless each and everyone of you"

Can you Sing or play a musical instrument?

We lead the music for Masses and other services during the week in Lourdes. If you would like to take part please contact: musicaldirector@lancasterlourdes.co.uk

All Pilgrims

The Diocesan Hotels we will be using this year are the Hotel Eliseo & the St George. To book as a pilgrim please contact Tangney Tours online at: www.tangney-tours.com call: 01732 886666 or e-mail: sales@tangney-tours.com

Posters and information available in every parish.

In preparation we invite you to our 9 Day Novena being held at St Cuthbert's Church, Lytham Rd, Blackpool:

Saturday 2nd Feb 5pm,
Sunday 3rd Feb 5pm,
Monday 4th Feb 6pm,
Tuesday 5th Feb 6pm,
Wednesday 6th Feb 6pm,
Thursday 7th Feb 6pm,
Friday 8th Feb 6pm,
Saturday 9th Feb 5pm,
Sunday 10th Feb 5pm ...

concluding with the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes Mass to be held at St John Vianney Parish, Blackpool on Monday 11th February at 6.30pm.

Linda Wisdom, Director of Operations



Thank you and Farewell to Ged!

2019 sees changes to the overland pilgrimage to Lourdes.

For many years Ged Conroy has organised groups by air and then by coach to join the Diocesan pilgrimage. With help from his wife, Anne, he devoted countless hours fundraising for sick pilgrims and doing everything possible to make the journey as prayerful and enjoyable as possible. Ged has now decided to 'retire'.

And we thank both Ged and Anne for all their love, companionship and hardwork.

And this year instead of sailing across the Channel, we are to journey through the Tunnel, thus shortening our journey and stopping overnight closer to Lourdes.

Coach travel departs from Fleetwood and then Preston. Departs 25th July 2019 and returns 3rd August 2019. Cost is £660 sharing a room/£835 in single room.

For further details and a booking form, please contact:

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Fatima by air - From London Heathrow

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11 June 4 Nights	From £580 pp inc. flights

Holy Land Pilgrimages

7 May 7 Nights	From £1363 pp inc. flights
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May they all be One in Preston and beyond

Sitting in our usual pew on a Sunday morning, we could easily think that we know what being a Roman Catholic is all about. We've received our Sacraments, we understand how the liturgy and worship takes place, and we follow the seasons of the Church. But what if that is not the full picture? What if you can be authentically Catholic, fully in communion with the Holy See, and yet celebrate in a very different way? What if your calendar is not the same, your way of worshipping, practicing and even the language in which you worship is different to what we have come to accept as the norm?

Throughout the autumn term, we have been celebrating the breadth of our Catholic faith through a series called 'One Body' which took place at St Wilfrid's, Preston. Described by Jim as 'an illuminating course that challenged judgementalism and celebrated the diverse expression of our shared faith', each evening of the series was led by a different Religious Order, New Movement or Rite that is based in the local area. All of the evenings have been, as Sean relates, 'interesting, informative, a good variety and well presented' and the attendance has reflected this with several evenings reaching 70 or more people. Preston has been blessed by the ministry of many Religious orders over the centuries including Franciscans,

Benedictines, Carmelites, Xaverians, Little Sisters of the Poor and of course Jesuits and more recently has also welcomed the Syro-Malabar Rite as well as newer expressions such as the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest, the Neocatechumenal Way and ourselves, Metanoia Project. Each group is authentically Catholic but has a particular Charism, vision and focus of how best to express, celebrate and share that faith. This series has not been able to include every different expression but we made a good start!

It has been, as Mike shares, 'a wonderful insight into the variety of charisms in the church today' and this has enabled us all to compare our similarities and differences and to meet other Catholics who we may never come across in our usual routine. Each evening has been unique but there has been a wonderful atmosphere of acceptance and love for one another. Hilary sums it up well: 'I have so enjoyed all the Thursday evenings that I attended. It was refreshing to see and hear how diverse yet similar we all are in our faith. May there be many more opportunities to chat.' Most importantly, each evening has been an opportunity to pray together. However we might choose to express ourselves, ultimately we are all children of the King of Kings, created to Praise Him and to live forever with Him – what an awesome privilege!

Although this wonderful series is now over, we will continue to meet each week as we have done for the past eight years to explore our rich faith in a variety of ways. Over those years, we have covered many topics including the Creed, the Documents of Vatican II, the Our Father and Bible Basics. We have had a School of Mission including outreach on the streets and followed DVD series' by Bishop Robert Baron. We have had several Advent and Lent courses with lots of guest speakers who have inspired and challenged us in many ways. We have spent many weeks reflecting on the Sunday Gospels too.

Looking ahead to Lent, we will be exploring and discussing the book 'Rediscover Jesus' which has a short reflection for each of the forty days. Written by best-selling author Matthew Kelly of DynamicCatholic.com, this book 'encourages us in our weariness, challenges us in our comfort, and invites us to rediscover the beautiful possibilities God places before us daily'. We are so excited to make this book our Lenten focus having shared it with some smaller groups last year with excellent results. So why not make your own ongoing faith formation a New Year's resolution for 2019? People from all over the Preston area (and beyond) are very welcome so we would be delighted if you could join us!

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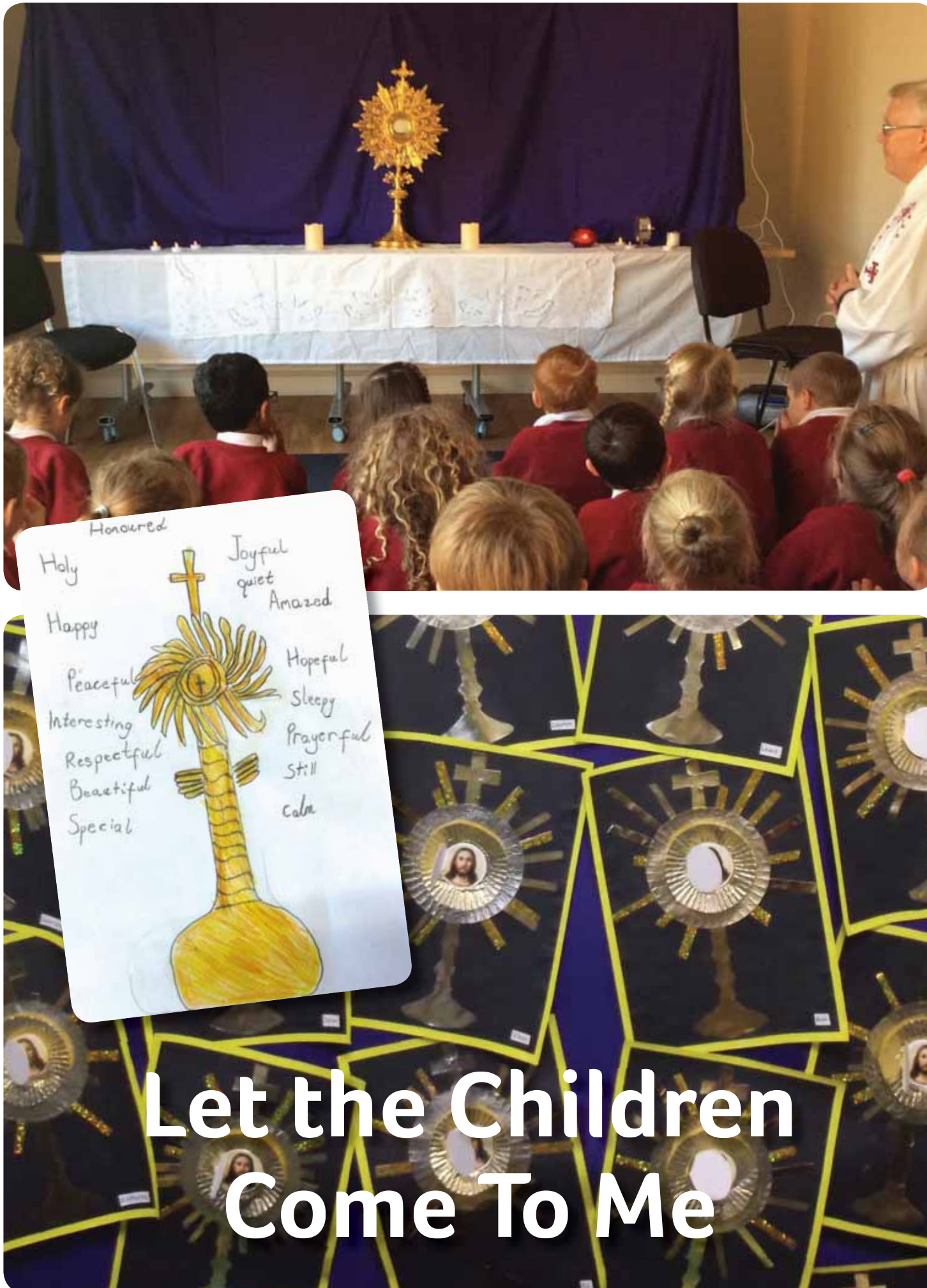
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Let the Children Come To Me

Following the National Eucharistic Congress, held in Liverpool in September 2018, schools of the Diocese of Lancaster have been invited by Bishop Paul to observe a 'Diocesan Year of the Eucharist'.

The aim of this year is to help children develop a deeper understanding of the Eucharist as the 'source and summit' of the Christian life and to encourage and foster regular devotion to the Blessed Sacrament within our schools.

Our Diocesan Education Service ran two days of formation for teachers in the Autumn Term which were focused on 'The Mass' and 'Eucharistic Adoration'.

On the Feast of All Saints Bishop Paul formally announced the 'Year of the Eucharist' for Diocesan Schools through a video message watched by all students. The Year officially began on the Feast of Christ the King.

On Friday 23rd November each individual school was invited to host a period of Eucharistic Adoration either in schools or their

local parishes in preparation for the year. As the year unfolds students will be invited to deepen their understanding of the Mass and the reservation of the Blessed Sacrament for visiting the sick and Adoration.

The images of art work were created by children from Dean Gibson in Kendal and St. Margaret Mary's in Carlisle.

Nancy Walbank

Windermere children too marked the start of the Year of the Eucharist with a Holy Hour.

The children were very respectful in church and were filled with wonder at the monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the altar. We had some readings to focus our thoughts, read together the Divine Praises and finished with a hymn – Laudate Si. The children in KS2 took the longer session but every child from Nursery up to Year 6 got to experience the Adoration. Back in school the children in KS2 drew the monstrance and wrote down words that expressed their thoughts.

Gabrielle Murray


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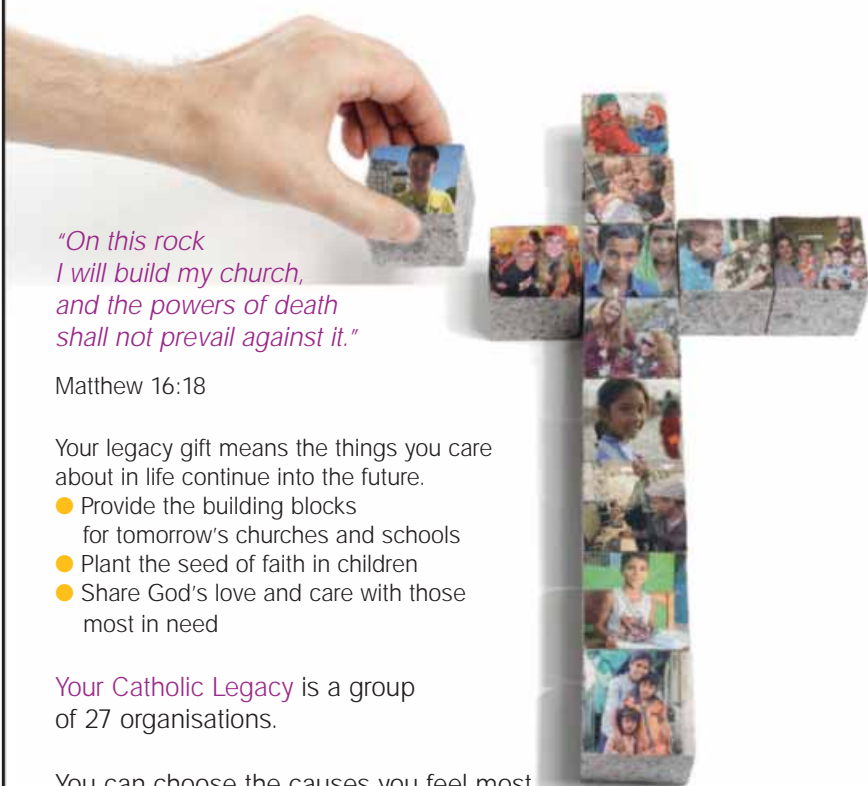


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We attended an awards evening at Lancaster House Hotel. The evening was to present young people and leaders with awards in congratulation for certain aspects of their past year in volunteering, hard work and dedication to either their youth group or association. Marcus, Tom and I, received an invite to attend as we had been selected by the Lancashire Association Boys and Girls Clubs (LABGC), club leaders, to receive the 'Outstanding Achievement' award.

We were able to sit with our families and friends (including Terry Mattinson) and enjoy food from the finger buffet before being welcomed by the club leaders. They told us a bit about their roles, what they had been up to in the past year and what they hope to do in the near and far future.

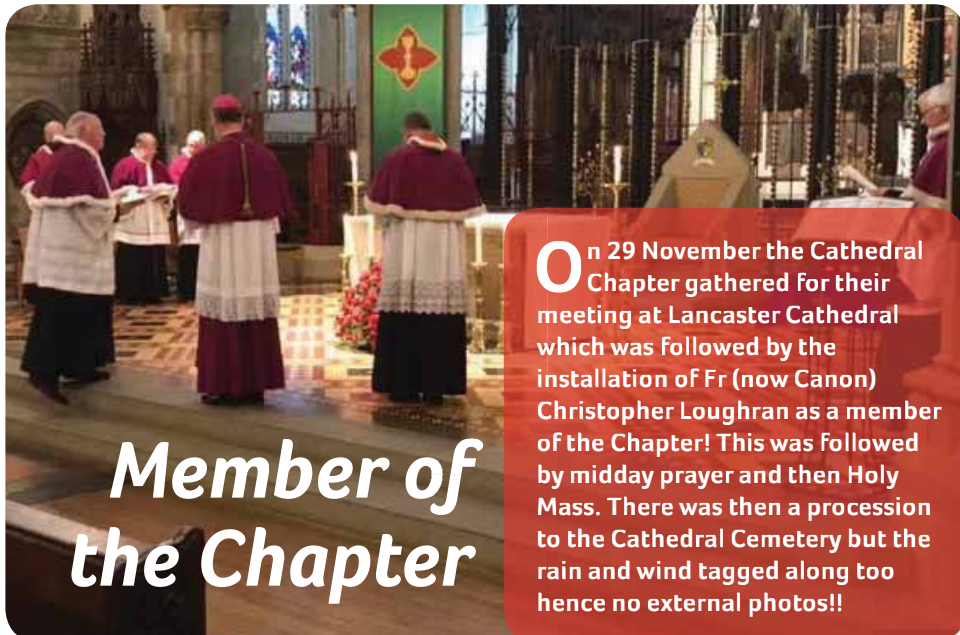
We then heard from a guest speaker who told us some statistics of youth work and shared a poem with us.

This was then followed by the awards. There were awards for pool and fishing tournaments, young volunteers, youth workers and of course the Outstanding

Achievement award. We heard some inspiring stories of some of the people who had dedicated months and months of their lives to volunteer for local groups and organisations.

We were last to be called up for our awards and Lou Andrews (Partnership Development Officer of LABGC) talked a bit about what we had done and all the hard-work we had put in over the past year. She talked about the digital films we had made, the youth leadership training in which we had completed within a few weeks, the volunteering we do for younger youth groups, report writing, peer led retreat to Castlerigg Manor and our film we made of the weekend.

The evening soon ended and even Terry had a few tears in his eyes as he was so pleased with us! Of course, we couldn't have done it without him and everything we do is because of Terry and his reward would probably end up being his joy and fulfilment from seeing us receiving these awards! All of us are very thankful to all who selected us for these awards and we hope to continue our work further into future projects! *Hallie Brady, Year 10*



Member of the Chapter

On 29 November the Cathedral Chapter gathered for their meeting at Lancaster Cathedral which was followed by the installation of Fr (now Canon) Christopher Loughran as a member of the Chapter! This was followed by midday prayer and then Holy Mass. There was then a procession to the Cathedral Cemetery but the rain and wind tagged along too hence no external photos!!

Philip takes another Step in his Formation to the Priesthood



On the Feast of Christ the King The Right Reverend Patrick McKinney Bishop of the Diocese of Nottingham conferred the Ministry of Acolyte on Seminarian Philip Wrigley saying *"This ministry of Acolyte, you should strive to live more fully by the Lord's sacrifice and to be moulded more perfectly in its likeness. You should seek to understand the deep spiritual meaning of what you do, so that you may offer yourself daily to God as spiritual sacrifices acceptable to him through Jesus Christ."*

"All nations shall come to adore you and glorify your name, O Lord" - Psalm 85:9

What is the Ministry of the Acolyte?

Those men seeking ordination in the Catholic Church are now installed during their formation into the ministries of lector and acolyte before being ordained deacon, at which time one enters the clerical state. Lector and acolyte are "lay ministries."

The acolyte is appointed in order to aid the deacon and to minister to the priest. It is his duty therefore to attend to the service of the altar and to assist the deacon and the priest in liturgical celebrations, especially in the celebration of Mass; In other words, the things you would typically see an altar server doing.

He is also to distribute communion as a special minister when the ministers spoken of in the Codex Iuris Canonici can. 845 are not available or are prevented

by ill health, age, or another pastoral ministry from performing this function, or when the number of communicants is so great that the celebration of Mass would be unduly prolonged.

What this is saying is that an acolyte is an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion. However, as an installed minister, he takes precedence over other extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion in distributing the Eucharist.

In the same extraordinary circumstances an acolyte may be entrusted with publicly exposing the Blessed Sacrament for adoration by the faithful and afterward replacing it, but not with blessing the people.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is something that a lay person ordinarily may not do. Therefore the ability of an acolyte to do so is truly a special privilege of that ministry. As a non-ordained minister, however, he may not offer Benediction.

He may also, to the extent needed, take care of instructing other faithful who on a temporary basis are appointed to assist the priest or deacon in liturgical celebrations by carrying the missal, cross, candles, etc., or by performing other such duties.

In other words, the acolyte should train the other servers who will be assisting at the altar.



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Saturdays: 10.30 am Low Mass
Sundays: 10.30 am, Sung Mass

Shrine of the English Martyrs, Preston
Mondays – Fridays: 12 noon, Low Mass
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Sundays: 9.00 am, Low Mass

Sunday 17th February at 3.00 pm
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Shirley aims for a Personal Best to help the Missions

I have been selected by the charity, Jesuit Missions, to run the London Marathon in April 2019, to raise funds for their various projects overseas, such as providing education for South Sudanese Women in refugee camps in Uganda and para-legal teams for women in India, and others – please visit the following website for further information on the amazing work that Jesuit Missions do:

jesuitmissions.org.uk/what-we-do/
This is a first for me since I have never run a marathon before, nor, indeed, done much running. I am hoping to raise a minimum of £2,000.

Why am I running the London Marathon?

I have asked myself the same question quite a lot recently. I did consider running the London Marathon last year when the Jesuit Missions team were looking for volunteers from the 9 UK Jesuit Parishes – looking back it was good advice that a friend gave me to perhaps wait a year and actually start running! At the time, I was not doing some exercise but nothing like I am now and I was certainly not running. I started running probably about autumn 2017 and by January 2018 I had signed up for Park Runs and at the moment have a Personal Best for 5KM of 29mins 49 seconds – very happy with this for my age group and level of fitness.

I received an email back in June 2018 from one of the Jesuit Missions volunteering team inviting me to apply for one of their charity places. Faster than the speed of sound, I submitted my application and as usual due to a certain OCD I have spent a number of months frantically worrying that my “raison d’être” was not good enough and I would not be selected.

Then in September, actually earlier than I had been advised in October I received the email confirming a place to run the London Marathon as part of the Jesuit Missions Team – well I think even the wallabies down under could have heard my screaming and there was certainly a couple of strange looks from the staff and students in the Library at UCLAN where at the time I was giving student appointments as part of my job working in the Study Abroad Team at UCLAN.

For the rest of the week I was as high as a kite – I was so excited and immediately set up my Virgin Fundraising Page and starting publicising my participation and seeking donations.

Why the Jesuit Missions?

Jesuit Missions exists to support Jesuit works with poor and marginalised people around the world. They do this by promoting social justice, building bridges between communities and accompanying those working on the missions.

Well I have been a parishioner at St Wilfrid's Preston for a number of years and have followed the various campaigns for different projects that the Missions team run in keyparts of the World such as Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean – and simply thought I would like to help out and give something back to the Jesuits for such a worthy cause.

I am really looking forward to running the Marathon and being part of the Jesuit Missions' Team – particularly meeting the Womble of Wimbledon, since a group of litter pickers at St Wilfrid's have taken on the pseudonym of Prombles of Preston as part of their Live Simply Campaign.

Training is not easy particularly during these dark, cold days but this is part of the mental and physical challenge. I have completed a 10 mile race in November and my next big step will be a half marathon on the 6th January and then a 20 mile race in Lancaster on the 17th March.

I would like to thank all those wonderful people who have supported my challenge by either donating prizes, money or just simply keeping me in their prayers – without them I could not carry on.

I have reached 51% of my fundraising target but if anyone would like to donate on-line or find out more about Jesuit Missions please visit my fundraising page at: uk.virginmoneygiving.com/shirley-russo-SAVMLMBONDS3332019-272 or contact me on my mobile 07946659716. God Bless and please keep me and those that I am running for in your prayers.

Shirley Russo



The Shrine of Saint Jude was founded in 1955 and is served by the Carmelites. The Shrine distributes a quarterly newsletter called Carmelite News, written by the Prior Provincial, Fr Kevin Alban. If you would like to receive a copy of our free newsletter, please send your contact details to: newsletter@stjudeshrine.org.uk, or call 01795 539 214.

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Balancing Act

by Julia Beacroft

It seems incredible, that not only, are we now in the new year of 2019 but are already in the second month of it! However, in common with most people I have to admit that I find February somewhat dull, cold and dreary with little to recommend it. The celebration of the Presentation of the Lord at the beginning of the month offers a glimmer of light in these grey days, but after this we are left to await the commencement of the wonderful season of Lent.

Yet whilst consulting my diary for this month, I was yet again struck by the fact that my late father's birthday and the anniversary of my father-in-law's death share the same date -significantly, one a cause for celebration and the other for remembrance and some sadness. But even in this simple occurrence there is evidence of perfect balance by the Almighty.

So often we hear of grandparents and great-grandparents dying just as the younger generation come into the world. Disappointments and missed opportunities can be followed by new beginnings, life changes and sustainable prospects. Trauma often precedes peace and contentment and of course love is the constant which holds the world in perfect balance. Even our notable church dates demonstrate a melding of sadness and happiness which are held in synchronicity and equilibrium. We celebrate the season of Christmas with great joy as our Lord and Saviour comes into the world, but only a short matter of weeks after this we are already in the penitential season of Lent

and preparing for Easter. And of course, during Easter itself we are plunged into gloom as we face the darkness of Good Friday but go on to rejoice at the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday.

'There is a time for every event under heaven - A time to give birth and a time to die; A time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted. A time to kill and a time to heal; A time to tear down and a time to build up. A time to weep and a time to laugh; A time to mourn and a time to dance. A time to throw stones and a time to gather stones; A time to embrace and a time to shun embracing. A time to search and a time to give up as lost; A time to keep and a time to throw away. A time to tear apart and a time to sew together; A time to be silent and a time to speak. A time to love and a time to hate; A time for war and a time for peace.' (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

And so at this rather gloomy time of year we can be assured that we are enlightened by Jesus, the Light of the World, who holds us, our actions, our lives and all of creation in perfect balance.

Julia Beacroft is an author, editor, workshop leader and presenter in Catholic faith formation. Her book *'Sanctifying the Spirit'* is available to buy from AMAZON, www.waterstones.com or Book Depository. Please visit www.sancioobooks.com for more information. Follow Julia on Facebook & Twitter.

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Children's Liturgy Silver Anniversary



The Children's Liturgy Team cutting the cake.



Children's Liturgy started at St Mary's, Morecambe (now part of the parish of Blessed John Henry Newman) on 3rd October 1993. Little did I imagine when Fr Harry Holden asked me all those years ago to set up the group, that 25 years later a small group of dedicated people would still be sharing the Good News with the children of the parish, but week in and week out that's what we've done. That's over 1300 liturgies and we've only missed twice! Once was when Archbishop Kelly came on the Feast of the Holy Family and asked the children to stay in church and once when the heating broke down and Canon Cooper wisely decided that God's frozen people would appreciate a shorter Mass than usual!

On 21st October this year we celebrated our Silver Anniversary, with children bringing up the Offertory and the leaders receiving a special blessing at the end of Mass.

Afterwards there was a party in the hall for all past and present members of the group and any other parishioners who wished to join us.

It is worth noting that all our young altar servers are 'graduates' of the Children's Liturgy Group, so we must be doing something right! We're already starting to see the children of some of our earlier children - who knows, in another 25 years we may see their grandchildren!

Jacky Blaikie



Some of the children with their parents and grandparents.



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