

FREE

The Official Newspaper to  
the Diocese of Lancaster

Issue 307 + March '19

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Catholic right?  
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Unity



# I did this so that you might be saved ...

For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheek to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle – *Isaiah 50:6*



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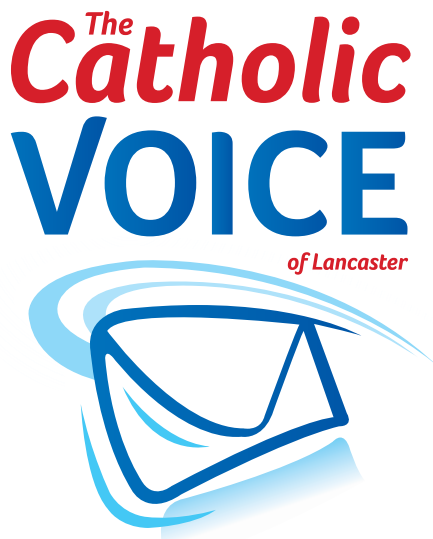
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**EDITORIAL**

**L**ent is a solemn period within the liturgical year of the Church that begins on Ash Wednesday (*this year 6 March*) and ends with the celebration of the resurrection at Easter. The purpose of Lent is to help us prepare for the greatest feast (*Easter*) in the Church calendar. We do this through prayer, repenting of our sins, almsgiving, self-denial and self giving in the service of others. Roughly 40+ days to get our house in order!

It can be easy to deceive ourselves that our yearly fast from say chocolate, sugar or alcohol is bringing us closer to inner holiness if we measure our steadfastness with weight loss or extra coins in the holiday fund. Anything undertaken during Lent should have at its heart the desire to come closer to God, to spend time with Him, to seek his forgiveness and to do His work here on earth. The point here is that what we are called to do in Lent is not to improve our physical wellbeing but our spiritual wellbeing. For example, giving up something that we will truly miss, which could be chocolate, sugar or alcohol, should help us to be more grateful to God for these gifts which we so often take for granted, move us to pray for those who lack

even the basics, and provide the opportunity to support others if we save money along the way. It is not a multiple choice from prayer, almsgiving, repentance and self giving either. We need to re focus and put God at the centre of all we do, that way we develop into the people He wants us to be.

There will be times during Lent when we might fall away from all our good intentions – don't worry, pick yourself up, dust yourself down and get back on track. God doesn't mind as he understands our frailties. All He asks is that we stay close to Him, seek his forgiveness and recognise Him in our neighbour providing help and support when they need it.

Think outside the box too and ask yourself; could I do more to influence political leaders on matters relating to the protection of life at all stages, the persecution of Christians and other faith and justice concerns; could I offer some of my time in the running of my parish; could I volunteer as a hospital or prison visitor; could I help distribute the *Catholic Voice*. The list is endless!

The *Catholic Voice* wishes you all a happy Lenten season.







# Retrieving ourselves through the Mercy of God

**H**ow many times do we look at ourselves and would love to be able to reset our lives and try to clear the problems? But, where would we start to get back to how things were? Life is even harder though when we see the problems, noticing the negative changes in things and people around us but we can't see or find it hard to accept our part in the cause(s). Unable to turn back the clock we accept our lot. By doing so we slowly harden our hearts becoming less than we were.

Most of us find that we feel like this a lot. Of ourselves, we cannot retrieve what was lost or gone from our sight but, it is still clearly visible to God. With His help life is retrievable but it's a journey and not a quick fix.

If we've broken a limb rehabilitation is a long, painful but necessary journey. If done with conviction, following our rehab instructions clearly and consistently that brokenness is healed and health retrieved.

God's words are accepted as a guide and instruction for us all. But, God's words especially about repentance and forgiveness were at the forefront of Christ and John's mission. These are the first stage and front door to reconciliation. "Our journey forward" and the 'way' God retrieves us, Should we choose to follow them:

- John preached a baptism of repentance enabling forgiveness.  
Mark 1:4

- Repent, turn to God that He will forgive your sins.  
Acts 3:19

- A call to repentance.  
Luke 5 31:32

- Back as far as Proverbs 28:13,  
They were aware of the need to confess weaknesses,  
give them up and hand them over to God for His mercy"

Basically 'letting go' and rather, 'letting God'.  
It's not easy to let go, trusting in God to move us

forward. But that is (*part of*) the journey of "faith" we are called to. The more we learn to let go the more confidence we have to let God move in us. We need to turn to God in a way that we have not perhaps been able to do in the past.

The word, the thought, even the experience of confession may leave many of us with anxiety or perhaps an unexplained emptiness. Perhaps an early life experience didn't really work for us and is still holding us back. But, moving beyond this 'is' the first step, the bit about starting to 'let go'.

The word confession is now more commonly referred to as the Sacrament of Reconciliation. And the experience has changed too, penitent and confessor can meet face to face rather than either side of a screen. A fuller and more interactive life giving and prayer filled experience is encouraged.

Being reconciled with someone is about making the fullest connection we can make. Reconciliation requires more from us. It is not just about listing our weaknesses/sins, getting a penance, saying it, and leaving church waiting for a result. Confession was and is always is meant to be more than that.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation offers the "fullest" opportunity to tell God (*your Father*) how you're doing by sharing 'fully' your journey so far. Not just confessing our weaknesses but also our worries and concerns - handing everything over to Gods mercy - 'letting go' and 'letting God'.

By availing ourselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation we humble ourselves by sharing and asking for forgiveness through our Father's representative on earth - the priest. This is similar to Christ presenting himself to John for baptism in all humility. We are asked to do the same.

This is all a choice. But God, our Father, calls us. He wants to retrieve us because we are (*all*) broken.

Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation we become more fully alive.

*Anon (Name and e mail address supplied)*




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## Volunteers' Conference



**A**t the start of January, the Castlerigg Team travelled to Swanwick in Derbyshire for the Volunteers' Conference. This sees the teams of many of the youth centres across England coming together for a weekend of socialising, workshops and prayer.

Having got used to being the people who welcome group after group to Castlerigg, it was fun to be the ones who were welcomed! When there are over one-hundred of us together in one place, it becomes clear that God both calls a wide variety of people to youth ministry, but also that there are common threads running through all of us. The atmosphere was always friendly and welcoming; there was a real sense of the

universal family we are all a part of, and the mission we all share in.

Much of our days consisted in workshops, some run by outside organisations such as CAFOD, Catholic Voices and Aid to the Church in Need. Others were run by leaders from all the centres, including music and sport workshops, and on how to cope with living in community. We all came away from these sessions with new ideas to bring back to our community and the young people we welcome to Castlerigg.

We also came together for some beautiful times of prayer. Leaders from all the centres led us in morning prayer and worship every morning. On our

final evening we, the Castlerigg team, led the Conference in an evening of reconciliation and praise and worship. It was a beautiful service, with so many of the participants receiving God's mercy in confession.

Another significant purpose of the conference was the one that happened with little effort on the organisers' part- the socialising! It was a great opportunity for us to meet volunteers from other centres, share our stories of how we came into youth ministry and how we have been finding it so far. We would compare notes on the responsibilities we have at our own centres, how we manage our work-life balance and how we cope with any difficult young people! On our final

evening, we celebrated with a Ceilidh which had everyone dancing. For the team, it was an important reminder that we are far-from alone in our work, which it can sometimes feel like within the hills and valleys of the Lake District. Our centres of youth ministry are thriving, and have so much potential- they are a real beacon of hope for the Church and the world today.

At the end of Mass, at the end of the Conference, the instruction from the priest had extra poignance. 'Go, and announce the Gospel of the Lord!'

And, with that, we headed back to Castlerigg and Lancaster Diocese to do just that.

## World Youth Day @ the Cathedral

**W**orld youth day is a huge catholic event that comes around every few years, in a different country each time to celebrate young people's presence in the church. Millions of young Catholics (up to 35 years old) travel across the world to join with other people from all sorts of different cultures to celebrate their faith.

It was initiated in 1985 by Pope Saint John Paul II as an opportunity for young people to experience the extent of the church, to meet other young Catholics and the Pope and to celebrate, pray and receive the sacraments together.

This year it was celebrated in Panama in Central America, too far away for the diocese to organise a group. However, for those who wanted to get involved we organised a night of Eucharistic Adoration at the Cathedral, timed to coincide with the World Youth Day vigil with Pope Francis in Panama.

Almost a hundred young people gathered in the Cathedral where we had periods of praise and worship, priests available for confessions, excerpts from Pope Francis' homilies and a testimony from Sophie about her experience of past World Youth Days.

As they left, the young people who had come showed their appreciation for allowing them to participate in the event despite their work commitments or financial limitations, and praised both the music and speakers.

Hearing the testimonies of other young people in the diocese, be that their experience of the night, stories of Lourdes trips or just experiences of friendship in youth groups, I came away from the evening feeling part of a great community, and World Youth Day shows us how great and far reaching our community of the church is.

*Phelim, Castlerigg*





## DATES FOR THE DIARY



# Fifty Years at Castlerigg

In 1963 Fr Paddy O'Dea bought Lakeside House, Keswick, on behalf of the diocese and Lancaster Diocese Youth Service was born. Through the 1960's the service grew and it soon became apparent that new premises would be needed, and in 1969 we moved to Castlerigg Manor.

For the last fifty years the Youth Service has been at Castlerigg Manor, and 2019 is a good time to celebrate the work that has been done, the hundreds of thousands of young people who

have visited, and the graces that have come through all of this.

For the rest of the year we hope to include in this page your memories and pictures of Castlerigg (or Lakeside House). More will be posted on our website: [www.castleriggmanor.co.uk](http://www.castleriggmanor.co.uk) If you came to Castlerigg as a young person whether in 1969 or 2018 we'd be delighted to hear from you. What do you remember of the experience and how has it touched your life? Please get in touch [team@castleriggmanor.co.uk](mailto:team@castleriggmanor.co.uk)

# Memories of Castlerigg

*"We have wonderful memories of three or four visits to Castlerigg in the 1980s.*

*Beautiful gardens with views of amazing mountains all around – we climbed our first Wainwrights leading to a lifelong love of the mountains.*

*Prayer sessions and a chapel with cushions on the floor, something we had never*

*seen before. The food was always lovely, especially the apple crumble! We played games, explored the gardens in the dark and the disco on the final night of our first visit with St Bernard's is still a memory to smile about.*

*A special place – long may it continue to shape the young people of the future....."*  
*Julie & Gillian Flanagan (Sacred Heart – Barrow)*

## Support our Work

Please help us to continue the work of the Youth Service. If you feel you might be able to help in any way please get in touch. If you are able to make a donation this would be greatly appreciated: [www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/donate](http://www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/donate) And most importantly, please keep us in your prayers.



### 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.

### 18th – 21st April – Easter Retreat

Open to year 9+.

### 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.

### 7th July – Barbeque

To celebrate our fiftieth year at Castlerigg. Keep the date!

### 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+, £585. Bookings are also open for the main (adult) section of the pilgrimage, we are looking for adults to work with the Youth.

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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So this Lent it's not about what you are giving up, or even doing extra. Maybe it's about changing your mindset. Giving up pride, deceit and judgement, and purposefully going that extra mile to help fellow pilgrims move further forward in life.

*'To shame what is strong, God has chosen what the world counts as weakness.. and so there is no place for human pride in the presence of God. You are in Christ Jesus by God's act, for God made him our wisdom; he is our righteousness; in him we are consecrated and set free'*



# Pause For Thought

## Remembering the Snow in January

On the morning of January 30th, I woke up to snow laying on the ground. The road outside my house was patterned with tyre tracks. It was easy to see the manoeuvres that the vehicles had made as they set off on their journeys to work, school, shopping or even holidays. Walking to church the snow reminded me of the Cantic we pray in a morning on Sunday Week 1 and Week 3: And you, frost and snow, O bless the Lord. (Daniel 3:70)

I never cease to be amazed at how the Scriptures reflect our everyday lives. Following other footprints and making

my own in the snow I reached the gate to Sacred Heart Church. Footprints led me along the path. If I had followed the footprints I would have walked past the door. None of the footprints led me into Church. It had been open since early morning and no one had time to nip in and say 'hello' to God.

This made me sad at the thought of it.

But I must not be judgemental. I must live in the hope that there are many footprints, unseen to the naked eye that have been left by many visitors to God.

Deacon Chris Barwise

## New Music in the Diocese



On Saturday 23rd March, following on from their previous music day last June, Frank Harrington and Leo Appleton will be hosting a musical day at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Lytham St Anne's where attendees will learn new compositions written by the duo.

Both Frank and Leo have been composing music and lyrics together for over ten years, mainly for singing and playing to support Christian worship. Come along and learn some new music that you can take back to your own parishes. If you play a musical instrument feel free to bring it along and join in. The day begins at 10am and finishes at 2pm. Light refreshments will be available throughout, which along with copies of all the music sung on the day is included in the price of £10 per person. For further info ring 07713238597. Elizabeth Alty



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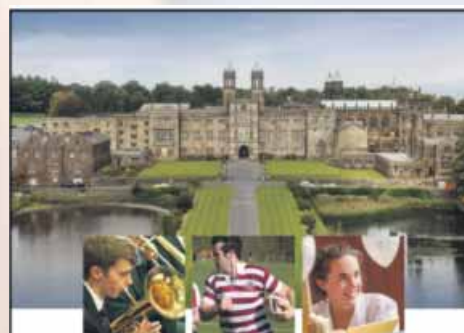
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# Closed Hospital finds new Purpose in Fleetwood

**T**hanks to the original vision of Tom Birch (*United Reformed*), the Rev. John Hall (*St Peter's C of E*) and Canon Alf Hayes (*St Mary's*) and after three and a half years of trying Fleetwood Trust has recently managed to buy Fleetwood Hospital from the NHS.

The deal was made possible by two large anonymous donations and the creation of a Board of Trustees with a variety of expertise in finance, civil engineering and health services etc., The Board is chaired by Lord Tom McNally an old boy of St Joseph's college, Blackpool. The project has also been accepted by the Prince of Wales foundation as one of his '7 for 70' projects to commemorate his 70th birthday. There were ninety applicants so the project must have struck a chord with HRH and his advisors.

The ecumenical clergy's visionary idea was to give a united Christian witness to the gospel precepts of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. And this was to be fulfilled by creating a '*one stop*' facility in the hospital that would benefit the whole community regardless of background or ethnicity. This remains the key driver but plans have needed to be modified slightly to make full use of the three storey building and generate an income stream to help with running costs.

Imagine if you can, a young mum who becomes homeless, never mind why, how, when or her particular circumstances. She is in need of help, it is cold and wet and she trails round town with her children in tow going from the Council offices to the Medical Centre, then to



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## Family Weekend

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the drug rehabilitation centre then to the Job Centre, from there to the Debt Counselling offices and then desperate to the local SVP. It is possible some help was forthcoming at the various stops but just put yourself in the position of this young mum and her two children for a moment and consider how much better it would have been for her if all the services she was looking to access were under one roof and ask yourself what if there could be skills training available, counselling, help with dealing day to day budgeting, or lessons on how to make a meal or indeed short term emergency accommodation – the list is endless.

Fleetwood Trust in concert with the local community is determined to see that their project reaches out to everyone, young and old of whatever creed or

ethnicity so that the physical, mental and spiritual needs are met as far as humanly possible.

All the local churches have given their support and given time, listening to the community and responding to needs should provide a Centre of Hope in Fleetwood – a beacon for those seeking help and shelter in one of the top ten deprived areas in the country.

Since acquiring the Hospital work is concentrating on much needed repairs and converting the ground floor as a community asset for the whole of Fleetwood.

**What if?** – has made a start and the *Catholic Voice* will keep you updated on progress over the coming months.

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A SONG FOR

U N I T Y

We all belong to the Lord,  
let us unite our voices  
in prayer, praise and worship!

**The Vision and band**  
A music filled evening led by a worship band formed by uniting musicians from different Christian communities. The attendees and band came from Christian communities from across Lancaster, Morecambe and Carnforth and we were pleased to welcome Bishop Paul Swarbrick to the event. We understand that 90% of those who attended came from other Christian churches; many of whom had never visited our church before.

**Reflections on the event**  
As a musician, sitting in the afterglow of a music concert has always been one of my favourite places to look back and reflect. In January we did something very special. With the grace and trust of God, we opened the doors of our church as widely as possible and invited all Christian communities in Lancaster, Morecambe and Carnforth. We asked them to have faith in us, and come and worship and pray with us. Using music as a common medium, we effectively met each of our fellow brothers and sisters halfway, using worship music as our language; a common denominator in which we unite in faith. It's always been easy for us to compare ourselves against other denominations/religions and see our differences. These are the characteristics that have divided us for so long. The challenge was to focus us on contemplating on what unites us - Our Lord and Saviour.

'He who sings, prays twice' - is a famous saying from St Augustine. **What did he mean?** That our voices are gifts from God, which we can give back by making music for the Lord! Yes - He, Our Lord wants to hear our voices; not just the words of our mind! Singing has been a prayer of the generations. The bible is filled

with joy or even angry songs of prayer, just open the book of psalms, or read a canticle! Even Mary Our Mother had a song in her heart the moment she gave her 'fiat' to the Angel Gabriel. 'My soul praises the Lord- he has looked on his lowly servant'...

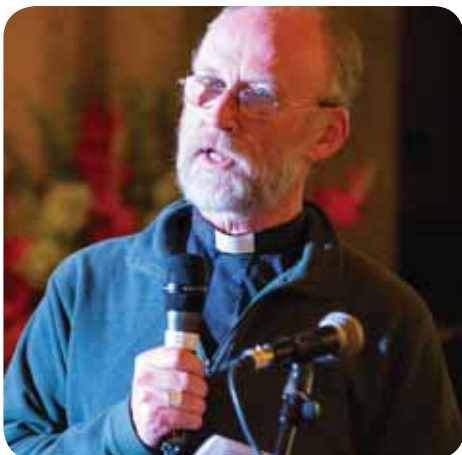
**Why choose worship music?** Well for a start it's the language of our fellow Christians. But it also is because it is gradually being used more and more within the Catholic Church. Over the years, it's changed from the old 'kum-by-yah' and moved into the realms of Hillsong, Bethel, Matt Maher and Audrey Assad music.

In his 'Divine Renovation' book - Fr James Mallon asks us to consider incorporating worship music, once it's past the 'Brenda'™ test! But worship music has changed from simply praising the Lord, and now includes depths of scripture, and dialogue. Worship songs are lyrically driven; repetitive and easy to learn. Whilst they may be considered by some as inferior to traditional hymns, they speak the language of today. When you listen to worship music, something miraculous happens. Like a lot of contemporary music, it gets stuck in your head and plays its catchy-tunes over and over and becomes a grace filled prayer!

Yes - the ear worm singing to you over and over sings you a prayer; reminding you of the love our Lord has for you when you are doing the mundane in life... washing up, running the kids to school... and even when day dreaming!!

In a world where people are turning away from religion because 'it's not relevant' or 'it's boring' worship music bridges the gap and speaks to people where they are. Music once again gets the freedom to become a living and breathing soul-felt prayer, and





what a beautiful one it truly can be!

Look where the youth of today are, look at the youth rallies, World Youth Day and Youth 2000 - here you find thousands upon thousands of believers newly budding in their faith. Here you also find worship music - a way for them to express themselves when they simply can't find their own words. Worship music in its essence teaches us to pray; when we are unsure, or simply just a bit lost.

I'm not suggesting we throw the traditional music out. Instead, consider a unity of old and new. Worship music can be incorporated seamlessly into the Mass; providing words and hope when we can't pray. It nestles well with traditional hymns, and gives these an injection of new life and energy. We love rocking up, or 'going gospel' with such well known pieces such as 'Be thou my vision' and 'Amazing Grace'. The energy is infectious. It is revitalising and driven by grace and hope. It can give the congregation a diverse array of music language to speak, and encourages all generations to join in - yes I said join in; and find your voice!

We used music as a medium to reflect on the life of St. Paul. Saul, the fervent persecutor of the early Christian church had a direct encounter with God. A man, so far from Christianity, becomes one of the most vocal and inspiring Christian's of the bible. Saul- becomes Paul- the Apostle.

We considered the stages of St Paul's life: the stoning of St Stephen, the conversation on the road to Damascus, the desert years and finally his preaching and martyrdom. Structuring the music around these times, we built a tapestry of meditations

considering what Paul would have been feeling at the time? What might God have been saying to him? How might he approach this?

We used the life of St Paul and his scriptural teachings to speak to our hearts. How did St. Paul react to God's message; how are we expected to react.

Bishop Paul explained that grace is a gift from God. It is a gift quite unique in that it is not one we keep and hold onto, own and posses; but instead it is something that we share with our fellow brothers and sisters, families and communities. It is in this sharing that Grace and love increases.

We were all so grateful to have the company of Bishop Paul Swarbrick who opened the evening with a prayer and a blessing at the end of the night. He spoke hopefully about the healing an event like this provides. Together as local neighbourhood of Christians we stood, together as Christians we sang, prayed and shook hands! Together united as parts of that one body as Christians we prayed Our Lord's Prayer. Together as Christians we began a dialogue of curiosity exploring and understanding our different faiths.

To my Parish Priest, Fr Philip Conner and fellow parishioners I wish to say 'Thank you for being brave!' From my heart, thank you for taking this plunge. It certainly was grace filled and healing evening.

*Lisa Vallente-Osborne*

*Editors note - \* Brenda Test - does the song make sense if you were to substitute the name of Jesus with 'Brenda'.*

  
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# What Day, What a Feast!

*Celebrating Consecrated Life Hyning Monastery 2019*



**E**very year the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord marks the World Day of Consecrated Life. It has been a tradition in our diocese for members of religious congregations and Consecrated Widows to meet around this day for friendship, liturgy, prayer and reflection. This year the community of Bernadine Nuns at their Monastery of Our Lady of Hyning invited us all to celebrate our special day with them. For the twenty eight of us who gathered there what a day it was!

After a warm welcome and time to greet each other we listened first to a presentation by Sister Mary Colette from the Hyning community on the Apostolic Constitution document: *Vultum Dei Quaerere (Seek the Face of God)*. Although this document was published for contemplative cloistered religious, nevertheless it contained much that related to all forms of Consecrated Life.

As Sister stressed in her opening remarks, we have to meet the challenges that are facing us today in Consecrated life and discern our way forward so as to be able to share the joy of the Gospel, the positive experience of being called by God to this way of life in our world today.

In her conclusion Sister spoke of our calling to be 'Beacons of Light'. This was aptly echoed in Father Anthony Keefe's homily at Mass after the blessing of the candles and our listening to the gospel and the encounter between Simeon and the Infant Jesus, the Light of revelation for the whole world. After Mass we prayed the midday Office with the community and then were invited to another feast! A wonderful buffet lunch had been prepared for us and we enjoyed sharing this together.

The afternoon session was presented by Sister Michaela from the Hyning community and based on another important document *New Wine in New Wineskins: the Consecrated Life and its challenges*. Sister explored the richness of the gospel images in Jesus' parable because the document is meant to be an encouragement to us all to be bold, to share our joy. Sister used stimulating video clips to show us how shared joy multiplies on social media!

But she also gave us some time for silent reflection so that we could recall our own experiences of this new wine of Jesus in our lives. This must not become watered down was her passionate challenge to us! Sister quoted from Joan Chittester, a Benedictine sister, whose talks and publications would be well known to us: "*Religious life will not die in the future unless it is dead in religious already.*" She concluded the presentation with a powerful contemporary song:

***"Like a small boat on the ocean  
Sending big waves into motion  
Like how a single word  
Can make a heart open  
I might only have one match  
But I can make an explosion  
This is my fight song..."***

*Fight Song Lyrics Dave Bassett/Rachel Platten*

It was obvious from the questions and comments after both presentations that there was much food for thought and further reflection in what the Sisters had offered us. We ended the day sharing the Office of Vespers and this was followed by tea and homemade cakes. Indeed, what a feast it was! *Philomena Grimley SHCJ*

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# The Crucifixion

## Who was there?

**T**raditional artistic representations of the Crucifixion of the Lord, be they paintings or statues, usually contain three characters: the Lord himself, displayed on the cross, and Our Blessed Lady and St. John standing below him at the foot of the cross. This customary presentation reflects the gospel roles of Our Lady and St. John, both at the time of the Lord's passion, and for their earthly lives thereafter.

We recall Jesus' words to Mary: "Woman, this is your son..." and to John, "This is your mother." Narrowing the aesthetic representation of the Crucifixion to just the three participants reinforces the power of Jesus' words that in the symbolism of St John, we too should see Mary as the universal mother of us all.

In the Jesuit church of the Holy Saviour in the city of Bratislava, there is a large and impressive depiction of the Crucifixion which contains four people rather than the usual three. The fourth person is a young woman, presumably Mary Magdalen, who kneels at the Lord's feet but turns her head away in distress. St Matthew's gospel records that at the foot of the cross "there were many women, watching from a distance... Among them were Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons."

It is clearly a matter of artistic interpretation to place Mary Magdalen directly at the foot of the cross, but it does help to emphasise the power of her love for the Lord. Alongside her is a chalice-like container, which could

suggest the oil with which she is believed to have anointed the Lord's feet in preparation for His suffering.

All of which is rich and meaningful and spiritually symbolic. What is equally instructive is that the Church of Holy Saviour was originally built as a Protestant Church. It was erected between 1636 and 1638 to serve the needs of the German Protestant community. Indeed, the king at that time, gave strict instructions that the building had to be constructed in such a way that it could not be mistaken for a Catholic Church. There was to be no steeple, no presbytery and no door opening on to the square. The church remained Protestant until 1937, when it was transferred to the Jesuits and re-ordered as a Catholic place of worship.

The bulk of the interior artwork is thus a product of its original Protestant foundation, including the depiction of the Crucifixion. Coming as it does, from the period shortly after the Reformation, one would expect such artwork to be more muted and restrained, simple and austere. But that is not the case with the Holy Saviour church. Indeed, it is a striking example of the Lutheran baroque, which uses exuberant detail, deep colour and grandeur to achieve a sense of awe, all of which are present in the High Altar, the wonderfully ornate pulpit, and of course the Crucifixion.

When it comes to the expression of our faith in the Crucifixion, there is much common ground between the Churches, and the differences seem to be far less significant.

*Deacon Paul Marley*

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# Building up the Kingdom

by Julia Beacroft

I've only lived in four houses during my married life but I've had extensive building works carried out on three out of the four of them. And it was a nightmare! I think it would be fair to say that building work and me is not a match made in heaven. I loathe the disruption, the mess, the eternal dust and the way that you can never find anything, despite your best efforts.

Our parish church is currently being re-ordered with – yes; you've guessed it – massive renovations and structural work and all its accompanying chaos. I must admit that it's less stressful than living with it in a home situation, but it is still fairly horrendous and difficult to work around. However, we do the best that we can and are lucky to have both the use of a church hall to celebrate Mass in and a parish priest to do so.

Yet most of us experience building work at some time or the other in our lives, whether it's in our own home, or a nearby neighbour, at a place of work or when we are waiting for a home to be built. And with the current shortage of housing in the United Kingdom, we can be prepared for far more of this.

In fact 'building' in its many forms is prevalent during our life journey. We build friendships and relationships, we build up our knowledge, we build upon our careers and we build up followers on social media. In fact, building of some sort or another is all around us.

Yet by far the most important type of building is that of the gradual strengthening of our relationship with the Lord. We are all the chosen children of God who longs for us, but it is up to us to create the space and time to share our lives with the Lord. As St Paul says in his letter to the Ephesians: 'You too, in him, are being built into a house where God lives in the Spirit'(2:22).

As we build our lives with our relationships, careers and homes, our spirit is being built up by the Lord. Our faith is probably the most essential building block that we have in our possession and this one comes without mess and dust! However, Jesus does stir us up when we choose to follow Him – we may find that some of our paths are unexpected and we may be challenged in ways that we had not anticipated. Yet we can be reassured. If our lives are built upon a strong foundation of faith, we too shall be like the man who built his house on rock: 'Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew and hurled themselves against that house, and it did not fall: it was founded on rock' (Matthew 7:25-26).

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](http://www.waterstones.com) or Book Depository. Please visit [www.sancioibooks.com](http://www.sancioibooks.com) for more information. Follow Julia on Facebook & Twitter. Copyright ©2018 Julia Beacroft. All rights reserved.



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**"Open my eyes, that I may see wonderful things."**  
- Psalm 119:18



**Theo has spent his childhood in darkness, but you can help children like him. Give before 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019 and every £1 you donate to our See the Way appeal will be doubled by the UK government.**

Dear Lancaster Voice reader,

As a fellow Christian, I want to share with you how incredibly powerful it is to witness a child seeing for the first time, after eye surgery.

As we carry out our work at Christian Blind Mission, we are constantly moved by the astonishment and wonder on the faces of children when the bandages are removed and they get their first clear look at their smiling loved ones.

You can help this happen for more children. Until 14th May 2019, your donations to our See the Way appeal will be doubled by the UK government. So your gift could help twice the number of children See the Way to a brighter future.

The photo to the right shows 2-year-old Theo from Rwanda, East Africa, who has cataracts that leave him barely able to see. But cataracts are straightforward to treat. Surgery taking just 45 minutes could restore his sight.

Just think, in this short time his entire life can be transformed. Instead of living with darkness and confusion he could have light, colour and a future filled with opportunity. He could go to school and one day find employment that would allow him to **See the Way** out of poverty.

Cataract removal surgery costs £95, but families like Theo's can barely afford even basic necessities, so I am turning to you in the hope that you can help.

You could open a child's eyes to the beauty of God's creation. And we'll send you an update on Theo's surgery.

God bless you,

*Rebecca*

Rebecca Molyneux  
CBM Programme Manager



Theo has been living his life in darkness, due to his cataracts



When he tries to walk or run, he bumps into things



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# Celebrating Young People Awards 2019

**N**ominations are now open for the **Fourth Celebrating Young People Awards**. The awards –powered by Catholic charity **Million Minutes** – honour the achievements of young people across the country who make our communities a better place. There are eight award categories, which take their names from Catholic social teaching and recognise the enormous, often unseen, social action of young people.

Parishes, schools and individuals in the Diocese Lancaster are invited to nominate young people. If you know an unsung hero or heroine or a group that have worked together to help their community put them forward for an award now at [www.millionminutes.org/awards](http://www.millionminutes.org/awards). The award nominees will be invited to attend a special ceremony in London's West End in July. Cardinal

Vincent Nichols will be the guest of honour and present the Pope Francis Award to one lucky young person.

At the 2017 awards 15-year-old Matthew from Cardinal Allen Catholic High School, Fleetwood was a recipient of the Barbara Ward – Caring for Environment Award. As an active member of the schools Eco Group, Matthew has planted hundreds of trees around Fleetwood. Matthew recently helped to plant an orchard at school to save the local bee population.

Matthew works with students from Kenya to raise awareness of the problems of climate change on communities. Matthew's environmental efforts have recently helped his school be awarded a rare 7th Green Flag, one of very few schools nationally to achieve this. Between his campaigns he regularly works on the maintenance of the school

allotment and woodland after school. Matthew gives up his time freely and never expects any reward. His teacher said of Matthew "He very much deserves this award for his hard work, commitment and enthusiasm giving freely of his own time".

Danny Curtin, CEO of Million Minutes said, "Across the country young people are changing our world in quiet and unassuming ways-week in and week out. It is young people like Matthew who inspire the rest of us to live out social action in our communities. Young people get an increasing amount of stick in the media and wider society, but their energy and commitment is so often inspirational. To our Adult & Young leaders reading, this is your call to action: nominate a young person or group you know for a Celebrating Young Peoples Award today."

## Editors Note:

CYPA is run by Million Minutes, a charity founded in 2011. It raises money and supports youth action and advocacy activities that give voice and support to young people to transform their lives and their world, inspired by Catholic Social Teaching. It supports young people making a difference through participation in society, assuming responsibility and developing as leaders.

It works alongside other organisations, including For Jimmy, Cardinal Hume Centre, and the Young Christian Workers. Its champions include TV chef Delia Smith, Abbot Christopher Jamison OSB and Margaret Mizen OBE, mother of Jimmy Mizen, who was murdered in 2008.

**Nominations close on 24 May '19 – [www.millionminutes.org/awards](http://www.millionminutes.org/awards)**



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