

FREE

# The Catholic VOICE of Lancaster

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The Official Newspaper to  
the Diocese of Lancaster

Issue 308 + April '19

**INSIDE:** p05 50 years at  
Castlerigg  
p14 Cardinal Allen  
– A Traitor?



## THE HOLIEST WEEK OF THE YEAR

### Could I do this?

*Could I watch my son be imprisoned, stripped & humiliated, beaten and mocked, tortured and crucified knowing he was innocent?*

*Could I believe that God would resurrect him on that third day?*

*Could I follow him as he carried his Cross, watch him struggle and fall repeatedly, and then kiss his nailed bleeding feet as he died?*

*Could I be there and watch as he cried out to his Father in his final moments, wanting to embrace him when there was nothing I could do?*

*Could I do this alone?*

*A mother's instinct is to protect – Mary how did you live with this torment?*

### Prayer:

*Mary our Mother you know what our families face, you've experienced it all with unfailing faith, obedience and prayer. Help us to face our troubles in our own family lives with that same faith and devotion. Give us comfort and strength in our darkest hours to face all that life brings – Amen*

*As we follow Jesus through his Passion, keep an eye on Mary Our Mother. Watch her intently, she has a lot to teach us!*

Lisa Vallente-Osborne



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# The Catholic Voice

of Lancaster



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## EDITORIAL

A few weeks ago, just before the start of Lent, Pope Francis gathered bishops from around the world to consider how the church protects children. We are all very conscious of the scandals that have rocked the Church, particularly relating to priests and religious, and many have lost their trust in the Catholic Church and consequently turned their back on the faith. This is very sad at many levels.

The *Catholic Voice* believes that the sins of the abusers are reprehensible, and perpetrators and those who have shielded them need to be brought to account and where appropriate removed from office. Apologies and warm words are no longer enough to arrest such a serious failure of individuals and the hierarchy as a whole.

Those who have been abused deserve our heartfelt sadness, support and continued prayers. Pope Francis has asked that we make this a particular intention in our prayers during the 5th week of Lent this year (7th-13th April).

We pray too for those who now find it hard to practice their Catholic faith as a result of suffering abuse or because they cannot come to terms with the hypocritical nature of those who have preached the Word whilst at the same time using their position to bring so much suffering to satisfy their own desires.

This period of Lent is a time when we focus on our need of God's mercy and, as we approach Holy Week, God's compassion in taking on the suffering that is the result of our sins. Jesus Christ, who harmed no one, suffered the

ignominious death of being nailed to the Cross for us.

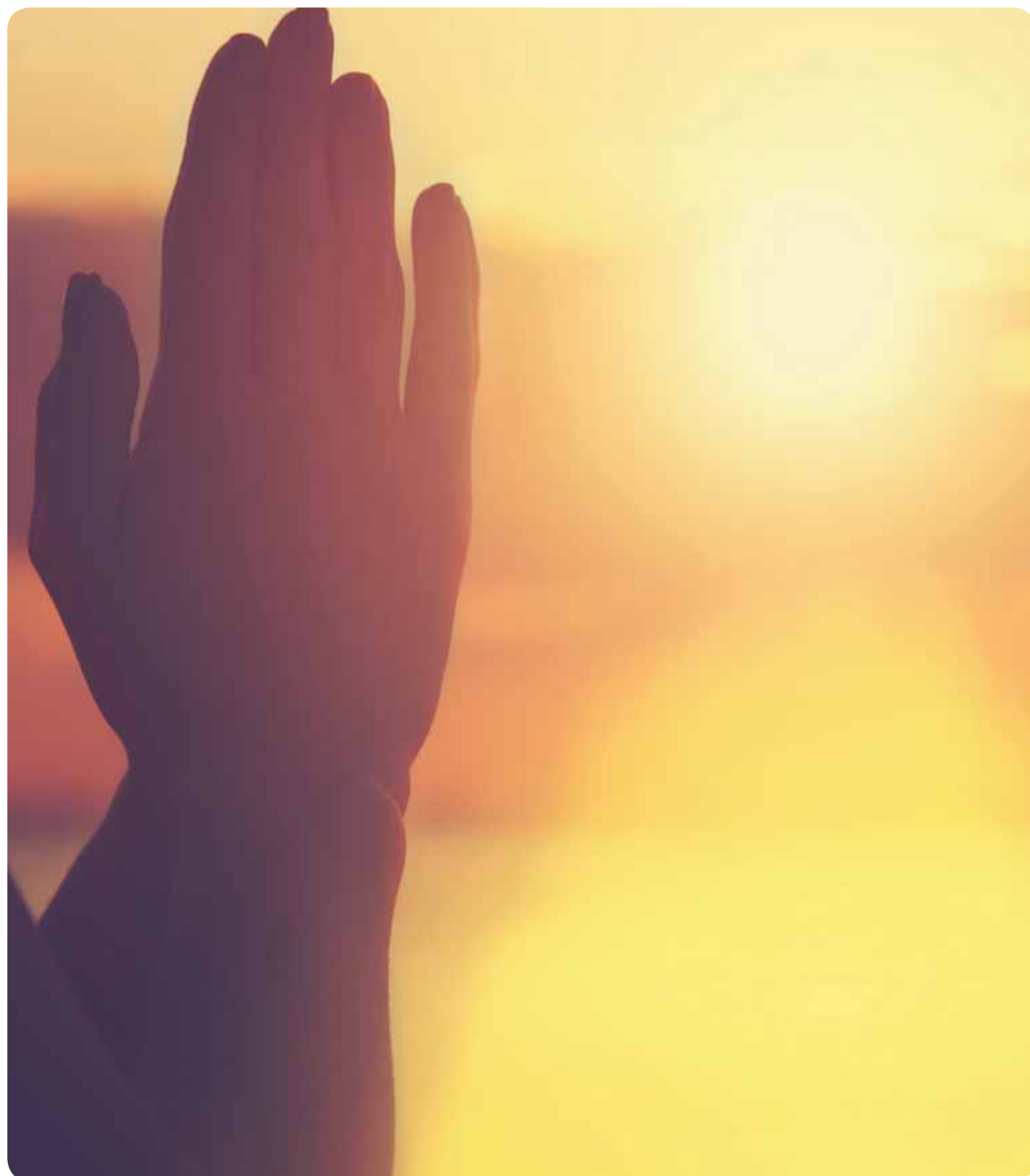
But His death on the Cross led to His Resurrection. Good Friday will be followed by Easter Sunday. Our hope is not in a God who only died for us, remarkable though that would be, but in God who died and rose again. Out of our suffering and weakness he leads us to new life with him.

The *Catholic Voice* is confident that the Safeguarding systems and measures that are now in place are a positive signal that the Church is serious about putting their house in order.

In the UK the Catholic Church is engaging with The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse and will learn from their findings. But whilst these are moves in the right direction, they perhaps will not, on their own, convince those who have turned their back on the faith.

What should our response be when people say "I will never go to a Catholic church again" or "How can you continue to go to Church when so many scandals have been exposed, especially when a lot of the scandals were covered up?"

The *Catholic Voice* believes that following Christ's example in our lives is the most powerful witness we have for those who share our lives. Our lives must express His love for all, and we will therefore share in the suffering of those who are hurt. We must pray for and support in any way we are able those who have been abused. But in sharing in Christ's suffering, we hold on to our hope that Good Friday will be followed by Easter Sunday.







# The Waiting Game...

**I**t's all about the waiting game. That game that none of us are too good at! In this society of today, waiting isn't something we do, or need. We are an instant culture, instant coffee, instant banking, instant service, material gain and control is ours! Gone are the days of saving up for something you want to buy; instead we're encouraged to 'get a loan', and 'buy it now!' Have this right now, because; 'you're worth it' 'it will make your life complete' and show the world you made it! The list is endless.

But there are some things that have to be waited for regardless. Time between life ending and a funeral of a loved one; end of life- care to eventual death; pregnancy and delivery of a new precious soul into the world.

We might wish to just 'get on' with things; finish our suffering lives or those we love; bury our dead and move on away from the pain- to get through the labour pain and deliver our babies on our schedule and time frame. But there's a rhythm to the beginning and end of life that can't be hurried. There must be something in the waiting... but what?

Our Lord knew the power of waiting. Think about it; the agony in Gethsemane knowing the horrors that lay ahead of him. The waiting to be tortured and crucified. The waiting for death on the cross and his cry to 'Abba, Father, why have you forsaken me'.

Those close to him waited too. Mary his mother for his arrival, and then carrying her pierced heart knowing what was destined for her son. Watching the passion without interfering and then waiting in that agony for it all to be over. But even at her son's death, her waiting wasn't complete. Instead she spent two more days waiting for the promised resurrection with hope in her heart when the rest of the world laughed and jeered.

Waiting reminds us that life is not predestined and scheduled. It's not something we control, though at times we are deluded enough to think we can! Just as a woman's body takes over in the pangs of childbirth, so too does the body fade at the end. In the waiting, we are given time and grace to disconnect from the physical body and fully connect with our soul. Time slows down and we are given time to connect with our God at a vulnerable time.

At first our wait might be impatient, wanting things this instant, but after a while a peace settles. Once we trust in the grace that's surrounds us, feeling comfort and support from those near, we can surrender to the wait. In the weariness of that surrender we find peace, and a glimmer of hope. As the day of resurrection dawns, or that newborn baby cries for the first time; we understand that in the heartache, pain and torment, the wait made this moment even more precious and special.

Lisa Vallente-Osborne

# The Way of the Cross

**H**oly Week 2019 at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Primary School in Carlisle is celebrating the death and resurrection of Christ through the production of 'Born for This - The Way of the Cross'.

From the earliest times, Christians have enacted the Stations of the Cross, depicting the final journey of Our Lord on the road to Calvary. The musical interpretation, written by Jude Martin with music by Rolinson, Boyce and Stanley, illustrate a dramatically, moving and modern interpretation of the Stations from the trepidation of the Last Supper, the agony of Calvary and the joy and hope of the Resurrection.

Through the spoken and sung word, the children will portray the poignant figures of Christ's Passion. The school is currently working extremely hard to ensure that 'the Greatest Story ever told' is meaningful, purposeful and spiritually reflective in the week leading up to Jesus' death on the Cross.

During the last song, the line 'the cross is now a sign of hope' is ever more apparent in the world that we live in today. Through the trials and tribulations of daily life and the turmoil of global disasters, we know, that as Christians, Christ will always be waiting. Christ will always be there for us. He will shelter us from the storms and guide us through the rain. He is our shelter, comfort and hope and will always be at the centre of everything we do; as a school, a parish and the local and wider community.

This production allows the children to truly experience Christ's compassion for the world. We hope that, through this production, we will bring peace, hope and joy to those who need it this Easter.

Katie Turner

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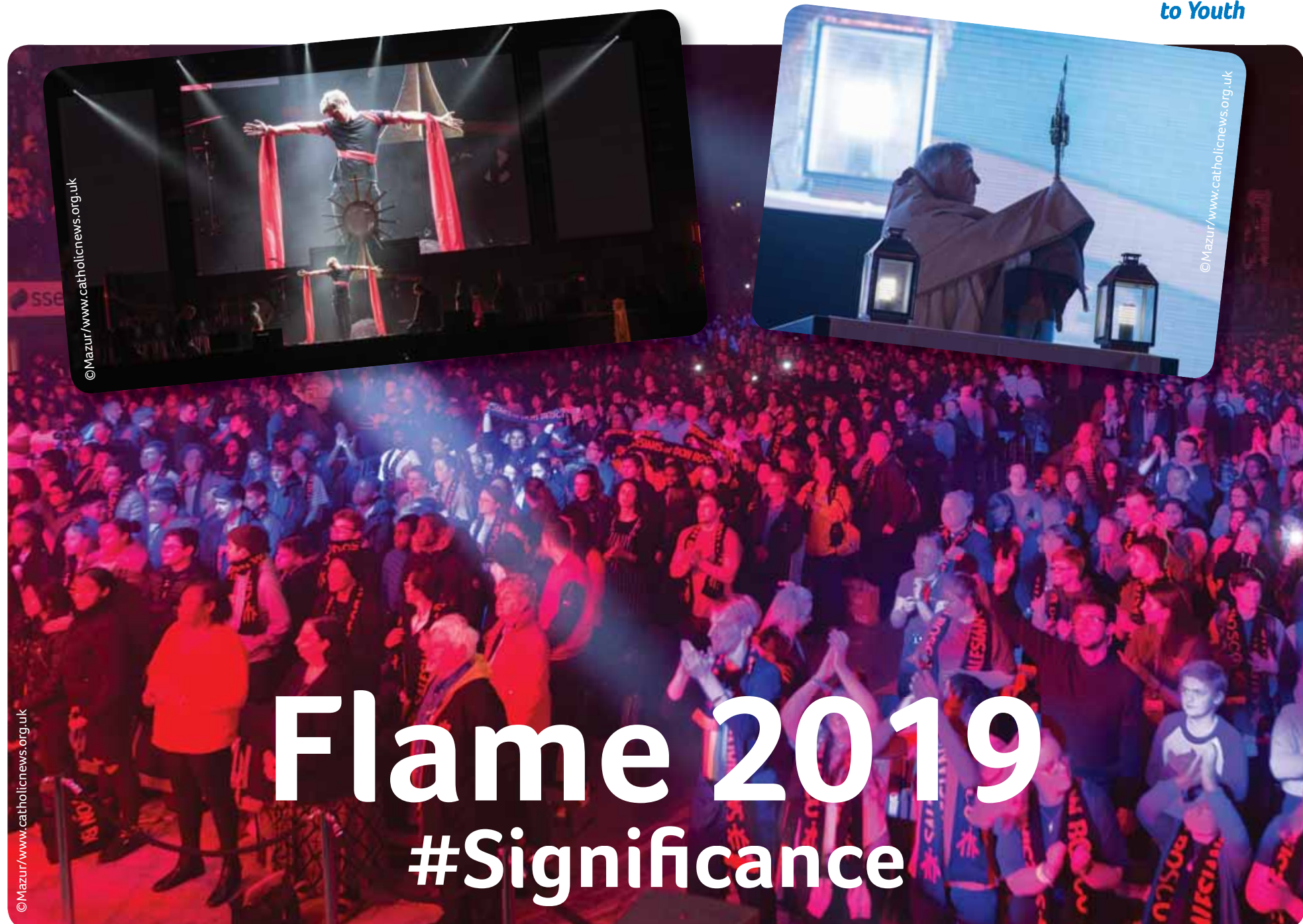
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# Flame 2019

## #Significance

**80** young people from across the Diocese had an early start on the morning of Saturday 2nd March as we boarded coaches travelling down to Wembley Arena for Flame 2019.

Flame is a national gathering of thousands of young people from all over the country, who come together to celebrate their faith and be inspired by guest speakers.

The theme of this year's event was 'Significance', a reminder to every young person there (*and everyone reading this!*) that you are significant, because you are individually willed and created by God.

We arrived at Wembley at around 10am, and as we entered the arena were able to say hi and have a quick catch-up with all sorts of friends who we had met through other events around the country. One of my favourite things about Castlerigg and youth ministry is that you get to meet so many other like-minded people, and

events like Flame mean you all get to meet up even when you work at opposite ends of the country.

The live music in the arena was awesome. There was something for everyone with rap from Guvna B, praise and worship (*including some familiar to everyone who's been to Castlerigg*), a Gospel choir who sang a crossover of Amazing Grace and Stormzy's Blinded by Your Grace, and a spontaneous but beautiful acapella version of 'How Great Thou Art' led by Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh.

But there were equally beautiful moments of silence, as the speakers led us in prayer. It was incredible just how silent 8000 people could be. You could really feel the faith in the room.

There was a huge variety of guest speakers. We watched a recorded interview with Jean Vanier, who at 90 years old was too frail to travel from France to be with us. Nevertheless,

his testimony was humbling and inspirational. Jean Vanier set up the L'Arche movement, creating homes where adults with learning difficulties live in community with those who care for them. Founded with one house in France in 1964, L'Arche now operates in 35 countries and supports over 3,500 adults with learning difficulties. Jean spoke about 'discovering the secret God has put in our hearts' and how those with disabilities teach us how to be human, they seek to love and be loved above all else.

For many people, Robert Madu was the highlight of the day. He is from Texas and had travelled over specially to speak to us at Flame. He spoke to us with amazing energy and conviction, about how we should not compare ourselves to others - such an important message! He reminded us that we are all created just as we are, by God, for a reason. We should recognise all the blessings God has given us in our own lives, and not worry about

what others have that we might not. God has given us everything we need! So, we should just stay in our own lane of the race and keep our eyes on Jesus. The roar of agreement and applause at the end of his talk showed just how important his message is for young people today.

The event finished with a time of adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Cardinal Vincent Nichols joined us and led us in prayer before Jesus. While Jesus was maybe 50 metres away from us, up on the stage, I was in awe again of the prayerful silence of 8,500 people, and just how awesome it was to be surrounded by so many other young people, united with them in faith. When the day finished at 6pm, we headed out to our coach and back up north. Like with so many of the events I have attended with Castlerigg, be it Flame or Lourdes or retreats, they seem to fill you with so much spirit and energy despite robbing you of many hours sleep! It was a truly inspirational day.





# Dates for the Diary

## 18th – 21st April – Easter Retreat

Meet up with old friends and make new ones while exploring what Easter means to you in a fun, relaxed environment. Open to young people in year 9+, £70 for three nights.

## 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:

[www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/new-events/](http://www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/new-events/)

# Fifty Years at Castlerigg

2019 is the 50th anniversary of the Youth Service moving to Castlerigg Manor, and for the rest of the year we hope to include in this page your memories and pictures of Castlerigg (or its predecessor, 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 at [team@castleriggmanor.co.uk](mailto:team@castleriggmanor.co.uk)

# Memories of Castlerigg

One of the many many positive memories that I have of my school retreats from Our Lady's Lancaster to Castlerigg, was on one of the hikes that we went on over the hills. It was a cold day when we set out, but we soon warmed up & ended up with our jumpers round our waists.

However, at the top of a deep ravine, my jumper became undone & tumbled down the very steep hillside. I was upset (my older sister had spent many hours whilst away at University knitting this

beautiful cable knit sweater for me) but resigned to its loss. However, the young school chaplain who was with us, a certain Father Paul Swarbrick, insisted on heroically climbing down the ravine to retrieve it for me.

He explained 'there was far too much love and hard work put into that to leave it'. This, I maintain, was a real indicator of the character and values of the man who would go onto become Bishop of Lancaster!

*Liz, Lancaster*

## 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.





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# Divine Renovation Conference

Fr. Philip Smith, with Isabel Shelly, Deirdre Trueman and Greg Tagney, The Mission Group for the Kent Estuary Catholic Churches.



**M**embers of the Kent Estuary Catholic Churches of Grange, Milnthorpe and Arnside attended a parish renovation conference called 'DR19' in Birmingham on the 7th/8th February 2019.

About 500 plus people attended the conference including Archbishop Bernard Longley of Birmingham, several Bishops, and about 100 priests and religious. The excitement, liveliness and sense of hope and purpose was evident in the people there. Our group met up with Fr. Philip Conner and his parish leadership team from St. Joseph's Skerton.

The method of renewal was started by Fr. James Mallon and his parish in Halifax Nova Scotia, and has now spread internationally. The Divine Renovation movement engages the whole Parish in seeking a vital outward looking faith. Its central purpose is to create 'intentional disciples' of Jesus. In doing so it aims to put into effect the full teaching of Vatican II and the urgent call of our last four Pontiffs to carry out the 'new evangelisation'.

Concerned Catholics have been waiting for this renovation. Many have experienced a 'holy discontent' with the way the Church is. Both people and priests have been wearing themselves

out maintaining the Church often with very little fruit to show for all their efforts. The Renovation programme aims to turn us from 'maintenance to mission'. It clarifies and faces up to the underlying problems and misunderstandings of faith that have crippled the witness of the Church.

Divine Renovation does not deny or wish to change the magnificent and devoted work of parish maintenance done in our communities. But it invites us to find a new enthusiasm in our Christian life by developing intentional discipleship and giving the whole parish the tools to look outwards. It aims to engage with the world outside Catholic life with confidence, and becomes 'invitational' inviting and welcoming others. It offers to accompany those within the Church or outside the Church to find a vital new faith.

We heard from British Parishes that have started the 'DR' programme. They have discovered a new and fruitful way of being Catholic. Often they have attracted new parishioners. Our mission group found the two days very uplifting and thought provoking. We are going forward now on the first steps in this renewal. We are starting with an Alpha programme, which we aim to repeat on a regular basis.

*Fr Philp Smith*

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- Letters should not include any personal criticism or attacks
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  - amend or shorten letters or to refuse to publish them (no correspondence to discuss decisions taken will be entered into)
  - publish a response if deemed appropriate

Dear Editor,

**Fr James William Kenny**

I am researching the story of Father James William Kenny from the Blackpool area who was ordained in 1939 and served as Assistant Priest at Our Lady and St Joseph's in Carlisle until he was appointed as an Army Chaplain in 1943.

He joined the 6th Airborne Division and was parachuted into France shortly after D-Day 1944. In 1945 he dropped with the Division as part of Operation Varsity to cross the Rhine, but lost his life aged 32 on Palm Sunday 1945 carrying the Blessed Sacrament. His Army Number was 287957 and his parents were James William and Matilda Kenny of Blackpool.

If anyone has information about Father Kenny or if there are still relatives with information, particularly a photograph, I would be grateful if they would make contact with me.

Sincerely,

A. L. Parrini, St Augustine's Carlisle  
[tony@parrini.co.uk](mailto:tony@parrini.co.uk) or 07809-154999

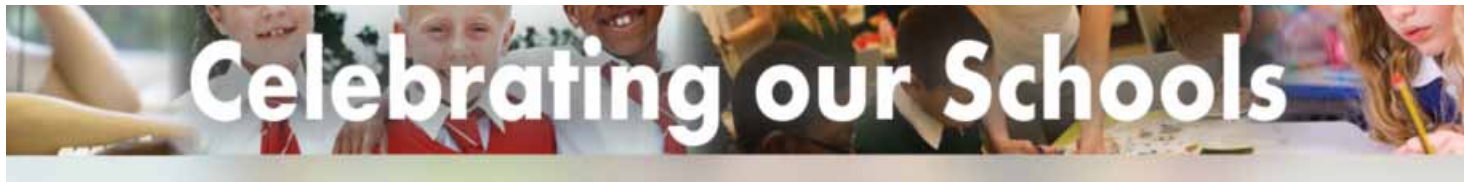
Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to your editorial in the February edition of the *Catholic Voice*. I fully endorse your editorial but, as you mention Patrick Peyton could I explain further. Fr Patrick Peyton was known as the 'Rosary Priest' and his mission both in the USA where he lived and overseas, including the Diocese of Lancaster was to encourage families to pray the Rosary together as well as their general prayers. He was born in a little known area in Co. Mayo in the west of Ireland to a very devout family, he emigrated to the USA as a young man as so many did through necessity at that time. How do I know all this? – He was my step-mother's cousin.

How nice it was also to read Teresa Rooney's letter to the editor in the same edition. My husband, who is not a Catholic attends Mass every week with me and has done for many, many years. Teresa and I trained together at West Cumbria hospital or Whitehaven Hospital (*The Castle*), also many years ago.

Yours Sincerely


Bernadette Criellin, Workington




  
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# The Stations of the Cross

**L**ast year Deacon Paul Marley Deacon wrote to the *Catholic Voice* suggesting that we might run some 'home grown' reflections on the Stations of the Cross in 2019. His idea was that we might eventually produce a diocesan booklet with illustrations of each Station being sourced from our local schools.

This work is in progress and hopefully will come to fruition later this year. Some contributions are already on file and are written from the perspective of one of the characters depicted in the relevant Station.

Here we provide a reflection on the 4th Station – 'Jesus meets his mother' – composed by Stephen Talbutt who is to be ordained to priesthood for our diocese in July this year.

**The Fourth Station, Jesus meets his mother** – How do we cope with watching someone else's pain?

When we see someone in pain our instinct is to help, to help alleviate the pain. When we see someone close to us suffering it is painful for us, we feel helpless and frustrated we feel angry because there is nothing we can do to alleviate their suffering. In a sense, their pain becomes our pain, but our pain is not a physical pain, it is an emotional pain, a pain that wrenches at the gut.

“  
**A sword will pierce through your own soul also.**

”  
That's what Simeon said all those years ago, those confusing words which didn't really mean much at the time, now I hear them again in my mind's eye. The words echo pounding around in my head, now I feel it, as I watch my son, bloody and

bruised, spat at and beaten, weighed down under the weight of the wood. The sword of pain and anger, helplessness and fear cutting right into my heart, now I feel it.

He hasn't seen me yet. He told me! He told me this was to happen! He told me this was how he was going to make everything new. He told me, but I don't understand, my son! I don't understand? Why does this have to happen, my gentle son why do they hate you so! Why do you love them so!

He's closer now, bent under the weight of the cross. I remember my baby, small and helpless, I was so scared of dropping him, so scared of anyone else holding him, so small, his eyes looking up at me, such eyes, they could see straight into my heart. He had a hold of my heart from the first moment I saw those eyes and he still has a hold of my heart, my baby, my son.

He sees me, his head lifts and he sees me. His gaze pierces me and all I see is love, love and determination. He stops in front of me, the guards give him a moment with his mother. No words pass between us, but as I look into his bloodied eyes I know that everything will be alright. This life passes, every moment leading us on, leading us closer to our final destination. In this act of suffering pain and humiliation my son is taking us all home, my son will take me home with him. I now know, I understand. I take his head in my hands, kiss his forehead and step back. He looks at me one last time with those eyes filled with love and compassion, and then drags his burden away from my sight.

#### Prayer

*I love you Jesus my love above all things;  
I repent with my whole heart for having  
offended you. Never permit me to separate  
myself from you again. Grant that I might  
love You always; and then do with me what  
you will. Amen.*

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***“The Lord has not finished with you, yet!”***

**O**n 16 February, the deacons of the diocese and their wives gathered at Hyning Monastery to spend a day with Bishop Paul. The gathering came about at the personal invitation of the bishop who indicated that he simply wished to spend time together with his deacons in order *“to nourish and nurture their ministry.”* For mid-February, the weather was unseasonably warm, with blue skies and bright sunshine, and the Lord’s glory reflected in the abundance of crocuses and snowdrops in the monastery gardens.

The diocesan directory for 2019 lists 45 deacons, the majority of whom attended the meeting. 19 of the 45 are “retired”, which leaves 26 still in active ministry.

At its height, some ten years ago, there were over 60 permanent deacons. 14 of the present cohort have been in ministry for over 25 years. The ageing profile of the group, who assembled to meet the bishop, was thus self-evident, but it could not disguise the strong sense of hope and expectation that characterised the gathering.

For the bishop this was not to be a day for “issues”; those matters would be addressed in full, elsewhere, in due course. The gathering in February offered a valuable and much needed opportunity for revisiting the true nature of the call to ministry, of reconnecting with what we are about as the mystical body of Christ.

The bishop spoke openly and frankly of the circumstances surrounding his own appointment as the Bishop for the Diocese of Lancaster. His calling had come as a complete surprise to him and presented an awesome challenge. It gave rise to an overpowering sense of inadequacy, of a lack of the talents and the skills for such a role. At the same time, the words *“follow me”* became a constant presence in his mind, and a growing awareness that it was the Lord who was making the choice, and that it mattered infinitely more to the Lord,

who the bishop was, than what he felt he could do. Acceptance of the Lord’s desire for his service brought with it a confidence and reassurance that the Lord, who had chosen his servant, would live with his servant’s inadequacies, and ensure he had all the support, the guidance and fulfilment he would need. It was a focus, and a surrender to the will of God, that the bishop urged upon each deacon in the exercise of his own individual life and ministry. The bishop drew attention to the words he had spoken at his episcopal ordination that continuity rather than change would underpin what he was seeking to achieve. Continuity was to be seen, not simply as the perpetuation of existing systems and approaches, but primarily as safeguarding the everlasting truth of the gospel. It was to be an apostolic ministry, the pursuit and proclamation of an inherent beauty that never fades. The deacons were urged to share in that commitment and to be part of its attainment. In the bishop’s own memorable words, *“The Lord hasn’t finished with you yet!”*

The bishop also held a separate discussion with the deacons’ wives. He acknowledged with appreciation the role they undertook in supporting their husbands. He stressed the three-fold priority that was to be given to the life of the married deacon: his marriage came first, his professional life second, and his diaconal activities third. Domestic harmony within a deacon’s household requires sensitivity and respect from all. There was value too in wives maintaining social contact with each other as a group for sharing of any concerns.

Over the lunch break, the bishop made himself available to any deacon who wished to speak to him on any personal matters of concern. The day concluded with the bishop leading an hour of prayer and meditation before the Blessed Sacrament. It was a fitting conclusion to what had been both a challenging and fulfilling day. *Deacon Paul Marley*



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# St John Vianney - English Hub

St John Vianney Primary School in Blackpool has been named as one of the newly formed English Hubs, chosen by the DfE for their excellent track record in the teaching of phonics and reading. St John Vianney English Hub will now reach out to support schools across the regions of Blackpool, Lancashire, Wigan, Chorley, Bolton, Sefton and Knowsley.

The Government identified schools eligible to apply based on their phonics scores and reading attainment, then shortlisted through a rigorous application process, selecting just 32 schools across the country. The English Hub schools will form a network of some of the best performing Primary Schools with an aim to improve reading outcomes for all children, boosting early language and literacy skills.

Each Hub will provide specialist teachers to carry out the support in schools, building up excellence in early reading across

the region. The three key aims are to develop early language to close the word gap, develop early reading through the teaching of systematic synthetic phonics and promote a whole school love of reading. The teachers working within the English Hub will receive specialist training to ensure their skills are maximised in order to help other schools be the best that they can be. The overall priority is to not allow any child to fall behind in their reading, which is the key to educational success.

Elaine Allen, Headteacher said,

*We are delighted to have been chosen to be an English Hub school and are proud that our hard work and dedication given to improving early literacy skills has been recognised. We are now in the fortunate position to be able to share the expertise we have developed and in following the example of Christ, reach out beyond our school gates to support other schools.*

Alex Smith



# CAFOD - 'no one beyond reach'

Geoff O'Donoghue, CAFOD's Director of Operations attended the Fylde Deanery Cafod meeting recently and spoke of a new initiative - "no one beyond reach".

He explained that none of our brothers & sisters overseas should be beyond reach of the love & care they need. Through their global Church network, Cafod is able to reach the most vulnerable people in the most difficult locations. But sadly Cafod is only able to respond to two out of three requests for help, because there is simply not enough money to go around.

Over 30 Cafod supporters listened, asked questions & came up with some wonderful ideas on how the work of Cafod can be promoted in our parishes. It was especially nice that our youngest supporter was just 10 years of age and our oldest 80+ years.

Hayley Benyon, Cafod Fylde Area Co-Ordinator





# Diocese of Lancaster witness at the Climate Change Summit

**B**ack in December, two members of the Environment Group of the Lancaster Diocese Faith and Justice Commission attended the climate change summit in Poland as part of a CAFOD group.

Stephen Garsed from Our Lady and St Edward Parish in Preston explained why: "We went to speak up for climate justice on behalf of the people of Lancashire and Cumbria and to be eye-witnesses to learn, to think deeply and to bring that learning home."

He added: "Climate change is one of the biggest injustices in the world. It is often the people already at the very edge of survival who are the most vulnerable, yet it is the rich who have created the problem."

Sadly, many people don't see the problem because they have not experienced climate change directly, yet many in our own diocese do know all about it, having been flooded out, particularly in 2015, ironically during the last big climate change conference in Paris in 2015."

The group heard from people whose communities have already been seriously affected by climate change.

A woman of the Sami people in Northern Sweden described her reindeer starving because global warming was melting the snow and when it re-froze, the resulting ice was too hard for the reindeer to break through to reach their food. In contrast, a CAFOD partner from Malawi described the devastating effects of the prolonged drought in East Africa.

Most poignant was the delegate from the Marshall Islands who told how his home was gradually disappearing under the rising seas. He was angry at the complete indifference of an Arab delegate to the plight of his island and its people.

Fr Hugh Pollock of Holy Trinity and St George parish in Kendal who went to the 2015 Paris conference as well as to Poland said

"what really hit us as we listened was not just the physical effects, but the psychological and emotional effects as the way of life and traditions of these communities were being threatened. Imagine what it feels like to know that that you are probably the last generation to live as your ancestors did."

As usual with international conferences, the lobbyists for the rich and powerful were out in force. The American coal industry even had a display on "clean" coal, which was widely derided.

We countered these lobbyists with a "March for climate justice" close to the conference hall, joining with Catholic groups from all over Europe and carrying placards with words of Pope Francis and some more humorous, home-made messages, one of which even made it to the Daily Mail website.

Next day we attended High Mass at Katowice Cathedral where I and the other priests attending had the privilege of concelebrating with the Archbishop. It was followed by a reception hosted by the Archbishop who personally thanked each one of us for coming to Poland to speak up for climate justice".

The overriding objective of the conference was to agree a "rulebook" to implement the promises made at the Paris conference which aimed to limit the rise of global temperature to 1.5°C. This is a tough ask, since we have already allowed global temperatures to rise by 1.0°C. The overall objective was largely met, but there was a worrying lack of ambition from many nations to go further or to accelerate the timescales.

So was it worth it? Stephen concludes: "We saw the, often exhausted, delegates inspired by our march and particularly by the many young people. But much more than that, we have come back fired-up to change attitudes at home. Because climate change will have such a devastating effect on humanity, we must take every possible step to minimise it, not as an "add-on", but an essential part of living the gospel" *Diocesan Faith and Justice Commission*

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## First visit of a Pope to the United Arab Emirates



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**T**uesday 5th February 2019 was an extraordinary day in the short history of the United Arab Emirates. The visit of His Holiness Pope Francis culminated in an open air Mass attended by over 170,000 people. Interestingly, the local media there reported that at least 5,000 of those attending were Muslims. 2019 has been designated as 'the year of tolerance' in the UAE and the Papal visit was certainly a high profile event to get things started!

In comparison to other Gulf nations, the UAE has a fairly liberal approach to religious tolerance and Christians of all denominations are permitted to practice their faith. However, this is usually restricted to churches and this was the first time that mass had been held in such a public arena. Many of the faithful travelled from other countries as well as the far corners of the UAE and some arrived at the venue at midnight, more than 10 hours before the Holy Father was due to arrive. Such commitment was quite humbling I can tell you. We set off from our home in Dubai at 4.30am for the relatively short drive to Abu Dhabi. We arrived at the stadium just as the sun was beginning to rise. You would be surprised at how cold it can be here in the UAE at this time of year but the huge crowds were cheerful and orderly as we queued to enter the venue.

During the long wait we were kept busy by the choirmaster who organized the 50,000 inside the stadium as well as the 120,000 outside in rehearsing the selected hymns. Then, at 10am, Pope Francis arrived, waving happily from the Pope mobile which made steady progress around the whole area allowing virtually everybody to get a good view of him.

The Mass itself featured contributions in the many languages of the UAE; English, Arabic, Tagalog, Malayalam and Urdu so there was something for everyone. The gospel could not have been more appropriate; the Sermon on the Mount!

By 12.30pm it was all over and people started to drift away back to normality having been part of an extraordinary, unforgettable event. The Pope left for Rome within hours but his three day visit certainly left an impression. The school where I work, like all schools across the whole UAE, was closed for two days in recognition of the importance of the visit. Muslim friends, colleagues and students have been prompted to ask me questions about my faith which showed a genuine respect and an attempt to find common ground which can only possibly be a good thing. We said a prayer for everyone at St. Joseph's and I'm pretty sure the Holy Father knew that we were there!

*Mark, Cilla and the Ellis family,  
St Joseph's Skerton*





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# Cardinal Allen

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**W**illiam Cardinal Allen is very much one of us. His family home was at Rossall near Fleetwood, though the house is now under the sea, due to erosion. He perhaps went to the school kept by the priest at Poulton, achieving university entrance by the time he was fifteen.

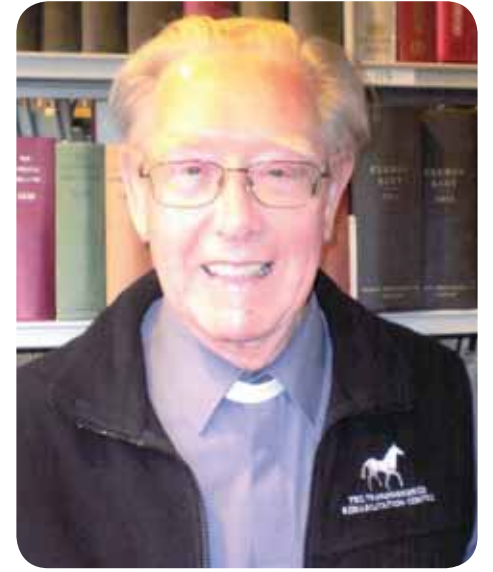
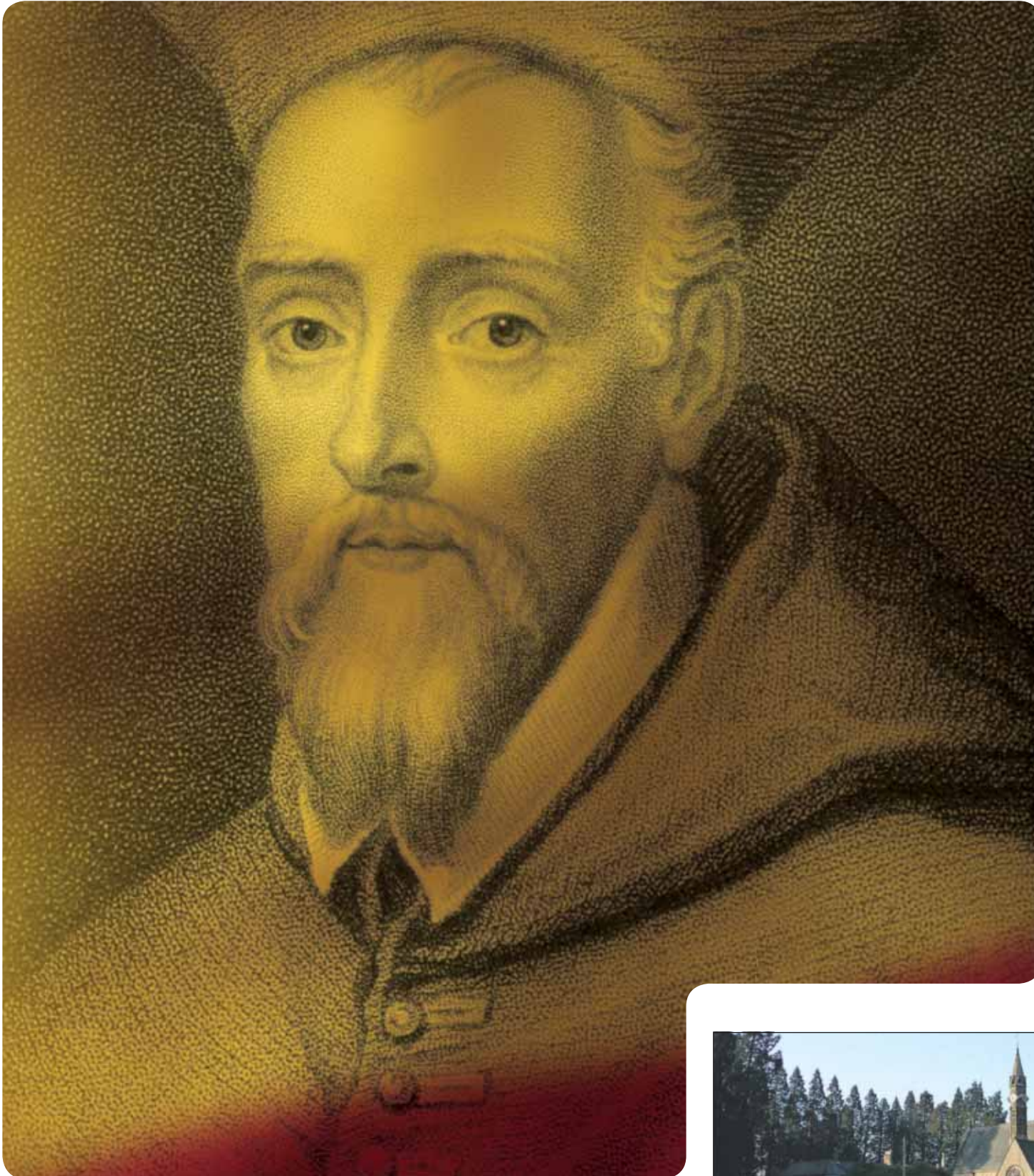
He was a bright lad and did well at Oxford becoming principal of St Mary's Hall. With the advent of Elizabeth 1 and the indication of her religious preferences he resigned and went abroad to study at Louvain. In 1563 we find him back in England recovering from illness. He spent part of two years at home in Lancashire, where Catholics had been rather laid-back in their attitude towards the new sermon-centred church services. They did not consider it out of place to attend the parish church - according to the law which made attendance compulsory - possibly with the equivalent of cotton wool in their ears - then come back home to Mass. The Pope ruled that there should be no such compromise. Allen went round making this rule known and encouraging its observance. His activities made England too hot for him and he returned to France where he opened a house of studies in the university town

of Douai which became a college for the formation of priests who would return to England to serve the Catholic cause.

The Douai priests started arriving into England in 1574. From 1585 it was made treason merely to have been ordained abroad and found to be in England. The penalty incurred was a traitor's death - to be hanged, drawn and quartered - to be butchered alive. The cause of this severity was the threat of a Spanish invasion. Douai was Spanish territory; the college was partly supported by money from Spain. Priests ordained there and arriving in England were presumed by the government, in spite of Allen's denial, to be spying for Spain. They paid a heavy toll - 78 of them were caught and executed during the 1580s. It was a burden on Allen's conscience - he was sending his men to take this risk. He supported a Spanish invasion, accepting a cardinal's hat at the instance of the King of Spain who intended him to be Archbishop of Canterbury and the instrument for restoring England to the unity of the Catholic faith. The English government was well aware.

The Sheriff of Lancaster received a letter ordering the restoration of Lancaster castle:





**I**t is with much sadness that the *Catholic Voice* announces that Canon Thomas Dakin, a frequent contributor of pieces for the Paper, died on 18 February 2019.

The *Catholic Voice* will publish a fuller obituary in the next edition (May 2019) and at the same time we will publish the last piece Canon Thomas Dakin wrote for us.

Meanwhile we extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends for this kind, generous and scholarly priest who will be much missed.

***Eternal rest grant unto Canon Thomas, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace, Amen.***

The penultimate article written by Canon Dakin for the *Catholic Voice* is opposite. We will produce his final article next month.

“

***What the Spaniards mean to do the Lord knows, but all that country being known to Dr Allen, it is not unlike but his direction will be used for some landing there.***

”

There is an anecdote that a headmaster of Rossall School was invited to join in observing the celebration of the centenary of some event in the life of Cardinal Allen. “What! That traitor” is said to have been his reply.

So was Cardinal Allen a traitor? His support of a Spanish invasion was for him the way of ensuring the greater good. England was tainted with a heresy backed by the influence of men who had been enriched through the dissolution of the monasteries. They would only be dislodged through confrontation. Supposing a German cleric had obtained asylum in England and had become the figurehead of resistance to the Nazis. If he had openly supported the Normandy landings in 1944 would he have been considered a traitor to his people? Allen made one mistake: He never grasped

or allowed himself to acknowledge the extent of anti-Spanish feeling among Catholics in England. In the end that was of no consequence because the Armada failed but perhaps our own natural antipathy to foreign dominance may have led us to underestimate the key role of Cardinal Allen in the survival of the faith in England.

Eamon Duffy is positive: “No one else in that age conceived so exalted and so demanding a role for the secular priesthood and no one else apart from the great Religious founders produced a body of men who rose to that ideal so eagerly and at such cost... Because of him English Catholicism was given a lifeline to the larger world of Christendom and a surer clearer sense of its own identity; because of him it survived. Elizabethan England produced some really great men, fewer really good ones and almost none who could be called great Europeans. William Allen was all three.”

We should give him the honour which is his due. And the purpose of reminding ourselves? - The beginning of a vocation might be an attraction towards an ideal of service shaped by William Allen for England.

***Canon Thomas Dakin***


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**FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT MINSTERACRES**

**Holy Week Retreat**  
Join the Minsteracres community on their Easter journey with reflection and participation taking part in Holy Week ceremonies.  
**Thursday 18 – Sunday 21 April**  
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**Our Relationship with Nature: A Challenge to Christians - Mary Colwell**  
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**Friday 10 – Sunday 12 May**  
Suggested donation £150

**Sacred Calligraphy – Maureen Rimmer**  
The art of calligraphy and reflecting on scripture, a creative workshop built on the ancient art of illuminating manuscripts. No experience required. Maureen is an experienced icon writer/artist.  
**Tuesday 21 – Thursday 23 May**  
Suggested donation £145

**Pentecostal Renewal Retreat – Maria Natella OP**  
A weekend of praise, worship and reflection, preparing for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Sr Maria Natella is an international speaker and retreat leader.  
**Friday 7 – Sunday 9 June**  
Suggested donation £145

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**Monday 10 – Friday 14 June**  
Suggested Donation: £380

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**L**ent is as good a time as any for reflection. "*Nothing is certain but Death and Taxes*" wrote Daniel Defoe in 1726.

I've been thinking about the passing of time, particularly if I'm having a problem with technology! I suppose pondering on our journey through time is generally something people do when they are older and you come to realise your 'best days' are behind you. However you will be glad to learn I do not propose to discuss the merits of the A & B Theories of Time and the disagreement over whether the passage of time is an objective feature of reality! Perhaps it's better to stick with the opening lines of Dorothy Fern Fowler's poem 'Who knows where the time goes': "Time is something we don't understand It's gone with a "hello" and a shake of the hand..."

A few weeks ago I travelled to Birmingham to meet up with some old school friends who get together a few times a year. A school song sung at school Speech Day was 'Forty Years on!' which then seemed so far off, when you are aged eleven and feel invincible. Last year we celebrated the fact that it was actually 60 years since we had become school mates for the first time, and we were definitely no longer invincible! Of

course in September 1957 things were very different to now and you could find yourself as an entry in the Prefect's Punishment Book for misdemeanours such as not wearing your school cap, found eating your lunch on the railway embankment, or flicking your tie at someone on the bus!

The Bible has much to teach us about time and its passing, and in Ecclesiastes 3 v.1-8 we are told that there is a right time for everything. However Psalm 90 v10 warns us "*The days of our life are seventy years...*" Having passed this particular landmark a couple of years ago and entered the twilight zone or, in football commentator parlance, "*into time added on*" it is a little disconcerting that the passage continues, "*or perhaps eighty if we are strong even then the span is only toil and trouble...*". This might account for the struggle wrestling with unfathomable children's car seats, and complicated push chairs. What was wrong with the 'old' days when you could have six kids on the back seat and not a seat belt in sight?

However the writer goes on in verse 12, "*teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.*" Whilst it seems a bit late for that, who knows? Nowadays it is hard to not think about death if you watch day-time television. Michael



# *in the Night'*

Parkinson, and others, are desperate to send us a pen or an ARGOS voucher for taking out a Guaranteed Funeral Plan. During a recent 'school run' I had a conversation with my nine year old grand-daughter Megan when she was saying when she has children I will be their great-grandfather. I replied that it was likely I wouldn't be around by then.

"That's OK", she replied matter of factly, "I have photographs of you to show them and I will be able to tell them about you". I suppose I can't say fairer than that!

Nowadays as people retire it has become popular for some to create a 'Bucket List' of things to do, and here I must admit that this was something I did back in 2006. However a cautionary note – be careful what you wish for! For many years I had wanted to see Bryan Ferry in concert and his 2015 UK tour included an appearance at Blackpool Opera House in May, (on FA Cup Final Day) just a few days after my birthday. Tickets for my wife Olive and I were not cheap but the concert was very disappointing!

When I retired in 2004 after 43 years of work I foolishly thought that time might slow down a bit but if anything it seems to have speeded up. It is easy to take life for granted and, if we are not careful,

it is too easy to start building bigger barns (Luke 12 v13-21), and losing sense of what is really important. I was very fortunate that in my first job I worked with three wise and experienced men who were excellent examples of how to conduct yourself in world of work, and one of my few regrets is that when I left them to work for another employer I didn't thank them before I left.

There have been numerous popular songs written about different aspects of time, but as regards the passing of time and your children growing up, almost unnoticed, two that immediately spring to mind are: "Sunrise, Sunset" from 'Fiddler on the Roof' and ABBA's "Slipping through my fingers". It was a sobering moment a few months ago when plans were afoot for our first little girl's 50th birthday party!

Down the years there has been much questioning on the purpose of life, it was Mother Theresa who said: "Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness, kindness in your face, in your eyes, and in your smile". Others may be more familiar with W H Auden's slightly more cynical statement; "We are here on earth to do good to others. What the others are here for I have no idea!" **Dave Yates**



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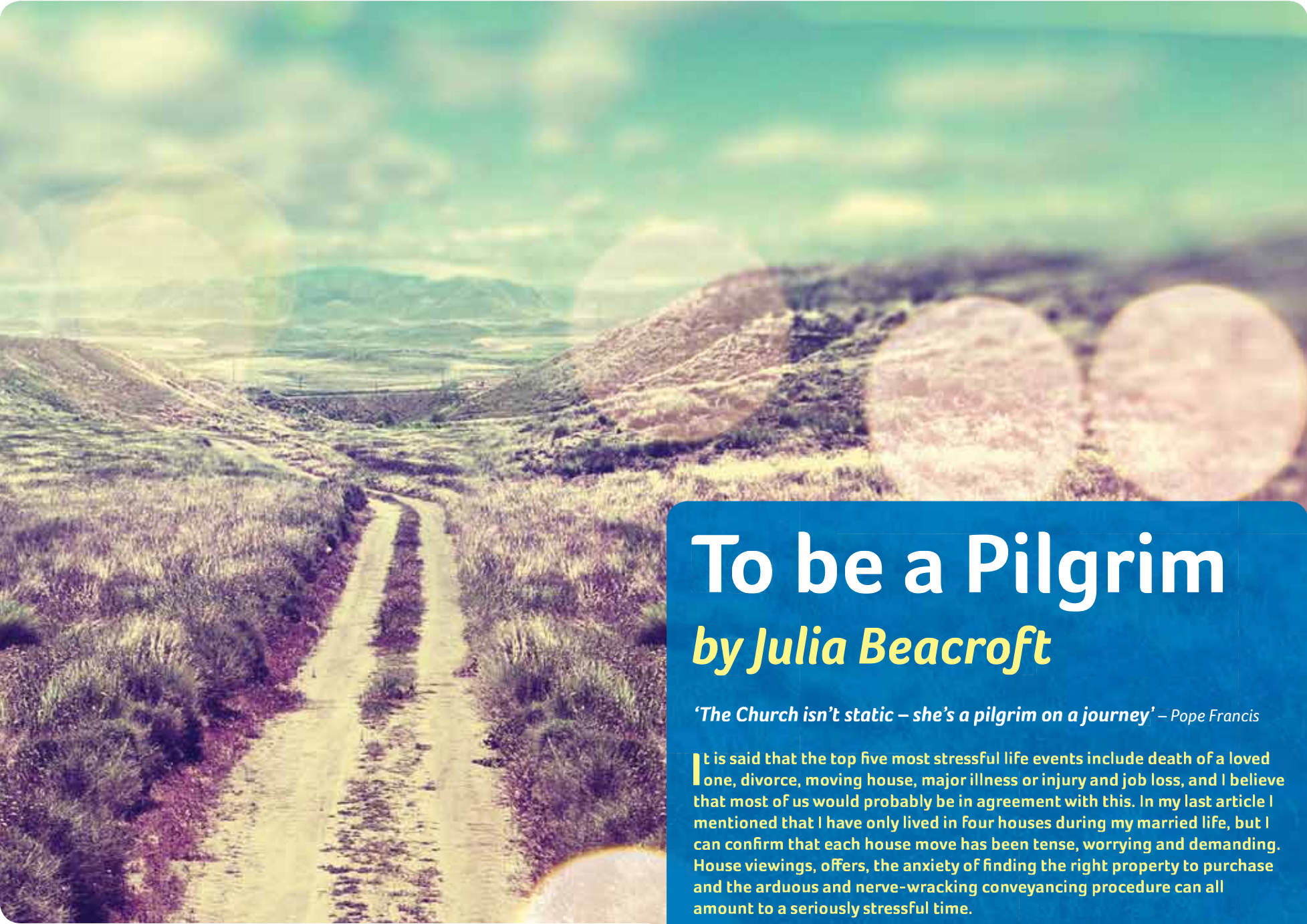
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# To be a Pilgrim

by Julia Beacroft

*‘The Church isn’t static – she’s a pilgrim on a journey’ – Pope Francis*

It is said that the top five most stressful life events include death of a loved one, divorce, moving house, major illness or injury and job loss, and I believe that most of us would probably be in agreement with this. In my last article I mentioned that I have only lived in four houses during my married life, but I can confirm that each house move has been tense, worrying and demanding. House viewings, offers, the anxiety of finding the right property to purchase and the arduous and nerve-wracking conveyancing procedure can all amount to a seriously stressful time.

### Transformed

Yet most of us only undertake a house move because we have good reason to. Relocation due to employment or family needs, down-sizing, up-sizing or age related needs are the most common motivations for such an action. And significantly, most of us stress because we are resistant to change, which in itself can be both un-nerving and unsettling.

Yet in general terms we are advised that change is actually beneficial for us. We are renewed, revitalized and often transformed by change, we are frequently counselled. Yet still we can be made uneasy by its prospect.

I have always felt that there is a slight but rather wonderful dichotomy in the Catholic Church, which is steeped in tradition, yet advocates change and moving forward in time. We ourselves are called upon to keep moving on in our spiritual lives as we travel our life journey. Our faith is not and should not; remain static but vital and alive, ready to embrace each new challenge. And indeed this is not a new idea. John Bunyan’s *Pilgrims Progress* (1678) which was presented as a dream sequence with Christian, as leading everyman character, telling of his journey from his hometown, the “City of Destruction” (“this world”), to the “Celestial City” (“that which is to come”) and was an allegory of his life and spiritual journey.

### Fullness of the Kingdom

The Second Vatican Council also developed the image of the Church as a pilgrim community in *‘Lumen Gentium’* Chapter Seven. The image of the whole Church as being on pilgrimage towards the fullness of the Kingdom, does however, mean that Christians living today are only one part of the journey, and our insights and ways of understanding only one small contribution.

And so let us try to embrace change in our lives and move forward each day as the pilgrim people of God. We should not think that our present experience is the sole condition for understanding the journey, as we make that journey together, grateful to receive from the past and willing to help guide future pilgrims.

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.sanciobooks.com](http://www.sanciobooks.com) for more information. Follow Julia on Facebook & Twitter. Copyright ©2019 Julia Beacroft. All rights reserved.

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### Dear Lancaster Voice reader,

Life with severe cataracts was not easy for five-year-old Sesan, living in Nigeria, West Africa. Unable to see, this bright boy could not play with friends, help at home or go to school. He faced a bleak future.

Now, thanks to CBM supporters, his life has been transformed by a 45-minute cataract surgery. He can play, learn and one day work and earn his way out of poverty.

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You can change that with a gift to CBM right now. 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.

This means that if you can give £95 for one child's surgery today, two children could have their sight restored.

Your gift today could help twice the number of children **See the Way** to a brighter future.

God bless you,

*Rebecca*

Rebecca Molyneux  
CBM Programme Manager

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We will send you an update on Theo's surgery.  
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# Easter Mass Times

## St Wilfrid's, Preston

### Holy Thursday

No Masses during the day  
11am-12 noon & 2.30pm-3.30pm  
Confessions

7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper -  
Watching at the Altar of Repose  
until Midnight

### Good Friday

10.30am Stations of the Cross  
10.30am-12 noon Confessions  
3.00pm Service of the Lord's Passion

### Holy Saturday

No Masses during the day  
11am-12 noon & 2.30pm-3.30pm  
Confessions

Church closes at 4pm

8.30pm Easter Vigil

### Easter Sunday

7.00am, 10.15am Mass  
(No evening Mass)  
Church closes at 5pm



## St Peter's Cathedral, Lancaster

St Peter's, Balmoral Rd, Lancaster LA1 3BT

### Palm Sunday

Blessings of Palms at each mass  
9.30am St Thomas More's Church

Saturday 6.30pm Vigil St Peter's Cathedral, Lancaster  
Palm Sunday 10.30am & 6.30pm mass

### Holy Thursday

7.30pm Mass of The Lord's Supper  
followed by Prayer before The Altar of Repose  
until midnight

### Good Friday

3pm Solemn Liturgy of The Lord's Passion

### Holy Saturday

8.00pm Easter Vigil and first Mass of Easter

### Easter Sunday

9.30am St Thomas More's Church  
10.30 am mass, 6.30pm mass St Peter's Cathedral,  
Lancaster



## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

### St Peter's Church, Lytham

Sunday 28th April 2019

2.15pm Veneration of the Image & Relic  
Divine Mercy Homily  
Litany of Divine Mercy  
Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3pm  
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
& Benediction

Confessions available during Service  
(Sunday morning Mass at St Peter's  
10.30am. Refreshments available  
before & after Service.)

## Feast of Divine Mercy Sunday 28th April 2019

at St. Bede's Church, Wigton Road,

**Carlisle** From 2-15 pm.



Come celebrate 2:15 to 3pm Confession,  
3 o'clock prayer, Sung Chaplet,  
Holy Mass at 3:15pm

Blessing and veneration of the image  
veneration of the relics of  
St. Faustina and Pope St. John Paul II

## Divine Mercy Sunday

2pm Sunday

28th April 2019

### Lancaster Cathedral



Veneration of the Image

Divine Mercy homily

Chaplet

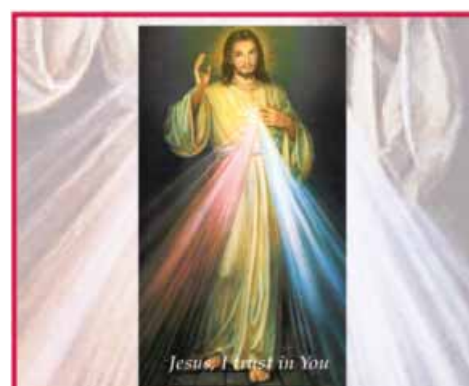
3 o'clock prayer

Adoration of the Blessed  
Sacrament

Individual Confessions

6.30 Parish Mass

"On this day the very depths of my  
tender mercy are open!"



## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY SUNDAY 28TH APRIL 2019 AT 2PM

St John the Evangelist Church  
Breck Road, Poulton-Le-Fylde

Holy Hour and Benediction, confessions  
available

Chapel of the Divine Mercy, Holy Mass  
Refreshments will be available afterwards -  
everyone welcome

## Ansdell, St Joseph's Woodlands Road FY8 4EP

### Palm Sunday

6pm Vigil Mass (Saturday)  
10am Procession of Palms  
and Family Mass; 5:05 pm Mass

### Holy Thursday

7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper -  
Watching at the Altar of Repose  
until 10pm

### Good Friday

9.30am St Paul's Shop for walk of  
witness to The Well Church for  
Service at 10am

3.00pm Service of the Lord's  
Passion

### Holy Saturday

8.30pm Easter Vigil and first Mass  
of Easter

### Easter Sunday

7am United Sunrise Service  
Granny's Bay  
10am Family Mass  
5.05pm Mass

## St Bernadette's Bispham

### Maundy Thursday

7pm Mass of the Lords Supper.  
9.50pm Night prayer

### Friday

10am Stations of the Cross 3pm  
Solemn Celebration of  
the Passion of Our Lord and

### Holy Saturday

7pm Vigil and Service of Light

### Easter Sunday

10am Easter Sunday Mass

## Our Lady Star of the Sea, St Anne's on the Sea

### Holy Saturday

8.00pm Easter Vigil

### Easter Sunday

9.30am (Family Mass); 11.00am Mass; 6.30pm Mass

## Holy Trinity and St. George, Kendal

### Maundy Thursday

7.00 pm (Kendal)

### Good Friday

3.00 pm (Kendal)

### Holy Saturday

9.00 pm (Kendal) - Easter Vigil

### Easter Sunday

Morning 10.00 (Kendal); Easter Sunday 12.00 noon  
(Sedbergh St. Andrews C.of E. Church)

## St Begh's Whitehaven

### Holy Thursday

7.00pm Mass of The Lord's Supper followed by watching  
at the Altar of Repose until 10pm

### Good Friday

12 noon Solemn Stations of The Cross

3.00pm Good Friday Service

### Holy Saturday

8.00 pm Easter Vigil Mass

### Easter Sunday

8.00am Quay Street Mass

10.00am St Begh's Mass

## Our Lady Of Eden, Carlisle

### Monday 15th April

7am-8am Exposition & Morning  
Prayer; 12pm Holy Mass &  
Confessions; 6pm Adoration by  
Polish Community

### Tuesday 16th April

7am-8am Exposition & Morning  
Prayer; 10am Holy Mass; 6pm  
Adoration by Polish Community;  
7pm Holy Mass (WB)

### Wednesday 17th April (Spy Wednesday)

7am-8am Exposition & Morning  
Prayer; 12pm Holy Mass &  
Confessions

### Maundy Thursday 18th April

11.30am Chrism Mass -  
Lancaster Cathedral;  
7.30pm Evening Mass of the  
Lord's Supper  
Watching before the Altar of  
Repose until 10pm

### Good Friday 19th April (Day of Fasting and Abstinence)

10am Stations of the Cross  
(OLSJ); Veneration of the Relic of  
the True Cross; 11am Brampton  
Ecumenical Walk of Witness  
3.00pm Solemn Liturgy of the  
Passion followed by Confessions  
5.30pm Walk of Witness from  
OLSJ; 6pm Solemn Liturgy of the  
Passion (Polish)

### Holy Saturday 20th April

11am to 12 noon Confessions  
8.30pm Vigil and First Mass of  
Easter; 11pm Polish Vigil Mass

### Easter Sunday 21st April

9am (WB), 10am & 4.30pm Holy  
Mass; 1pm Polish Mass

WB: Warwick Bridge Church.  
OLSJ: Our Lady & St. Joseph's,  
Carlisle

## Our Lady And St. Edward's, Fulwood

### Palm Sunday

(Saturday 6pm) Mass, with Palms  
8.30am Mass, with Palms  
10.30am Palms procession & Mass

### Wednesday

7.00pm Reconciliation (Confessions)

### Holy Thursday

7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

### Good Friday

10.00am Stations of the Cross  
3.00pm The Lord's Passion and Death  
(with special activity for children)

### Holy Saturday

9.00pm Easter Vigil: New Fire, New  
Light, New Life

### Easter Sunday

8.30am Easter Mass  
10.30am Children's Easter  
Procession & Mass

## St. Peter's, Lytham

### Holy Thursday

7.00pm Mass; Watching until 10.00pm

### Good Friday

10.30am Stations of the Cross; 3.00pm Liturgy of the Passion

### Holy Saturday

8.30pm Easter Vigil

### Easter Sunday

10.30am Mass