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The Catholic VOICE *of Lancaster*

The Official Newspaper to
the Diocese of Lancaster

Issue 309 + May '19

INSIDE: p08 Painting
in the Spirit
p14 Good
Neighbours



Jesus is Risen!

Are you ready to follow Him?

I have been crucified with Christ; it is
no longer I who live, but Christ who lives
in me; and the life I now live in the flesh
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loved me and gave himself for me
Galatians 2:20



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of Lancaster



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EDITORIAL

We have just celebrated the Lord's passion, death and resurrection. The Church is rejoicing that Jesus is alive giving us renewed hope and consolation. Hope because of the promise of eternal life. Consolation because no matter what, Jesus is walking with us to guide our path. But, there is always a But! We must play our part too.

Our prayer, fasting and almsgiving that we undertook during Lent must become a model of our future way of life. We must continually try to come closer to the Lord through prayer, deepen our faith and live our lives in accordance with His example. Just as the stone of the tomb was rolled to one side we must roll our old ways to one side and follow Jesus. When we renewed our Baptismal promises with lighted candles at Easter we did so with conviction and it is that strength of response that should help us to take those promises forward. We must let the light of the Easter Candle guide our path and keep the flame

burning in our hearts and lives so that we become the hands and feet of Jesus in our world today.

As Pope Francis said "To follow Jesus is not a decision taken once and for all, it is a daily choice. And we do not meet the Lord virtually, but directly, we encounter him in our lives. Otherwise, Jesus becomes only a nice memory of the past. When we welcome him as the Lord of life, however, as the centre and the beating heart of everything, then he is alive and lives anew in us."

The Easter celebrations should provide us with renewed vigour and energy to follow Jesus, finding time to let His love imbue our whole being so that we can bring and share that love with our neighbour.

"Go out into the world today and love the people you meet. Let your presence light new light in the hearts of people" - Mother Teresa





Canon Gibson along with parishioners from St Mary of the Angels, Bolton-le-Sands, St Mary, Yealand, and Our Lady of Lourdes, Carnforth, welcomed Bishop Paul to Mass at St Mary's, Yealand on his first Episcopal Visitation within the Diocese since his inauguration as Bishop of Lancaster on the 9th April 2018. A very special weekend with Mass celebrated in all the parish churches.

A very busy schedule saw the Bishop involved with the children of the parish attending their First Holy Communion preparation class. It seemed a very lively class. A very inclusive Mass followed. The evening continued in the Church Hall with many individual welcomes for the Bishop and many thanks for his visit and of his appreciation of the successful efforts made by the three churches in engaging with the aims of the Diocese to ensure the future of these parishes in North Lancashire. Thanks to all who contributed to the refreshments enjoyed after Mass in the church Hall.

The Bishop continued to surprise by inviting members of the three parish councils to an informal meeting at Carnforth church hall on the Sunday afternoon. Here was an open agenda to allow the Bishop to get a flavour of how things work at the parish level in his Diocese. A very broad range of topics were discussed from cleaning the church and gardens to problems being caused by social awareness and the negatives of the internet, data protection and security of our children.

Relatively new problems for church councils to be aware of and to be involved in monitoring include: How to solve the shortage of Priests? How to solve the shortage of Church councillors? The list isn't endless but is growing.

We sincerely hope Bishop Paul found the meeting helpful and the topics debated could help in his thoughts for the future. Prayers were said to complete both a serious and enjoyable 'get together'. Thank you Bishop Paul. *Francis Trevor Ward*

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Some of our favourite events here at Castlerigg are open retreats, when we hold a weekend retreat open to anyone.

In early March we invited young adults to come and stay with us for a weekend, as we reflected on how our faith can help 'lead us through the wilderness' of life.

Our lives can be so hectic, we feel pulled in a million different directions by school, university, work, relationships and family pressures among other things. While we can be so busy, and be surrounded by so many people, we can feel lonely, and as if we have empty lives. There is a hole in our lives that material possessions and passing pleasures cannot fill. The wilderness we are talking about, with which our faith can help, is the wilderness of our

heart rather than a geographical desert.

From when people started arriving on Friday evening, the atmosphere was really chilled and we started with a fun evening of games and getting to know one another. We finished the day with night prayer in the Chapel, and Rachael led us through a prayer called the examen. It is a really useful prayer you can do wherever you are. It helps us to reflect over our day and our lives, allowing us to see where God is, and those areas where we did not let God in. This is a great tool we can have in our arsenal of prayer. After this we had a time of silent adoration, allowing the group to have their own personal prayer time.

On Saturday morning, Fr Luiz Ruscillo joined us for our keynote talk. He gave us

an insightful and engaging run through of the Old Testament, right up to the time of Jesus and on into the years of the very early Church. He helped us to understand the origins of the Eucharist, from the days of Abraham and Melchizedek (*he sometimes gets a mention at Mass!*), right through to when God gave the Israelites manna in the desert. He explained how the people in the Old Testament will not have fully understood what God was saying or doing at the time, but now we know that Jesus came and did what He did, we can understand the Old Testament in a new light.

This all linked into our theme of God leading us through our wilderness. While in the Old Testament it was physical food that God gave His people for them to survive, the food He gives us today is spiritual food, food for our soul. This is the food that can get us through the wilderness of our heart. This food is His word, the scripture, it's His Body and Blood, it's His love. We receive this through prayer, through other people and through the Sacraments. What's more, sometimes we cannot understand what God's plan is for us, or why our current struggle is necessary for our lives. Just as

the writers of the Old Testament couldn't see God's bigger picture, neither can we at times.

On Saturday afternoon, the sun came out briefly for our walk! We enjoyed chatting about what we had heard and done on the retreat so far and in general about our lives back home. The walk finished in town, where some went shopping and others went to cafes or pubs. On Saturday evening we gathered back together in the Chapel for a Holy Hour, where we could pray with one another, go to confession or just be still before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Afterwards we enjoyed an evening of quizzes and games. On Sunday morning, we shared a bit about our experiences as young Catholics in the world today. We shared our struggles, and where we can find support and solace. We finished with Mass and a Sunday roast dinner before everyone headed home. All in all, it was a chilled out but fun weekend, with beautiful prayer times and also thought-provoking and inspiring speakers. It certainly seemed that everyone had taken some inspiration on how Jesus can lead us through the wilderness of our hearts and lives!



Castlerigg recently welcomed confirmation groups from the parishes of Christ the Good Shepherd, Workington, Our Lady and St Patrick, Maryport, and St Catherine, Penrith for day retreats as the young people prepare for their confirmation.

The days had varied programmes, including games and challenges, creative workshops, personal reflection, group

discussions, prayer and confessions.

"Without exception, both the children and the adults in attendance were delighted with the day. We have all come away with lots to reflect upon." Josephine – Workington

"Many thanks to you and your team for Saturday. Our children thoroughly enjoyed the day and I am sure they gained much from it." David – Penrith

Mission Review – Last Chance –

The fiftieth anniversary of the Youth Service's move to Castlerigg Manor provides a timely opportunity to reflect on what we have been doing and review our plans for the future.

Echoing Pope Francis' approach in the recent Synod of Bishops, focussed on young people, it is important that the first step of this review is to listen to our young people. We have prepared a

short questionnaire for young people (aged 15+) to complete, available on our website. We are trying to hear as many different voices as possible – if you are between the ages of 15 and 30 please take a moment to complete the survey, and please encourage anyone you know to do the same. But hurry, the closing date is 7th May, and we hope to publish the results at the barbeque on the 7th July.

www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/survey



Recognise yourself? Please get in contact.



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/

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

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

Fifty Years of Memories

Our memories actually go back before Castlerigg to Lakeside House. I organised a weekend course there in December 1968 for students from St Peter's Grammar School, Prestwich. Another teacher volunteered to come with us – I didn't know her well at that time but that was the start of a friendship that blossomed and we got married a year later.

On that first visit we had the pleasure of meeting Fr Paddy O'Dea, a wonderful priest blessed with great insight into people's characters, and with the dynamism and foresight required to establish a residential centre for youth work.

We were one of the first schools to visit Castlerigg, in February 1971, and for over ten years we brought groups twice a year, from Manchester and Salford. And from 1984 until 1991 we organised Family Weekends. But while events and developments were

progressing, the quiet, hard-working Bill Duncan kept the organisational aspects working. Danger of over-booking? "No problem." Families and friends being split up? "I'll sort it" and he did. Meals on the chef's day off? "Leave it with me" and as if by magic 50+ fish and chips delivered from the local chippie.

The influence of Castlerigg is long lasting. Mary once bumped into a past pupil, shopping with her mother and preparing to get married. Her mother suddenly said "And I'm almost sick and tired of hearing your name because every time we plan something, my daughter says "we should do this or that, because Mrs Slade told us to when we were on that weekend at Castlerigg."

We pray that Castlerigg will continue its great work of providing the happy blend of enjoyment and serious reflection.

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 And most importantly, please keep us in your prayers.





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Dear Editor,

It was interesting to read the article reporting on the climate change summit in Katowice, in the April edition of the *Catholic Voice*, and the contribution of an attendee describing the effects of prolonged drought in his/her country, Malawi. Malawi is one of the world's least developed countries. It is ranked 170 out of 187 countries according to the 2010 Human Development Index. Of its 16 million people, 53% live below the national poverty line, and 90% survive on less than \$2 per day. A cursory investigation of the history of droughts is enough to inform the reader that they are regular occurrences in east Africa and have nothing to do with man-made CO2 emissions.

To escape poverty, Malawi needs a reliable supply of power; power to build infrastructure, to fuel industry and to facilitate learning. Fortunately, for the benighted citizens of that country, their government has agreed a \$667 million loan, from the Export and Import (Exim) Bank of China, for \$667 to finance the Kam'mwamba Coal-Fired Power Plant Project. On completion this will supply 300 megawatts with the potential for an additional 700. From the tenor of the comments of those who attended the climate change summit, whom I assume walked or cycled to Poland, I deduce that they would prefer the people of Malawi to resign themselves to perpetual poverty, sacrificial lambs on the altar of the burgeoning climate change religion.

Regards,
John Ellwood, Carnforth

Dear Editor,

I have been campaigning for some time for the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales to bring the message of the Pope's Encyclical 'Laudato Si' to the parishes., and to require priests to inform their congregations about our duty towards creation. The good news is that through their Global Healing consists of 2 films. The main film is 33 minutes long, and shows how human activity is destroying the planet, and how we need an ecological conversion so that we make the right ethical choices which will begin to reverse the destruction. The second film is 15 minutes long, and prompts us to consider what we can do, as individuals and as parishioners, to educate ourselves on the issues, and to change our lifestyles so as to reduce our carbon footprint and lessen our abuse of animals. The bishops have shown a willingness in producing Global Healing in response to 'Laudato Si' which deserves our praise and thanks. With a few refreshments included, and the event publicised in the parish Newsletter, an enjoyable evening could be easily organised.

Although, the question of our abuse of animals could in my opinion have been put forward more strongly, I don't want to be critical of the content of these 2 films. I just want to thank God and the bishops for their present attitude to the natural environment, and for communicating it to the parish priests.

Sincerely
Virginia Bell



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Catenian Bursary Fund Award Presentation

Miss Ruth Walbank, a student at Lancaster University and a parishioner of St. Mary & St. Michael's, Garstang, was a recipient of an award from the Catenian Bursary Fund last year to support her in her voluntary work in Madagascar. She recently gave an excellent presentation about her voluntary work in Madagascar to the Catenians, which included showing some good quality images from photographs that she had taken whilst carrying out her work. It was a very interesting and enjoyable evening and certainly drew the attention of the audience. A thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Tom Rigby

Photograph left to right front row:
Garstang President Gerard Power; Ruth Walbank,
Mark Conroy, Provincial Director.
Rear; Terence Donnelly, Bursary Fund Committee Member,
Fr Tom Butler, PP St. Mary & St. Michael's, Garstang.



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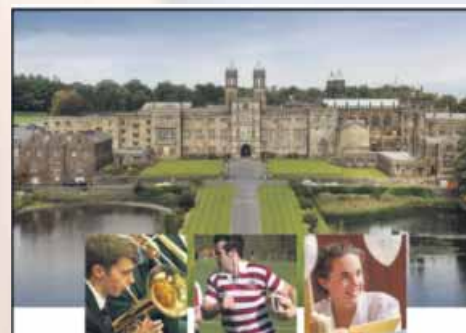
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On an early Lenten Monday winter's morning, 12 individuals gathered in some trepidation for a retreat from life; to write an icon.

In the grounds, daffodils and crocuses at Hying Monastery might tell you that Spring is very near, but the fleeting sun and wintry gales of Storm Gareth had other ideas. Tucked up in the Art Barn-Room surrounded by the famous Hying garden and warmed by a wood burning stove, we assemble. We begin to familiarise ourselves with our surroundings and our mission, leaving the weather fronts outside to battle through of their own accord.

Over the space of 5 days we journey through the process, writing an icon using the old trusted traditional techniques to tell a Gospel story. Sounds simple? Yet this is a true journey, where the icon is less about the finished product and its finesse, and more about the process. While the storm rages outside, we each experience some of our own raging personal storm, emerging to a different landscape and place at the end of the course.

Our 'gesso' white chalk boards at the ready and it's time to begin. They are prepared using wood, chalk, gelatin and muslin, an ancient way symbolising the wood of the cross and the bones of Christ. Here they too symbolise Mary of Magdala, and the gift of her life to Christ. With the image already given, we create a carbon copy using powdered paint, and

transfer the image to the white washed board. The lines of the traced image are hand-painted in; the veins and arteries of the icon take form. From here the flesh and clothing are added, till we are left with a full beautiful image adorned with a halo.

So why is it called icon writing, because surely icons are paintings?

Icons are Gospel stories written with paint. Since each icon tells a story, it is written (*with paint*) rather than simply painted. Each icon contains at least one imperfection because only God is perfect. Icon writing itself is a process of meditation and private prayer. Each stroke of the brush honours those whom we paint, asking for guidance, healing or help for ourselves and those dear to us. We may have the brush in our hands, but the author of this gospel image is God.

The formal office prayers of the Bernadine community underpin the icon course creating a skeletal structure and natural rhythm to each day. Everything stops for the Monastery bell, denoting next where we should be. And each formal icon session begins with a meditation and prayer- ours at this time to St. Mary of Magdala!

So why choose Mary of Magdala?

Mary of Magdala is our Easter message in her pure essence. She gave her life to follow our Lord. The Gospel says she had seven demons cast out of her. As a female disciple and companion of Jesus, she was the first to encounter the risen Lord that



Easter morning. Blinded by tears and grief at her beloved being missing, she mistakes Jesus for a gardener. She's not expecting Him! Only when he speaks her name, does she realise the enormity His Easter message!

The process of icon writing is an emotional rollercoaster

Day one, kicks the course off on a high with excitement and adrenaline. Here are lots of faces to meet, people to get to know, and painting tools to get your hands on and work out how to do things.

By day two and three the adrenaline has worn off. People become tired. It's a lot of concentration that none of us are really used to anymore. As with all spiritual retreats there are plenty of personal demons to wrestle with. People come to the icon course having had differing experiences of art, painting and sitting still.

Some people come to the course who have never painted before in their adult life. When you listen to their stories you begin to understand why. Often, many have received less than helpful encouragement. Stories emerge of art classes 40, 50, 60 and even 70 years ago, for example - pupils asked to paint a cat, only to be scolded and corrected by the teacher and ridiculed in front of all their class. These demons and other frustrations resurface throughout the course visiting each of us when we are each unsettled and tired creating some spiritual turmoil. But as day 3 ends, and

day 4 begins a new dawn begins. Turning the corner brings progress in both the painting and spiritually. Those demons are gradually put to rest with prayer, love, patience and expert guidance from the course leaders. What's emerging now from the dark, is a new way. The process had brought forward issues unresolved and the prayer and quiet, brought healing. Our soul is renewed, filled with hope and love. Our hands and heart have created something unique and beautiful.

By the last day the final touches are added to our icons, ensuring they are ready to be blessed. Each one is lined up in the chapel at Hyning. Each is prayed over with a tiny sprinkling of Holy Water!

When the icons are all together you see how each is unique. Even though each one started with the exact same image, colour scheme and technique, what emerges are 12 very different icons. 12 unique icons represent 12 very different personal journeys and they remind each of us of how far we have come.

So next time you fancy a retreat- why not think about trying an icon course. You don't need to be artistically gifted. The only pre requisite is an open heart and a love of God. The rest will follow. As the inscription on the back of each icon says; 'written by God, by the hand of xxx and blessed by xxx'; our part is to hold the brush. The rest of the story is told by someone else! *Lisa Vallente-Osborne*



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R.I.P. Canon Thomas Dakin STL Phl 1926 - 2019



***"This is the bread come down
from heaven..... Anyone who eats
this bread will live for ever."***

On 12th March 2019 we gathered to celebrate the Requiem Mass for Thomas Dakin. When I'm called to preside at someone's Funeral Liturgy or Funeral Mass, I always find it an awesome responsibility. Never more so than today. But I know that it's an immense privilege because, in my view, Thomas was an amazing man and a truly wonderful priest.

Thomas Dakin was born in Lancaster on the 8th July 1926, the son of Thomas and Mary. Four days later he was baptised in Lancaster Cathedral. He was educated at the Cathedral School, Lancaster, Preston Catholic College and Upholland College Junior Seminary.

On the 21st September 1945 he entered the Venerable English College, Rome, founded in 1579 by our own Cardinal Allen. But at that date shortly after the end of the Second World War, the college was still located in its place of war-time "exile" at St. Mary's Hall, Stonehurst, here in Lancashire. However in October 1946 the college, including the young Thomas Dakin, returned to Rome.

Thanks to information provided by the present College archivist, we have evidence of Thomas Dakin's life as a student. He engaged in many productions, sketches, plays and Gilbert & Sullivan operettas. He played cricket, for which he had a life-long love. He gained Licentiates in both Philosophy and Sacred Theology and was ordained priest on the 22nd December 1951, in the Basilica of St. John Lateran.

Following his ordination he studied for one year at the Gregorian University, Rome, for his Licentiate in Canon Law. Unfortunately, ill health forced his return to England without taking his degree.

His ministry began as Assistant Priest at St. Joseph's, Preston from 1953 to 1955, and St Walburge, Preston from 1955 to 1964. Then in 1964 he joined the staff at the former Diocesan Junior Seminary, St Michael's College, Underley Hall. However, my recollection is that he first came to teach at Underley in the autumn of 1963, providing cover for the priest who taught French, while he underwent an operation.

I vividly remember the first time I saw him, the young Fr. Dakin, impeccably dressed in his Roman cassock. At Underley, the

priests of course, had their own dining room. But at lunch-times they ate with us in the student's refectory, each priest being assigned a place at the end of the student's tables. They never complained about it but, looking back, I think they may have preferred their own company to that of noisy, sometimes excitable, and no doubt smelly little boys!

At one stage I think the Canon must have been our form master. I say this because I have recollections of groups of us going on excursions with him to the local "village", as we called it, of Kirkby Lonsdale. I seem to remember Tom having a Vauxhall Viva van. Whatever type it was, bench seats had been put into the back of it solely for the purpose of taking us out on little trips. But I much preferred sitting in the front with him. Not because it was more comfortable - though it was - but because he was always singing as we drove along and I loved to listen to him singing. The drive became a little more alarming though when he was also physically conducting an imaginary orchestra.

In 1968 after leaving Underley Hall he served as assistant priest at Sacred Heart, Thornton until appointed as Parish Priest in 1970 where he was to remain until 2002. He was chair of the Liturgy Commission from 1970. Finally he became Parish Priest to St. Nicholas Owen, Thornton, where he remained until he retired from ministry on 7th January 2017.

Following his retirement he lived in the presbytery supported by Veronica his housekeeper of over 50 years.

I'd like to end by paying fulsome tribute to this kindly, eloquent, charming, witty, talented, erudite, learned, faith-filled, faithful and scholarly man who has so enriched so many of our lives. On behalf of us all, I also thank Veronica for the immense part she's played in his life and ministry. May God strengthen and console you, Veronica. May Canon Dakin who died so peacefully enjoy the rewards of his life's labours and rest for ever in the peace, joy and delight of God's everlasting presence. May he who believed so deeply in the Holy Eucharist, the bread come down from heaven, live for ever. Amen.

Fr Michael Murphy

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

Benediction



Until well after World War II Benediction was a staple supplement to the Mass. There would be Children's Benediction on Sunday afternoon with the routine Rosary, Sermon and Benediction at 6.30 in the evening. Most churches would also have a midweek Benediction. It would be the framework of the 'charity sermon' or for the appearance of a guest preacher. Its great attraction perhaps was the possibility of using English prayers and hymns. It was all go. There were no quiet moments for contemplation.

The modern form of Benediction is not routine but often the setting for a prolonged exposition of the Blessed Sacrament which offers an opportunity for thoughtfulness - To think about what? - The word is 'covenant'. At the Last Supper Our Lord did not offer himself to be viewed: 'Take and eat'; 'Take and drink'. As he said, this was the inauguration of the new covenant.

A covenant implies a blessing and a condition. Reading St John's account of the Last Supper we may identify the blessing

and the condition attached to the new covenant. The blessing: We enter by adoption into the family of the Blessed Trinity; we relate to the Father and the Holy Spirit as Jesus does. "If anyone loves me...my Father will love him and we shall come to him and make our home with him". (Jn 14:23). The condition: "This is my commandment: Love one another as I have loved you". (Jn 15:23).

The blessing, through which we are identified with Jesus, enables us to meet the condition. He is our link, provided we make the connection. In our Communion at Mass we renew the connection and accept once more the condition of sharing God's life. This leads to questions. How am I expressing Christ's gift of loving? - At home, in society. Is it sufficient to fork out a £1 for Cafod now and then? Have I a real interest in and care for those who are hungry and homeless?

It is the Mass, as a renewal of the covenant, which specifies reflection before the Blessed Sacrament.

Canon Thomas Dakin RIP



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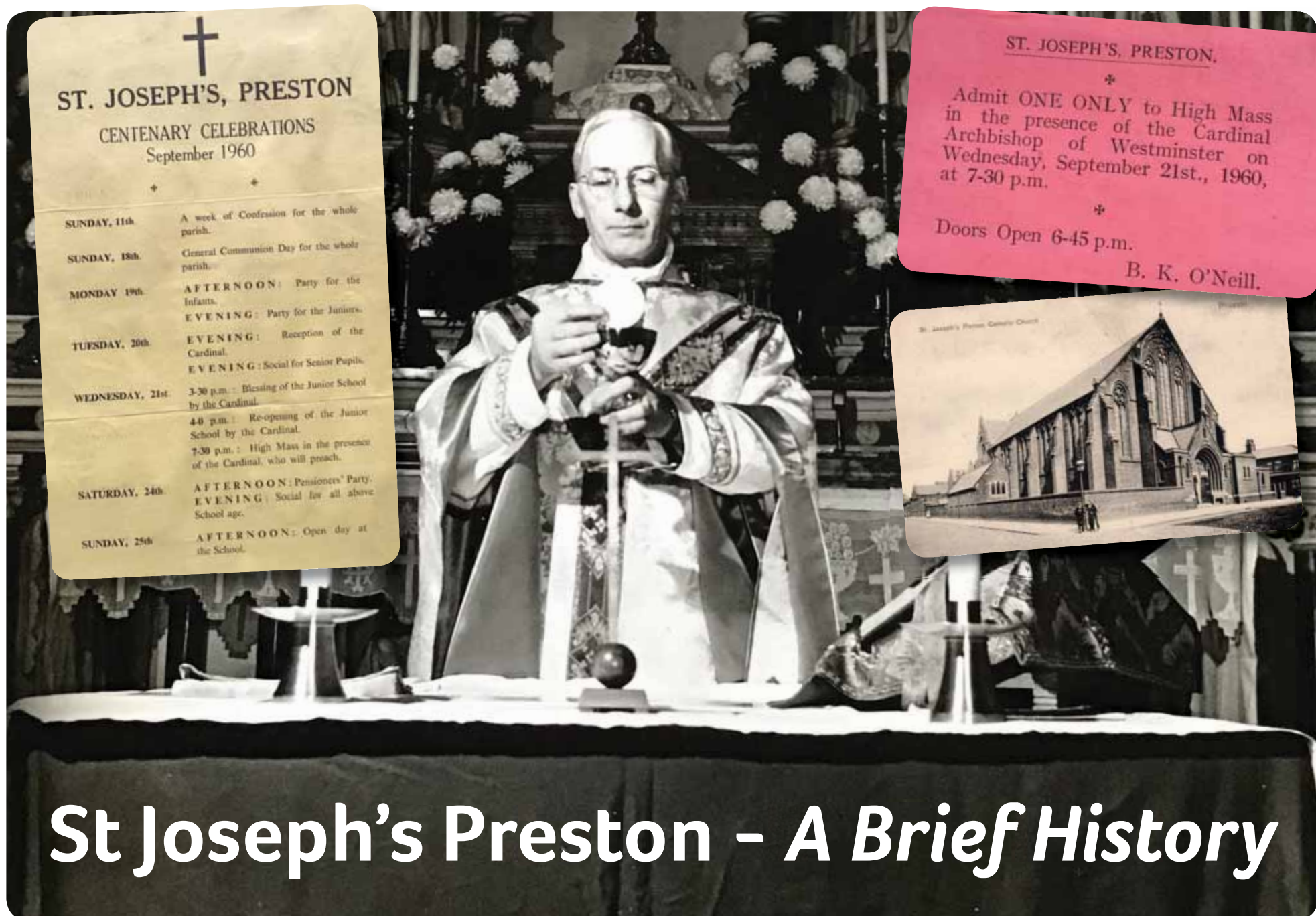
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Standing on Skeffington Road between New Hall Lane and Ribbleton Lane, to the East of Preston city centre, is St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church which, since 1991, has been designated as a Grade II listed building by English Heritage. A rather austere exterior of red brick with sandstone dressings hides an impressive interior with the Sanctuary and the side chapels which flank it, dedicated to Our Lady and St Joseph respectively, of particular interest and note.

The parish itself was founded in 1860 from St Augustine's, Avenham, and the building of schools on the site around Skeffington Road was the first priority of the newly appointed Rector, Canon Roger Taylor, who had previously served as an Assistant Priest at St Augustine's. The school buildings included a chapel, which subsequently had to be re-built and enlarged in 1866, which was to serve the parish until such time as a Church could be built. The area in which the Church stands was at the centre of the cotton mill district with the congregation at that time being almost entirely made up of mill workers. As such, it was decided to dedicate the new parish to St Joseph, the patron saint of workers.

The present Church dates from 1874 although it has been enlarged since it was first opened. The architect was James Byrne of Liverpool who had studied under the famous Gothic Revival architect, Pugin, and the total cost of the new edifice was £7,000. The foundation stone

had been laid and blessed on 4 May 1873 and the Church was officially opened on Wednesday 24 June 1874, the Feast of St. John the Baptist, with a Pontifical High Mass celebrated by the Bishop of Liverpool with the Bishop of Salford preaching the sermon. A choir from St Ignatius Church, Meadow Street provided the music and, following the Mass, lunch was provided in the school.

During the following years work continued to embellish the new Church including the completion of the reredos and High Altar with its eight imposing life size statues depicting, from left to right, St Joseph; St Cuthbert (*holding the head of St Oswald*); St Clare; the Venerable Bede; St John the Apostle; St Teresa; St Alphonsus and St John the Baptist. Above these is the impressive stained glass East window by Mayer of Munich. Other stained glass in the Church is by Casolini of St Helen's. An Altar dedicated to Our Lady was erected in 1879 and an organ, installed at a cost of £700, in 1880. In 1882, the Church was described as follows:

Its elaborate and costly internal arrangements and decorations more especially entitle it to notice amongst the other distinctive ecclesiastical structures in the town. It is 155 feet in length, exclusive of the entrance porch at the west end, 56 feet in width, and 60 feet in height to the apex of the ceiling. Although not yet completed the several altar fittings and decorations strikingly harmonise with the gorgeous ceremonial of the Roman Catholic Church. The



reared at the high altar within the chancel extends the width of the chancel. It contains eight niches in which are placed statues six feet in height. The altar of St Joseph, on the south side of the high altar, is a fine specimen of carving and sculpture. It is representative of the death of St Joseph, in Caen stone, the tabernacle being in alabaster.

In 1883, a new chapel, dedicated to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, was opened on 14 October of that year. The chapel was the gift of Mr Ralph Pearson and houses a painting of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour which was brought from Rome at the expense of a Mr Geldart and which is a copy of the original painting venerated in the Church of St Alphonsus Liguori in Rome.

The building and adornment of the Church inevitably left the parish with a substantial debt but every effort was made to reduce the financial burden with some £3,000 collected in three years. During the 1890s, a men's club was built and the school was extended with an additional infant classroom. In 1897 further work was undertaken to

the Church including new Stations of the Cross by the De Beaulieu Brothers of Ghent, Belgium; marble mosaic flooring in the Sanctuary and side chapels; and new marble altar rails for the side altars. Following this work, a solemn re-opening of the Church took place on 23 January 1898 with a Pontifical High Mass celebrated by the Bishop of Liverpool.

In 1911, the parish celebrated its Golden Jubilee with further improvements and a complete re-decoration of the Church. In 1922, the original Lady Chapel was dedicated as a War Memorial Chapel, the solemn dedication taking place on Sunday 12 November of that year. No doubt this was a poignant and moving ceremony for many of those who had lost loved ones in the conflict which had ended only four years previously. A description of the dedication ceremony states: We don't think anyone present that night will ever forget the occasion. The crowded congregation – overflowing on to the Sanctuary and side-altars – the solemnity of the Service – the splendid sermon – the sounding of the Last Post – the reverent singing of the De Profundis – the call of the Roll of Honour – and the

sad strains of the Dead March.

In late 1924 the parish, like all those in Preston, became part of the newly established Roman Catholic Diocese of Lancaster, which remains the case today. The new Bishop, Thomas Wulstan Pearson OSB, a Preston born Benedictine monk, made his first visit to the parish on 1 November 1925 to administer the sacrament of confirmation. Following the end of the Second World War in 1945, the names of the parish war dead were added to the memorial in the War Memorial Chapel and, through the 1950s, various renovations took place including an extension to the sacristy, renovations to the adjoining presbytery and the renewal of a large part of the roof. In 1960 the parish celebrated its centenary and, to mark the occasion, Parish Priest, Monsignor Brendan O'Neill, published *'A History of St Joseph's Parish, Preston, Centenary 1860 - 1960'*.

In more recent years, demographic changes and other factors have resulted in a smaller, but no less devout and dedicated, congregation than in previous years and today, St Joseph's is the

principal Church of the parish of St John XXIII. This relatively new parish is made up of the former parishes of St Joseph's itself; St Teresa's, Fishwick; St Augustine's, Avenham; St Ignatius, Meadow Street; and St Thomas of Canterbury and the English Martyrs, Garstang Road. Of the churches in these former parishes, St Teresa's and St Augustine's have, sadly, been demolished whilst St Ignatius and English Martyrs have embarked on new chapters in their history as, respectively, the Syro-Malabar Rite Cathedral of St Alphonsa and a shrine church for the celebration of the traditional Roman Catholic liturgy in Latin. Meanwhile, St Joseph's continues to be a focal point for the Catholics of Preston as it has been since its opening 145 years ago. Its continued importance is demonstrated by the Mass celebrated by Bishop Paul Swarbrick on 19 March, to mark the Solemnity of St Joseph, to whom the Church is dedicated.

I am grateful to Fr John Millar, Parish Priest, Parish of St John XXIII, for his assistance and, in particular, for allowing me access to photographs in the parish archive.

David Gorman

Lark Hill Association



The AGM and Mass will be held at Cardinal Newman College on **Saturday 29th June 2019** at 2.00 p.m.
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Mondays: 12.00 noon; Fridays: 6.30 pm

Shrine Church of St Walburge, Preston
Mondays – Fridays: 8.30 am Low Mass
Saturdays: 10.30 am Low Mass
Sundays: 10.30 am, Sung Mass

Shrine of the English Martyrs, Preston
Mondays – Fridays: 12 noon, Low Mass
Saturdays: 10.00 am, Low Mass
Sundays: 9.00 am, Low Mass
Thursday 30th May, Ascension Day:
High Mass at 7.00 pm

Sunday 19th May at 3.00 pm
Fourth Sunday after Easter
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Good Neighbours



Back in February, St. Peter's Primary School Council became aware of an issue within their local community about the desperate need for children's clothing in the South Shore area of Blackpool. Keen to help out, they immediately set about seeing how they could make a difference and a letter was sent out to the parents in order to make the whole school family aware of the situation.

Moved to tears by what she'd read and heard, Evangeline Doyle (a Year 6 pupil at St. Peter's) asked her mum what she could do. During half term, Evangeline approached Fr David Burns of St Joseph's Ansdell and St Peter's Lytham to ask if she could speak during Sunday Mass in order to draw the attention of parishioners to what St. Peter's school were planning to do. Unexpectedly, a huge round of applause erupted afterwards and, within the week, school, church (and Evangeline's home) had been overwhelmed with donations. One family had, unbelievably, donated more than one hundred items!

Some parishioners had even gone to the lengths of knitting blankets, clothing and teddies and even shopped at charity stores with the specific purpose of finding suitable items to donate to the project! Evangeline said, "Well that's lovely; two

groups win from that purchase!"

Dave Yates (St. Peter's School Foundation Governor and a member of St Joseph's Parish Council) and his wife, Olive, were instrumental in the collection and distribution of the many items of clothing. Meanwhile at St. Peter's, the School Council used school assembly time in order to remind the children to play their part by having a clear-out at home and bring in anything that might help. As a Catholic school, the children at St. Peter's are aware of the importance of helping others, particularly during Lent.

St. Teresa said, "Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time, and always start with the person nearest to you." These words resonated as the families in dire need are so close to home.

As a result of all this charity work (which concluded on the 21st of March) over 1500 items were collected and redistributed to families who really need them.

St. Peter's School is very aware of charity work and is now focussing their efforts on raising money for CAFOD.

Once again, St. Teresa famously said, "A life not lived for others is not a life."
Evangeline Doyle & Evie Wood (Year 6 pupils)

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Called by name

by Julia Beacroft

“What’s in a name?” - (*Romeo and Juliet*, Shakespeare)

Names are really important. Have you ever called someone in a shop or at a conference by their name, because you’ve read it on their name badge? If you have, you’ll surely have noticed their surprised and delighted reaction. On the other hand, I don’t know about you, but I especially dislike it when people get my name wrong. I’ve frequently been addressed as Julie, when my name is actually Julia and you wouldn’t believe some of the surname variations that I’ve been subjected to! I try not to make too big a deal out of this, but the reality is that our names are part of our inmost identity – distinct and personal to each one of us.

As our society in this country appears to grow ever more secular, there is a present trend of naming ceremonies for new babies. This is an event to celebrate and mark the name given to the infant or newborn, to make their name official. It recognises and celebrates the arrival of a child and welcomes him or her into the family and circle of friends.

The commemorating of the child’s arrival is important and worthy of celebration and of course we are already aware of the significance of our given name. Yet we are doubly blessed. This is because the Lord calls each and every one of us to him by name and in our baptism we are brought into the life of the Trinity and the life of the Church.

In the famous Shakespearian play *‘Romeo and Juliet’*, Juliet famously says: *“What’s in a name? That which we call a rose., By any other name would smell as sweet.”*

Jesus in his infinite wisdom calls each of us by name to invite us to new life with him – both on this earth and in the next life – and in doing so we can enjoy the sweet fragrance of Christ. And from the time of our baptism both our lives and our journey of faith unfold like the petals of a rose, as we remember that Isaiah told his people that God says: *‘I have called you by your name, you are mine’*. These words are just as relevant for us today as they were then.

Julia Beacroft is an author, editor, workshop leader and presenter in Catholic faith formation. Her book *‘Sanctifying the Spirit’* is available to buy from AMAZON, www.waterstones.com or Book Depository. Please visit www.sanciobooks.com for more information. Follow Julia on Facebook & Twitter. Copyright ©2019 Julia Beacroft. All rights reserved.

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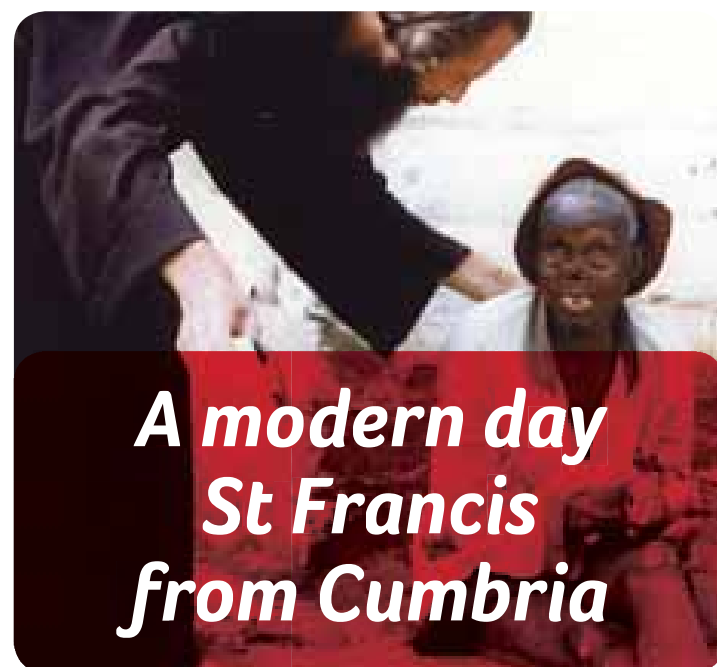
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John Bradburne



A modern day St Francis from Cumbria

A modern St Francis - and from our very own diocese! If you don't know about John Bradburne, here is your chance to discover his life and poetry. John was born in Skirwith, near Penrith, the son of the Anglican vicar, in 1921, and spent his childhood in the village. He became a Catholic after the war, wandered throughout Europe and Israel searching for a vocation, and finally found one in Zimbabwe, where he devoted his life to caring for a community of lepers.

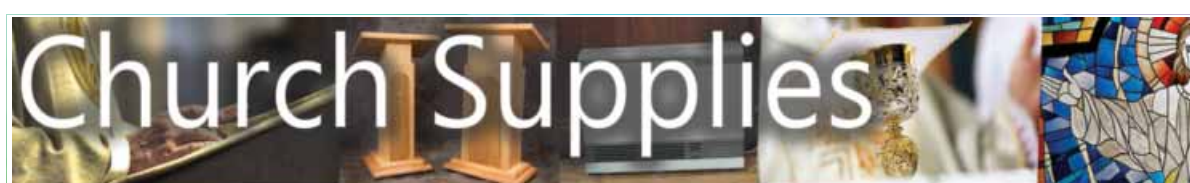
In 1979, as the civil war in that country reached its peak, he was told to leave the leprosy settlement for his own safety, but he refused to abandon his charges. Abducted by the guerrillas, he was killed on September 5th. Since his death, many miracles have been associated with him, and the cause for his beatification is in progress. His village, Mutemwa, has become a place of pilgrimage, and each year, especially on the anniversary of his death, thousands go there to hear Mass on the mountain where he walked and prayed. Mutemwa is now Zimbabwe's Fatima.

John was a lover of nature - especially birds and bees - and a lover of solitude. To help his desire to be alone, when he was working at the Jesuit centre in Harare, he even allowed a swarm of bees into his room to keep unwanted visitors away, and looked after them! Several of his poems are about bees. An accomplished musician, on harmonium and recorder, he was

a prodigious poet - in fact, the most prolific poet the English language has ever had, an achievement recognized by Guinness World Records, with over 5000 poems to his name.

John had three wishes: to serve lepers, to die a martyr, and - as a third-order lay Franciscan - to be buried in his Franciscan habit. He achieved the first of his two wishes by his death. During the funeral, in the capital's cathedral, drops of blood mysteriously appeared under the coffin. When it was opened, no trace of blood was found, but it was noticed that he was wearing ordinary clothes. His habit was retrieved, so his third wish was granted. A fragment from that habit will be on display during the weekend, as part of an exhibition of his life and writing.

On 21st-24th June at Boarbank Hall, there will be a weekend to introduce people to John. It will be led by Professor David Crystal, an eminent English scholar, who has edited his poetry. It will include a visit to his birthplace, a DVD about his life, made in Zimbabwe, and a showing of the extraordinary video, made by chance by a group of pilgrims to Mutemwa, of the miracle of the spinning sun. There will be talks and poetry readings, including a talk by Dr Julia Pigott on the history of the honey-bee. If you would like to join us, you can either book to stay at the Boarbank Guest House or else join in as a non-resident. For the exact programme email Sr Margaret Atkins at: margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk



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