

FREE

# The Catholic VOICE of Lancaster

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The Official Newspaper to  
the Diocese of Lancaster

Issue 312 + September '19

**INSIDE:** p03 Our Soon to be Saint  
Cardinal Newman  
p16 Tour de Lancaster



## Congratulations Fr Stephen Talbutt

**F**r Stephen with Bishop Paul  
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after his Ordination to the priesthood  
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# The Catholic VOICE

of Lancaster



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is published on the last Sunday of the month previous to publication date.

The Catholic Voice of Lancaster is published by its owners. The Trustees of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lancaster, a registered charity, (No. 234331), and is wholly independent of and separate from any previous newspaper published by or on behalf of the diocese.

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Rob Hotchkiss / Hot Creative  
01253 730343  
rob@hot-creative.co.uk  
www.hot-creative.co.uk

### PUBLISHED BY:

CathCom Ltd. N2 Blois Meadow  
Business Centre, Blois Road, Steeple  
Bumpstead, Haverhill, Suffolk CB9 7BN  
020 7112 6710  
www.cathcom.org

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## EDITORIAL

**N**ext month we will see the canonisation of the first English Saint for nearly 50 years – the last one being the canonisation of the English and Welsh Martyrs during the Papacy of Pope Saint Paul VI.

John Henry Newman was an ordained Anglican priest before converting to Catholicism. He is a burning example of clearly expressing the faith often to his own detriment – he lost his position as an Oxford don when he converted to Catholicism. But this low point did not deter him from the cause of evangelisation during the Victorian era in which he lived.

Newman was eloquent both in verbal dialogue and in his writings including the composition of prayers and hymns that have stood the test of time.

If ever the Church in England needed a Saint unafraid to proclaim the faith then Newman is an example. So often Christianity is pushed to the margins of our society and we often hear and read about public figures being ridiculed for holding fast to their beliefs. There was even that famous quote from Alistair Campbell advising the then Prime Minister not 'to do God'.

The cause of Newman provides us with a clear example of how quietly pursuing our faith in word and action not being afraid to stand up for what we know to be true and not shirking our baptismal responsibility is how we must live. We may not always have the eloquence of Newman but it is enough to believe and proclaim 'Yes Lord, You are Christ the Son of God' as the simple fisherman Peter said.





# Our Soon to be Saint

**A** canonisation is no doubt a cause of joy for the Universal Church but it is particularly important for those of the new saint's native land. Cardinal John Henry Newman will be declared a Saint on October 13th of this year; his name being added to the illustrious roll of the Saints of the British Isles.

Newman was born in London on February 21st 1801, his life covering a period of great social, economic and even religious change. He was brought up in Anglicanism and from an early age developed a great love of prayer and the Bible. At the age of fifteen Newman had a religious experience which he referred to as his "first conversion." It centred on a deep realisation of God's presence and him as His creature.

The following year he went up to Oxford and would be part of University life for the next 25 years. In 1825 John Henry was ordained to the Anglican ministry and was well known for his diligent pastoral work especially with the sick and the poor. In addition to his parish duties he soon began to lecture and tutor students of Oriel College but after a few years relinquished this role. This may not seem an especially important event but it did enable Newman to concentrate more on study particularly the Church Fathers (*the teachers of early Christianity*). This opened up to him the universal nature of the faith and the means whereby this same faith was preserved and transmitted through history. These considerations influenced both his thinking and the nature of his preaching.

Newman's style might be considered unusual to a modern audience but he was considered one of the most influential preachers of his time. He was able to captivate his listener, by his understanding of human nature and great knowledge of Scripture, to such a degree that many considered Newman to be speaking directly to them in the depths of their being.

On a trip to Italy in 1833 Newman fell seriously ill. On his recovery he recognised that God was calling him to fulfil a special task in England. This "second conversion" experience led him to give himself ever more to the Lord and strengthened his desire to bring about a renewal of the Church of England.

Together with likeminded friends a series of pamphlets was produced between 1833 and 1841 dealing with various theological questions to encourage the hoped for renewal. The last of these tracts discussed the Catholic origins of much of Anglican teaching and was considered unacceptable by the University such that Newman left, to begin a new chapter in his life.

Our soon to be declared Saint moved to Littlemore, a few miles from Oxford, and established a monastic like community with five friends. It was an austere life centred on prayer, fasting and study. During these years Newman became increasingly convinced

that the Catholic Church held the teachings nearest to the spirit of early Christianity. He was finally received into the Church in October 1845 by Blessed Dominic Barberi. He then went to Rome for a period of study and was ordained to the Priesthood. In discerning how he would live out his ministry Newman completed the Oratorian novitiate becoming a spiritual son of St. Philip Neri.

On his return to England Newman went to Maryvale where, with many of his Littlemore companions, the English Congregation of the Oratory was established. This same community would move to Birmingham where John Henry Newman spent the remainder of his years.

He was a great man of letters, a poet, a philosopher, but above all he was a priest. His participation in the priesthood of Christ was lived out in the particular vocation of the Oratory. His devotedness to this calling was such that when Leo XIII made him a Cardinal in 1879 he asked permission to remain in Birmingham and not move to Rome which was the usual custom. Eleven years later Cardinal Newman died, on August 11th 1890.

Those who were attracted to the Cardinal's legacy paid most attention to him as a scholar and it was not until the 1950's that more and more people began to write of his personal holiness. The Cause for his Canonisation began in 1958. In 1991 John Henry Newman was declared Venerable by the Church meaning that he had lived out the virtues of faith, hope and charity to a heroic degree together with the human virtues of fortitude, justice, prudence and temperance.

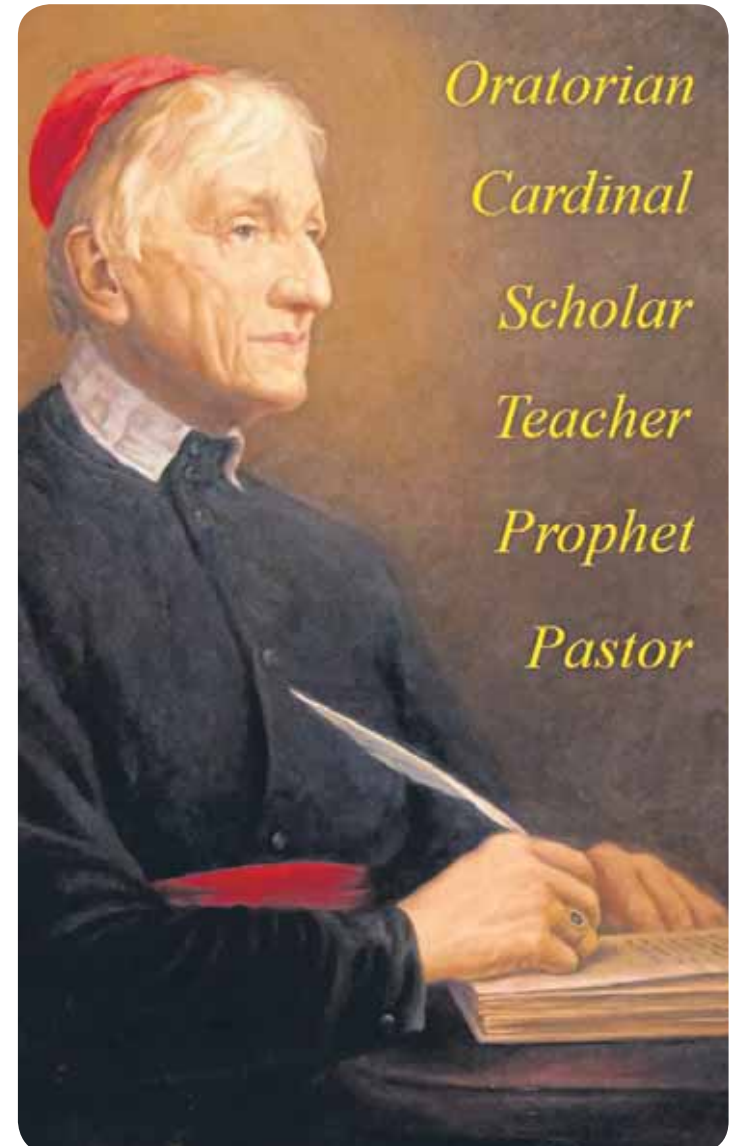
In July 2009 the Holy See confirmed a miraculous healing which took place on 15th August 2001 through the sole intercession of the Cardinal. Pope Benedict XVI beatified him on September 19th 2010 at a ceremony in Birmingham. For Newman to be declared a saint a second miracle was necessary and came about on May 15th 2013 with the instantaneous healing of a young mother and her unborn baby. This miracle was officially recognised by the Church in February 2019. Subsequently it was announced on July 1st that John Henry Newman would be declared a saint in October.

Cardinal Newman was a man of great intellect whose reception into the Church caused much distress in English Society but also prompted many conversions to the Catholic Faith both here and abroad. His writings are as relevant now just as they were in his own time. But most of all it is his intercession before the throne of Almighty God that should give us our greatest joy. May his prayers encourage unity within the Church and strengthen the desire of those considering reception into communion with Christ's Church.

*An Oratorian*

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# 50th Anniversary BBQ

**O**n Sunday 7th July we celebrated the 50th anniversary of Lancaster Diocese Youth Service moving to Castlerigg Manor. For this special occasion we were looking forward to gathering with the Castlerigg family - all the people who have taken part in retreats at Castlerigg and those who support us in our work with young people.

Fortunately we were blessed with fantastic sunny weather and we could set up outside: drinks, merchandise, and homemade fudge, and, most importantly, the bouncy castle. By 4pm we were ready to welcome our guests: people of different ages, who joined us on retreats, members of staff with

friends and families, Bishop Paul and our management group, as well as past and present volunteers. As a special guest we were happy to meet Mr George Page, who grew up here as a small boy when his parents ran Castlerigg Manor as a hotel. After Father John had given an opening speech, Bishop Paul welcomed everyone and blessed a plaque in remembrance of Monsignor Paddy O'Dea who was the founder of the Youth Service at Castlerigg Manor. This plaque is going to be placed in our chapel. Throughout the evening we enjoyed the Summer BBQ buffet and a selection of cakes that our wonderful chefs Collin and Martyn had prepared. Rachael and Ruben spent their time face painting for children young and old and, accompanied by good music, people

shared the various memories they have from their Castlerigg experiences. It was lovely to see how many people have been involved in and affected by the work of the Youth Service since 1969 (and before) and are so happy to come back to this special place.

At the end of the day, Father John announced the winners of our raffle prizes, which had been donated by different shops in Keswick. We would like to thank them and all our donors for their support. We took £587 on the day. All in all, we say 'thank you' to the more than one hundred people who came to share in our celebration and made it an unforgettable anniversary!

*Vanessa Landwehr*





# A Year to Remember



**E**very year Castlerigg Manor is home to a team of gap-year volunteers who are generous in giving of themselves to serve the Church for a year, working with the young people of our diocese. By the time you read this, the new team will be coming to the end of their initial training programme, but we wanted to share with you some thoughts from the volunteers who finished in July.

We are already taking applications for next year's team – if you (or someone you know) would like to volunteer to spend a year at Castlerigg please get in touch – [team@castleriggmanor.co.uk](mailto:team@castleriggmanor.co.uk)



**Rachael (Cleator Moor)**

From night prayers, to the nights spent singing along to High School Musical, my year working at Castlerigg Manor in community with my most wonderful friends, really has been the greatest year of my life. We have spent our days here trying to let young people believe that they are loved by a God who they can encounter personally. And in return, God has reminded me daily of this same fact. Not one day has passed since 18th August 2018 that hasn't been filled with laughter and something to learn. I am different in ways that I may have only dreamt of before I moved into this home, and ever grateful for this.



**Harry (Preston)**

To say this year has been awesome covers a lot of variation. It neglects to mention the times of frustration, with myself, others or school children who just would not co-operate. It neglects to mention how many times I rocked out of bed on many fewer hours sleep than necessary for another long day. But those won't be the moments I remember and take with me from this beautiful place.

What I will remember is the many hours of laughter I have shared with my fellow team members, young people and teachers. I'll take with me my newfound confidence for sharing my story of life and faith with others, affirmed by those who told me it helped them to reflect on their own journey. When life may be difficult, and I may question why God has led me to a place, I will always have in my heart the love and peace I encountered in this place, and enduring friendships forged in the unique fire of a gap year at Castlerigg Manor.



**Vanessa (Germany)**

These three months have been the best experience in my life so far and I really wish it would have been longer.

This place and especially the team helped me to experience my relationship with God even stronger. I am going to take home new approaches to youth ministry that I have learned about at Castlerigg and will always have a smile on my face when I remember this wonderful time. Becoming part of the Castlerigg Team has been a gift, I am already looking forward to coming back.



**Ruben (Hungary)**

When I arrived at Castlerigg, I didn't know what the future had for me. I didn't know what to expect, I finished

high school in Hungary and I came here, to do a gap year, before university. That was the plan, just improve my English skills and work with young people, talk about faith and lead some activities, nothing more.

But this year was completely different from what I thought it was going to be. Obviously, the language part of it and the activities were included in it, but so many other things have happened during this time: I've learned so much about faith from professionals and random people; I've worked with more than 1000 young people who are all unique, with so many talents and gifts. I think they have given me as many lessons and beautiful moments as I ran activities and workshops for them. Also, I became a part of this year's Castlerigg Team...no, I would say a member of another family. Each member a fantastic person, all incommunicably talented, kind and warm hearted, beautiful souls. We've had a brilliant year with loads of fun, adventures, awkward moments to laugh about afterwards, as well as growing in faith together. It's been a pleasure to be on retreats with them and live with them. Every community day/night/activity was an unforgettable event with these guys because of their humour, creativity and just their whole personalities. Also, if we had any kind of challenge, or someone had a difficult time, either in personal or professional life, we were there for each other to help, even just being present without words.

To summarize my thoughts (which were meant to be 100 words only) I just want to say I feel blessed with this year. It wasn't what I expected, but way better and exciting; I will never forget it!



## 14th September – Lancaster Youth: Your Voice

The next step in Youth Service's mission review. Bishop Paul is meeting the young people of the diocese to listen to them. Our Lady's Catholic College, Lancaster, 10:30 to 2:30. Open to young people aged 15 and above.

## 6th-8th September - The Big Walk

Every year, young people come together at Castlerigg and we walk across the Lake District to join the Diocesan pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady at Cleator. As well as spectacular views and wild landscapes, the event is a great opportunity to make new friends and to triumph over a physical challenge. The walk is about 10 miles each day. Age 16+.

## 6th-8th December – Advent Retreat

A weekend at Castlerigg to prepare for Christ's coming. Open to young people in year 9 and above, this is an opportunity to get together with other young Catholics and reflect on life and faith in a fun way.

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/)



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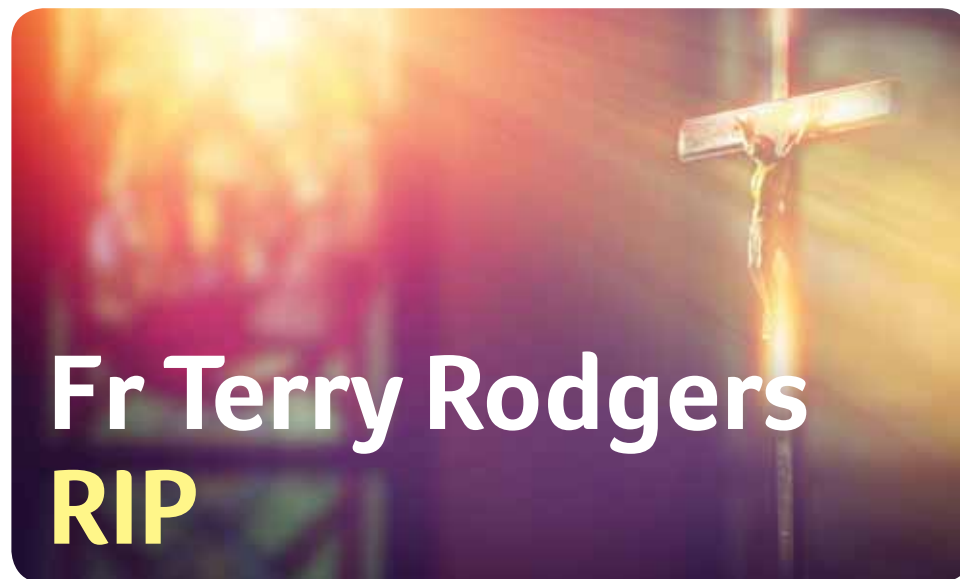
## Diocesan Pilgrimage to Ladyewell

**O**n Saturday 20 July Bishop Paul Swarbrick led the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Ladyewell assisted by resident priests Fr Attah Ernest and Fr. Mario-Benedict Ashuikaka.

The pilgrimage began with Holy Mass at 11.00am and was followed by a Blessed Sacrament Procession from St. Mary's Church to the Ladyewell Shrine via the country lanes. The rain just about held off for the duration of the procession! Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament then took place before light refreshments were enjoyed.

St. Mary's Church was especially decorated for the occasion in honour of Our Lady. Taking part from around the Diocese were 25 altar servers serving the Mass and assisting with the procession, the Knights of St. Columba, pilgrims, religious banner carriers, petal strewers, bell ringers, Our Lady statue carriers and of course the volunteers from the Shrine who helped to make sure the day ran very well.

Our Lady and Our Lord were duly honoured at this special shrine, in our Diocese.  
*Ian Mulholland*



## Fr Terry Rodgers RIP

**T**he Catholic Voice is sorry to report that Father Terence Rodgers (Fr. Terry) died on Friday 28 June 2019, at Nazareth House, Lancaster. His Requiem Mass was celebrated at the Cathedral on 18 July.

Father Terry was born on 15 October 1946 in Blackpool. He went to St John Vianney, and Our Lady of the Assumption schools, Blackpool. He then attended Thistleton Lodge, Underley Hall, Ushaw Junior House and finally Venerable English College, Rome for his priestly studies. Father Terry was ordained to the priesthood on 12 December 1971 at the Venerable English College, in Rome.

Following Ordination, he was appointed Assistant Priest at the Cathedral Parish, Lancaster from 1972 – 1974. He then returned to Rome for further studies. He returned to the Diocese in 1976 and was appointed Assistant Priest at Our Lady

and St Edward, Preston; 1978 – 1982 Holy Family, Blackpool; 1982 – 1987 St Walburge, Preston. In 1987 Father Terry was appointed to serve on the staff at the Beda College, Rome. In 1990 he returned to the Diocese as Parish Priest, of Our Lady of Appleby. Father Terry retired as Parish Priest in 2000. He continued in active ministry at St Gregory's, Preston, then Our Lady and St Joseph's, Carlisle. In 2006 Father Terry moved to St Winefride's, Bispham, from where he did some supply work around the Diocese. More recently Father Terry moved to Nazareth House, Lancaster.

Fr Terry leaves is survived by his sister Christine. The Diocese is immensely grateful to all the staff at St Winefride's and the Sisters at Nazareth House for all their generous love and care for Fr Terry during his time with them.

*Eternal rest grant unto Fr Terry O Lord, may he rest in peace, Amen.*

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- Please keep your letters concise (max 300 words),
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- Letters should not include any personal criticism or attacks
- The editor reserves the right to:
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  - publish a response if deemed appropriate

### Dear Editor,

Please pass my thanks to Lisa Vallente-Osborne for her interesting article about her visit to the Holy Land published in the July edition of the Catholic Voice. Having recently returned from the Holy Land myself it truly resonated with many of my experiences. Just a point of interest for her: the star under the Altar of Christ's Birth actually has 14 points. Our leader told us the significance, namely: 14 generations from Abraham to David, 14 generations from David to the Babylonian exile, 14 generations from the Babylonian exile to Our Lord. (Matt 1:17) So now when I see the Bethlehem star it has a new meaning. We learned so much and it keeps returning as we listen to Scripture. I'm looking forward to the next part of Lisa's recollections. Thanking you for all your hard work.

God bless, *Frances Hodgkinson, Our Lady of Furness*

### Dear Editor,

Many of your readers will, at least occasionally, also read the Catholic weekly, 'The Tablet'. This prompts me to ask what your readers may think of a recent statement in a Tablet editorial on lay participation in the church. I quote: "The Church's greatest resource, the zeal and energy of its laity, female and male, are scandalously underused". A scandal indeed if it is true; but can it be true? After all this time choc full of meetings and study days, at Parish, Diocesan and indeed national level? *Val Farrell (Rev)*

### Dear Editor,

The article on the back page of the July edition of the Catholic Voice conjured up a beautiful picture of the Apollo 11 astronauts receiving Holy Communion on the Moon, but when I read that Buzz Aldrin watched "the Wine ... slowly curl gracefully up the side of the cup due to the minimum gravity conditions" it rang warning bells: surely it would not be permitted to carry the Precious Blood into space because of the danger of spillage? Fortunately, we have a copy of the official biography of Neil Armstrong so I went and checked it. The account of this is given on page 487 and it is quite clear that Buzz Aldrin was given the sealed packages by his Presbyterian minister. Therefore it was not the Blessed Sacrament that was carried into space but merely symbolic bread and wine.


Yours faithfully, *Jane Latin, Morecambe*





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# On the Road to the Priesthood

**O**n Monday 10th June, the newly instituted feast of Our Lady Mother of the Church I was admitted as a candidate for ordination to the diaconate and priesthood at a Mass presided at by Bishop Robert Byrne, Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle, in the seminary chapel at St Mary's College Oscott. It was a beautiful celebration, at which a Gregorian Mass setting was sung, Marian hymns and a composition of the Ave Maria produced by one of the priests from the seminary. I was fortunate enough to be joined by a number of priests from the diocese for Mass and the dinner afterwards.

Candidacy is, for those of us preparing for the priesthood, almost like our engagement to the Church. It is where I declare before the Bishop my intention to present myself for ordination and the Bishop on behalf of the Church acknowledges for the first official time that I have a vocation to the priesthood and the intention is that I now prepare myself in a more particular way for ordination.

During the ceremony the Bishop addresses the candidates, asking a

number of questions:

My sons, the pastors and teachers in charge of your formation and others who know you, have given a favourable account of you, and we have full confidence in their testimony. In response to the Lord's call, are you resolved to complete your preparation so that in due time you will be ready to be ordained for ministry in the Church?

Are you resolved to prepare yourselves in mind and spirit to give faithful service to Christ the Lord and his body, the Church?

Finally, kneeling before the Bishop and placing my hands between his, he says *"The Church receives your declaration with joy. May God who has begun the good work I you bring it to fulfilment."*

May I please ask your prayers for an increase in vocations to the priesthood in this our Diocese of Lancaster. But to pray in a particular way for those young men whom the Lord does call that they may respond openly and joyfully, despite the pressures they may face from their family, friends and from society as a whole.

*Stuart Chapple*





# Ordination to the Priesthood

*I will hold you by the hand and watch over you, and I will appoint you as covenant to the people – Isaiah 42:6*

**T**hese words appear on the commemorative prayer card Fr Stephen chose for his Ordination and we pray as a Diocese that the Lord does stay close to his servant as he begins his sacred ministry.

The rite of Ordination began with an opening hymn 'All people that on earth do dwell', the introductory rites and the Liturgy of the Word. This was immediately followed by Bishop Paul calling forward Deacon Stephen Talbutt and asking him to affirm his willingness to be ordained and confirm his resolution to consecrate his life to God and exercise the priestly ministry of proclaiming the Gospel. Deacon Stephen was then asked by the Bishop to confirm his obedience to him and his successors.

The service then moved towards the central and most important part of the Ordination rite with Deacon Stephen prostrating himself before the altar as the Litany of the Saints was intoned which was followed by the laying on of hands

and the prayer of consecration conferred. At this point Deacon Stephen became a priest and he was invested with a Stole and Chasuble as the congregation sang 'In Christ alone my hope is found', with the last line of the first verse immensely fitting – 'Here in the love of Christ I stand'.

The Bishop then anointed Fr Stephen's palms with the oil of chrism.

The Mass followed with the offertory procession with the gifts brought to the altar by Yvonne Talbutt, Fr. Stephen's mother. At the end of Mass Fr Stephen administered his first blessings as people approached and knelt before the sanctuary.

Fr. Stephen will now enjoy a short break before beginning his priestly ministry as assistant priest at St Kentigern's in Blackpool.

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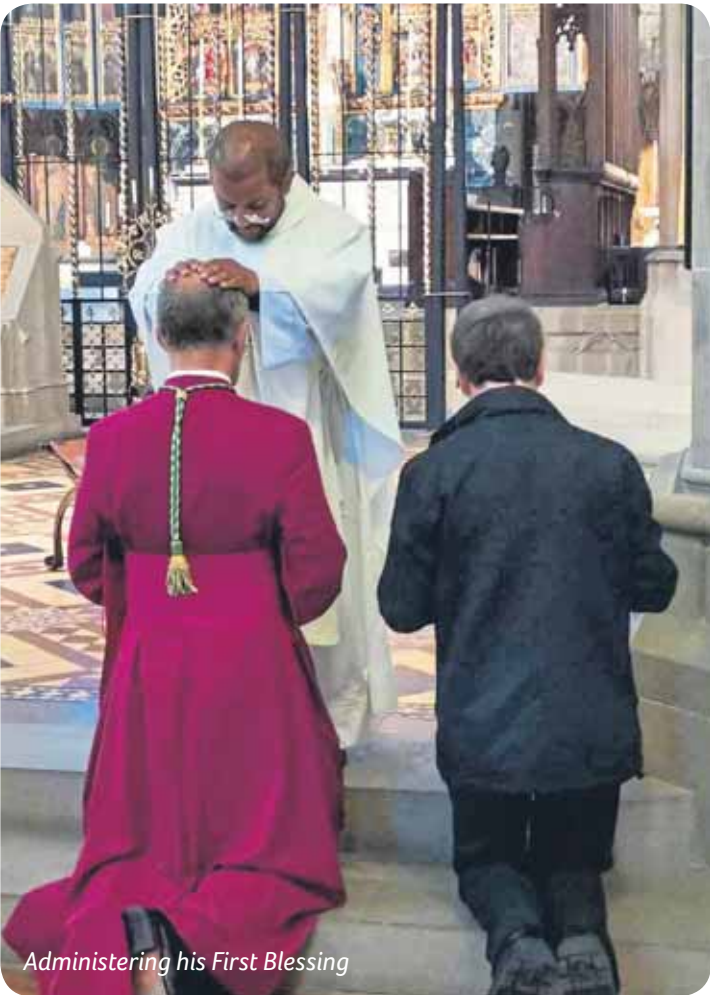
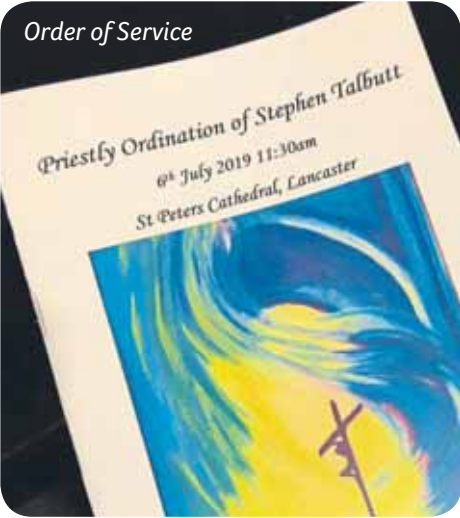
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# Ordination Day in Pictures







Commemorative Prayer Card



Ordination Cake



With all the family



Outside the Cathedral with Fr Andrew Dawson who he will assist at St Kentigern's in Blackpool



Celebrating his first Mass the day following his ordination



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# A pilgrimage to the Holy Land (pt 2)

## Walking with the Galilean - Christ be beside me as we walk the hill towns and shores of Galilee

**B**efore heading north to Galilee we journeyed to the desert. A barren place, where it's easy to lose hope and faith. Jesus spent forty days and forty nights out here. Our visit to Masada wasn't that long, yet under the relentless oppressive heat, we left exhausted and slightly crispy. It's hard to find any spiritual grounding here, but then, that's what the desert is.

Even the psalmist cries:  
"Oh God, you are my God, my body pines for you, like a dry weary land without water" (Psalm 62/63).

Floating in the Dead Sea 420 meters below sea level, soon brought us back down to earth, and revived our senses before we continued on.

### Nazareth

Does anything good come out of Nazareth? Well we all know plenty does! The Church of the Annunciation illuminated the idea that Mary, whilst in essence is the same, her image differs in different nationalities. She truly is a mother to all people's! Next door stood Joseph's workshop. In-between both, a statue of Joseph and a Indian Banyan Tree. The statue was fascinating, as the back of it portrayed Joseph being supported by angels. He apparently spoken to Angels quite a bit in his lifetime.

### Cana

'We're going to the chapel and we're gonna get married'... How we all laughed at the prospect of going to Cana. Expecting a 'Vegas wedding chapel'; we got something altogether classier. Cana; the place of the first miracle, where Mary asked Jesus to transform the water into the wine. Here we saw the stone urns that stood larger than the average man of today. There were six, and each held 20-30 gallons. How I wished I'd been at that wedding! But their wedding joy became ours. Standing alongside 3 other couples I renewed my wedding vows with my husband, with my pilgrim friends and God as our witness. We thanked God for the gift of our marriage and asked for support in those difficult times.

### Galilee's shores!

Imagine sitting on the shores of the

calm Sea of Galilee at sunrise and saying morning office. Looking out over the vast waters, with the joy of dawn chorus and the swifts working, dipping up and down to get their own breakfast.

'O the works of the Lord, O bless the Lord, the sun, the sea, all creatures of the sea, birds of the air, O bless the Lord'. The Canticle of Daniel cries out that God is here in all that surrounds us. He sends the birds to sing, the sun to us warm us, the wildlife and flowers to capture our wonder. To say it was magical is an understatement. Jesus and his followers would have done this, saying these ancient prayers on these shores. As I look up and look across the waters into the rising light, I can imagine Him walking across the water; apparently he walked across the full width (approx 5 miles) to Jordan. I wonder if my faith is strong enough to walk across these waters as Jesus and Peter did. Can I go into the deep waters and focus only on Him? I'd love to think I could. But for now, I settled with being able to swim, not once but twice, in the incredible Sea of Galilee!

### Capernaum

On the shores of Galilee stands Capernaum, the town where Jesus would settle, Peter's hometown. Situated on the main highway, people would pass through here and would stop and listen to Jesus preaching. Where He read and taught with authority. Here Jesus met the man with the demons who asked What are you going to do with us Messiah?

Here too, He healed the servant of the centurion and we get our communion prayer from 'Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof'. Jesus responded that he had never seen such faith in all of Israel! In Capernaum Jesus chose all of his disciples, preaching that we must be like children if we are to enter kingdom of heaven.

### Mount of Beatitudes

Above the Sea of Galilee stands the Mount of the Beatitudes. Sitting on an ancient rock on the mount overlooking the valleys, hills and Sea of Galilee. 'Blessed are those who mourn, Blessed are those who hunger for what is right.'

This was the place of Jesus's most famous sermon of love and peace. If Jesus was



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assumed to be ordinary man, he was a man who changed the world; not with an army or force, power or might, but with love. He was not a worldly king but a king nonetheless. Some say the Beatitudes are a self portrait of Christ. If he can forgive all then so should we. *"All who are thirsty... come to the fountain, dip your heart in the stream of life. Come Lord Jesus come. Holy Spirit come."*

#### Magdala

Sunday Mass was celebrated in Magdala on a boat on the shores of Galilee. Imagine, reading from a boat, preaching from a boat, being fed from a boat!! During the sermon the boat 'spiritually' launched *"You are my disciples! I am here. I will be with you, always!"*

This beautiful place is just being discovered by pilgrims, and this stunning new church celebrates not only the life of Mary of Magdala, the first female apostle, but all women of the gospels. Not far from Magdala, on the top of a hill stands the Church of multiplication, where the feeding of 5000 men took place under the shade of the Olive groves

The pilgrimage route progressed and we left Galilee behind just for a short while. In the distance a high mountain, Mount Tabor, the mount of the transfiguration. Standing on this mountain we get to

look down at the beauty of the land below, the land that stretches on and on to Jordan, overshadowed by Mount Herman (*Israel's highest peak*). Mass was celebrated in a newly built glass chapel outside of the basilica. Light streamed in renewing and transforming our souls. It was a small intimate setting; us and our Lord Jesus. The gardens surrounding the Basilica exuded peace and tranquility; a stark contrast to the single track snake road that took us to the hilltop driven by suicide taxi drivers!

#### Caesarea Philippi

Still in under the guard of Mount Herman we travel, stopping at our most northern spot, Golan Heights. Today this is often a troubled place due to political unrest, this the Israeli- Syrian border.

Yet, our visit to this most beautiful nature reserve of Israel shone in its peace! Glacial waters tumbled from the snowy peaks of the high mountains, bringing fresh life to Israel and forming one of the three springs of the River Jordan. These ancient hills and springs will have provided the water for John the Baptist's ministry and the Baptism of Christ!

For us Christians reading the bible, we know this place by another name, Caesarea Philippi. Here the Lord asks Peter- *'Who do you say I am?'* A simple

question with a ground breaking response! The other disciples stated John the Baptist, a prophet, but Peter knew and professed:

*"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!"* You are the Messiah! You are the chosen one that scriptures foretold. At that point Peter became the rock, on which the church was built. Even though his faith was so strong, and he knew the Lord well, Peter's faith still wavered. In the pressure and fear for his own life, this rock breaks, three times; denying our Lord at his passion. As with all the disciples, broken-hearted and ashamed, he returns to his old life, the familiar life of fishing after his Lord is crucified.

But Peter's story doesn't end there. In fact, on these shores around Galilee he picks up his cross and begins a ministry that will defy all, but first he needs to recognise that the man on the shore making him breakfast, the man by the fire, breaking and blessing fish and bread is his Lord and he needs to answer three more questions: *'Peter, do you love me?'* On these shores of Galilee the Lord gave Peter his Primacy asking him to *'lead my sheep, feed my sheep.'*

Those words, *'Do you love me?'* are as haunting and accurate today to us as to Peter 2000 years ago, *'Do you love me?'*; a mantra for us all to answer every moment of every day. *Lisa Vallente-Osborne*

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

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

**Sunday 8th September at 3.00 pm**  
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# St Mary's Church, Cleator Moor Blessed Sacrament Procession



**A**s part of the Diocesan celebration of the Year of the Eucharist St Patrick's Primary School with the help of Fr Paul Johnstone organised a Blessed Sacrament procession.

Local catholic schools were invited, along with parents and parishioners.

We were delighted with the response and the church was filled to capacity. In preparation for the event we created a carpet of flowers, this was a collaborative piece of work with children from all schools contributing to the finished piece. The day, whilst wet, was a huge success.  
*Clare Benson*

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# The Bells Ring Out for Blessed Sacrament

**C**atholics in Preston held their annual Blessed Sacrament Procession to honour the Feast of Corpus Christi on the afternoon of Sunday 23rd June, 2019, which was led by Canon Adrian Towers accompanied by many of the Preston clergy.

The procession began, as usual, at St. Walburga's Church, pausing at three external Station Altars and then onto the City's streets. The bells of St. Walburga's rang out for the entire procession.

Among the large congregation were many First Holy Communicants strewing petals, school children ringing hand bells, Cub Scouts, members of the Polish Community in their costumes, who also annually set up two of the external altars and the Syro Malabar community including the ladies with their wonderful Blessed Sacrament umbrellas.

Grateful thanks to the Rector of St. Walburga's for his support. Thanks also to the Preston Knights of St. Columba who have faithfully helped with traffic marshalling, parking, the collection, booklet distribution etc now for many years. A retiring collection was taken for the SVP foodbank.  
*Ian Mulholland*



Photo by  
Michael Durnan  
for ICKSP  
Preston



# Appleby Horse Fair

**B**ishop Paul, accompanied by Fr Philip Conner attended the famous Appleby Horse Fair, where he celebrated Mass, administered the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation and led a Blessed Sacrament procession through the campsite.

- Photos:
- 1 Sacrament of Baptism
  - 2 Sacrament of Holy Communion
  - 3 Sacrament of Confirmation
  - 4 Bishop Paul and Fr Philip Conner with a family group
  - 5 Blessed Sacrament Procession
  - 6 Blessed Sacrament Procession



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**The older I get the dafter I get (or the confessions of a shattered Altar boy!!!!)**

Once again on the door step of St. Joseph's Church in Lancaster a group of young fit cyclists gathered and amongst them was an aged unfit, over weight (which helps going down- hill), so called cyclist trying to prove the above, little did he know what the day had in store (I made up the SAGA element).

For the second year Bishop Paul joined us and after a short prayer asking for the Lord's help with impatient car drivers, (it worked), we set off.

Initially the route described on the parish bulletin was to go on a road towards Jubilee Tower!! Now for anyone who knows this area you will realise that this road needs an escalator up it so severe is the incline. However it was decided to head towards Arnside on the flatter roads and the onto the main A6 where the leaders decided to get the main road over and done with quick, so 18mph all the way to Crag Bank (yours truly didn't manage 18mph).

In Crag Bank we took the beach road to join the road round Warton Crag then into Silverdale.

Going past Holgates Caravan Park up the slight incline, (really mean a steep road), and on into Arnside where a coffee stop was called for. This is where I made the mistake of carrying on and not catching the train!!

Leaving Arnside we headed for Yealand, (minor stop to retrieve a dropped pump) then across the A6 into Burton where the fun started. We were heading up Dalton Lane and my advice to anyone doing Dalton Lane only do it by car because doing it on a bike, unless it's a Honda, it isn't any fun. Any way we arrived in Kirkby Lonsdale in the pouring rain but managed to squeeze into the bakery cafe.

Sausage sandwiches, bacon sandwiches and cakes with tea and coffee fortified us for our onward journey. Sitting with the Bishop whilst we had lunch was an experience, I now realise what a God send he is to the Diocese of Lancaster.

Heading on the main road back to Lancaster we stopped briefly at Hornby for home made cake in the rain. All in all a good ride in spite of the rain, but I think I will take a chainsaw to my bike!! It was an early night for me, no rocking needed but a large stiff whisky rubbed on the legs and one taken internally certainly helped!

*Jim Gardner*



# Vocation Spotlight

## Missionary Society of St Paul



(Above) Fr Paul Dadson with First Communicants in his parish at Maryport.  
(Right) Fr Francis Olaseni.

**T**he Missionary Society of St Paul (MSP) is a Missionary Institute founded in Nigeria in 1977 by the late Dominic Cardinal Ekandem who was the president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria. The need to found the Society came from Pope Paul VI who called on Africa to contribute to the missionary activities of the church.

The Nigerian Bishops took up the clarion call of Pope Paul VI and Dominic Cardinal Ekandem with the support of the Nigerian Bishops established the Missionary Society of St Paul in October 1977. It started with the Missionary Seminary of St Paul in a town in the South West of Nigeria called Iperu Remo in Ogun State. In 1984, the Seminary main formation (*Philosophy and Theology Faculties*) moved to Abuja the Capital City of Nigeria while the Spiritual Year remain in Iperu.

At its inception, The Missionary Society of St Paul was entrusted to the St Patrick's Missionaries (SPS) to nurture its growth and this brought about a strong relationship between the Missionaries of St Paul and St Patrick Missionaries. The motto of the Missionary Society of St Paul is: "We are ambassadors for Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:20).


The Missionary Society of St Paul has over 250 priests working in various countries around the world. The first priest of the Missionary Society of St Paul was ordained in 1985 and every year since then the Society has ordained priests. At the moment, all the priests of the Missionary Society of St Paul are Nigerians.

The Missionary Society of St Paul has various departments or organs of the Society which see to the smooth running of the Society. The various organs of the Society include the Central

Administration made up of the Superior General and four Councillors, The Formation Houses which comprise the Spiritual Year Campus of the Seminary and the Departments of Philosophy and Theology. Others are the Vocations Department which is responsible for promoting vocations and admission of Seminarians, Promotions Office which promotes the activities of the Society as well as raising funds through the Associate Missionaries of St Paul, and lastly the Publications Department, which publishes the Ambassador Magazines, Calendars, Diaries, Liturgical calendar (*Ordo*), etc.


The Missionary Society of St Paul has priests working in Nigeria, Liberia, Cameroun, The Gambia, Central African Republic, Chad, South Sudan, Kenya, Malawi, Botswana, South Africa, UK, Ireland, Italy, Sweden, USA, Canada, Grenada, and Bahamas. The Missionaries of St Paul were invited to the United Kingdom in 1999 and the first two priests arrived in 2000. In the UK, we have priests working in the Archdioceses of Southwark, Westminster and Birmingham, as well as the Dioceses of Clifton, Portsmouth, Leeds, Lancaster, Arundel and Brighton, Northampton, Wrexham (*North Wales*), Dunkeld and Argyll and the Isles (*Scotland*).

In the Diocese of Lancaster we have two serving MSP priests. They are Rev. Francis Olaseni MSP priest-in-charge of St John Paul II, Preston comprising of Sacred Heart, SS Peter and Paul and Shrine Church of St Walbuge, Preston. The other is Rev. Paul Dadson MSP priest-in-charge of Our Lady and St Patrick, Maryport with Our Lady of the Assumption, Silloth and St Cuthbert, Wigton. Both of us, like every MSP priest, got to know about the Missionary Society of St Paul through contact with an MSP priest or through the Ambassador Publications. *Rev P Dadson MSP*






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# New beginnings for Newman School, Carlisle

**S**taff, governors and students were delighted to welcome Bishop Paul Swarbrick, to Carlisle. On Tuesday 11 June the Bishop turned the first sod at the new site of Newman Catholic School.

John McAuley, Headteacher of Newman Catholic School was delighted to welcome Bishop Swarbrick:

*"It was wonderful to welcome the Bishop, Trustees and representatives from the Diocese together with members of the*

*local community who have supported the school. These people will work with us in the coming months as we build a new school where our young people will study and grow. Considerable time has been spent in the design process to ensure we can offer outstanding facilities and resources for our students from Year 7 into sixth form. We are looking forward in the coming weeks to see the buildings start to rise up on the campus. We are now looking to the future to provide a new Catholic school fit for the 21st Century and are on our way to exciting new*

*beginnings for Newman, with our brand-new school due to open in 2020."*

Canon Peter Hart, on behalf of the Trustees, welcomed the next milestone in the school's future:

*"The Trustees of the Diocese are grateful for and fully supportive of the efforts of all concerned to build the new school which will become a beacon of Catholic secondary education in the city and beyond. We wish all the community well and will watch their progress with interest."*

The school's chair of governors, Andy Abernethy, is delighted that work has started on the new school:

*"Newman has come through many challenges over recent years, most significantly the flooding of our city centre site. We are now looking to the future to exciting new beginnings on a journey of improvement. This great news comes after an encouraging report from Ofsted inspectors and an especially positive Section 48 denominational inspection carried out by the Diocese."*

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***Tuesday 8 October – Thursday 10 October***

*Suggested donation £145*

***Weekend of Inner Healing: Alan Guile, Gerry & Anne Connor***

Come and learn more about how Jesus can bring emotional, spiritual healing and peace. Confidential individual prayer ministry and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available during the weekend.

***Friday 1 November – Sunday 3 November***

*Suggested donation: £135 (residential), £40 (Saturday only)*

***Music-Word-Prayer: Paul Inwood***

Paul Inwood is an internationally known author, speaker, liturgist, organist, choir director and composer. During this weekend he will help us to explore ways of connecting scripture to music in the liturgy, look at repertoire for the 'Year of the Word' and bring the Psalms to life with music.

***Friday evening:*** Mini retreat with reflection and prayer with scripture, music, visuals and silence.

***Saturday:*** Focusing on how music can give life to the 'Word of God' in many different ways. The sessions are open to all – but will be particularly suitable for those with a role in the musical or liturgical life of their parish or community.

***Friday 15 November – Saturday 16 November***

*Suggested donation £65 (residential), £25 (Saturday only)*

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## To Serve You as You Deserve...



**M**y name is Luke Eidsforth and I am currently completing a Masters degree in Religious Studies at Lancaster University.

After months of trying to discern what to do next (*a never ending question for a post grad*) all I know for certain is a call to serve others; put my faith into practice, and do something good and worthwhile. As such, I applied to the Jesuit Missions for a voluntary teaching placement in Dumka - one of the most undeveloped regions in India, where I will be teaching English and Religious Studies at the recently established Catholic College for six months, starting in October. I will also be helping to run and teach an evening school for the local Santal tribal children, who unfortunately do not have the privilege of receiving a formal education.

Whilst in India, I also intend to spend some time assisting the Sisters of Charity with the amazing work that they do in Calcutta, my late father's home town.

Through working with some of the most poor in the world and vulnerable people in such a challenging place, I really hope to 'give something back' by sharing the privileges and blessings that I have received with those for whom an English education would be a dream to success and opportunity. I have many

people in the Diocese to thank so far for their support in this missionary venture, especially The Catenians; Father Philip Conner, our inspirational university chaplain - for all his encouragement in 'putting out into the deep' to love and serve; Nick Burnham, referee and principle of my former college - whose adoption of Cardinal Newman's exhortation 'let us do good!' proved to be such an inspiring motto all these years since!

I also wish to thank you, readers of the *Catholic Voice*, firstly for your time reading my story; and also in advance for any support you may wish to contribute, which would mean the world to me, and all those whose marginalised and impoverished lives I hope to grace out there in India with true Lancastrian faith and love!

If you wish to help me make an even greater positive difference to our suffering neighbours in India, please keep me and all missionaries in your prayers.

In addition, to help cover travel expenses, living costs, vaccinations, subs and charitable causes, you can donate as little as you like via my 'just giving' page at [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/luke-eidsforth](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/luke-eidsforth) For the churches mission among the poorest of the poor in India, every little truly helps. Thank you so much and may God bless us all.



# Booked in the name of Jesus

## by Julia Beacroft

**M**ost of us take the opportunity for a good clear-out when we move house, especially if we are down-sizing and recently I have experienced this for myself. When de-cluttering, there's a useful rule of thumb: If you don't use it, it doesn't fit or it's not fit for purpose – then get rid of it! And I faithfully followed this advice. But as so often is the case, there's a but...

### A Personal Way

I'm an avid reader and I've been acquiring books since my teenage years. Admittedly, when I've been less than keen on a book, I have given it away, but this seems to be the exception rather than the rule, with the net result being my own mini library.

"You can't possibly take all those books with you" I was told. And indeed, this did seem to be the reality. The only problem was that when I started to sort through them, each one held a memory – both of the story itself and the circumstances in which I had read it.

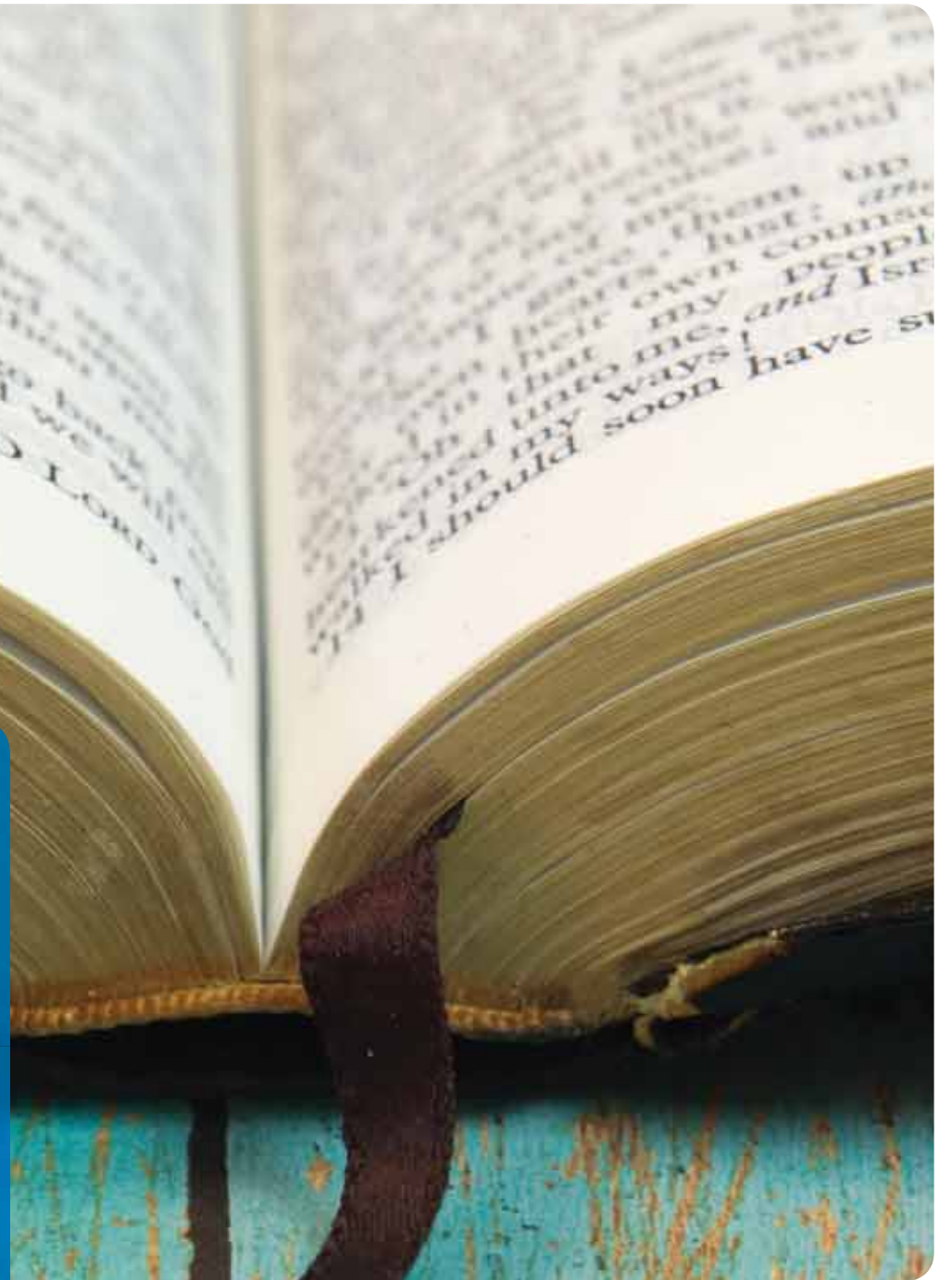
You may be surprised to hear that books actually change us. We are defined by what we read. And each book holds a particular and personal significance for us. In this way we become attached to each of these missives in a personal way.

### The Face of Christ

In the same way that our choice of reading material alters and defines us, we too are transformed by our Lord Jesus Christ. As we make both our earthly and our spiritual journey, the Lord works in us and through us. We become more finely tuned to both the love of Christ and to our own desire to serve him. And in perspective, our particular faults and failings become clearer to us, as we try to fulfil what the Lord requires of us. And of course, this is not always an easy path to tread. Recognising exactly where we go wrong and attempting to rectify it can, at times, be a somewhat painful process. Yet during this we also learn to perceive others in a new way. We can begin to recognise the face of Christ in each one of those whom we may encounter and when this is initiated we can be sure that the Lord is changing us, defining us in his own special way, and attempting to make us worthy Followers of him.

We are defined by our life circumstances, our faith and even our reading matter! And against all odds, my own 'library' has been comfortably housed in my new abode and I am happily re-reading some old favourites. Yes, we are defined by what we read. But most importantly, if we allow ourselves to be open to it, we are defined by our Lord Jesus Christ.

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, Waterstones 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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**O**n Pentecost Sunday, in glorious sunshine, parishioners of Holy Family, Ingol, released 50 red balloons spreading the joy of Pentecost across Preston. That joy was reflected in the faces of young and old as they watched their balloons soar like the flames of the Holy Spirit across the sky. Releasing red balloons continues a Pentecost tradition started eight years ago.

A sea of red balloons, hanging from the ceiling of the church, first greeted parishioners as they arrived for Mass. Suspended below the balloons were newspaper doves, symbol of the Holy Spirit. At the end of Mass everyone was asked to find one word, phrase or topic in their newspaper dove, and silently pray for the Holy Spirit to enter into that situation. The doves were later collected and incorporated in a display. *Ann Miller*



**S**ome of the members and friends of Hying Icon Painting Group and Friends visiting the Orthodox Church Keswick in June.

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