

FREE

# The Catholic VOICE of Lancaster

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The Official Newspaper to  
the Diocese of Lancaster

Issue 313 + October '19

**INSIDE:** p04 Lourdes Pilgrimage  
p12 Sixth Formers  
deliver Aid direct to  
Ugandan communities



## Revitalise, Renew, Reawaken!

**P**ope Francis has declared October 2019 to be an Extraordinary Month of Mission, being 100 years since Pope Benedict XV's teaching on mission.

It will be a special month of prayer and action, calling us all to renew our missionary commitment to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with all peoples. For the four weeks of October the Holy Father has approved four themes:

1. A personal encounter with Jesus Christ living in his Church.
2. The witness of missionary saints and martyrs.
3. Missionary charity as a commitment to support the Church's missionary activity and communities too poor to support themselves, through Missio.
4. Biblical, catechetical, spiritual and theological formation for mission.

Through these dimensions the Holy Father invites us to renew and reawaken our commitment to mission.

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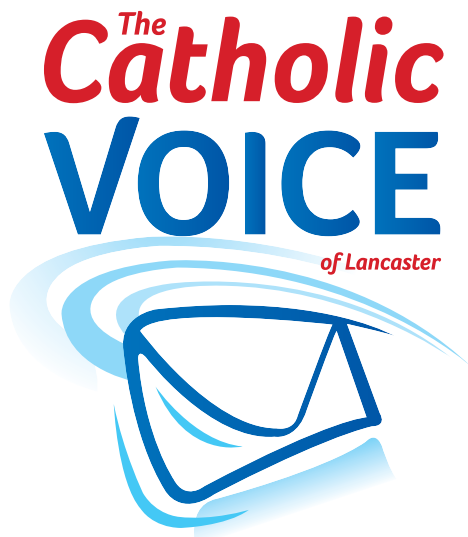
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**EDITORIAL**

**A**n Extraordinary Month of Mission has been declared by Pope Francis. And the Holy Father has designated this month of October for the whole Church to revitalise, renew and reawaken their Baptismal commitment to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with everyone whether near or far.

Down the ages the Church has produced many famous missionaries, not least in most of our lifetimes with St Teresa of Calcutta as a prime example. These missionaries often work overseas in the most harrowing of conditions. They live very humbly. They help and minister to those in need whether that need is spiritual or physical or both. The one thing that these missionaries have in common is a great love of Jesus and his teaching and this enables them to achieve extraordinary things in less than ordinary conditions.

*"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop"* – St Teresa of Calcutta

Mission though is not just about the work done overseas, it is about here in our own country, Diocese, parish and family. We all know someone who no longer comes to church, it could be a family member, a friend or a colleague.

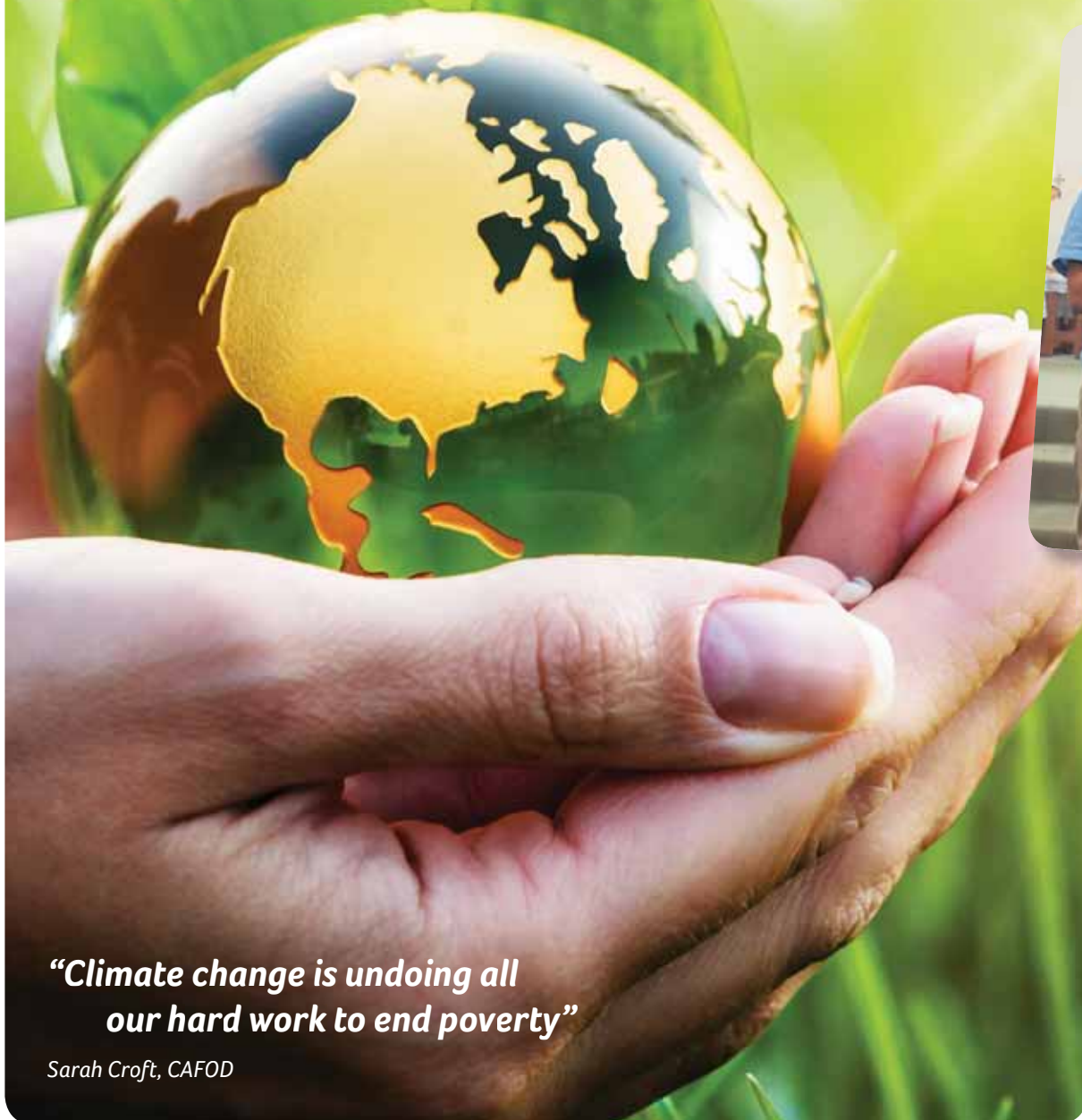
This is not an easy bridge to cross but by prayer and living our lives as true examples of Christian living and greeting everyone in love we can make a difference.

*"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love"* – St Teresa of Calcutta





# Preston parish celebrates Creation



***“Climate change is undoing all our hard work to end poverty”***

*Sarah Croft, CAFOD*



Winston and Sarah with poster designed by the children.



In May, Our Lady and St Edward's, Preston and St Mary's, Newhouse had a weekend celebrating God's wonderful creation. They were the first "Creation Masses" in the Diocese and launched "Our Common Home", CAFOD's campaign on climate change. To mark the occasion we were joined by Sarah Croft, CAFOD Campaigns Manager and Winston Berrios, CAFOD Programme Manager in Central America.

All four Masses had a creation theme and we began Mass by bringing to the altar four reminders of God's amazing generosity to us:

- a globe to celebrate our Common Home;
- a bowl of earth to give thanks for the soil in which we grow our food;
- a jug of the life-giving water that sustains us; and
- a bowl of seeds to praise God for the constant renewal of life in all its forms.

In his homily, Canon Horn reminded us of the beauty of the earth, "...God saw all that He had made and indeed it was very good".

He continued by saying that God provided the essential resources to sustain us, but never said anything that entitled us to be greedy with them. He also reminded us that creation is not yet finished and for the benefit of future generations we must be its stewards, not its ransackers. If we work for the wholeness of the existing creation, God can call us His collaborators when he says "I am making the whole of creation new".

Speaking at the end of Mass, Sarah from CAFOD told us: "Climate change is undoing all our hard work to end poverty. Out of love for our sisters and brothers worldwide, we are called to respond."

She called on us to do three things:

1. Sign the CAFOD petition after Mass calling for a commitment to make the UK carbon-neutral by 2045.
2. Tell our MPs that we care about climate change; and to join the mass lobby of Parliament on 26 June.
3. Make changes in our own lives to better care for creation.

Winston has been fighting poverty and injustice for CAFOD in Central America for many years. He thanked us for our support and told us of his people's appreciation of those in the UK who speak up for climate justice on behalf of those who have no other voice. He said, "We are so grateful for the work that Catholics do here in England and Wales. It is so important for us."

After each Mass we had a social gathering. In sharing time together we reflected on how we share our common home with the rest of humanity and with all God's wonderful creatures and plants. It was an opportunity to think about what we need to change in ourselves to take action.

We had a great weekend coming together as parish communities to celebrate God's wonderful gift of creation. There was a real buzz as people left each Mass and queued up to sign the CAFOD petition. We collected 225 signatures from the two churches. Pope Francis makes clear that caring for Our Common Home is not about doom and gloom but about coming together in love, joy and hope. He says 'Let us sing as we go'. We took his words to heart.

The Catholic Voice apologise for the late publication of this article.

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# Lourdes



**T**his year, to our delight, we managed to avoid the 26-hour coach journey and were lucky enough to fly to Lourdes. But as we ended up running through the airport in an attempt to not miss our flight, this probably worked out just as stressful as the coach journey; it's fair to say the airport staff were not impressed.

Soon after we were settled in at our hotel we were eager to go and explore this wonderful town, where we found so much joy on the streets.

We had a chance to meet the pilgrims who we would be assisting for the week as we helped to carry their luggage to their rooms. It was a good way of offering our services to begin the week. And then a short social time and an early night.

On our travels around Lourdes we soon got our bearings and one of the first places we decided to visit was a little cafe to catch up with friends we hadn't seen for a long time; the hustle and bustle of the airport meant we hadn't had the opportunity so far.

After a number of Masses and other services, including our Welcome Mass and the International Mass, our first visit to the Grotto didn't arise until the third day when the rain had decided to clear up. Walking into the Grotto for the first time was an overwhelming experience. To see all the volunteers and pilgrims so in touch with their faith and so invested in this spectacular place was so moving, and to see all the youth from our diocese so calm and taken aback was another reward in itself. All your worries disappeared and

you felt a sense of peace and tranquillity.

The community life of our diocese in Lourdes is another aspect of the experience in itself. If you're avoiding coming to Lourdes because you imagine it to be too holy for you, you're wrong! There is an element of fun thrown in with the adventure. On one of the first nights, the youth section held a fancy dress party to get to know each other and to give everyone chance to relax.

The dress up night was definitely the night where everyone began to mingle and break down barriers, which made the experience of Lourdes a whole lot better. And for everything we did, we would always finish by thanking Our Lady for the things we have in our life to be grateful for, including the people we were

surrounded by. We won't say too much about the different things Lourdes has to offer because we think its best you see it for yourself, but if you want to know more about your faith, meet friends for life and have a fantastic trip away in a gorgeous town in France then Lourdes is the place for you.

To be honest, if you're undecided whether or not to come to Lourdes, we would 100% encourage you to listen to your heart and listen to what God is telling you to do, and we can guarantee you won't regret it.

Visit [www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/events-whats-on](http://www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/events-whats-on) for information about the Youth Pilgrimage 2020. If you want to help fund young people making this pilgrimage, please get in touch.



## A New Team

**W**e are delighted to have a new team here at Castlerigg – young people who give up a year of their lives to serve God and grow in faith. Through their year working with the young people of the diocese, these volunteers will have the opportunity to develop new skills, make new friendships and explore their faith together.

Three of them have written about their experience in Lourdes this summer. The other volunteers are Ruben (19, Hungary), Rebecca (21, Harrogate), Christian (21, Germany), Johanna (18, Germany), Amy (18, Carlisle) and Chris (18, Manchester). And Alex (from Essex) joins us as a Retreat Leader.

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)





### My Lourdes - Annie (18, Blackpool)

The annual trip to Lourdes is different for everyone, and everyone experiences different emotions and everyone's encounter with God varies. Although Lourdes had been at the back of my mind for years, I had never been to Lourdes until this year. For me personally, I found the pilgrimage very moving and touching. The spiritual experience I faced wasn't exactly what I expected it to be. I felt like I should have felt this huge wave of God's love as soon as I entered Lourdes, but I think that was me setting my expectations of Lourdes too high. As the week went on, I soon realised that, for me, to be able to grow closer to God doesn't happen straight away and I had to allow time for God to enter into my heart. I think being surrounded by so much joy shining through the life-long friends I had met in Lourdes, definitely helped me to grow closer to God as they showed me what it means to have found God in my life. Even now, two months after Lourdes they are the friends I turn to in times of doubt or uncertainty and they guide me to do the right things and make the right choices. I now find it so easy to look for God through my friends and trust in him. The experience of Lourdes has given me so much confidence in God and so much confidence for the year ahead, which I will be spending as a gap year volunteer at Castlerigg Manor, where I believe God was calling me and this calling was strengthened even more in Lourdes.

The Grotto, I think, has such an immense atmosphere, in the best way possible, and I feel extremely lucky to have experienced it first-hand. I could sit and write for days about my experience in the Grotto and how I felt, but I believe words cannot do it justice. All I would like to say is that if you ever have the chance to visit Lourdes and the Grotto then GO! Lourdes is one of those places that you will always look back on and just feel the need to tell others about it and spread the word of how good God is!



### My Lourdes - Charley (19, Blackpool)

My experience in Lourdes is hard to describe in words. To say I went in blind was an understatement. I was so unsure of what to expect or what my first year would hold but from the moment I arrived, and I met all of the youth, I suddenly felt God's presence and I knew that it was his plan for me to be in Lourdes. From the Grotto, to the community life, Lourdes has brought such happiness and joy into my life. The people you meet, both the youth and the pilgrims are people I will remember for life. I have met some of my closest, and most special friends while in Lourdes, and I know that God always being on my mind, I would never feel this close to him if I hadn't trusted the voice in the back of my head, stepped out of my comfort zone and signed up for this Pilgrimage.

I also never expected to feel so much joy in the presence of the pilgrims. Their stories and experiences in life are truly inspiring and our conversations are something I'll never forget.

I've always heard about the Grotto and how special it is to so many people, but I never thought I'd feel so moved just being there, with my own thoughts and prayers in the presence of Our Lady and surrounded by those who I now classed as my closest friends. Throughout the week, I felt myself and those around me grow in faith, while also growing in friendship with one another. Each of us filled with so much peace and happiness, it was almost too hard to hold back the tears of joy that we had for God and each other. I can't even express how much my life has been changed by my week in Lourdes.

I have developed such a trust for God, and I am so unbelievably grateful that he called me to volunteer for the Lourdes Pilgrimage. If you ever think to yourself, 'should I go to Lourdes' or 'Maybe God is calling me to go,' I promise you, he is. Going to Lourdes is the best choice I have ever made, and honestly I would not be sat here writing this, as a volunteer at Castlerigg Manor, if I hadn't gone. Lourdes is now something which means a lot to me, and I'm already counting down the days till next year.



### My Lourdes - Zoë (18, Windermere)

I have been to Lourdes with Lancaster Diocese for the last three years now and each time my experience has somehow managed to improve. Each time I visit Lourdes I have new experiences and make new memories that will last me a lifetime. For me my week in Lourdes each year is the highlight of my year and something I find myself counting down to every single year, even when I have only been home for a week afterwards.

During our time there, the youth spend so much time together. Not only do we sit and eat together, we also pray together and grow together. The friendships made in Lourdes are different to anything else because you all meet for the same reason under the common ground of the pilgrimage, you grow in friendship and faith together and this is something that we are lucky to experience together. And not only do you get to spend time with the other youth, you get to spend time with the pilgrims. The pilgrims are one of the main reasons we all journey to Lourdes, being able to sit with them and share stories is such a privilege because they have so many experiences that deserve to be listened to and every time I speak with them I learn amazing things about each of them. This is one of the most important parts of the Lourdes experience. The Grotto is probably the most talked about area in Lourdes and that is with good reason. Every single time I walk round the Grotto I feel a sense of peace that is like no other feeling I have ever felt, this is such a safe space for prayer or even just reflecting on your day. I had everything planned for the next year traveling to Australia as an au-pair for 6 months, and then sight-seeing. My times of prayer in the Grotto changed my plan completely and inspired me to come here to Castlerigg for my gap year so I think it is safe to say that Lourdes has changed my life and it has certainly changed it for the better. If you are even thinking about coming to Lourdes, just do it, you will never look back.



### 30th October – Fundraising Concert 7.30pm

Hosted by Lancaster University Catholic Chaplaincy, a piano concert with Fr Manny Gribben, Cameron Dickason & Seungyoung Han, and Julie Flanagan (Soprano). Music from Chopin, Beethoven, Mozart and Brahms. Free entry, donations to Castlerigg Manor.

### 30th November – Radiant

Organised by a group of young adults, Radiant is a Eucharist centred event presenting high quality speakers, praise and worship, and opportunities of encounter. Corpus Christi Catholic High School, 10am-6pm. [www.facebook.com/Radiant2019](http://www.facebook.com/Radiant2019)

### 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.

### 23rd July - 1st Aug 2020 – Lourdes Pilgrimage

Now is the time to start fundraising for next summer's Lourdes pilgrimage. See our website (below) for more information

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/events-whats-on](http://www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/events-whats-on)



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[www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/donate](http://www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/donate) And most importantly, please keep us in your prayers.





# Fr Michael Lakeland RIP



**W**e celebrate the funeral, on the great Feast of the Transfiguration, of a kindly faithful pastor and priest in Father Michael Lakeland. He travelled simply through this world, yet touched many hearts deeply. But as Fr. Michael would quickly point out this is a Christian funeral. He would ask us to remember him kindly but celebrate the transforming power of Our Lord and Saviour, who promises to transfigure transform our poor human bodies into something glorious and everlasting.



I am sure there are many who know Michael, probably better than I do. You offer the person you know to God in this sacred funeral Mass.

I am privileged to say a few words about him, after spending some years in his company at St Clare's Preston and latterly at Hill Chapel Goosnargh.

Fr. Michael was born in Preston in 1933, and lived there all his early life. He worked for the Gas board, did national service, then studied for the priesthood as a late vocation at Upholland; he was ordained in 1963, then did two stints in Blackpool, including duties as hospital chaplain, with time in Carlisle in between. Finally he came back to Preston and St Clare's in 1982, followed by a time at Hill Chapel until 2014. Then he retired to the Little Sisters, followed by residence at Stella Matutina Lytham St Annes, where he died after a stroke.

I offer a few little pictures of Fr. Michael faithful and devoted; simple and direct yet wise in a homely way. The dutiful man of service, but, in a non-regimented way.

But we must begin with two extra qualities that helped define Michael: Preston and football. As you know he was Preston born and bred. He had that gentle Preston accent. He travelled during the time of his national service, or as part of his priestly training and duties, or to visit his sister and brother in law in Australia, Margaret and Brian. But in his heart he remained a Prestonian. You could take the man out of Preston, but never Preston out of the man.

**Football:** He seriously supported Preston North End, often with his cousin Edmund. Edmund and Cathy unfortunately cannot be here today through ill health. He did dabble in following of Blackpool FC when a priest and chaplain in Blackpool and following of Carlisle FC when in Carlisle, but these were half-hearted wanderings from his true loyalties. When I arrived as hospital chaplain at St. Clare's in 1999 he had the nearest thing to an attack of anxiety I have ever seen. When I told him that I was not interested in supporting Preston North End on Saturday afternoons, and so he would not be involved in sharing the hospital bleep during soccer matches, a great weight fell from his shoulders.

**Non-regimented:** Michael took his duty very seriously. Yet he was quite allergic to formal discipline. I don't know how he got by in the army during his national service. The nearest thing I have seen to anger in that gentle soul was when he told the story of his army boots. When demobbed, he was offered them to buy at 10/6d. He was grievously affronted. He said *'I never wanted to see another pair of army boots in the whole of my life, yet they tried to sell them to me'*.

After his national service finished he did another short stint for the Gas Board, and then entered the seminary, being ordained in 1963.

As priest I think his homely wisdom was underestimated. He was a hospital chaplain for many years and he gave me the best bit of advice on chaplaincy I have ever had. He said if you are called to the hospital walk, don't run. The Holy Spirit

goes before you and is preparing the way. This advice worked to calm me through many a difficult callout.

**Dutiful:** He did his duty with quiet efficiency, perhaps born from his army training as one of the back room people. He had that laid back ability to achieve much with the minimum of effort. He was a bit challenged when e-mails came along. Whilst he never had any idea how to use computers, he knew how to turn on a machine, find the e-mails on the computer, and press P for print. He then replied by ordinary mail, in his own hand, or using his ancient manual typewriter.

**Simplicity:** He travelled lightly and simply on this earth. When he went to visit his sister and brother in law in Australia, he had a small soft bag, which went as hand luggage. There, in Australia he became the honorary parish priest of Cuchimudloe Island, a retirement island near Brisbane.

**Devoted:** He was quietly devoted priest. Indeed I believe he was deeply upset when he was told he could no longer celebrate Mass, due to increasing infirmities.

After a stroke recently, he decided to return from hospital to Stella Matutina, where he was nursed so devotedly until his death. On behalf of his brother priests and myself I thank the Little Sisters of the Poor in Preston, the staff at Stella Matutina and his former housekeeper Maria, for the care they gave him.

We celebrate also the feast of the Transfiguration. Our Lord was revealed as the glorious being of unimaginable power and light; we also hear through St. Paul that Jesus will in the same way transfigure our wretched mortal bodies. This was the belief that was central to the life of Fr. Michael. In his later years he told me he would welcome going home to God.

I wish to give you one final picture that sums up so much of his life. He celebrated his 40th Anniversary of priesthood at St. Clare's. Sir Tom Finney kindly came along. The day was beautiful.

At the refreshment after the Mass, Sir Tom and Fr. Michael sat on deckchairs on the pavement in the sun outside the hall. They talked together and relaxed, as befitted two men who had given so much of their lives in service of their hometown. They were supplied by a stream of people coming from the hall. But quite spontaneously, a group of little children gathered and played together in the sun at the feet of these two grandfatherly figures. That is the picture I wish to leave you with; the devoted and dutiful priest and the most kindly shepherd of souls with his flock.

May Michael, his journey of a lifetime now finished, come home to God; in God's mercy, forgiven any sins that lie against Him, may he be transfigured, transformed with new life after a time of weakness; may he follow the Master he served so faithfully in this life to new life in the land of the living. And may his family be comforted. Amen

Fr Philip Smith

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

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## An Anonymous Letter to Priests

I recently attended a funeral and saw a lot of clergy from our Diocese. My first reaction was sadness as some of them looked tired and dejected, understandably in the light of recent scandals reported in the media which have rightly cast a shadow over us all. But I feel convicted to say thank you to you all, we appreciate all that you do. We acknowledge all you have given up to follow your vocation.

We realise that you must feel lonely at times and sometimes unsupported by us, the people you feed with the Word each Sunday and with your life well lived.

You have chosen the narrow road, a road less travelled and you have paid a high price following in the footsteps of Jesus. We appreciate your sacrifice, we will pray for you in all your decisions, we will love you always.


Thank you for all that you do, thank you for your patience, your forgiveness, for your example, for holding true to your faith, despite ridicule, humiliation, rejection and even on occasion, hate. The world has largely turned away from truth, you are a countersign, a protector of all life and you are a sign that will always be rejected, as was your Saviour. We love you and thank you for your lives and for leading us to Heaven, from childhood to adulthood. May the Good Lord keep you in the palm of his hand and one day welcome you into His kingdom.



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Headteacher: Mr Simon Eccles  
Tel: 01253 396286  
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**Alston Lane Catholic Primary School and Nursery**  
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Lancs PR3 3BJ  
Headteacher: Mr M FitzGibbon  
Tel: 01772 783661  
Email: [bursar@alstonlane.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@alstonlane.lancs.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.alston.lancsngfl.ac.uk](http://www.alston.lancsngfl.ac.uk)  
Our Open Day this year will be  
Monday 7th October 2019  
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around the school at any time from 9.30 am.

  
**St Peter's Catholic Primary School**  
Norfolk Road, Lytham FY8 4JG  
Headteacher: Mrs Heyes  
Tel: 01253 734658  
E: [head@st-peters-pri.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:head@st-peters-pri.lancs.sch.uk)

  
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Website: [www.st-pat-marygort.cumbria.sch.uk](http://www.st-pat-marygort.cumbria.sch.uk)  
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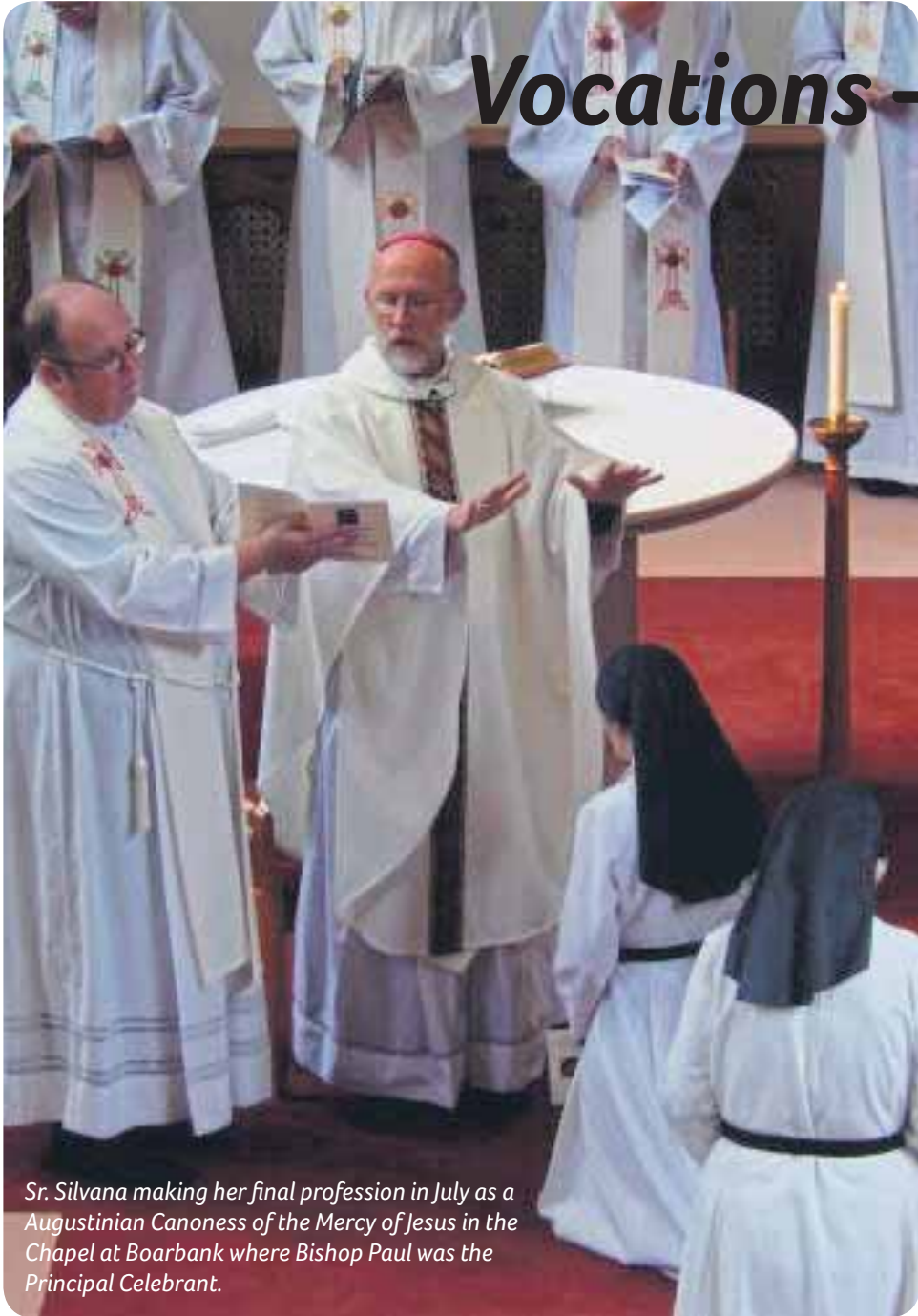
  
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Lancashire PR2 3SQ  
Headteacher: Mr Nigel Ranson  
Tel: 01772 326900  
Email: [admin@olchs.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@olchs.lancs.sch.uk)  
Web: <http://www.olchs.lancs.sch.uk>  
  
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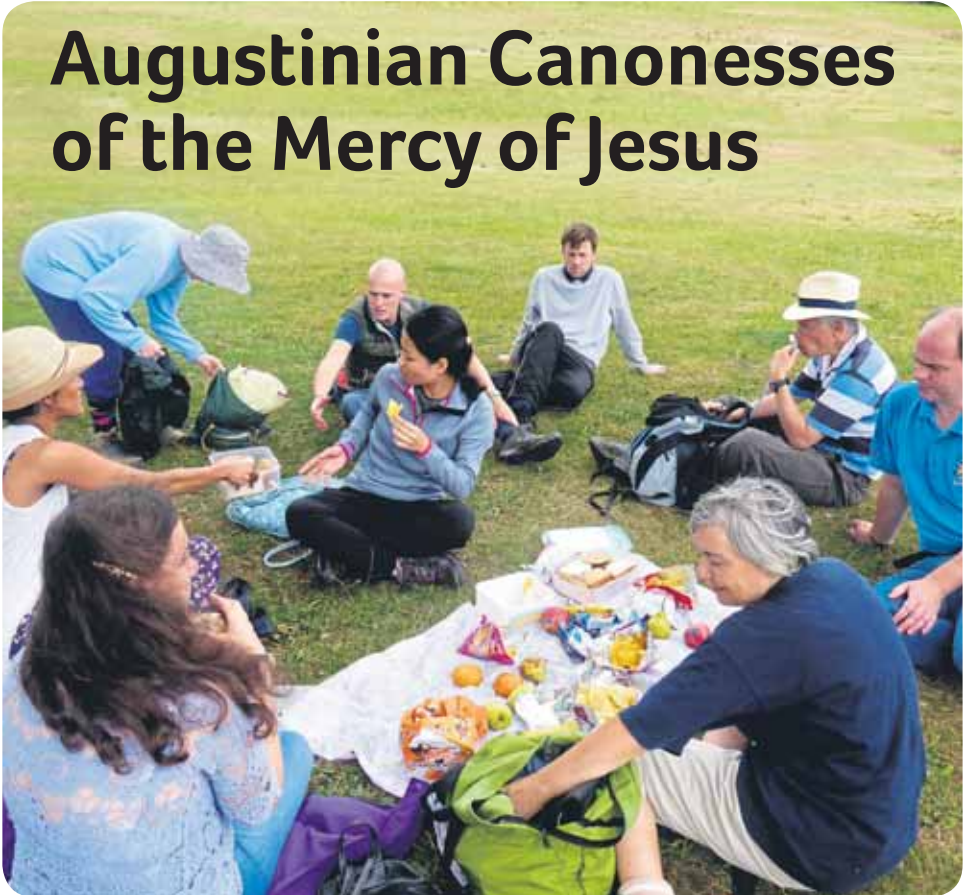
  
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Sr. Silvana making her final profession in July as a Augustinian Canoness of the Mercy of Jesus in the Chapel at Boarbank where Bishop Paul was the Principal Celebrant.



**O**ur Constitutions begin: *‘In the beginning was the Word ... there is the One to whom Mary listened ... And the Word was made flesh ... Behold Him whom Martha served’ (St Augustine).* We could sum up our lives as a constant attempt to balance Mary and Martha, stillness and busyness, solitude and sociability, regularity and variety, contemplation and action. These may seem in tension, but our Constitutions suggest otherwise: *‘The depth of our words and of our gift of self to others will depend on the depth of our silence.’* Imitating Martha flows from imitating Mary. Our prayer - private or common - is the source of the love and harmony within our Community, which flows into hospitality towards all those we welcome into our lives.

Our day is punctuated by Mass, sung Offices and shared meals, and we complete the day together with Compline and recreation. Each Sister also dedicates an hour to private prayer. Our beautiful Chapel, much used by our visitors too, is occupied from early morning through the day, and we have daily Exposition. All this is the stable trellis, as it were, on which the sprawling vine branches of our life can grow and bear fruit.

Our different forms of work reflect our charism: To mediate through hospitality the mercy of Jesus to those in need. We run a Nursing Home, a Guest House and a programme of residential groups. The Nursing Home caters for long-term residents, respite care and those who are dying. Our Guest House welcomes visitors young and old, alone or with families, from every walk of life. Our residential events provide a unique combination of retreat, study and holiday, on themes such as Scripture or healthcare. Our location provides the perfect setting for our birdwatching retreat, for example, or a week of pilgrimage walks. A recent event, celebrating John Bradburne, enabled us to visit the Cumbrian birthplace of this fascinating holy man. One of our joys is to see our own ideal of love in community reflected among those staying with us: in the mutual kindness among our patients; in the friendships

that spring up among our guests; in the solidarity and fun generated among the participants in our groups. Community life is infectious!

We are also blessed with frequent visits from local schools. They sing and act for our residents, and pupils or staff come for away days or retreats. As one youngster wrote, *“When I set off, I thought the nuns and the house would be dull and black, but no, it is wonderful and they have made me to be more kind and helpful.”*

We are delighted now to be setting up a regular link with our local primary school, to include visits to the Nursing Home and eco-projects in our grounds.

Here are the stories of how three Sisters found the Community at Boarbank:

*“The Lord led me here from about 2000, for periods of convalescence after illness. I had no thought of entering. By 2004, it gradually became clear that Boarbank was where he wanted me, as a Sister. I came in August of that year.”*

*“When I was working in Singapore, I was offered a job in America, Australia and England. I was in a dilemma. I prayed to God to help me to choose which one. The first reply was from England and that is why I am in England today .... While working in a hospital in Newcastle, I had a desire to join the religious life. I had no clue who to ask and where to start. Perchance I met my relative who was a monk at Ampleforth. He told me to try Boarbank. I asked him, ‘What is Boarbank all about?’ He said, ‘Come and See.’”*

*“I spent twelve years looking at various religious orders, here and in other countries - Italy, France, Ireland and South Africa - including 24 hours as a Carmelite. Eventually I gave up, being sick to death of religious houses and nuns! To recover I found myself a cheap holiday at Boarbank Hall ...”*

*“Why did you come here?” people ask. The interesting question, and one that has ten thousand answers, is, ‘Why did you stay?’*

*Sr. Margaret Atkins*

OCTOBER 2019

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

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**World Mission Sunday - the one Sunday in the year when the entire global Church comes together in support of mission - will happen on 20 October this year. And this year, it is running alongside another exciting global event!**

His Holiness, Pope Francis, has declared October 2019 to be a special month of prayer and action, to strengthen and grow God's mission through the Church. And the Extraordinary Month of Mission (EMM2019) is nearly here.

EMM2019 marks the 100th anniversary of Pope Benedict XV's Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*, which Pope Francis describes as 'a milestone in the evolution of the Church's missionary work'. And a century later, the call to *missio ad gentes* is as urgent as ever. This is an incredible opportunity for all of us to reflect on and pray for the Church's mission, and for the whole Church to fully realise that in our rapidly changing world the Gospel is needed now more than ever!

#### **Missio: today, tomorrow, together**

As the Pope's official charity for world mission, Missio enables Catholics in England and Wales to live out the call received at Baptism: to share in the Church's universal mission.

And in the lead-up to EMM 2019, Missio will be here to help individuals, schools, organisations, dioceses, parishes, communities, orders and congregations in England and Wales to get behind this worldwide Church initiative.

Fr Anthony Chantry, Missio's National Director, says: 'All of us who believe in Jesus Christ as Son of God and Saviour received our faith from God through those missionaries, who long ago left their homes and families to share their faith with those in foreign lands. Their sharing usually took place in the context of serving those in need, especially the poor and oppressed, thus demonstrating the character and power of God's love in our world.'

'I have seen the fruit of that work in many countries in Africa and Asia, where there is a host of young and dynamic Catholic communities committed to following Jesus Christ. Yet we must not make the mistake of assuming that mission abroad has no place in our modern world.'

'The Holy Father challenges us to be in a permanent state of mission, for "each of us is a mission to the world, for each of us is the fruit of God's love" (Message for World Mission Sunday, 2019).'

'I hope that this month will help us all to look back in thanksgiving for all that has been achieved by the missionary work of the Church and look forward with hope to a future when all peoples will know the saving and liberating love of Jesus Christ.'

Missio invites everyone to get involved in EMM2019, joining our sisters and

brothers around the world in faith and renewal. Find out more about EMM2019 at [missio.org.uk/emm](http://missio.org.uk/emm) and see how you can get involved - personally and as a community - in this special celebration of mission. You can find out more about World Mission Sunday (October 20) at [missio.org.uk/wms](http://missio.org.uk/wms)

- The Extraordinary Month of Mission and World Mission Sunday are being coordinated by Missio, the Pope's official charity for world mission.
- The World Mission Sunday collection is one of just three personally requested by the Pope each year.
- World Mission Sunday takes place annually on the penultimate Sunday in October.
- Missio worldwide supports every mission diocese overseas (1,070) until they are self-sufficient.
- Missio ignites God's love by helping missionaries to work alongside communities globally that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. Sometimes this need might be very specific: a motorbike for a priest to celebrate Mass in remote villages; a simple community hall so people can gather together; vaccinations to protect vulnerable children.

Whatever our missionaries need to help them share the joy of the Gospel, Missio strives to provide it. We are proud to be the Pope's charity for world mission. By supporting Missio, you play a valuable part in creating a vibrant Catholic Church for the future.

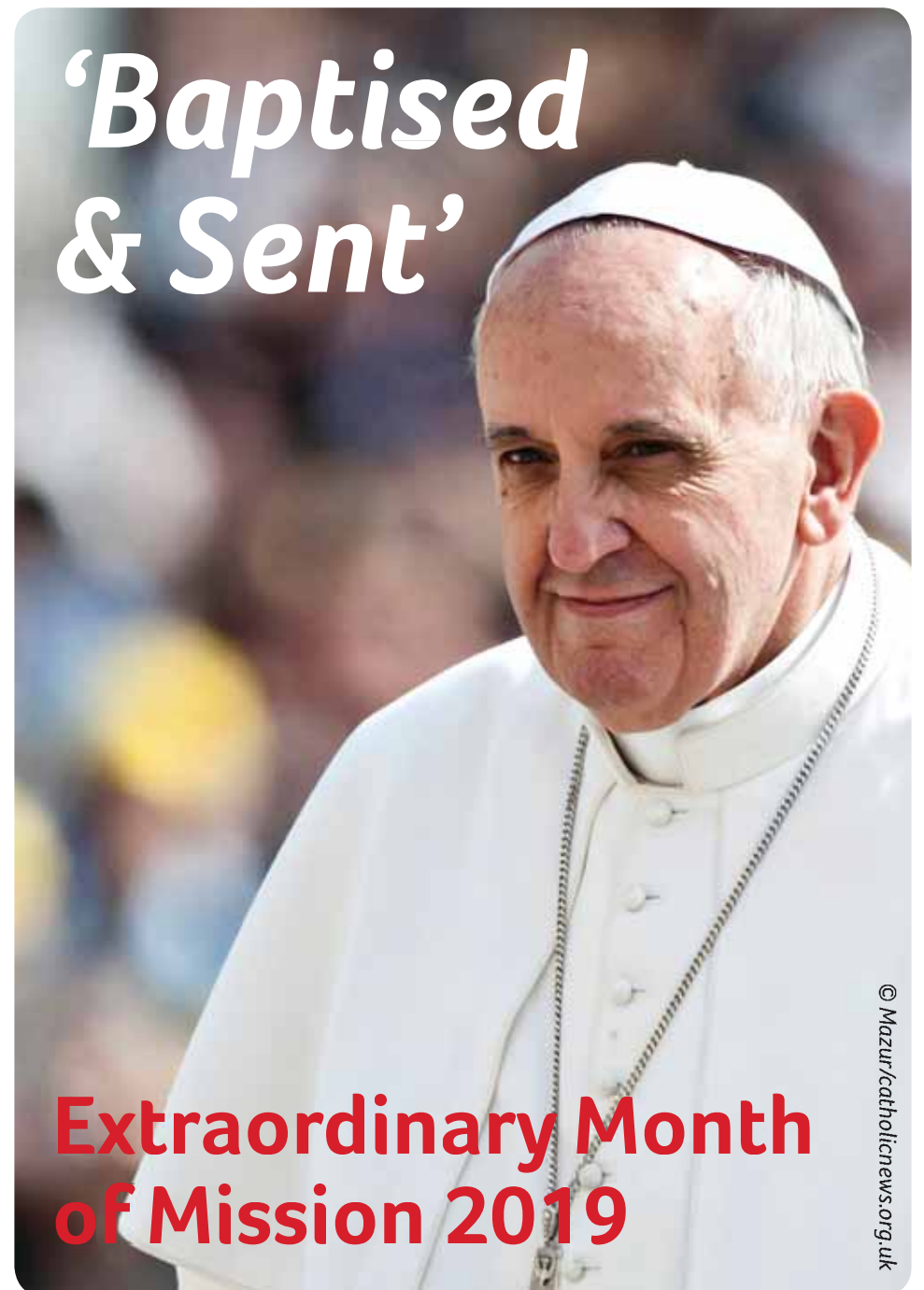
By volunteering, raising or donating funds, and by praying with children, grandchildren or students, YOU make our mission possible. Together we are enriching today's global Catholic community.

Together we are training tomorrow's generation of priests and sisters. Together we are giving hope to the world's poorest children. Together we are Missio.

- Offerings from Catholics in England and Wales on World Mission Sunday are combined with donations to the Association for the Propagation of the Faith (APF) in all countries where the Church is present and distributed to 1,070 mission dioceses worldwide.
- In 2018, the World Mission Sunday collection in parishes across England and Wales raised £543,456 for Missio's work.



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# Carmelite Sisters of Dolgellau Monastery celebrate 90th Jubilee

On 20 July, the Feast of the Prophet Elijah, the Carmelite Sisters of Dolgellau in Wales celebrated 90 years since our foundation. A beautiful cake bore the Order's motto, Elijah's words: *zelozelatus sum pro Domino Deo exercituum, ('with zeal I have been zealous for the Lord of hosts')* (1 Kgs 19:14). The prophet Elijah is a wonderful symbol of the Carmelite nun's vocation to stand in God's presence (2 Kgs 3.14). As Pope St Gregory the Great said, we stand wherever our mental gaze is directed. The Carmelite nun directs her mental gaze towards God, as she prays and goes about her daily work.

### The Story of our Foundation

We watched a film about the history of the monastery, put together by one of our novices from Diocese of Lancaster for the event. It was an opportunity to remember our collective story. In 1928 the Bishop of Menevia, Francis Vaughan, asked Mother Mary of Jesus, the Prioress of Notting Hill Carmel to found a Carmel in his Diocese to spiritually support his widespread needy Diocese with its small number of Catholics and scattered lonely priests. Pope Pius XI gave the venture his privileged blessing.

On 21 May 1929, a group of eight founding sisters set off by train for Dolgellau, although they had been warned by a letter from the locals not to come. A not too welcoming crowd was at the station when they arrived. Local pastors told their flocks not to attend the opening ceremony, but nonetheless 2000 came. The Holy Spirit seemed to seize people at Holy Mass. Those who came to disrupt Benediction knelt down with great reverence.

Reactions warmed as locals got to know the sisters, and Protestant visitors were soon providing alms, glad and surprised to discover that Roman Catholics loved Jesus as they did. These days, thankfully we live in much more ecumenical times and there are visits to our monastery by people and groups of different denominations.

There was great poverty in the early years, serious overcrowding until the 1960s, and the sisters struggled to support themselves financially by baking altar breads, living off the fried remains, and growing their own fruit and vegetables.



### Living Stones

A picture on display showed our building, with all the sisters who have been here represented on a brick. It conveyed the idea that we are all living stones making up one spiritual house, with Christ as our one foundation, yet relying on the base laid by the sisters who have gone before us and in turn building a future for those who come after us.

### Sr Gertrude of Preston

The film was a chance to remember the stories of some of the sisters who have now gone to God. One of our stars was Sr Gertrude of Jesus, who was from Preston. She was born in 1903 into a staunch Catholic family, with 2 martyrs among their ancestors. Here is her story:



Sr Gertrude of Preston.

*'In 1909, I was 6 years old at the time, my Mother took my young sister, aged 2, to St Winefride's Well at Holywell with spine trouble. She bathed in the Well and was cured. Then my Mother went to Pantasaph (the nearby Franciscan friary) and went round the outdoor Stations of the Cross. At the Calvary a Franciscan Friar was painting the railings round the Shrine. When my mother came home she was telling us all about it. When she said about the Friar painting the railings, I chimed in with 'Did he say good afternoon to you?' My Mother said 'Oh no, he was talking to Our Lord while he was working and did not speak'. At once I knew that was what I wanted to do, always just think of Our Lord. I never forgot about it.'*

Sister shared a ward in hospital with 3 elderly ladies when she got cancer. They noticed her praying quietly to herself almost all the time, and they asked her to pray louder so they could join in, but she was too weak to do so. That linked her whole life together – from the age of 6 to her dying day she had talked to the Lord.

Sr Gertrude's life is a summary of St Teresa's teaching on prayer: *"Mental prayer in my opinion is nothing else than an intimate sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with Him who we know loves us"* (The Life)

### We are here for you

The sisters of Dolgellau Carmel frequently pray for the Bishop and priests of Diocese of Lancaster, the parishes and people, and the Catholic Voice. Please pray for us too! For more info see [www.carmel-dolgellau.uk](http://www.carmel-dolgellau.uk) (under construction).

*let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.' (1 Pet 2.5)*



The Cooper children:  
Winnie,  
Agnes,  
Gerty  
and Robert.



Gerty,  
Robert  
and  
Winnie.





Carmelite Sisters  
enjoying a game  
of Scrabble.  
Sister: "Is that really  
how you spell that?"  
Sister: "It's how I  
spell it!"



# Metanoia Preston

It's been a busy few summer for Metanoia with so many wonderful events that we have been blessed to be part of.

Here are just a few of them... we had the honour of providing some praise and worship for the Ordination of Fr Stephen Talbutt, we had end of term parties for our youth groups and a Ceilidh for our young leaders and volunteers, we gathered our new cohort of young leaders for the next academic year, provided music for St Clare's confirmation Mass and for the School's year 6 leavers Mass, and gave a talk about mission to the Ascent Programme in Wigton.

Joe and Ruth White

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As Chaplain of Our Lady's Catholic College, Lancaster, I was invited to write an article about our school trip to Uganda in July 2018 and although much time has past, I am still struggling.

It is not due to the lack of stories, excitement and new experiences to write about, but in questioning how to even begin to set down my thoughts about such a huge experience.

The two weeks spent with pupils from the Sixth Form, and Staff, engaging and encountering a whole new culture, was one that God willing, will remain with me for the rest of my days.

The journey however did not begin at the start of our two week trip, but a good year and a half before, making preparations and looking at possibilities- How can we best serve the communities we meet? How can we ourselves learn from immersing ourselves in a new culture? What can we offer and what can we learn- this was the basis of our thinking.

From there progressed a very detailed plan to maximise our fundraising efforts, with the help of our whole school community and surrounding parishes. To prepare for the trip and ensure each school and community we met were gifted in a way which they needed- we asked for their advice!

We spent time raising funds to support a rural health clinic, a vocational centre and several partner schools. The students paid a significant part of their own expenses and were supported by grants from local Trust Funds. This meant that, with the support of local parishes and businesses, they were able to raise just over £17,000, every penny of which was spent on aid delivered directly to where it was needed.

Currently, there is a degree of scepticism and uncertainty regarding what happens to some charity donations. It was, therefore, a joy for the students to travel to the actual places where the aid was directed. £4000 had been sent to the

Kakatunda Health Clinic to construct a new maternity ward. The students were able to visit the building and meet the committee responsible for the project.

Each student used 20kg of their baggage allowance to carry resources for the schools which we visited. The gifts of stationery, sports equipment, science apparatus and data projectors were bought using funds raised during Lent by Our Lady's younger school students and were very much appreciated.

Our riches did not just include our financial support but also our creativity and knowledge, as pupils and staff here at OLCC prepared intercultural events, workshops and teacher training courses in chemistry (*sponsored by the Royal Society of Chemistry who fund matched £10,000 of chemistry apparatus, which was ordered in Kampala and packaged for the schools attending the courses*).

The sixth formers led games and singing for the primary school students and shared discussions and workshops with the secondary students on topics such as the environment and women's rights. The UK team made brave attempts to learn traditional African dance (*some with more success than Theresa May!*)

The group were invited to visit a Vocational Centre for vulnerable and orphaned girls. We were welcomed so joyfully and this was such a memorable part of my time there, as I recall feeling truly content and inspired that generosity does not stem from what we have, but what we give freely. They were proud to show us a water tank which had been purchased with funds sent by OLCC. This will save the girls having to walk long distances to the river to carry water back to the school. They were delighted that the students had made time to visit them as they were in a very remote area of Uganda.

**The Karamoja**  
A few adult members of our group were lucky enough to stay behind for an extra week and to make a 12 hour journey to

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the Karamoja in Northern Uganda. We stayed with a community of Priests and Brothers in Moroto and experienced a very different Uganda. I was privileged to spend a day at a large local Girls school, heavily supported by the UN and other charities. I was able to share some of the chaplaincy work which I carry out in the UK, including how to explore different elements of the Mass, fostering young leaders and how to lead liturgies within schools. This is part of the feedback *“You made me feel that I am serving the living God and I always find my pleasure in working with young people, for God. Thank you for your time and guidance”*.

We also delivered a teacher training course, working with our friend and

chemistry teacher Gyaviira who accompanied us on the 2016 trip. The Karamoja is a challenging place with scorpions, snakes and armed warriors alongside high levels of poverty, but the people, and especially their faith is incredibly inspiring. It is so humbling to experience the level of praise and gratitude which was expressed to God, even though they had so little materialistic things, compared with typical life in the UK. I left with a new experience of gratitude, which I hope will remain with me.

Both at the Seminary and at St Paul’s School, we joined the communities for prayers and Mass. We were treated to beautifully harmonised and accompanied

hymns by the boys, which, were very uplifting and one of our pupils commented on how they would love to see the same kind of joy in our churches back in Lancaster.

Our time was filled with more adventures than I could write here, but we have been blessed in so many ways and will continue to share these experiences for a long time to come- to anyone who will listen! Our commitment to the people we met however, is long from finished. We have been able to see first-hand, the poverty experienced by our friends, and we will continue to work for change in every way we can.

This was the third trip to Uganda

organised by OLCC and we have another trip planned for July 2020. Teaching staff pay for their own expenses in full for the trip and the students pay a significant amount themselves, despite the fact that most are from low income families. However, we do have to subsidise the trip in order to make it inclusive to all students. We ‘ring fence’ our public fund raising so that every penny goes to our Ugandan communities. This is why we are applying for grants and bursaries from organisations who want to assist our young people make this trip of a life time. If you know of any organisations who may be able to help us in this way, then please let us know.

Ruth Lowe

Email: [r.lowe@olcc.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:r.lowe@olcc.lancs.sch.uk)

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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

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Mass is also celebrated every Sunday at 8.30 am at St Mary Magdalene, Leyland Road, Penwortham and 11.30 am at St Catherine Labouré, Stanfield Lane, Leyland.

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Deacon Chris with Bishop Paul



Diaconate candidacy retreat, Hyning, late 1993.

Deacon Paul with his wife Sue and Bishop Paul.

## Diaconate Silver Jubilee

**I**n July and August of this year four of Permanent Deacons will have celebrated their Silver Jubilee of Ordination. Revs Chris Barwise (8th July), Frank Cole (15th July), Peter Campbell (22nd July) and Frank Bell (28th August). Frank waited until August so that his ordination could take place on the Feast of St. Augustine. The patronal feast of the parish where he served.

Bishop John Brewer was quite busy in July because he also ordained Revs Simon Hawsworth and Peter Clarke to the priesthood.

The Parish of St. John Paul II, where Rev.

Chris is based, organised a celebratory Mass and reception on 8th July. The chief celebrant was Bishop Paul Swarbrick and he was accompanied by Frs Francis Olasene and Andrew Allman. Deacon Jim Slater proclaimed the gospel.

Rev. Chris preached the homily. He started by saying that the late Bishop Brewer would press his fingers hard onto the head of the ordinand as if he was trying to bore holes for the Holy Spirit to enter in. He then paid tribute to his wife Sue, son and daughter Andrew and Paula, parents-in-law and his own mum and dad (*Mary and Joseph*) for helping to create an environment in which his vocation was born and developed. He was at pains

to say that the day was not about him, even though his name was on the tin! It was about US. He pointed out that whilst Acts chapter six refers to the calling of the seven it also shows where they came from: The community. We are a community; a Eucharistic community and we all have different talents given to us through the Holy Spirit as St. Paul wrote in his first letter to the Corinthians. He also spoke about the need for clergy to be careful in how they explain truths. It is not what is said but it is the way it is said. The Gospel was taken from the Mass of the Last Supper; the washing of the feet. It served as a reminder that we all must be humble by acknowledging our unworthiness but also the gifts we have

received. When anybody is approached to consider a role in the parish liturgy many people respond by saying that they are not worthy and decline. They were given a reminder that the person doing the asking is not worthy either.

After Mass there was a wonderful reception where many people gathered to renew acquaintances. Chris' two brothers were able to attend as was one of primary school classmates.

Rev. Chris is in active ministry in the parish that covers the former parishes of Sacred Heart, Our Lady and St. Bernard, St. Peter & St. Paul and St. Walburge.

*Ad multos annos*



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**I**t's a privilege to be standing here in St Michael's Garstang delivering the homily for Fr Elder's Requiem Mass, though I am not sure why David asked me to do this. There are those of you here who knew him better, loved him better, cared for him and looked after him, more than I ever did. And I can only thank you for that. The only thing that comes to mind as to why he asked me is that when we were both involved in burying my cousin, who was a teacher in his school in Garstang, he said he was pleased I was speaking as I was far less 'touchy-feely' than him. I decided to take that as a compliment.

We have all known David, and loved him, and worked or journeyed with him in different fields. I really knew him best from our time together in HCPT, the Children's Pilgrimage Trust, going to Lourdes in the summer. And I think the best way I can speak about him is to tell a story from those days.

David always arranged our first visit to the Domaine at Lourdes via the Forest Gate so that people's first image was of the Grotto and not the cafes and shops. But the first trip out on arriving at Hosanna House, the HCPT hotel outside Lourdes, was not to the shrine but to the local supermarket, LeClerc's. This was the gin and tonic run. Straight out of the coach from the airport, get people settled in and then off in the minibus to the shops. The first French I learnt there was that the French for a lime was citron vert as David insisted on lime and lemon.

But to come back to the holy, there was a particular Mass I would like to speak about. We had rearranged the chapel as we always did. There was one of David's theme based focal points in front of the altar, (for which I had nearly suffered a severe accident trying to get a large rock over a wet electric fence from across the road.) David and I were vested. David at the back by the organ with his banjo on his knees, and Mass began. When we got to the Bidding prayers, another David, a very large young man with severe disabilities, who had come with his mother Margaret, began to shout out. I wondered what we were going to do. David simply said, "Let's listen to David's prayers." Some of us would say, 'Well that is Fr. David all over, at his touchy-feely best.' But there was far more to it than that. David knew that Margaret had spent her life battling to get the support her son needed. He knew that whenever she went out she struggled with the embarrassment of people looking at her and her son, of the way in which society as a whole treated the two of them. Lourdes had to be for Fr. David, a place of acceptance and welcome. Where both Margaret and David had no need to feel excluded, but loved. That Margaret could sit on the terrace, gin and tonic in hand, chatting, relaxing, among people who respected her love for her son, and so loved him in turn.

Wherever he worked, with whoever he was working, the key to David's ministry was that he knew we are all loved by God and that God was to be found within each of us. It did not matter who we are or in what state we found ourselves. His simple lesson from Jesus' ministry, but not so easy to live out, is that people are

crying out for healing, and that we are called to heal, to reach out to people, to enable them to see their worth, that they are loved by God, in any way that we can. But that we do so as equals, never in a patronising way. "I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father."

Humility is at the heart of understanding how we are meant to live this out. A concentration on Jesus and what he asks of us, rather than on our own lives and how we might appear. Humility can come to us in many ways, and when illness comes, as it came to David, we are taken more deeply into it.

For David the other side of this humility was obedience. And an obedience that he took seriously. One day we were having a healing service with our group in a chapel in the Basilica. David had left anointing to me, and I happily anointed everyone in the room, probably whether they wanted it or not. David took me aside afterwards and asked me whether I had seen the Bishop of Lourdes' instructions about only healing the clearly sick. I muttered something like 'Surely we were all sick in some way.' David said in gentler words, but to the effect, "That wouldn't wash with the Bishop of Lourdes, and it didn't wash with him." Promises made, that were at the heart of his priesthood were not to be taken lightly. "You did not choose me, no, I chose you." We are not free to do as we wish. (That is not to say that he always agreed with episcopal decisions.)

I wondered what I might say about the gospel verses David chose for his Golden Jubilee and that we have heard today. So I turned to Jean Vanier as he seemed to be completely appropriate. What he says about these verses in Chapter 15 is this:

*"To love people as Jesus loves them is to wash their feet, to serve them in humility; it is to help them rise up in truth and love. Here Jesus is revealing something more:*

*It is to lay down one's life for others, to place their interests before our own. It is to give them life.*

*That can mean accepting difficulties, danger, even death so that they may live and grow in love.*

*To love is to live in communion with others, to transmit to them the life and love of Jesus.*

*It is to reveal to them that they are loved, loved by Jesus.*

*In this way we become their friend because we are a friend of Jesus."*

In some ways I do not think that I need to say more. As we celebrate David's life and pray for him as he meets God, a last step for which he was well prepared, he would make no more demands on us but this. (Besides perhaps asking us to raise a gin and tonic, or whatever our own tippie might be, in salute, and enjoying any celebration we might have in his honour.) The only demand made of us is by Jesus, "What I command you is to love one another."

*Fr Hugh Pollock*

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

# Fr David Elder RIP



## 1943-2019

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# New President of the YCW in England & Wales

YCW

Marc meets Pope Francis during a visit Rome.

**The Young Christian Workers has officially welcomed its new President, Marc Besford. This follows his unanimous election at the 80th National Council of the YCW held back in March 2019.**

Marc has been a member of the National Team for nearly 3 years and the paid worker for the last 2 years, following his time leading activity in his parish up in Billingham. The President is a voluntary position, involving chairing the regular team meetings and annual National Council, representing the YCW at home

and abroad, and coordinating the training and development programme. Marc will continue to work as the National Training and Development Worker and be based at the Trafford Park HQ.

He takes over from Kate Wilkinson, a long-time member of the YCW who became involved in the movement when she was at high school. Kate currently works as a School Chaplain and is involved in numerous Catholic youth ministry projects. Thankfully, she will continue to support the work of the YCW

alongside her other work around the country.

Commenting on his new role, Marc said: *"I have experienced things through the YCW that I wouldn't have dreamed of, I have met new people and made friends who have helped and supported me and most of all, I have developed my skills and learnt new ones as a person and as a leader. That is why I feel so privileged to have been elected President and I will do my utmost to keep our movement growing!"*

August also marked the 52nd anniversary

of the death of Fr. Joseph Cardijn, who founded the YCW in Belgium in 1925 and was later to be made a Cardinal for his work with the movement. Cardijn visited Britain on a number of occasions, remarking that *"it was the best retreat I made at the beginning of my priesthood."* He was inspired by his talks with Trade Union leaders, clergy and of course, local workers.

More information from YCW  
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