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The Official Newspaper to
the Diocese of Lancaster

Issue 314 + November '19

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Englishmen as Saints



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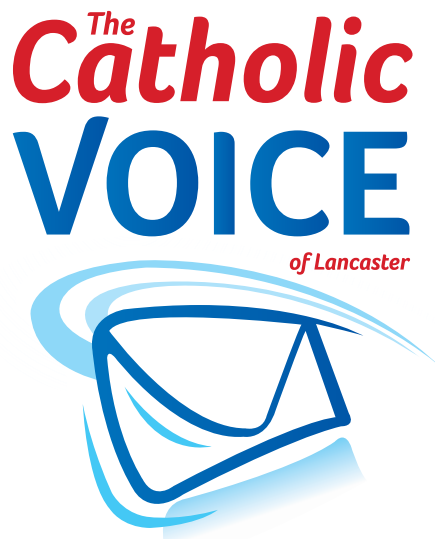
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The Catholic Voice of Lancaster

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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www.cathcom.org

DESIGN & LAYOUT:

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01253 730343
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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

As we move into November and leave the October Extraordinary Month of Mission (EMM) we should be mindful not to lose focus of Mission and Evangelisation in our lives. This is our calling through our Baptism and which was reinforced by the Sacrament of Confirmation.

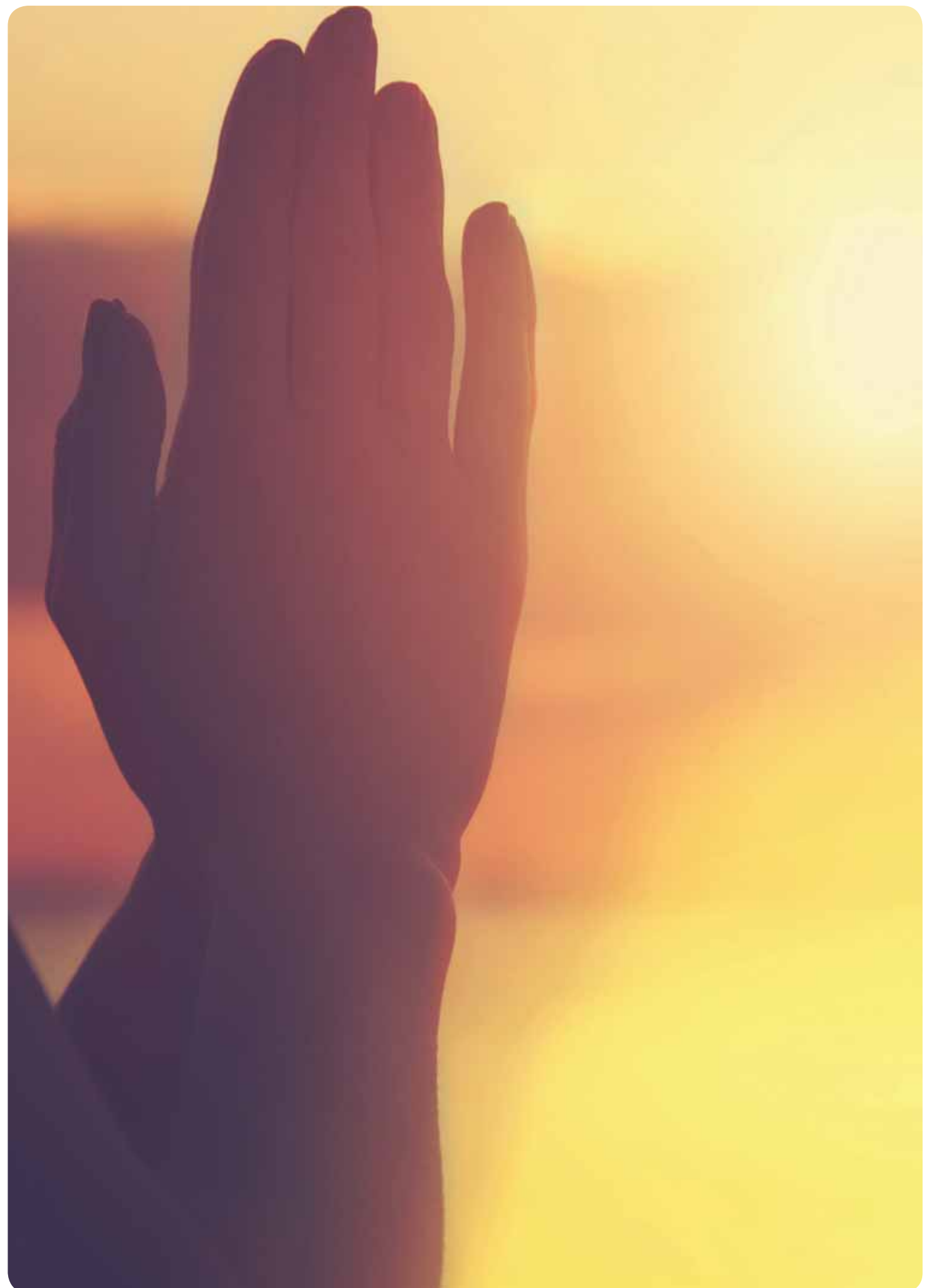
The secular world at this time would want us to turn our hearts and minds to the bangs and lights of Bonfire Night and the mad rush into the Christmas season before we have even started Advent. But the *Catholic Voice* encourages you not to get caught up in the pre-Christmas frenzy and refocus on what really matters that is our faith and bringing others to know and love our Saviour Jesus Christ.

As Bishop Paul wrote in his recent Pastoral Letter:
'It is my wish to encourage us all to reflect on our work as missionary disciples. I am very much aware of the burdens constantly put on our priests, parishes and schools. My desire is

for each parish to take up this EMM as you find yourself able. My personal hope is that we will come to appreciate more the privilege we have in sharing the salvific mission of Christ.'

Growing our faith and encouraging others does not necessarily mean us doing anything extraordinary. Often it is the small ordinary things that have the greatest impact; spending a few extra minutes in prayer each day, taking advantage of Eucharistic Adoration, maybe attending Mass during the week in addition to Sunday, being open to sharing your faith (*particularly with family members*) when the opportunity presents itself, leading lives that put others first and set an example of true Christian service are all small changes that could reap so much fruit.

The fireworks may briefly light up the sky but are gone in a bang. The light of faith however can bring rich rewards and the *Catholic Voice* believes that it is this light that is needed to penetrate the needs of our world today.





On Thursday, September 26th, in response to CAFOD'S climate campaign, 'Our Commonhome', the parish of Christ the King and St. Kentigern's hosted a Blackpool Deanery Creation Celebration Mass and social gathering. Father Hugh Pollock, from the Diocesan Faith and Justice Commission presided, concelebrating with Father Jim Burns VF Father Andrew Dawson PP, Father Stephen Talbutt, and Canon Tim Sullivan from St John Vianney's.

During the opening ritual young people from the parish youth group presented symbols of creation: an illuminated globe, a bowl of earth, a jug of water and a bowl of seeds and laid them at the foot of the altar.

The music for the mass was specially chosen and rehearsed beforehand by the adult choir under the leadership of Tony Evans. The rousing Taize chant: *All creation bless the Lord!* was our response to the reading of the creation story from Genesis. After the gospel reading from Luke of the parable of the rich man and his barns Father Hugh challenged us in his homily. For this was a gospel about fear and very much a message for our time as we live in a world that keeps wanting more and more and refusing to share, building walls and barricades to keep others out. He shared a moving story from his experiences at the UN climate change conference in Poland last

year. We have to believe we are partners in creation. We are all connected. We must trust in the recreating power God's Spirit helping us to share and live as brothers and sisters of this world of ours. It will mean sacrifice and change but with God's help we can save it.

The Bidding Prayers were read by the two CAFOD Step into the Gap volunteers: Francis and Daisy, who are part of St Mary's chaplaincy team this year. We sang the Mass of Creation acclamations and after Holy Communion the choir sang John Rutter's beautiful hymn: *Look at the world!* We then concluded the liturgy with Margaret Rizza's song: *Creator God*.

Everyone was invited to the parish centre to enjoy refreshments including delicious home-made cakes and to take part in a table quiz with 22 searching questions connected with climate change drawn from a longer CAFOD quiz. Francis and Daisy won the first prize!

Altogether it was truly an evening of celebration with the Lord of Creation and with each other.

***Praise to Thee, O Lord, for all creation
Give us thankful hearts that we may see
All the gifts we share and every blessing
All things come of Thee (from John Rutter's hymn)***
Philomena Grimley SHCJ

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Lancaster Youth Your Voice Report

Inspired by the recent Synod of Bishops on "Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment," approximately thirty young people, from across the diocese, responded to the invitation to gather at Our Lady's Catholic College, Lancaster. The day included time for prayer, individual reflection, group discussion and sharing of thoughts. We are very grateful to Bishop Paul for joining us in listening to the young people of the diocese.

During the small group time, the following questions were set as a starting point for discussions, and these provided some structure for the final sharing with Bishop Paul.

- What is your suggestion for introducing Jesus to young people who don't know him?
- What is your suggestion for helping young people find their place in the Church?
- What is your suggestion for helping young people to grow in faith and to work out what they want to do with their lives?
- Anything else you would like to say?

In discussion there was overlap between these questions and answers to one might relate to another. For this reason, the second question doesn't have its own heading in the summary of the responses below.

What is your suggestion for introducing Jesus to young people who don't know him?

Most young people felt that the experience of visiting a retreat centre was key for them. It was suggested that more could be done to get into schools to prepare for retreats and follow them up. There was an awareness that cost could be a barrier for some.

They were concerned that many young people missed out on the opportunities available to them (retreats, pilgrimages, other events etc.) because they weren't aware of them, and suggested the Youth Service could do more outreach into schools to promote these.

Personal witness is important. Authenticity is important. Everyone knows people who know about faith (through school), but don't have faith. The witness of others, priests, chaplains, youth ministers and other young people living their faith is necessary to convert them (*demonstrating that we are not 'weirdos'*). Support for young people to help them answer 'big questions' about the faith and church would be helpful. More needs to be done outside of Castlerigg. It was suggested that the diocese invest in professionals to work alongside the Youth Service locally across the diocese. Local youth groups are important. It would also be helpful if events like the *World Youth Day at Home* evening (at the Cathedral in January 2019) could happen more regularly and in different locations around the diocese.

A programme for a group of young people to visit parishes around the diocese, perhaps just to meet people or possibly lead elements of the Mass (e.g. *praise and worship style music*) was suggested. Some parishes do good things for National Youth Sunday, but this needs to be more widespread across the diocese and throughout the year. The witness of young people with faith is important in encouraging not just young people (*who may be very few and isolated in many of our parishes*).

We should look for opportunities to address people's questions about faith, for example through Grill the Priest type events (*at which a priest answers any questions that people bring to the session*).

Thought also needs to be given to how

we reach marginalised groups, e.g. LGBT, ensuring that they don't feel excluded.

What is your suggestion for helping young people to grow in faith and to work out what they want to do with their lives?

It is important that young people know that there are people in the Church whom they can talk to and discuss all aspects of life. Priests need to be approachable, and need to know their young people such that they can invite them to events and introduce them to others. This may be particularly important for young people from families where they do not receive support in their faith.

There was a request for more events with a similar style to Youth 2000 – centred on the Eucharist and sacraments, with praise and worship (*contemporary music*).

Young people are fired up in their faith after retreats, pilgrimages, events etc. but need more support to sustain this. They come back from these events looking for Mass, confessions, adoration, but can't find it locally at times that fit with their work/college commitments. One young person commented '*Parishes are set up for the audience they already have.*'

Creating spaces for young people to get together and share faith is also important. The witness they offer to each other supports them in their faith. These needn't be events with a programme – it is sufficient to create a space in which they feel safe to discuss the faith, prayer life etc. and a gathering that builds connections.

However, it was also felt there is a lack of formation offered to young people to help them access the intellectual side of faith, Church teachings and the riches of the sacraments. Reading groups were suggested as one possibility (*perhaps based online*).

Some young people were aware that the Church has a significant role supporting disadvantaged people at home and around the world. They felt that this could be better promoted to make people aware of this, and there could be clearer opportunities for young people to contribute to this.

Those present expressed a desire to be involved – they feel that young people have gifts that they want to share in the Church, but they aren't given the opportunity. They were particularly concerned to use their gifts to free up priests to be priests.

The sacrament of confirmation needs to happen at an age at which a young person is making a genuine choice for faith. It was suggested that this should be around the age of 14 – at which fewer would be confirmed, but those receiving the sacrament would be more likely to continue to engage with their faith after.

There was a discussion about the Youth Service website (castleriggmanor.co.uk) and social media accounts (@CastleriggManor). Some felt that these need to make faith more explicit and offer more for young people with established faith, but concern was also raised by a young person (*a school chaplain*) that to do so could put young people off coming to us in the first place.

There was agreement that these need to be connected with contemporary youth culture, authentic and of a high quality. Videos were suggested as an important medium.

It was noted that personal witness, the recommendation of a friend, is often most effective in promoting retreats or events.

Anything else you would like to say?

There was concern that everything that is offered at present is in Lancaster or

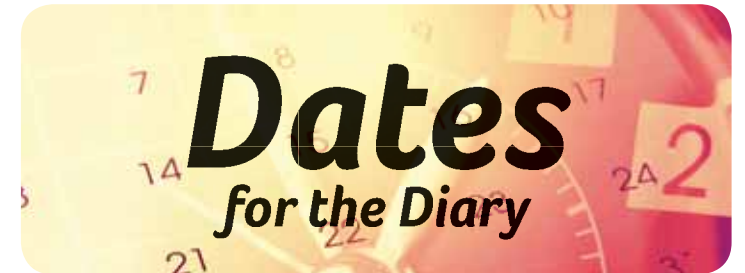


Preston – young people from other areas, and especially those who can't drive, feel excluded. More localised events need to be developed, and a broader range of opportunities than Mass and services.

It was felt that more needs to be done to make young people aware of what is on offer. Announcements at the end of Mass are needed – a notice in the newsletter or a poster at the back of church is too easily missed – and we need to make sure that everything is promoted.

There was discussion around the age of young people. One young person highlighted the Vatican definition of youth, being 16 to 35, but this event was advertised as 16 to mid-twenties, and many youth events in the diocese are for younger groups. There was concern that older young people are not excluded.

Although probably not the role of youth organisations, there was concern that there should be provision specifically for young families in the diocese. It was suggested that the diocese should have an evangelisation strategy to cater for faith development at all ages.



30th October – Fundraising Concert 7.30pm

Hosted by Lancaster University Catholic Chaplaincy, a piano concert with Fr Manny Gribben, Cameron Dickason & Seungyoun 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 centered event presenting high quality speakers, praise and worship, and opportunities of encounter. Corpus Christi Catholic High School, 10am-6pm. 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

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Dear Editor

Your notice of Fr Terry's death in the September edition of the *Catholic Voice* reminded me of a lovely tribute I heard paid to him as I made my first round of parishioners on becoming Parish Priest of Holy Family Blackpool.

Terry had been Curate there before I came and a Scottish lady, not a Catholic, said of Terry, "I loved being at Mass when Fr Rogers was saying Mass. You just knew from his very stance that the peace of God had descended on the place". Gosh, I'd love that to be said of me. God rest you Terry.

Rev. Val Farrell



Dear Editor

In response to the anonymous letter to priests in the October edition of the *Catholic Voice*.

Back in 1993 the Diocese embarked on a support programme for priests. It was entitled 'The Road to Emmaus'. Priests would gather in clusters for a time of prayer discussion and socialising. Venues and size of cluster varied and today these gatherings take place.

To add to the sentiment of the letter from the anonymous writer there is a beautiful Emmaus Prayer for Priests:

**Lord Jesus, hear our prayer
For the spiritual renewal of priests
We praise you for giving their ministry to the Church.
In these days renew them with the gifts of your Spirit.**

**You once opened the Scriptures
To the disciples on the road to Emmaus
Now renew your ordained ministers
With the truth and power of your Word.**

**In the Eucharist you gave the Emmaus disciples
Renewed life and hope
Nourish our priests with your own Body and Blood
Help them to imitate in their lives
The death and resurrection they celebrate at your altar.**

**Give our priests enthusiasm for the Gospel,
Zeal for the salvation of all
Courage in leadership
Humility in service
Fellowship with one another
And with all their brothers and sisters in you.**

**Keep them in your love, Lord Jesus,
For they are your priests and ours
And we pray for them in your name.
Amen**

Its author is Rev. Frank E. Boganno and it has a copyright from 1978.

The prayer is so rounded and reminds us all of where our priests come from. What it is they do and where they can get their inspiration, determination and compassion from.

Every one of us needs prayer. I recommend this prayer to you.

Rev. Chris Barwise

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Peter Reed

Picture shows: l-r Sisters Bernadette, Elizabeth, and Eileen.






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When I wrote my first piece for *'The Voice'* "Does God have a favourite football Team?", that appeared in the May 2017 edition, I mentioned that I had been Church of England born and bred, and how I became a Catholic was "another story". Perhaps now it would be appropriate to tell it as, last Easter, it was 25 years since I took the plunge!

Cradle Catholics and converts can sometimes be uneasy 'bed fellows'. There is a story told of an old parish priest who refused to have anything to do with 'converts' as they were difficult to deal with and insisted that his curate 'dealt' with them. Of course during the 1500's it was Henry VIII, Martin Luther, and other reformers that had much to do with some of the splintering of the Christian faith we see today.

Growing up I had regularly gone to church each Sunday and to Sunday School in the afternoon. Like many in the 1950's my early social life included the church cub pack, scout troop, youth club, and parish football team. Whilst it can be a problem in some communities there was no obvious sectarianism where I lived growing up nevertheless, being Church of England, we were quietly encouraged to mix with, and marry, our 'own kind'!

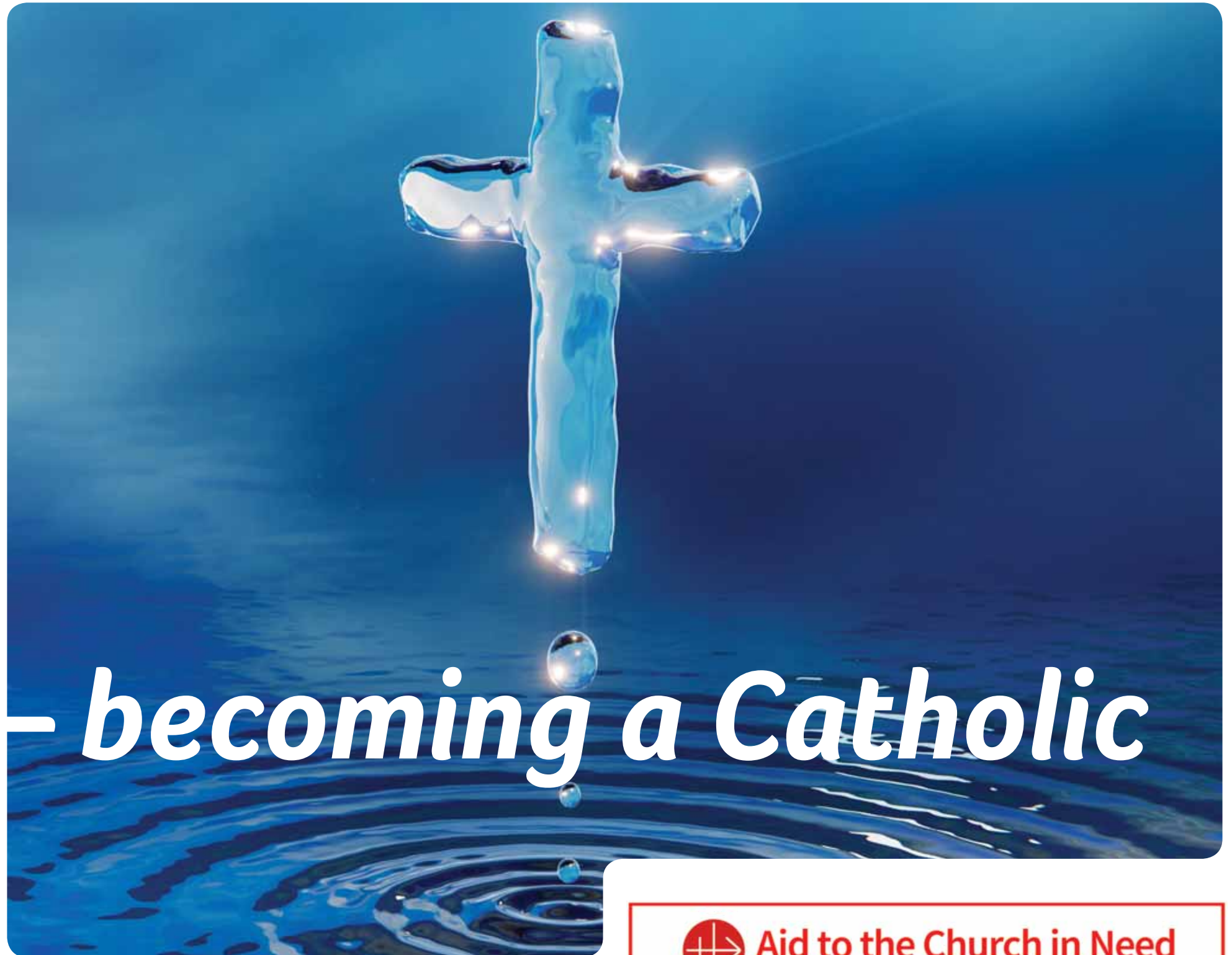
Fast forward to Saturday 10th April 1965 and I am in my then usual weekend

haunt 'The Oasis' a basement music club in Lloyd Street, off Albert Square, Manchester and celebrating Dave, my friend's, 19th birthday. Number one in the charts that week was 'Concrete and Clay' by Unit Four plus Two but topping the bill that night were American pop group "The Drifters". It would prove to be a life changing visit as during the course of night I asked for a dance with a very attractive girl who was stood on a chair watching the stage.

A couple of hours later, as I walked her to the number 60 Bus Stop in Cannon Street one of my mates shouted over, "Are you going to church tomorrow?" I shouted back that I was and I would later find out that as a result of my response the girl assumed I was a catholic!

Two years later 10th June 1967 Olive and I were married at St Clare's, Victoria Avenue in Blackley, Manchester by Fr Raphael.

However before this could happen I had required to attend for 'lessons' for 6 weeks and would have to sign a pledge that any children we had would be brought up catholic – something I was happy to do. (This was without the assistance of Michael Hennes and Rosemary Gallagher's "How to survive being married to a Catholic" which wasn't published for another 19 years!) It might have also helped if the priest had



spoken a little more about the actual service as well as the Catholic faith.

Our wedding was immediately followed by another and it was only as we were outside the church having our photographs taken and heard the organ strike up that we realised we had never had any music or hymns at our wedding!

As the children came along and later attended school we all regularly attended Mass as a family but I saw no reason or felt any need to 'convert'. Although I never went up for a blessing most people in the parish assumed I was a catholic – I was even invited to join the Knights of St Columba!

I cannot say there was any 'Road to Damascus' experience, neither was I struck dumb prior to the christening of one of our children. However after 27 years the time seemed right to fully participate in my attendance at Mass and, at the Easter Vigil in 1994, I became a fully participating member of the Church.

I cannot say that there was any huge change or increase in my faith but to be fully participating in the Eucharist was a real blessing. Following a house move in 2012 Olive and I began attending St Joseph's in Ansdell, and last year we had the privilege of representing the parish at

the Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool.

I am, of course, one of a long line of converts, which includes luminaries of the Church like St. Augustine, St. Paul, Constantine, and St. John Henry Newman. Numerous others have included CS Lewis, GK Chesterton, Gerard Manley Hopkins, Siegfried Sassoon, Delia Smith, Diana Dors, and Jane Fonda. Alec Guinness left the 'dark side' several years before he became Obi-wan Kenobi.

Some people have left things late making the decision to convert on their death bed including Buffalo Bill Cody, Oscar Wilde, and even John Wayne despite uttering "This truly was the Son of God" 14 years earlier as the centurion at the cross in 'The Greatest Story Ever Told'.

There will be many reasons or callings that bring people to the decision to convert to Catholicism and I do not propose to speculate why Tony Blair took the step on 22nd December 2007 after stepping down as Prime Minister – Things can only get better!

Of course over the years there have been men who have converted to Catholicism and became priests, however the Church must show discretion for in his First Letter to Timothy 3 v6, Paul cautions that when looking to appoint a Bishop "he must not be a recent convert". *Dave Yates*



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2nd Interviews - Monday 25th November 2019



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Hi, my name is Mandy and I am a parishioner of Cumbrian Martyrs Parish in Carlisle. I have been a nurse for over 30 years and it has always been my dream to work as a volunteer in a school and hospital in Africa.

After a year of fundraising with the support, time and donations from many of the local parishioners, my family, friends and work colleagues and a link made with Sister Juunza Chief administrator of Monze Mission Hospital; my dream finally became reality when I went on my adventures to sunny Monze in Zambia in April of this year. I raised £2200 in total, which was split between the hospital and the primary school where I worked as a volunteer.

The first two weeks of my experience were spent at St Vincent's Community Primary school which has eight classes and a total of 292 pupils.

The school day started with an assembly at 6:45am which was a shock to my system! The children had lessons very similar to the ones back home, but they learned their national language of Tonga as well as English. I worked in a different class every day supporting the teachers with the lessons that they had planned.

Many of the children lived far away from the school which meant a very long walk due to no transport. Some had to walk in their bare feet as their families had no spare money for shoes. The money raised for the school went towards uniforms for the children whose families couldn't afford them and also towards school dinners as the school had to rely on donations to feed the entire pupil population. The meals consisted of Nshima (ground maize) and ground nuts.

I was made to feel very welcome by the head teacher Sister Lontia as well as the other teachers and pupils. The children were a delight to work with, despite them having much less (in a materialistic sense) than many of the children back at home.

They were all happy children who were very respectful of others and all very keen to learn.

The second two weeks of my experience were spent working as a nurse in the Monze mission hospital. Sister Juunza, the chief administrator, gave me the opportunity to work on the departments that I personally had a passion for. This enabled metetwork on the Children's Ward, the Adolescent HIV unit, the Maternity Unit and the School of Nursing.

There was no electronic equipment for taking the children's observations nor any electronic drip stands for the IV fluids, and the patient's records were all kept on paper rather than a computer. However, despite the lack of 21st century technology, the basic nursing care was very good. Many of the childhood illnesses and the treatment administered were the same as back home, but due to the drought earlier in the year, there was a higher than normal incidence of admissions to hospital with malnutrition. The children were very thin, frail and very poorly and it was heart-breaking to see.

The nursing staff, patients and families were all very welcoming to me and very appreciative of any care that I delivered. The money raised for the hospital went towards food supplies and equipment for the children's ward, as well as medical supplies for the maternity unit.

Both the school and hospital were extremely grateful for the time that I spent working there and for the money raised to enable them to buy supplies which they needed so much. Since returning home, I have promised to try and raise more money for the school and the hospital. I have plans to hold a quiz night and some coffee mornings within the Carlisle area and I have also set up a crowd funder. If anybody would like to make a donation you can find the fundraising page at: www.gofundme.com/f/the-zambian-fund. Thank you for reading about my adventure!

Mandy Howes

Annual Diocesan Education Mass

The annual Diocesan Education Mass took place on the 4th October at St Peter's Cathedral in Lancaster. Bishop Paul celebrated the Mass with a packed and lively congregation which included many people from across the Catholic education community from the Diocese.

Bishop Paul welcomed members from other denominations who are involved in some aspect of teaching and supporting our young people.

The Bishop commented during his sermon that it was the first Education Mass in many years that Canon Luiz Ruscillo had not been present and he welcomed Father Michael Docherty into his new role as Vicar for Education and Formation.

The Bishop gave an inspiring homily covering not only our faith but also a reminder of the importance of environment. The Mass took place on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi who Saint Pope John Paul II had made patron Saint of Ecologists in 1979.

The Bishop thanked all of those who put their time and effort into their work as teachers and formators. Music was provided by a splendid choir which Bishop Paul congratulated at the end of Mass.

Following the Mass, the Bishop commissioned over 100 people. These included those who were starting their roles in education, those who had been promoted and also those who had gained certificate in Catholic teaching. The Bishop also acknowledged and thanked retiring members of the education community.

A booklet was given out at the Mass which celebrated The Year of the Eucharist Poster Competition. One of Canon Luiz's last duties as head of the service was to judge the competition.

Winners received an age-appropriate Bible with a commemorative dedication signed by Bishop Paul. The booklet showcased some wonderful creations from our young people. Refreshments were provided in the splendour of Ashton Hall in Lancaster Town Hall.

John Lord



National Guild of St Stephen



Lancaster Servers.



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Over 300 altar servers, from across England, gathered for the national Archconfraternity of St Stephen Mass in Liverpool Cathedral on the 21st September 2019. This was a very special occasion as it was the first time that the Mass has been held outside of Westminster Cathedral.

The Servers are members of the Archconfraternity (Guild) of St Stephen, which exists to encourage the highest standards of serving at the Church's liturgy, and so contribute to a more fruitful worship of God. The Guild seeks to provide altar servers with a greater understanding of what they are doing, so that they may serve with increasing reverence and prayerfulness.

Senior members of the Guild travelled up from London, including Michael O'Leary, the Guild President. The chief celebrant was the retired Archbishop of Liverpool, Patrick Kelly, who invited all servers present to persevere even when it is difficult serving and thanked their families for supporting them. He also asked the boys present to consider if they had a future vocation to the priesthood.

About 30 servers from our own Diocese attended, covering parishes from Workington down to Lancaster, Preston and Blackpool. Refreshments were served after Mass, and there was a chance to chat with fellow servers and to have photographs taken with the Archbishop.

Christopher Massey
Parish of the Holy Cross (Kirkham and Wesham)



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Church recognises two Englishmen as Saints

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Blessed John Henry Newman was made a Saint on 13th October. But soon we should have another English Saint - and from our own diocese! The cause for John Bradburne was initiated officially in Mutemwa, Zimbabwe on 5th September, the fortieth anniversary of his murder during the civil war. It was celebrated in an anniversary Mass at Westminster cathedral, where John had served as Sacristan.

As many of you will know, John was born the son of an Anglican vicar in Skirwith, near Penrith, in 1921. He was an adventurous soul, whose travelling included gruelling experiences in the Burma campaign during the war, a spell in rural Italy and in Belgium, and visiting the Holy Land. Even after his conversion to Catholicism he was still restless, moving on from monastery to presbytery,

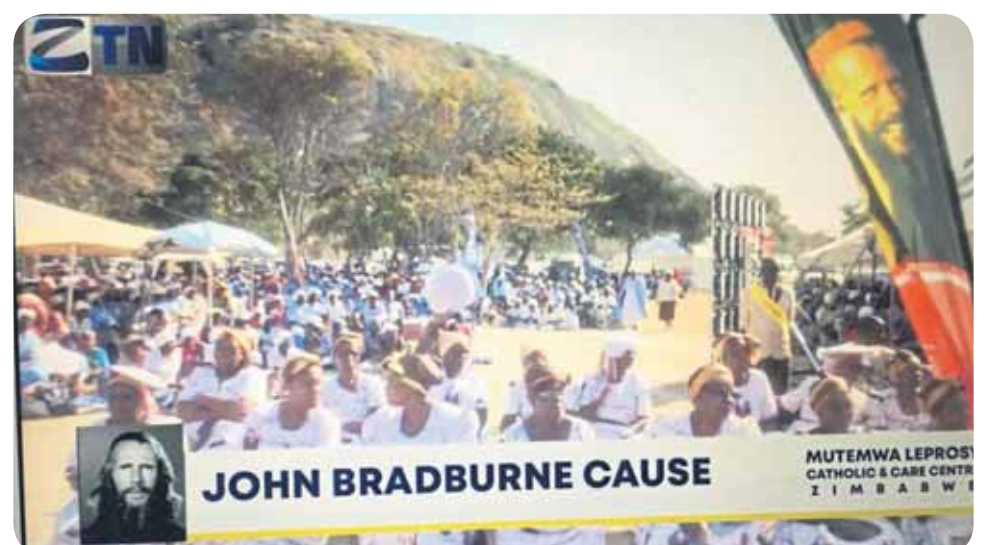
and even living on the streets in London.

He was full of life and fun, a musician and a poet, warm and friendly, yet with a deep need for silent prayer and solitude. Finally, he found his true home, caring for the lepers of Mutemwa in Zimbabwe.

Many thousands each year visit the shrine which was his home, and many miracles of healing, visions of John, and signs such as the spinning sun have been experienced.

It is fitting that when he is canonised, he will become Zimbabwe's first official saint. At the same time, we are proud and grateful to call him one of our own.

The sun shone on Westminster Cathedral as it filled up with 500 or more people, including Zimbabweans living in London





and many who had flown over specially for the event. Very many people who knew John, including members of his family were there. The celebrations were a wonderful contrast in styles, reflecting John's deep love of music.

The Cathedral Choir sang the beautiful, restrained, Schubert setting of the Mass, while before the Mass and after Communion, the infectiously joyful singing of the Zimbabwean Catholic Community England & Wales singers, accompanied by drums, made even the Westerners want to dance!

The song and praise continued long after the Mass had finished.

Monsignor Robert Mercer CR, who had known John, preached meditatively on love and the Trinity, making use of John's poetry. The readers were an Anglican priest, Revd Ben Bradshaw, and Benjamin Takavarasha from Zimbabwe, with John's friend Fr David Harold- Barry SJ reading the Gospel. Fr Liam McCarthy who used to run the leprosy settlement and Fr Patience Tigere who is now the Franciscan administrator of Mutemwa were also present.

After Mass there were talks by Anne Lander, a close friend of John's and Professor David Crystal, the editor of John's poetry. There was also an exhibition of John's relics, to be seen for the first time.

In this exhibition, John's Franciscan Habit was on display and his beloved type writer where he wrote thousands of poems in his tin hut at Mutemwa.

A huge thank you must go to the John Bradburne Memorial Society team who worked tirelessly organising the event.

The JMBS continues to raise funds to provide relief and affectionate care for the sick and desperately poor people of Mutemwa.

For more info, please go online to: www.johnbradburne.com

I was very moved today when a young Chinese asylum seeker, living in London, quoted one of John's poems, about being homeless but having God's heart as home. It moved him so much he learnt it off by heart. A bright and fine lad. I think JB will be praying for him. *Sr. Margaret Atkins*

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Second Fridays at 7.00 pm*
*Please note new day and time

St John Vianney, Marton, Blackpool
Mondays: 12.00 noon;
Fridays: 6.30 pm

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


Shrine of the English Martyrs, Preston
Monday-Saturday: 12 noon, Low Mass
Sundays: 9.00 am, Low Mass

No Mass at Hornby until May 2020

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's 30th Anniversary

On Monday July 22, 2019 Deacon Paul Wawarczyk celebrated thirty years as a permanent deacon.

Paul was ordained at St Thomas More's church, Lancaster by Bishop Brewer in 1989 where he served for four years. In 1993 he moved to St Bernadette's parish in Lancaster where he has spent the last twenty six years. He was also head of RE at Our Lady's Catholic College until 2007. Paul was also involved with pastoral care and bereavement support at St John's Hospice in Lancaster.

During his time at St Bernadette's Paul has served under three parish priests; Fr John Hawkins, Fr Peter Foulkes and presently Fr Peter Sayer.

Deacon Paul supports Fr Sayer in his pastoral and administrative duties by sharing the word of God with us,

celebrating baptisms, weddings and funerals and visiting parishioners and the sick. He welcomes newcomers to the church, guides reflections in the scripture study group, coordinates the justice and peace group, is actively involved in ecumenism with South Lancaster Churches Together, chats with parents outside the primary school gates and is always there to help support and guide us whether we are active members of the church or the housebound.

All his duties are carried out with kindness and support, epitomising the role of the deacon which is one of service. Paul is supported in his role by his wife Anne and children John, Ruth and Stefan. On Sunday, July 21st, Mass was celebrated for them all and was followed by refreshments in the social area. We pray for Deacon Paul's continuing ministry with us in the parish.



Laudato Si! My Responsibility? Diaconate Gathering: Hynning Hall

Would you be willing to revert to using pencils, instead of plastic ball point pens, in order to save the planet? Likewise, how about using tablet soap, instead of the liquid hand cleaners that come in yet more plastic bottles? Quaint suggestions perhaps, but in the scale of the struggle to preserve God's creation, even the smallest measures are important.

These challenging illustrations were part of a presentation given by Sister Margaret Atkins to the Deacons of the Diocese, at a formation day held at Hynning Hall on 7 September. There were some 28 deacons and their wives present, and the subject for exploration was Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si*, issued in 2015.

The words "*Laudato si, mi Signore*" are taken from a canticle by St. Francis of Assisi and mean "*Praise to you my Lord.*" Coming from the writings of a Saint renowned for his love of creation and the natural environment, they are a suitable backdrop for the Pope's own concern for what he calls "*our common home.*" The encyclical is a powerful and compelling document; it is 102 pages long, authoritative in its tone, well researched and clearly delivered and presented.

It is an example of the church at its best, informing and advising its children on the problems that beset them. It explores all the features and facets of what is happening to our world, its human roots and causes, the scale of its impact, and how any solutions would require a new dialogue and a wholly new lifestyle, formed and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Sister Margaret's excellent talk focussed on the obligation on each of us, as individuals, to reflect on the Pope's message, and to respond to it in our personal lives and circumstances. She suggested that the exercise of Christian virtues provided the scope and motivation for such a response. It was important to remember that our Creation home was conceived and donated to us by God out of love; it was in the breadth of that same spirit that our efforts to rectify the problems we have generated should be conducted. Not least among these virtues was courage,

the commitment and determination to be a positive and practical source of restoration, in spite of the scale of the challenge. Such courage would need to be informed and fed by love, by a renewal of faith, and by reliance on the encouragement and support of the Holy Spirit. There would be a need for openness, for dialogue and a positive response to the suggestions of others, to a broad and sensitive sense of perspective, a temperateness that sought to balance that which was needful against that which was self-indulgent. It was a tall agenda, as indeed was the encyclical itself.

The discussion which followed Sister Margaret's talk was wide-ranging and deeply concerned for the enormity of what confronted our world, and the narrowing time scale for retrieving and restoring what has been lost. Canon Tony Walsh urged a counsel of hope; there were, he felt numerous examples of individuals, companies and agencies who were active on a personal and local level to reverse the spiral of decline. There was evidence of changes in lifestyles, fresh ways of thinking and acting, particularly among the young, and a growing unwillingness simply to accept things as they are. But there remained a lot, lot more to be done; indeed, there was a half-hidden feeling of despondency and crisis at what was facing us.

The key question remained: how to persuade all of us that we are part of the problem and hence a key part of the solution. There needs to be a sea change in our frame of thinking and with it a willingness to commit ourselves to practical measures for change. Hence the pencils and the plastic bottles of liquid cleanser! It was felt that the *Catholic Voice* had a valuable part to play in raising awareness of the content and purpose of the Pope's encyclical. Equally, there was scope for parishes to explore the Pope's message and to determine what it might mean in real terms for their communities. In the Pope's own words, "*...the Lord of love is always present ... He does not abandon us, he does not leave us alone, for he has united himself definitively to our earth, and his love constantly impels us to find the new ways forward. Praise be to Him!*"

Deacon Paul Marley

Deacon Paul second left with his family.



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All of a Piece

by Julia Beacroft

I have always absolutely loathed doing jigsaws. We have a great family ‘dine-out’ anecdote featuring moi, about my jigsaw exploits. Apparently I used to rip bits off the jigsaw pieces to make them fit, when I was a child. The fact that the picture didn’t make any sense whatsoever was apparently irrelevant to me, or so I’ve been told! It seems that doing jigsaws is just not in my skills set – both then and now.

Extraordinarily Gifted

There is a lovely quotation which claims: ‘Love what you do, by doing what you’re good at’ and I feel that this is so true. We are almost certainly good at doing the things which we love. And yet I have noticed time and again some incredible facts about the talents which people have. We are an extraordinarily gifted people and our range of talents is indeed breathtaking. It’s an interesting fact that if a number of completely diverse people found themselves in a strategic situation, such as on a desert island, the miracle would be that the combination of their individual skills would be sufficient for survival, or to achieve some measure of success in another situation. It’s also incredible how we can learn to improve upon our gifts because we have been given the capacity to do so.

In his letter to the Romans, St Paul reminds us of these different gifts and of our need to use them to their fullest advantage:

‘We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.’

Fit Together

Of course St Paul is absolutely right in that we are called to share those gifts which we have been entrusted with and he also points out that these are ours only by virtue of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. And we can explore this still further by looking at each person as a whole. We have been created with a perfect balance of characteristics, skills and tastes in what is the miracle of life.

There is another idiom which refers to the ‘rich tapestry of life’ and every single person is part of that tapestry. Whether we consider ourselves to be an individual stitch in it or one jigsaw piece in the whole picture, that picture or tapestry would be incomplete without it – without you or I. And so we give grateful thanks to the Creator who made all things and endowed us with such a marvelous variety of gifts and talents. By his grace our personal jigsaw is thereby complete, designing us to fit together with each other and with 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 for more information. Follow Julia on Facebook & Twitter. Copyright ©2019 Julia Beacroft. All rights reserved.



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'When England returns to Walsingham, Our Lady will return to England'

Pope Leo XIII

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham 2019

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The annual pilgrimage led by Bishop Paul Swarbrick was a grace filled occasion. We were in Walsingham on the Feast Day itself (24th September) praying the rosary during the Marian Procession along the Pilgrim Way then Solemn Mass which was live streamed across the globe on EWTN and after a restful afternoon we had a talk on the Spirituality of the Annunciation and Mary's Dowry in the evening by one of the Franciscan Friars, resident once again in Walsingham after 480 years. We also had a wonderful day visit to the magnificent Roman Catholic Cathedral in Norwich.

On Sunday 29th March 2020, the Catholic Faithful in England will render to Mary, Mother of God a personal rededication of England as her Dowry. This will be done throughout the country, in Walsingham, Cathedrals, Parishes and Homes. For more information and to get your parish involved please visit: www.dowrytour.org.uk

The forthcoming rededication must be approached in a spirit of deep prayer.

Since 2018 the National Statue of Our Lady of Walsingham has been touring England's Catholic Cathedrals for a three

day triduum of Prayer. The statue will visit Lancaster Cathedral from 6th to 8th February 2020. Please do make every effort to come and support ...

"The message of Walsingham is the story of the Annunciation, when the Holy Spirit entered the world of Mary and she was told of God's plan for her to become the Mother of his Son, Jesus.

The Annunciation, is the guarantee of God's abiding presence in our lives and in our world, inspiring and energising us to be witnesses that at a time and place in history God walked among us showing us

how to be truly human and 'not to be afraid for nothing is impossible for God'. The joy we celebrate today is that he is still with us, walking among us, reassuring us with his presence in Word and Sacrament.

Our Lady's promise of Joy for those in any need take us always to the words of her Son, 'And know that I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'" Mgr Armitage Shrine Rector.

Please watch out for Information of the 2020 Diocesan 'Dowry' Pilgrimage which will be sent to parishes in February.

Paul Briers, Pilgrimage Organiser

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