



The Official Newspaper to
the Diocese of Lancaster

Issue 334 + November '21

INSIDE: p04
p08
p15

An Urgent Call to Action
Centenary of Consecration
John Bradburne –
Cumbria's 2nd Saint?



500 Year Old Missal Comes Home!

L-R – Canon Peter Hart, Canon Paul Emberry VG, Fr George Corrie OSB, Lawrence Gregory local historian, Bishop Paul Swarbrick, Edwina Gillett Editor of the Catholic Voice, Fr Stephen Pearson Cathedral Dean, Cathy Heaton-Brown Bishop's Secretary.



The only fully
illuminated
pages.



Bishop Paul Swarbrick was pleased to accept an invitation from Ampleforth for the 500 year old Caldbeck Missal to be reunited with the Diocese.

The transfer took place at Bishop's House in the summer. Julia Brooke and Fr George Corrie OSB carefully transported the Missal from Ampleforth to Morecambe where a small reception and prayers were held before Fr Simon Hawkesworth took the Missal on its' final journey to Carlisle where it will be safely and carefully stored. It is hoped that the Missal will be available to view in the coming months.

A short history of the Caldbeck Missal will be featured in the December edition of the *Catholic Voice*.

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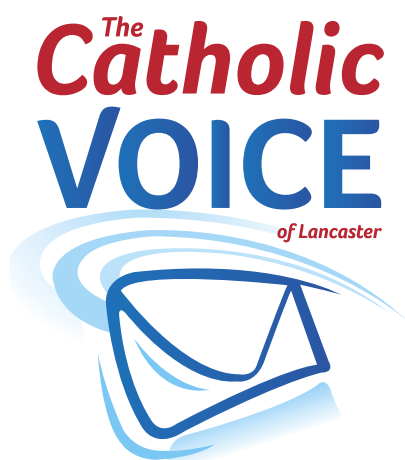
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EDITOR:

Edwina Gillett
01253 736630 / 07969 967268
edwinagillett@hotmail.co.uk
www.catholicvoiceoflancaster.co.uk

ADVERTISING:

Charlotte Rosbrooke / CathCom Ltd.
01440 730399 / 07932 248225
charlotter@cathcom.org
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Articles to:

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voiceletters@hotmail.co.uk

POSTAL ADDRESS:

FAO Edwina Gillett
99 Commonside, Ansdell,
Lytham St. Annes FY8 4DJ

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**EDITORIAL**

In the October edition of the *Catholic Voice* we reported on the launch of a 2 Year Synodal Process entitled 'Vision of Missionary Communion Orientated to Evangelisation' and gave readers a general outline on the phases and timescales involved.

The *Catholic Voice* will provide regular updates throughout the process and will shortly be able to explain the arrangements for our own Diocese of Lancaster. We will all be urged (including those no longer participating in Church life) to participate in the diocesan consultation which will conclude with an Assembly.

Encounter, Listen and Discern

Pope Francis has described the synod as a 'journey of spiritual discernment' guided by God's word. He said "In these days, Jesus calls us, as he did the rich man in the Gospel, to empty ourselves, to free ourselves from all that is worldly, including our inward looking

and our outworn pastoral models; and to ask ourselves what it is that God wants to say to us in this time. And the direction in which he wants to lead us."

And the Pope warned against 'formalism' intellectualism' and 'the temptation of complacency' as we embark on this journey together. "Enabling everyone to participate is an essential duty" he said, adding "we (the Church) have taken some steps forward, but a difficulty remains and we must acknowledge the frustration and impatience felt by many pastoral workers, members of diocesan and parish consultative bodies and women, who frequently remain on the fringes."

The *Catholic Voice* believes that this is a marvellous opportunity to engage in this bottom up process that will hopefully deliver the 'Vision of Missionary Communion Orientated to Evangelisation'.



“ Participating in the Synod means placing ourselves on the same path of the Word made flesh. It means following in his footsteps, listening to his word along with the words of others. It means discovering with amazement that the Holy Spirit always surprises us, to suggest fresh paths and new ways of speaking.

” Pope Francis

YOUTH MATTERS

Youth Service Director Jack Regan Appeals for your Help



NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY

During November the Youth Service will be sending people round to different parishes to talk about our work in the hope of convincing people that we are a cause worth donating to. Yes, that's right, those appeals after communion that you all know and love – we're going to be doing a fair few of those. Hopefully, though, with a bit of a difference...

As well as having a collection, we are also going to be inviting people to sign up for the Castlerigg Lottery. The lottery costs £3 per ticket and draws take place each month. The winner takes half the pot! Right now, the prize fund is just under £200 and it's growing fast. Okay, it's not sailing-a-yacht-round-the-west-indies money, but a very nice day out or maybe even weekend away.

But why donate your hard-earned to the Youth Service anyway?

Our mission at Castlerigg Manor is a simple one. We want as many young people and young adults as possible to know that they are loved by God. We want them to know who they were born to be and how wonderful it is to really know God in the midst of the Church He created. That is our sole mission and something we are working hard to realise each day.

It would be easy at this point to play the tiny violins, to tell you that we have been hard hit by Covid, and about all of the spending commitments that we have, but while that's all quite true, I personally donate to things not based on what that thing needs, but based on how worthwhile it is and what it's trying to achieve. For the youth service, the equation is simple: the more resources we have, the more we can do to realise the vision I've just spelled out.

If any of that has made you feel like putting your hand in your pocket, head to www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/nys

ADVENT RETREAT

This December - 10th to the 12th to be precise – we will be holding our first 'in person' open retreat since Covid! What is an open retreat? Well, it's a chance for anyone aged 11-25 to come to Castlerigg for a retreat without their school or parish. It's a chance to make friends, have fun, and maybe deepen our faith a little bit along the way. What does 'in person' mean? Well, it's like a zoom retreat but physically all together in one room. Sounds weird, I know, but trust us when we say, it works! www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/advent

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An Urgent Call to Action

Virginia Bell sends this report from Laudato Si Animators



The United Nations climate talks or Conference of Parties (COP) will take place 1-12 November 2021 in Glasgow. COP26 will be the biggest summit ever hosted in the UK.

It is the most significant climate event since the 2015 Paris Agreement, at which over 190 countries agreed to the aim of limiting global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius.

COP26 is the first summit when countries must report back on their progress since the Paris Agreement, and set out more ambitious goals for ending their contribution to climate change.

Fossil Fuel Energy

Most of the world's energy is produced by burning fossil fuels – oil, coal and gas – which creates carbon dioxide which is damaging the environment and causing global warming. Also, fossil fuels cannot be replaced. So, it is absolutely necessary to change to sustainable and non-polluting energy sources.

Topsoil

We need healthy topsoil for growing crops, but it's rapidly disappearing. It is being eroded by trees being cut down for growing cash crops and grazing livestock, it is being washed away into rivers and seas from lack of trees and

vegetation to hold it in place, and it is being degraded by the use of chemical fertilisers, herbicides, pesticides etc by intensive farming methods. Global warming, spread of diseases, flooding and contamination of water ecosystems all worsen with loss of topsoil. One estimation gives us only 6 more decades before we run out of topsoil.

Consumerism

Perhaps the most pernicious problem is our overconsumption of resources, and the wastage that goes with it. If we continue consuming at the present rate, we will need 3 Earths by 2050. As individuals we could choose to buy nothing without questioning the need. The least the Government should be doing is transitioning from unsustainable, wasteful and polluting businesses and agriculture to green businesses and agriculture.

Mass Extinction

We're heading for a mass extinction of species on Earth. By growing livestock and cash crops, we are using far more land than we need for agriculture, which is causing extinction of species. We need to grow organic crops in a sustainable way, using agroforestry and permaculture. Governments must help farmers change over to sustainable agriculture by shifting subsidies and

financial incentives from livestock production to sustainable organic plant-based agriculture.

Environmental Crisis

If we don't limit global warming to well under 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, in fact to below 1.5 degrees, the consequences will be disastrous for countless people all over the world. Climate change is just one of the emergencies we're facing. Deforestation, environmental pollution and destruction, pandemics, antibiotic resistance, global hunger, over-consumption, waste of resources, extinction of species, obesity and ill health in richer countries – all these have reached crisis point or are about to do so:

<https://edition.independent.co.uk/edition/uk.co.independent.issue.260921/141154/index.html>

**Make your voice heard at COP26
Everybody needs to get active,
by changing their lifestyles and
lobbying power holders to make
changes in the nation's lifestyles.**

**If you haven't written to the PM yet,
please do so now. A few words are all
that's needed to show your opinion, for
instance:**





Dear Prime Minister,
You have committed to keeping global warming down to under 2 degrees Celsius, but you have changed very little. As this is a crisis, your actions should be immediate, strong and should include every department of the government. My vote is dependent on your response to the environmental crisis.

One email can be sent to multiple Cabinet Ministers, or choose from this list: <https://members.parliament.uk/Government/Cabinet>

Among the most important are perhaps:

Boris Johnson, Prime Minister –
<https://email.number10.gov.uk>

Dominic Raab, Lord Chancellor –
fcdo.correspondence@fcdo.gov.uk

Rishi Sunak, Chancellor of the Exchequer –
public.enquiries@hmtreasury.gov.uk

George Eustice, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs – george.eustice.mp@parliament.uk

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Pilgrimage to Cleator *Our Lady Help of the Sick*

It was the morning of the pilgrimage on Sunday 12th September Fr Paul Johnstone had checked his four weather apps, three said fine weather for Sunday afternoon, one said showers. That was it then. We would take the risk that one of the apps was wrong, Mass would be held outside and the pilgrimage could go ahead for the first time since 2019.

The pilgrimage to the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes at Cleator has been held annually since its construction over ninety years ago. The communities of Cleator and Cleator Moor were dependent on the mining and iron industries, and during the Great Depression of the 1920s and 1930s, times were very difficult for many. Fr. Clayton (*priest in Cleator from 1904 to 1954*) placed an appeal in the national Catholic press, and generous support was received from around the country. To provide employment for some of the parishioners Fr. Clayton bought land adjoining the church's site and asked for volunteers to help construct a replica of the Grotto at Lourdes. These volunteers were rewarded with vouchers for food and clothing.

The Grotto was opened on the 30th October 1927, and rapidly became a focus for pilgrimage from all parts of the diocese. The tradition of pilgrimage continues and is held in early September around the time of Our Lady's birthday.

Bishop Paul was keen that the pilgrimage should go ahead this year as a mark of our journey back to more normal times. With Covid still a concern, proceedings were slimmed down; we were unable to offer some of the hospitality that we had previously been able to, and there was no 'Big walk' from Castlerigg,

but the essential core would go ahead; gathering together, mass in the Grotto, benediction, blessing of the sick, and the honouring of Our Lady.

The afternoon arrived. A large team of helpers had spent the morning setting out hundreds of chairs, putting up signs, and preparing the altar. Before long the pilgrims were arriving, some three hundred of them with clergy from around the diocese led by Bishop Paul. We were ready to begin.

The Mass was beautiful. It was such a joy to be able to join in prayer at the Grotto with others again, to meet old friends. And the weather? It was a perfect early autumn day, the sun shone, it was warm and still and as the hymns and incense rose over the view of the West Cumbrian fells I thanked Our Lady for blessing us and bringing us together once again.

Did you know you can do your own Camino across the Lancaster diocese?

This magnificent pilgrimage walk links the Catholic Cathedral of St Peter in Lancaster with the shrine to Our Lady at Cleator. The 67-mile route takes in quiet canal side paths, the wide-open views of Morcambe Bay, England's longest lake and a climb in the shadow of Lakeland's highest mountains, finishing at the peaceful grotto built in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes in West Cumbria. A free guide book to the walk is available here: www.stmarysandstjosephs.com/pilgrimage-walk.html

Peter Robinson

Photograph Credit:

Thank you to Frankie Quinn for the use of his pictures. Frankie was visiting from Ireland and is doing a study of the Irish heritage of Cleator Moor.

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The Altar Servers Guild of St. Stephen held their Annual National Mass on Saturday 25th September, 2021 in the Church of St. Mary and St. John, Wolverhampton. The Celebrant was His Grace, Archbishop Bernard Longley of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

Altar Servers young and old came together from around the country including a few from our own Diocese of Lancaster. The Archdiocese, on behalf of the Archconfraternity of St. Stephen Central Council, had gone to much trouble in making the occasion very special in terms of the liturgy and the decoration of the Church. Altar Servers and their families from Lancaster will

next be gathering for their annual meal on Thursday evening of 11th November, 2021 at the Castle Green Hotel, in Kendal. The principal guest of honour will be Bishop Paul Swarbrick and the key note speaker, Canon John Watson of, The Good Shepherd Parish, Workington. This will be an opportunity to celebrate and promote altar serving in our Diocese. A server trivia quiz is also planned. Altar servers goods – medals, books and certificates etc will be available to purchase and can be bought anytime and info sought regarding Guild Events in Lancaster Diocese by emailing mulholland.id@gmail.com. Further info on the work of the Guild in England and Wales can be found at guildofststephen.org *Ian Mulholland*



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 Preston PR1 4PR
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 E: head@englishmartyrs.lancs.sch.uk
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 – Section 49 March 2019
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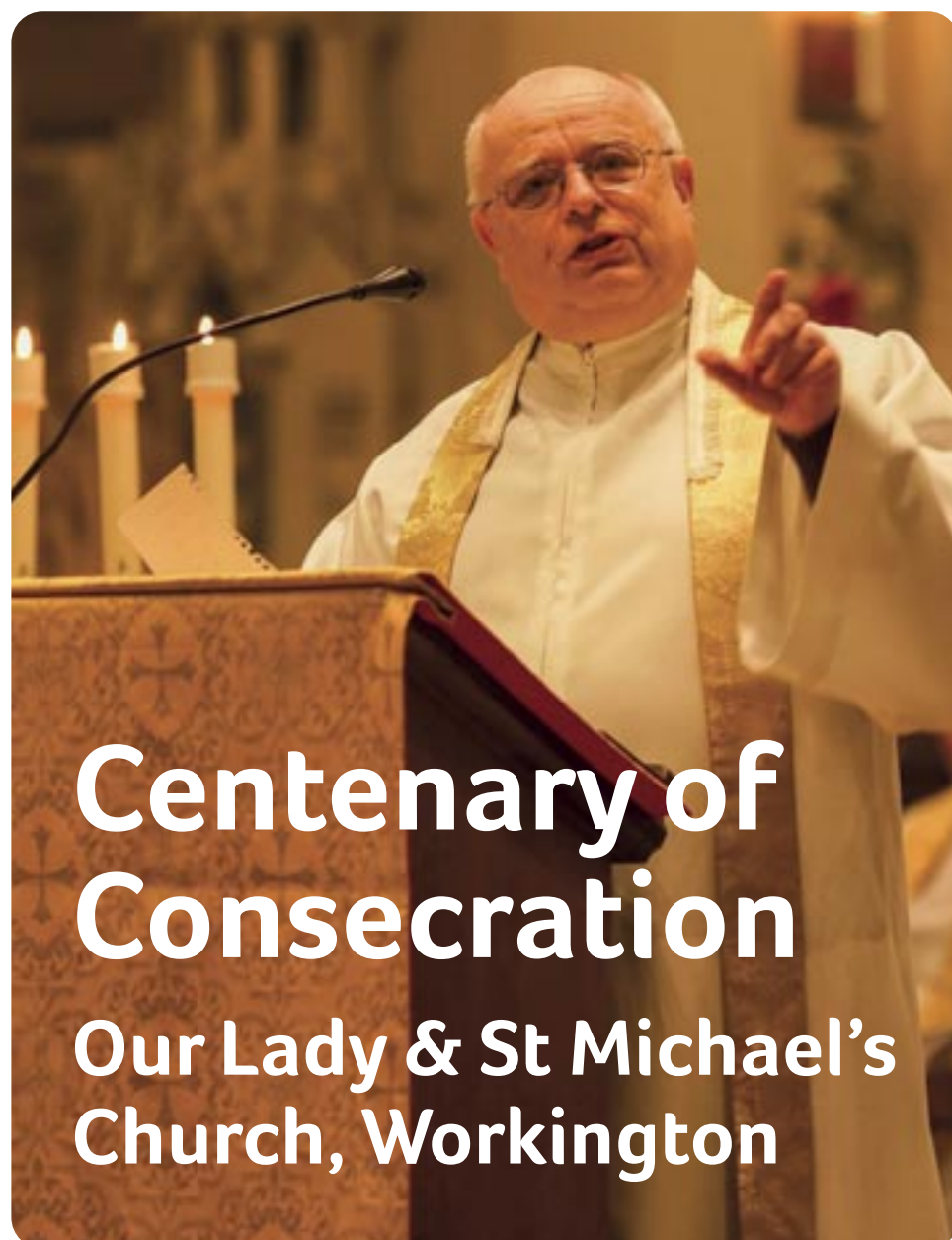
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Workington Parish began life in 1810 when the Benedictines established a chapel on land donated by the Curwen Family of Workington Hall. The first chapel (*along with the priest's house*) was built in 1813. Mass was said here until 1876. The original chapel then became what is now Banklands church hall, part of St Joseph's High School.

In 1876, the present Grade II listed church was built to a design by E W Pugin. Some 45 years later on Wednesday 14th September 1921 the Church of Our Lady and St Michael's, Workington, Cumbria was Consecrated.

Apart from reordering the sanctuary area in 2001, it remains unaltered. Over the years much interior work has been done to beautify the church. Of particular interest are the stained glassed windows - some of the finest in the area. The Choir Stalls which were installed for the consecration, were made by Robert "Mouseman" Thompson and one "other". A book titled "Fifty Catholic Churches to See Before You Die" was published on 27th September 2020. It includes Our Lady Star of the Sea and St Michael in Workington. Having the church included in one of only fifty Catholic churches from around 3000 in England and Wales

says an awful lot about the history and quality of this superb building which we are fortunate to have here in West Cumbria. The Church is currently on the Heritage at Risk Register and applications for grants and local fundraising are underway for the urgent repairs needed to safeguard this hidden gem for future generations. Please visit: www.stellamarisproject.co.uk

The parish was staffed by the Benedictine monks of Ampleforth Abbey until 2009, when it was handed over to the Diocese of Lancaster. In 2011, the Church became part of the newly established parish of Christ the Good Shepherd, which also incorporates St Gregory's and St Mary's Harrington.

Bishop Paul Swarbrick (*who was Parish Priest prior to becoming our Bishop*) along with local clergy and those who have worked in the parish along with many parishioners, civic dignitaries and school representatives celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving. We welcomed a local lad, Fr George Corrie OSB representing the Abbot and Community of Ampleforth and Sr Kathleen Neenan, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Charity of St Paul accompanied by our Parish Pastoral Volunteer, Sr Eleanor. The order has given long years of dedicated service to the



parish notably in education, catechesis, and care for the poor.

Fr Paul Harrison (Assistant Priest in the parish) gave an overview of what would have happened 100 years ago at the consecration; 'It would have been an extremely elaborate celebration and would have started outside the church. The procession would have circled the outside of the church three times and blessed the walls of the church. Once inside the church they would then have blessed the walls from the inside not once but three times. Next, they would have put in place the consecration candles and the stones above them. The Bishop himself would have put the first one in place (climbing up ladders to do so).

Next the altars of Our Lady Star of the Sea and The Altar of the Sacred Passion (as it was known then) and the main altar were consecrated with oil of chrism and lots of incense (a minimum of 2 lbs of incense would have been used).

The celebrants would have included the Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle together with 30 priests – not spectators but each one of those priests would have had a job to do within the celebrations. 32 Altar servers assisted in the Mass. The celebrations would have started at 08:30 in the morning and

High Mass was from 12 noon and would have lasted about 2 hours. Therefore the whole celebrations would have been from 09:30 to 14:30 pm.'

A parish exists to make present on earth still, the presence of Christ.

✦ Bishop Paul Swarbrick

Bishop Paul, in his homily, reminded us that a parish exists to 'make present on earth still, the presence of Christ.' 'We are here to thank Almighty God for His saving grace, and we give thanks for the Faith, work, sacrifice, and example of those early parishioners; their faith has benefitted us.' The bishop spoke of 'the work back then is the work we have now, it has not changed, it is the same mission.' 'Looking back gives us the confidence to face the future.' Canon John Watson (Parish Priest) Thanked everyone for attending and we all enjoyed a buffet and refreshments in Banklands Hall, the original chapel. A magnificent and joyous occasion.

If you happen to find yourself visiting Workington in West Cumbria, be sure to call in, the Church is open all day.

Paul Briers



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Saturday 6th November – Sung Requiem Mass

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 Mondays to Fridays: 8.30 am Low Mass
 Saturdays: 8.30 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
 (Please check the website for any variations:
<https://icksp.org.uk/preston/>)

Our Lady & St Michael, Banklands, Workington
 Second Fridays at 7.00 pm
 (Please always check with Canon Watson
 before travelling: 01900 602114)

St Mary's, Main Street, Hornby
 Saturdays at 11.00 am
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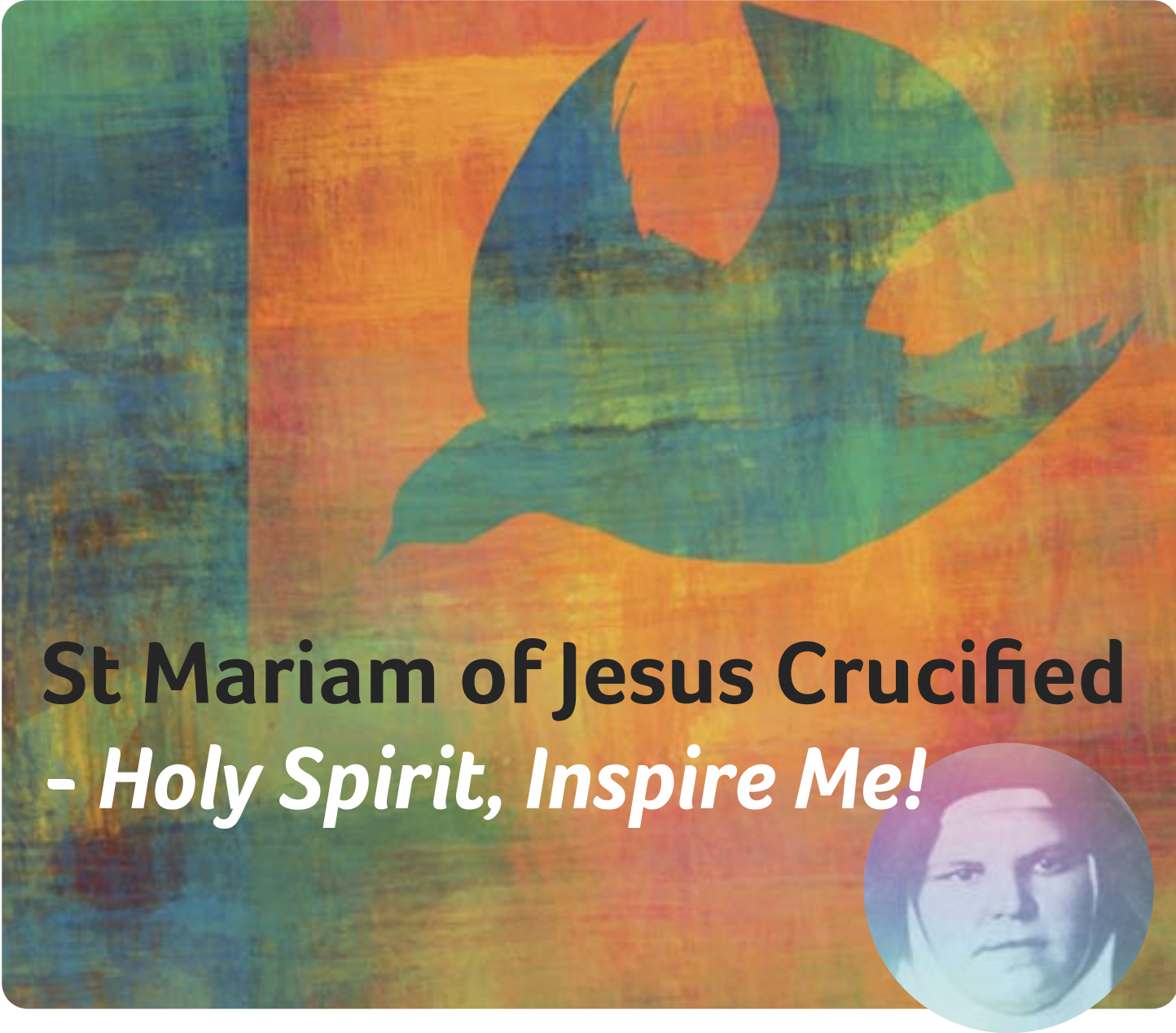


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St Mariam of Jesus Crucified

- Holy Spirit, Inspire Me!



St Mariam of Jesus Crucified (1846-1878) was born in Abellin, a small village near Nazareth, in the Holy Land. Her parents were poor working people (*her father a powder maker*), and extremely devout. Both parents died when she was just 3 years old. She was separated from her brother, Paul, who she never saw again, and went to live with a well-off uncle. She was treated as one of his children. In childhood she was burying some birds someone had given her, which had died as she tried to wash them. She heard a voice say to her, *'All earthly things end this way! If you will give me your heart, I will remain with you for ever!'*

At the age of thirteen her uncle told her that she had been offered in marriage to a relative. When she learnt what the duties of marriage entailed, and remembering her childhood encounter with Jesus, she refused, made a vow of perpetual virginity and cut off her plaits to indicate what she thought of the engagement, sending these to her uncle with the golden trinkets that had been given as pledge of the expected union. Her uncle was furious and treated her as a slave, giving her the toughest work of the house. Complaining of her treatment to a Muslim servant, he put her trials down to her Christian faith, and tried to convert her to Islam. She protested that the Catholic faith was the only true faith, whereupon he flew into a rage and slashed her throat with a scimitar. She later recalled that she did die and enter heaven, where she heard the words, *'Her book is not yet finished'* and she returned to life. Her body was rescued from an ally where she had been dumped, and she was taken to a grotto and nursed back to health by a religious in a blue habit, whom she believed was the Blessed Virgin Mary. Medical examination of the scar she retained throughout life revealed two missing rings in her trachea, and confirmed her survival was miraculous.

She spent the rest of her teenage years as a domestic, moving from house to house spending herself on her work, giving away her earnings to the poor, and praying. Twice she fasted for an entire year on bread and water. Wrongly accused of theft, once imprisoned, and subject to dangers, she grew in faith and holiness. At the age of 19 she entered the Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition. They were however unable to cope with the

supernatural phenomenon which were already manifesting themselves. So she followed her Novice Mistress into the Carmel of Pau, where she became a Lay Sister (*ie those who did the heavy work*). Later she was one of the founding party that set up a new Carmel in Mangalore, India.

She was remarkable in exhibiting all the charisms – ecstasies, prophecy, stigmata, knowledge of hearts, levitation, and bilocation. She experienced extraordinary trials – calumny, sickness, hard work, false accusations, insults, misunderstandings, and a sense of abandonment by God. She was inspired to found the Carmelite Monasteries of Bethlehem and Nazareth, supervising the building works of the former. She died in the land of her Master, at the age of 33, from gangrene and suffocation after a fall whilst carrying buckets of water. She kept working until four days before her death.

PRAYER

Because most of her prayer life was so extraordinary we will focus simply on three aspects that can be imitated by anyone.

Devotion to the Holy Spirit

She had a tremendous devotion to the Holy Spirit. She said of the Holy Spirit: *'It is You who enable us to know Jesus'*.

'I do not ask You for other knowledge or other wisdom but to know how to find Jesus and the wisdom to keep and never lose Him.' And *I felt the fire move and blaze in my heart. The Holy Spirit does not refuse me anything'* (in Buzy, p. 119).

In May 1869 she received in an ecstasy the following prayer, which she recited and recommended to others:

*Holy Spirit inspire me,
 Love of God consume me
 Along the true road guide me
 Holy Mother Mary, look upon me
 With Jesus bless me.
 From all evil, all illusion
 From all danger preserve me
 (in Buzy, p. 119).*

She received the following locution from Jesus, encouraging her to spread this devotion:

'If you wish to seek Me, invoke the light of the Holy Spirit, who enlightened my disciples and enlightens all who invoke Him. I say it to you in truth ... whoever will invoke the Holy Spirit will thus seek and find Me. His conscience will be delicate like the flower of the fields. If it is a father or mother of a family, peace will reign in that family, and their hearts will be at peace in this world and the next; they will not die in darkness but in peace. I desire ardently that priests say a monthly Mass in honour of the Holy Spirit; whoever will say it or hear it will be personally favoured by the Holy Spirit; such a one will have light and peace. He will heal the sick; He will wake up those who sleep' (in Buzy, pp. 120-1).

A Passion for Jesus

She often invoked the Holy Name of Jesus, often joined with that of His Mother, Mary: *'Mercy, Jesus! Mercy! Mary!'* This is a beautiful prayer any of us could use as we go about our day – as a way to learn to *'pray without ceasing'*. She loved the Rosary, and invoked Mary in times of temptation, experiencing her powerful help. On her deathbed the Sisters suggested the invocation *'My Jesus, Mercy'*, to which St Mariam replied, *'Oh, yes, mercy'*. These were her last words (in Buzy, p. 287).

Gratitude and Praise

She was full of gratitude. Once when she fell and dropped water everywhere, the most natural expression to come to her lips was *'My God I thank Thee!'* She thanked the doctor for the painful cauterisations she had to endure. She prized humiliations, and prayed for the Sister who calumniated her, offering herself to suffer in her place in order to rescue this Sister's vocation. The Sister in question persevered in religious life (Buzy, p. 278). She often broke into canticles of praise. She said:

'Mother, all the world is asleep and no one is thinking of God, so full of goodness, so great, so worthy of all praise! See how nature

praises Him; the heavens, the stars, the trees, the plants, they are all praising Him, and man, who has knowledge of His goodness, who ought to be praising Him, he sleeps! Let us go and wake up the universe.' And she left her cell, still repeating 'let us go and praise God, sing His praises. Everything sleeps, all the world is asleep; let us go and wake them up. Jesus is not known, Jesus is not loved. He, so full of goodness who has done so much for man' (in Buzy, p. 141).

The Virtue of Work

One might think that St Mariam was forever prostrate in ecstasy, but nothing could be further from the truth. She absolutely poured herself out in work. The Holy Spirit inspired her to serve, to spend herself for others. Work was the proof of the authenticity of her prayer. She would often get up early and be in the laundry until 4pm. She *'did the work of four'*. She volunteered for the most difficult jobs. In her broken French she would offer, *'Me do it because me have time'*. She kept at her duties even when she was sick. When there was a flu epidemic, she remained virtually the only one on her feet, serving her invalid Sisters (Buzy, p. 149). The Sisters to save their consciences might have conjectured that she preferred it this way, but it was not so. It was pure generosity – by nature she would have preferred, she once admitted, to sit and enjoy nature, and give God praise. On the Feast of St Martha it was customary for the Choir-sisters to replace the Lay Sisters in the kitchen. Sr Mariam was entitled to a well-needed rest, but she sacrificed this to help the Choir-Sisters get the job done (Buzy, p. 222). The devil tempted her that she would kill herself with all this work. *'Alright!'* She retorted, *'Here goes!'* (Buzy, p. 177).

Obedience

She was a model of obedience. Even her ecstasies stopped and started at the command of obedience. *'Jesus dwells in the obedient soul'*, she said. She was truly a living example of this.

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“
It is You
(the Holy Spirit)
who enable us
to know Jesus.
”

St Mariam


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Pandemic in Africa



The Rwanda Group Trust, a registered Catholic charity based in Preston, has launched an appeal having received news of serious food shortages in Rwanda. Fr Placide, one of the trust's contacts, whose parish includes Nkombo Island in Lake Kivu, states:

"People here are very hungry, they don't have the opportunity to work in order to get money and food is very expensive."

He goes on to say: *"This pandemic caused a serious economic crisis amongst people - some of the people to whom we gave goats and pigs had to sell them in order to feed their families and we now need to replace them."*

"The people from Nkombo island are very thankful for the goats and pigs they received from your help but another big problem for them is that their lives are based on fishing in Lake Kivu. I beg if possible, you can help them to buy fishing nets. One fishing net can cost £550 and can be used by two fishermen. We really beg you because people are very hungry and they are poor. Fishing can help in the fight against malnutrition that we are facing here in children of Nkombo island. They need at least a further 7 fishing nets but no matter if it's not possible because we really know that you always try to help us."

Regarding Education, Fr Placide states: *"The students from poor families are many. In order for these students to continue with their studies, the help they receive needs to be doubled because their parents are no longer able to pay their contribution."*

A former pupil who has been helped by the charity recently emailed saying: *(Bear in mind that French is the first language spoken in Rwanda)*
"How are you Sir, I get your email in my hand book, I am not sure whether you have ever come in Rwanda helping orphan. If so I am thankful to you because those you helped, now we have finished University! once again thank you so much May God bless you!"

Fr Placide concludes:

"Receive greetings from RGT members in Rwanda, and they are very thankful for your assistance and kindness you always show us. May God bless you."

Another of their contacts in Rwanda, Petronille, also wrote recently: *"Food, health accessibility, school fees are still a problem for many families especially families with chronic diseases like HIV/AIDS, cancer, mental health, ... in collaboration with Benedictine Sisters in Huye District, we are trying to help around 80 persons with chronic mental health by giving food initially and we will be continuing to support their associations with goats or pigs as much as possible."*

In view of the above, the Rwanda Group Trust has started an urgent appeal to raise funds towards the purchase of fishing nets, as well as goats and pigs. They are also still asked for help to fund the rebuilding of houses after serious flooding earlier this year.

Unfortunately, this comes at a time when they have had to permanently close their charity shop in Preston due to Covid, so are totally reliant on donations. The charity has no employees or overheads, so all monies donated go straight to Rwanda. £30 pays for a pig or a goat or £40 covers school fees for one term. A larger donation would repair a house or help with fishing nets. If anyone would like to make a donation on behalf of someone else (eg for a Christmas present) a suitable card can be provided.

Since the shop closed in March 2020 one of the trustees, Michael Donlan, has been seeking sponsorship to climb the 214 Wainwright fells in the Lake District. He has now completed 208 and hopes to finish them by the end of October. He can be sponsored on Just Giving: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/fishingnetsforrwanda or telephone Michael on 07864 990941. Bank details and the Trust address can be found at: www.Rwandagrouptrust.blogspot.com

A volunteer is needed to set up and maintain a new and simple website for the Charity. Have you got the necessary IT skills? Are you willing to help? Please 'phone Michael 07864 990941.



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A Short History of the Rwanda Group Trust

The story of how the Rwanda Group Trust came into being really begins in 1981 in the small town of Kibeho in Rwanda.

That was the year that Our Lady first appeared to 3 teenage schoolgirls at Kibeho High School (*apparitions which were officially approved by the Vatican in 2001*). Our Lady requested prayer, deeper faith and repentance; she also specifically predicted – 12 years before it happened – the 1994 genocide in which she said a “river of blood” would flow across Rwanda if people didn’t stop harbouring hatred for each other. Sadly these warnings weren’t heeded and the historic tensions between the Hutus and Tutsis erupted into the genocide of 1994 when an estimated one million people were killed in only 100 days. During that period, men, women and even children were literally “torn from their homes” and murdered.

The appalling violence and suffering that occurred during and immediately following the genocide was movingly recounted by a survivor, Immaculee Ilibagiza, in her book “*Left to Tell*”. In the book she recounts how she and 7 other women hid silently in a cramped bathroom for 91 days whilst machete wielding killers hunted for them.

Immaculee survived her ordeal and was able, through the power of prayer, to

forgive those who had murdered most of her family.

As a result of the genocide approximately 95,000 Rwandan children were orphaned, many of whom had psychological scars because of the extreme violence and murders they witnessed. Today, Rwanda actually has one of Africa’s fastest growing economies, but 63% of the population still live in extreme poverty and many people are still suffering from the effects of the genocide.

The story of the Preston based Rwanda Group Trust is interwoven with events in Rwanda before and after the genocide. Preston teacher, Joe Bamber, had set up a third world support group at St Gregory’s parish in 1977 and had made links with Rwanda through a religious sister who was working there. A visit by Joe in 1995 after the Genocide, when he took several students from Newman College, revealed the devastation caused by the genocide.

This prompted Joe to redouble his efforts to raise much needed funds through car boot sales, raffles and other parish events. Our charity shop was opened in the year 2000 under the auspices of the newly constituted charity Rwanda Group Trust. The founding principle of the charity is to: ‘*help the poorest of the poor in the fields of health, food, shelter and education*’.



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Confirming Our Mission!

A special report from Julia Beecroft on an initiative taking place in the Diocese of Plymouth.



RAINBOWS BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GB
(Charity Number: 1058476)

PART TIME DEVELOPMENT WORKER/TRAINER

The Trustees of Rainbows Bereavement Support GB seek to appoint a Part-time Development Worker/Trainer for the region

RAINBOWS NORTH WEST

(Equivalent of five hours a week; term time only)

Applicants will be required to have an appropriate background in education, health or social welfare and should possess an understanding of the issues surrounding bereavement and loss. Rainbows Bereavement Support GB is an increasingly successful national charity offering training in bereavement and loss to school staff and bereavement support programmes for children and young people grieving a significant and often devastating loss in their lives.

Further details are attached. If you would like to know more about the post, we warmly encourage you to speak informally and in confidence to Sharon Melia-Craven, Rainbows National Co-Director with specific responsibility for the North before making an application. Sharon may be contacted by sharon.rainbowsgb@btconnect.com or phone on 07764 431536

RAINBOWS NORTH WEST

Serving communities in Manchester, Preston, Lancaster, Salford, Worsley, Oldham, Bolton, Bury, Rochdale, Todmorden, Blackburn, Burnley, Clitheroe, Nelson, Colne and surrounding areas

RAINBOWS DEVELOPMENT WORKERS / TRAINERS

(Equivalent to 5 hrs a week; 40 week contract; term time only)
Required for January 2022

FURTHER DETAILS:

JOB DESCRIPTION:

The essential purpose of this post is twofold:

1. To support the work of Rainbows currently operating in the schools across the regions.
2. To actively encourage additional schools in the region to ensure staff are trained in bereavement and loss issues and make use of Rainbows programmes as a proven and successful means of supporting children and young people through painful transitions in their lives.

It will be a requirement of the post that the successful candidate undergoes training to become a Rainbows Registered Director/Trainer.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

It is essential that applicants are able to show that they have:

- An appropriate understanding of the issues surrounding bereavement and loss
 - An empathy towards vulnerable children and adults
 - A willingness to undergo training as a Rainbows Registered Director (Dates to be mutually agreed).
- The ability to communicate effectively and appropriately with parents, school staff and a wide range of professionals
- The confidence and ability to train staff in schools and other settings
 - Time management skills and an ability to prioritise workload with minimal supervision.
 - Computer literate, with an ability to create high quality newsletters, invitations and publicity materials, and to manage basic computer databases, using Microsoft Office.
 - The ability to be self-motivated, to work alone and as part of a team
- In addition, applicants should hold a current driving licence and have access to a car. The post is subject to an enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check.
- While not essential, it will be desirable that applicants have an understanding of Rainbows groups in a school setting.
- An hourly rate of £10.50 will be paid monthly over twelve months. Travel expenses will be paid from an agreed base within the region.

APPLICATION:

Applicants are requested to submit their application form to Sharon Melia Craven, National Co-Director, Rainbows Bereavement Support GB by email to sharon.rainbowsgb@btconnect.com.

Closing date: 12 noon on the 1st November 2021
Interviews will be held during the week of 8th November 2021



Many people across the Plymouth diocese have now taken part in 'Mission made Possible' - a preparatory course in intentional discipleship and evangelisation. Furthermore, it is also a spiritual journey that forms a missionary attitude, leading to the living of an inspired (in spirit) and intentional life. In fact it's a fantastic journey for the participants and leaders of the course.

However, our parish priest in Torquay, wanted to take this a stage further! His idea was that all those who had been sacramentally prepared – for Reception into the Catholic Church, the parents of children who had made their First Holy Communion and the newly confirmed – should also participate in Mission Made Possible – as a continuation of their formation.

It has to be said that we were so proud that our parish has been the pilot for young newly confirmed adults who have undertaken the course. It was an enriching and wonderful journey with two young people, totally inspirational and refreshing.

Linden – one of these - says as a result of

participating in the course:

"As a recently confirmed person this course has given me the tools to grow my evangelisation. I am talking about my faith more and taking advantage of natural conversations to do this. I'm also exploring prayer much more, including the Rosary. As the Spirit led me to these sessions, I will take the lessons forward to be open to opportunities for the Spirit to enter my life."

James, the other newly confirmed young person who took part in the course, offered these reflections:

"The course has been a real eye opener for me, since it has given me more perspective as a follower of Christ. It has also made the relationship between myself and God stronger than before".

James was particularly struck by the lives of the saints and martyrs who suffered and ultimately died to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. He even did his own extra research to find out more about those saints which were covered in the course!

What a wonderful start to a life of faith for these young people – to be given the tools to be able to evangelise so early on in both their life and faith journeys. We truly are made for Mission.

**Names have been changed to protect identity.*



John Bradburne – Cumbria's 2nd Saint?

On Saturday September 11th a group of more than 30 pilgrims climbed Cross Fell to commemorate John Bradburne. The group included local Anglicans and Catholics as well as those from other parts of Cumbria and Lancashire and as far as Stockton, Liverpool, Croydon and Colchester. Importantly, we had 3 pilgrims born in Zimbabwe. Bishop Paul Swarbrick came with us and said prayers before we set off, and on reaching the top.

As is often the case, Cross Fell conjured up thick mist and a cold wind but, mercifully no rain, and we all reached the top and got safely, though soggy, down again.

Why all this effort? Who was John Bradburne?

He was born in Skirwith on 14th June 1921. His father was the Anglican vicar of Skirwith. John loved Cumbria very much and was very sad to leave when his father was appointed to a parish in Norfolk- he missed the hills.

At the outbreak of war John joined up and sailed out to India with his brother. He joined the 2/9th Gurkhas and had a horrendous escape when the Japanese overtook Malaya. He then spent much of the war behind Japanese lines as one of Wingate's "Chindits". He very nearly died of cerebral malaria and this close proximity to death had a profound effect on his religious development.

On return to England at the end of the war he had no clear idea what to do but whilst in Devon spent time at Buckfast


Abbey and was received into the Catholic church on 26th October 1947.

After many failed attempts at monastic life he decided to become a lay member of the third order of St Francis. He spent time in Italy and in the Holy Land but never felt settled until he discovered Africa.


Here he was introduced by Fr John Dove SJ to a leper colony at Mutemwa in what was then Rhodesia- now Zimbabwe. John spent the next 10 years caring for the lepers and becoming a friend to these poor abandoned people.

Life became very difficult in the civil war which led to the overthrow of white rule and John was the only white person left at the colony. He was advised to leave as his life was considered in danger but he refused to leave behind the lepers who needed him. Despite local people speaking up on his behalf he was murdered by young nationalist fighters on 5th September 1979. Many believe that he was martyred for his faith - he would not abandon the lepers he loved so much.

He had a great capacity for friendship and for humour and an extraordinary ability to write poetry - more poetry than any other Englishman by a very long way. You can find his poems which have been collected by David Crystal at: johnbradburnepoems.com and many are now on Youtube. You can help support the care of the leprosy patients at Mutemwa and the movement for his being made a saint. www.johnbradburne.com or call Kate on 07979 187498. *Gavin Young*




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This retreat is from 26/11/2021 – 28/11/2021 6:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Suggested donation: £175



HOPE FOR THE EARTH: A DIFFERENT WAY OF LIVING FOR THE FUTURE OF THE PLANET

Patrick Woodhouse, Jonathan Hewitt and the Minsteracres team
This retreat will explore the Climate Crisis and the Ecological Crisis asking how we may all be involved in a different way of living for the future of the planet.
In particular we shall reflect on: The extent of the world-wide crisis and global initiatives of hope and the loss of biodiversity in the natural world in the North-East region particularly.

Suggested donation: £175
This event will run from Friday 5 November starting at 4:30pm to Sunday 7 November finishing after lunch.

**For information and bookings visit www.minsteracres.org,
Phone: 01434 673248 Email: info@minsteracres.org
Minsteracres Retreat Centre, nr. Consett,
County Durham, DH8 9RT**



Diaconate Candidacy

Bishop Paul Swarbrick formally accepted 4 men for the Diaconate at the Cathedral in September, a major step in their formation for the Permanent Diaconate.

David Pope, one of the candidates said:

"The Bishop on behalf of the Church formally accepted me and 3 other men as a Candidate for Holy Orders."

We promised him that we will complete our preparation so that in due time we will be ready to be ordained in the ministry of the Church.

We also promised that we will continue to prepare ourselves in mind and spirit to give faithful service to Christ and His body, the Church.

We then had to individually go and kneel in front of the Bishop and place our hands into his hands as he accepted us candidates saying these words to us, "The Church receives your declaration with joy. May God who has begun the good work in you bring it to fulfilment".

It was a very simple but significant service, and comes as I begin my second year of formation and studies and a 12 month

"The Church receives your declaration with joy. May God who has begun the good work in you bring it to fulfilment."

"

pastoral placement in the parish of Christ the King and St. Kentigern in Blackpool".

Each of the candidates is grateful for the support and prayers they are receiving and will continue to pray for you all in return.

Left to right
Mike Laking - St Andrew and Blessed George Haydock, Preston
John Chantry - Our Lady Star of the Sea, St Annes on Sea
Bishop Paul Swarbrick
David Pope - St Peter's, Lytham
David Greaves - St Catherine's, Penrith

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