

The Official Newspaper to the Diocese of Lancaster

Issue 339 + May '22

Pg 9 **To Serve is to Love**  
Vocations to the Priesthood



# Consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Frank McGrath of Preston was amongst a large congregation at the Cathedral to mark the consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and reports on the service led by Bishop Paul Swarbrick.



“  
... the most powerful weapon we possess is the Rosary  
”

Bishop Paul Swarbrick

At 5.00pm on Friday 25 March 2022, Pope Francis commenced the service of the Consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Simultaneously, our own Bishop Paul Swarbrick and all other Bishops throughout the World held services in their own Cathedrals or, where appropriate, at Marian shrines most notably, at Fatima.

The Consecration service was very well attended, devout and memorable. There was a sense that true peace and justice will only replace the awful atrocities in Ukraine by prayer. Bishop Paul reminded us that the most powerful weapon we possess is the Rosary and that we should return to our homes and parishes and pray each day for peace.

On the 13 May 1917, Our Lady appeared at Fatima to Lucia. Our Lady urged Lucia to pray the Rosary each day, to obtain peace for the World and the end of the war. WW1 ended on 11 November 1917.

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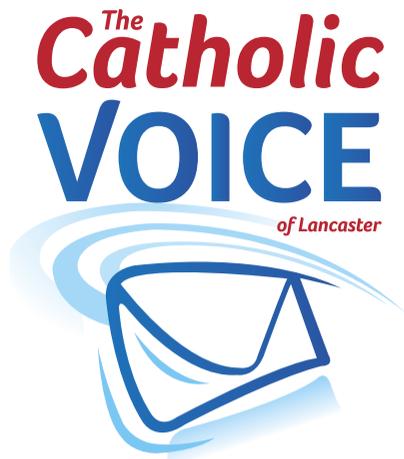
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# Ukrainian Aid Convoy



**Oryslava & Ostap Antonyuk, a Ukrainian family, have been organising aid for those in need in Ukraine. Mike Laking, a parishioner of St Andrew & Blessed George Haydock in Cottam, who is a friend of the family, joined one of their aid convoys. Mike's story is below:**

**I received a call on a Tuesday morning asking if I could help drive a convoy of 5 vehicles to Medyka on the Polish/Ukrainian border setting off that Friday.**

The Russian invasion with its indiscriminate and wholesale shelling of towns and cities, initially in the east of the country, has displaced over four million people. They have been forced to escape these war zones with virtually nothing save the clothes they had on and any belongings they could carry.

The Antonyuk family has a Polish supermarket chain across the north west and through their distribution/retail contacts they can buy commodities by the pallet in Poland which is massively cheaper than in UK and obviously does not attract the transport/logistical and bureaucratic costs to get it to the Ukraine.

Just as importantly they can buy exactly what is needed and in relation to food stuffs in particular, these are much more familiar to and appropriate for the Ukrainian diet. They sent 20 tonnes of emergency food supplies by this method most recently.

The need for this convoy arose as a consequence for the demand for vehicles being capable of coping with rough terrain

and rubble strewn streets and the vehicles had been bought and donated by a family in London. So, our convoy was made up of an assortment of five aged 4 x 4 pick-up trucks which were packed with medical supplies, baby food and bullet proof vests! The Russians indiscriminately target civilians distributing humanitarian supplies on the front lines, so they need protecting too!

Our band of nine volunteer drivers including Ostap and Oryslava, set off at 0530hrs on the Friday from Goosnargh in Preston and headed off down to Dover for a ferry crossing to Dunkirk.

Following the crossing, we elected to do a straight slog through France, Belgium, Holland, Germany and Poland stopping only to change drivers and for comfort breaks.

We arrived just after midnight on Saturday at the makeshift distribution hub in Medyka some 1500 miles later!

We were shown the most amazing hospitality by a young refugee family who were helping run the operation. Their accommodation was a converted garage which served as bedroom/dining room/kitchen – their 6 year old son was asleep in the same room as the mother who cheerfully offered and

**What has your parish been doing to help relieve the suffering in Ukraine?  
Please let us have your stories, contact: [voicenews@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:voicenews@hotmail.co.uk)**

made us all food from the little they had and allowed us to put our heads down for an hour.

We were witnessing the cold stark reality of the consequences of this war and I shall never forget the mother's cheerfulness and generosity of spirit in affording whatever food and comfort she could offer to mere strangers ... it almost reduced me to tears.

At around 2am news came through that Lviv was being shelled - this was only 50 miles or so on the other side of the border and Oryslava's mum lived in an apartment there.

She decided she had to go and get her mum out - The good news we discovered a day or two later was that she managed to get to Warsaw with her mum!

We headed back up to Krakow for our flight and landed in Manchester on Mothering Sunday.

The gratitude which was expressed for our efforts was humbling in its own right and was truly overwhelming.

We witnessed a supreme European wide effort - supplies from every corner of Europe. Medics from London heading for a refugee centre to relieve other volunteers, vehicles from Hull, Scotland, Holland, Germany, Poland amongst many many others.

I cannot begin to describe how humbling it has been to meet such a resolute and determined people who have seen loved ones killed before their eyes, lost their homes and livelihoods ... Yet amazingly still retain some humour and an unshakeable conviction of victory however you might define that.

If you want to help, then sending money is by far the most effective way of doing so unless you have a fleet of 4 x 4 pickup trucks of course!



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### General update

One of the main things we've had to do over the past few weeks is to remind our team that working in a retreat centre is actually quite hectic. There have been back-to-back retreats, lots of things to prepare for and general wall-to-wall mayhem! In short, it's been brilliant. With covid now at an end (*kind of... we hope...*) we are getting used to what working in a retreat centre actually looks like. It's been a long time, and it's nice to be back.

In the last few weeks (*at the time of writing*) we've welcomed groups from Preston, Bolton, Whitehaven, Lytham, Preston again, Carlisle, and a few other places. We've also been on the road to Carlisle, Preston, and Workington among others, and we're looking forward to welcoming a load of people to our Easter Retreat – the first in-person open retreat that we've done since the world had never heard the word 'covid.'

We are now booked up fairly solidly until the end of October. There are some gaps in there, but not many! We have also now started interviewing for next year's team. It looks like we're going to be welcoming some great new young volunteers in the summer.

One of the recent highlights was a visit from Bishop Paul. The Bishop celebrated Mass and then joined us for lunch (*the latter coming from one of Keswick's finest takeaways!*). He said some lovely things about the place and its work and gave us a lot to think about.

It's also nice to see the weather starting to turn. I know, I know... we are in Cumbria, and by the time this goes to print we will probably be drenched, but at the minute at least the sun is shining

and we're hoping for a nice Lake District summer – we've got a few thousand people visiting too, so hopefully at least some of them will get some sun!

### Large Catholic Family Holidays

One of those things we introduced during the pandemic was a scheme to help large Catholic families to find affordable holidays. Castlerigg isn't the Hilton but it's a lovely building with 70-odd beds in the middle of Keswick and it's a great place for families to get away to. If you're a large group (*Say, seven or more*) and you're looking for a holiday that won't break the bank, give us a shout. We have packages starting at about £15pp/night for larger groups on a B&B basis. Each group gets a mix of rooms, their own dedicated bathroom, a lounge, and access to the whole building including the games room, chapel, and so on.

### Check out our new website

By the time you read this our new website will be up and running. We've been setting the dials and turning the knobs and [www.castleriggmanor.com](http://www.castleriggmanor.com) (*as opposed to the so-last-year .co.uk site*) is ready to go. We have tried our best to keep the content relevant and interesting. Nobody likes an overloaded website so hopefully you'll be able to find what you're looking for without too much clutter. If you follow us on social media, you'll be the first to know whenever anything new appears.

For Young People, we are on Instagram, TikTok and Snapchat [@castleriggmanor](https://www.instagram.com/castleriggmanor)

For Adult leaders, we are on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram [@YS\\_Castlerigg](https://www.instagram.com/YS_Castlerigg)

The Facebook page is kind of for everyone [@Castleriggmanor](https://www.facebook.com/Castleriggmanor)

### What else is coming up?

Here are the highlights:

You can find all of these things on our website at

[www.castleriggmanor.co.uk](http://www.castleriggmanor.co.uk)

### World Youth Day 2023

Bookings for Lisbon are now open. Check out our website for more details!

### LIT // May 27-29th 2022

LIT is our open confirmation retreat programme. Any young person in Year 6+ who is about to be confirmed – or who has just been confirmed – is welcome to come along. It's a weekend to connect with others, have some fun

### Northwest Children & Youth Work Thing

On May 7th there will be an ecumenical event in Penwortham aimed at people from around the Northwest who work with children and young people in Churches. It's being organised by the group of Northwest Ecumenical Youth Officers, and it's a day of great speakers, workshops, and resources. What's more, it's only £10!

# What's happening in the Youth Service



# Lourdes 2022



**You probably know the story of Lourdes, or at least a bit of it. Even if you haven't been, it's one of those stories that just does the rounds in the Catholic world.**

It was 1858. Bernadette Soubirous was a young girl who nobody had heard of and she lived in a small village in the Pyrenees that was similarly obscure. The nearby village of Argelès was much more well-known as a spa town, and much more visited than Lourdes.

Everything changed that year though, when the Virgin Mary decided to roll up. She visited Bernadette and the small mountain village a total of eighteen times that year – one of, coincidentally, eighteen apparitions approved by the Church. Though it does depend on how you count them, to be fair!

The things Our Lady said to Bernadette are also well known. Tell the people to come in procession... build a Church, and so on. As with most apparitions it took a while for formal approval to come, but once it did Lourdes took off. These days, it welcomes six million pilgrims each year and boasts more hotel rooms than any other town or city in France apart from Paris.

Almost every diocese in the British Isles contributes towards an annual pilgrimage to Lourdes, and some (*like ours*) even still have their very own. That's why we're delighted that, after a three year Covid break, the Lancaster Lourdes pilgrimage is back with a bang this year.

The diocese will be going to Lourdes from July 22nd to 29th and as before there will be a youth section, organised and led by the Youth Service!

The Youth Section is open to anyone aged 16+. It's a chance to get involved in the Lourdes pilgrimage while also doing some youth-specific activities. Those who sign up will get involved with the work of the pilgrimage alongside the adults who sign up too, but there will also be times when we will get together just as a youth section for catechesis,

reflections and – who knows – maybe even a bit of fun!?

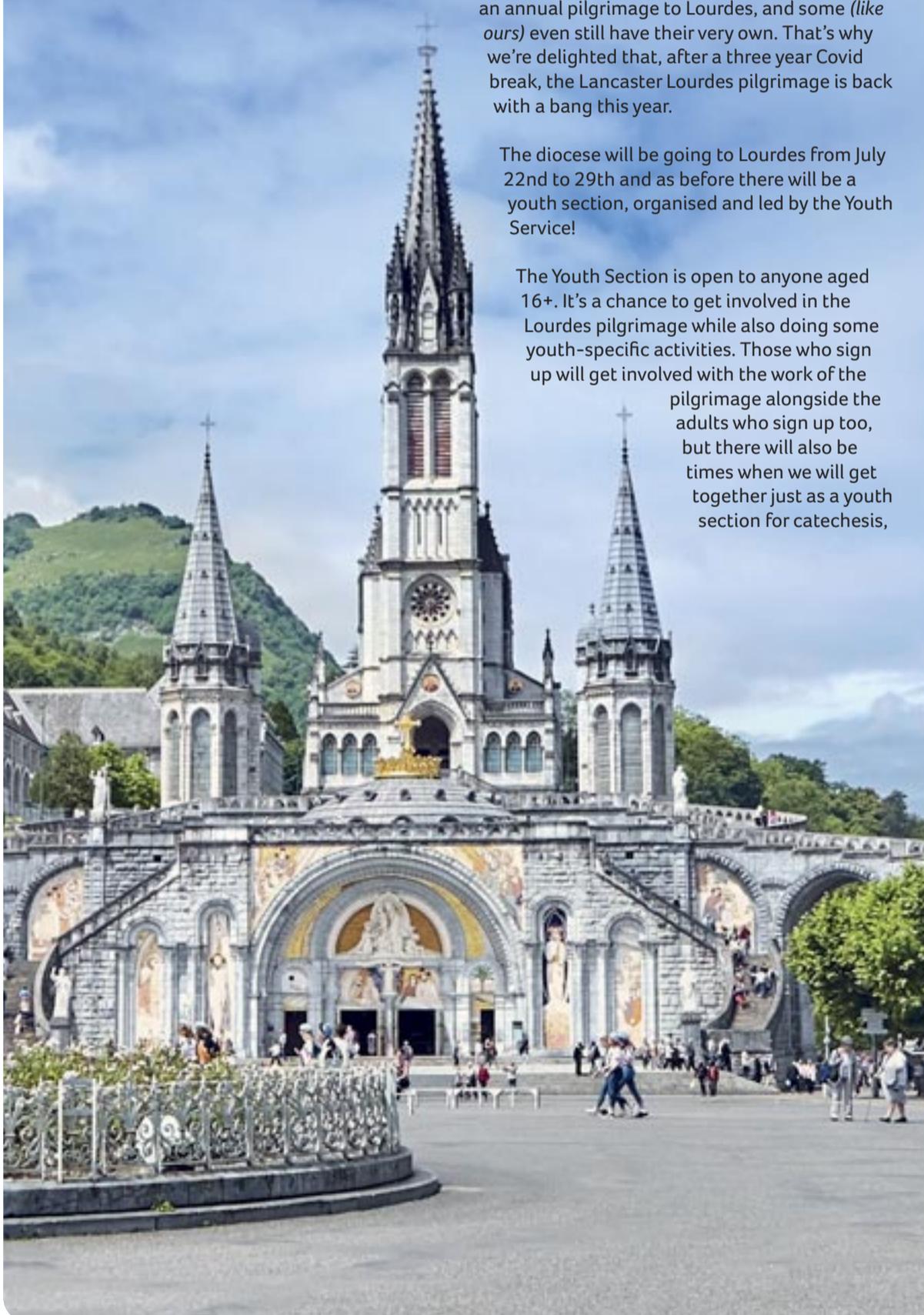
One of the more interesting parts of the Lourdes story comes from one of the things Bernadette said years afterwards. Bernadette reflected that the Virgin Mary had "*looked at me as if I was somebody!*"

Bernadette was a poor girl from a poor family in an unremarkable village. Those who know their French will understand what it means to say that Bernadette would never have been *vous*. She was always *tu*, the more informal way of addressing somebody. But to Our Lady, she was *vous*, the respectful form of '*you*.'

That's what Lourdes is all about. It's a place where everybody matters; where everybody is somebody. The sick pilgrims especially, but nobody is left out.

The last few years have been rough on young people. Covid has made an already quite stressed generation feel even worse and the after effects of that will be felt for some time. That's why we're trying to organise as much as possible in the youth service to really serve and support Young People, and Lourdes is a key part of that.

You can find out more about the Lourdes Youth Section on the Castlerigg website, or please get in touch if you've got any questions. The cost to young people will be £750.



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**Y**ear 3 and 4 children at St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, Fulwood have been exploring the concept of community. Children learnt about the many different ways that the Parish of St Anthony of Padua joins together to help people in different ways. Recognising that people of all ages contribute to build a parish community with no act being too small.

Youth Worker Terry Mattinson, Father Mario from Our Lady and St Edward's Parish Fulwood and a group of year 10 pupils from Our Lady's Catholic High School visited the pupils at St Anthony's to share their experience of supporting vulnerable groups and people in our community. Their projects include making and delivering prayer cards to elderly members of the community in care homes. The children of St Anthony's thought that this was a great way to show care and kindness especially at a time when elderly people might not have

had their usual visitors. All the children were in agreement that this would be a fantastic way for them to become more involved in supporting the Parish of St Anthony of Padua. One pupil explained that for an older person who cannot attend church, receiving a prayer card made by a member of the parish, will show them that they are special and are being thought about.

The passion and commitment shown by the Year 10 pupils was inspirational. Not only did they share their determination to make a positive difference in our local parish but they also discussed their future plans for contributing to the wider, global parish community.

Having the opportunity to learn first-hand from the pupils at Our Lady's Catholic High School was a great opportunity. Most importantly we learnt that we can all make a difference, no act is too small.



**We would like to thank these schools for always supporting the paper**



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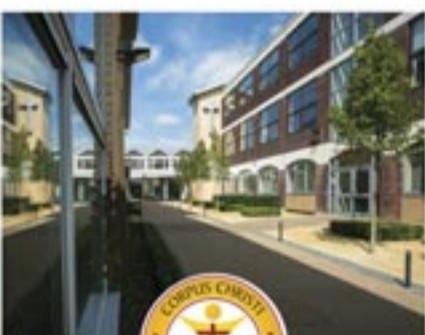
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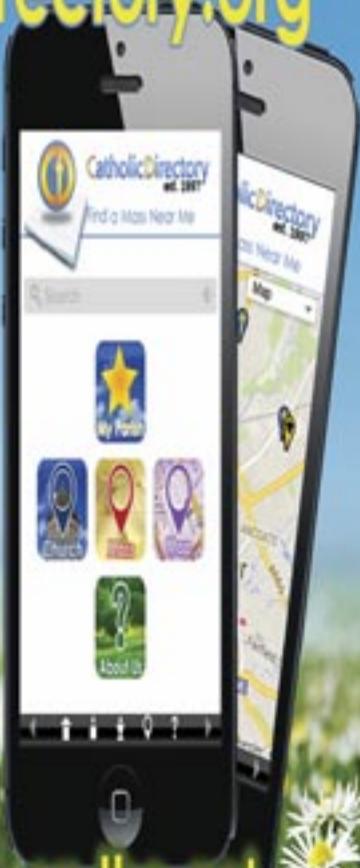
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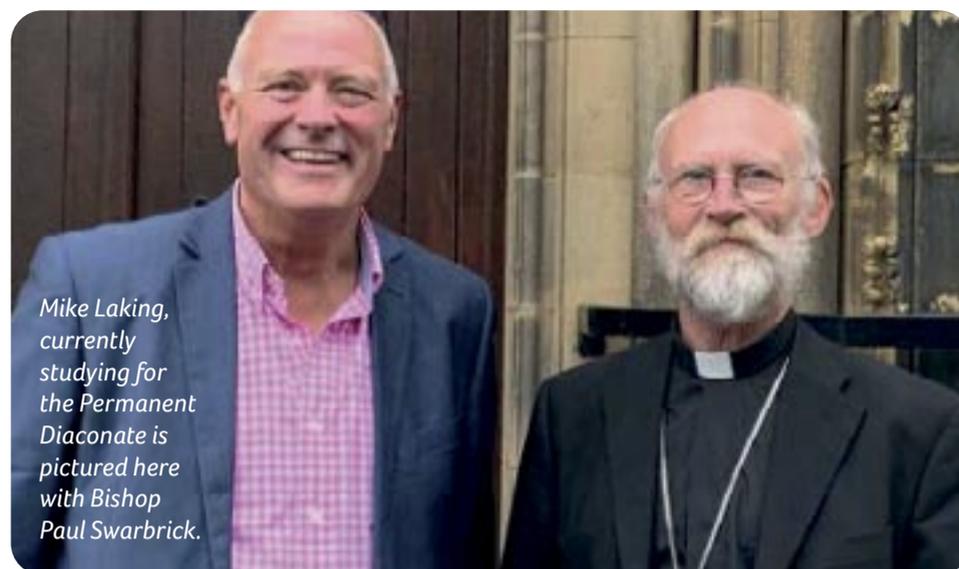
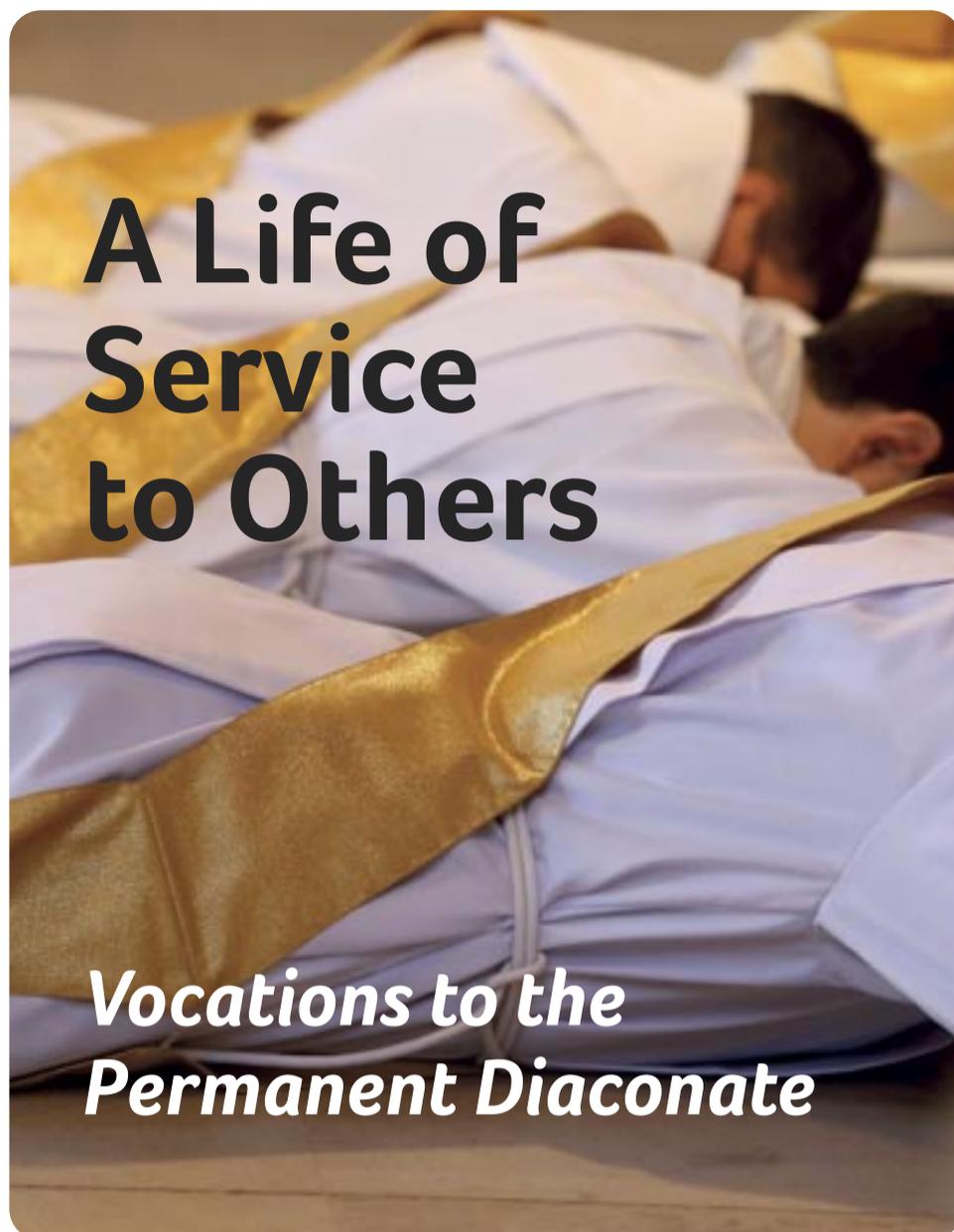
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*Our children are all unique, beautiful individuals but together we are a masterpiece, brothers and sisters in Christ.*

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Mike Laking, currently studying for the Permanent Diaconate is pictured here with Bishop Paul Swarbrick.

**P**ope John XXIII opened the Second Vatican Council on October 11, 1962. He wanted to throw open the windows of the Church to see if the Gospel could be proclaimed more effectively in these modern times. The bishops discussed the diaconate in conjunction with their discussions about their own role as bishops. While deacons are mentioned in several documents of the Council, it is paragraph #29 of The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (*Lumen Gentium*) that the Council expressed its desire that the diaconate be renewed as a “proper and permanent” order of the hierarchy. Pope Paul VI implemented the decision of the Council to revive the order of deacons as a permanent ministry in the Latin Rite of the Catholic Church, on the 18 June 1967, through the promulgation of the document The Sacred Order of the Diaconate (*Sacrum Diaconatus Ordinem*).

Down through the centuries the Church has always had deacons, however, over time it became the norm that men already ordained as deacons were later ordained as priests and in many cases, as Bishops.

From the earliest times, deacons have worked closely with the bishops of the Church (*Acts 6:1-6*). One of the earliest references to deacons teaches that a deacon is ordained “not for the priesthood but for service to the bishop.” Although these deacons fulfilled varied and wide ranging functions, there always remained a strong link between the deacon and his bishop.

A deacon in the Catholic Church is a member of the clergy and he has responsibilities in some ways very similar to priests: he participates in a unique way at Mass, he is an official teacher and preacher of the Gospel, and he presides at the celebrations of baptism, matrimony, funerals and other forms of community prayer. He also shares in the responsibility of outreach that we often associate with priests: deacons visit the sick, the housebound, prisoners and those in need. In this regard, there is certainly, a “family resemblance” to the priesthood.

On the other hand, deacons have a unique expression of ordained ministry. The deacon is a particular “icon” or sacramental sign of Christ, who came,

“... not to be served, but to serve ...” (*Mark 10.45*). In this regard the deacon has a profound responsibility to pour out his own life in the service of others, just as Christ did. You will certainly see deacons participating in the Mass and other liturgical ceremonies, however, the main thrust of his ministry is to be the sacramental sign of Christ outside the sanctuary, outside the church building and ecclesial structures. Deacons have a unique role in helping to link the church and the outside community.

“  
The service of  
the Deacon is the  
Church’s service  
sacramentalised.

” Pope John Paul II

There is a maxim that says “Grace builds on nature”. In many cases, a person’s diaconal qualities have been observed and experienced by friends, family and members of a parish community; in these cases, it is often some of these people, or a priest who suggested to them that they ought to consider the diaconate. Perhaps they have become interested in the diaconate because of their own experience of deacons or through something they have read.

In every case, if you think you might have a vocation to the diaconate you should first pray, then talk about it with your family if you are married, and if you want to find out more, contact Deacon George Bissett (*Director of Vocations for the Permanent Diaconate*). The entire diaconate formation process is a journey of discernment from your initial enquiry to ordination.

I recommend that you read the “*The Directory on the Permanent Diaconate*” (*the Green Book*). Each parish priest and deacon should have a copy of The Directory and it is also on the diocesan website. It is currently in the process of being up-issued.

Acknowledgement: Ditlewig, William T, “101 Questions & Answers on Deacons”, Paulist Press, New York/Mahwah NJ. 2004.



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# To Serve is to Love

## Vocations to the Priesthood



**The Lord Jesus, after rising from the dead, appeared to 7 of the apostles by the shore of Lake Galilee (John 21). It was on this occasion that He asked Simon Peter, 'Do you love me?' He then instructed Peter, 'Feed my sheep; look after my lambs.' He was calling Peter to service as a shepherd, a priest.**

We have all benefited from the ministry of priests. We have experienced what it is to be the sheep and lambs who have been fed and cared for by the shepherds of the Church. In these days we are also acutely aware that the number of priests has diminished significantly. This is the case in our part of the world and in our culture. There are other cultures and places where vocations to the priesthood are plentiful and priests are numerous, but not here in Britain. Our experience is not unique. Rather it is replicated in most parts of the affluent West. There is, no doubt, a lesson that we can learn from this if our eyes are open to see and our ears to hear.

At the beginning of this year a Day of Reflection on Vocation to the Priesthood

was advertised across the Diocese and hosted in Carlisle. Eleven men joined the event from many different backgrounds and ranging in age from 19 – 49 years. Their experience of life and the Church was diverse. Some were Catholics from their earliest days, others came into full communion with the Church later in life. Among them were a trucker and a teacher, an archaeologist and a pharmacist, a civil servant, a farmer, a marine, a school chaplain and a number of students. What they all had in common was a sense that God was calling them to serve Him in a particular way. They were all adult enough and well enough informed to know the challenges the Church faces in our contemporary culture. Yet there was a genuine openness to Christ and, as a result, a quiet courage. Each of them in their unique personal histories had encountered Christ the Good Shepherd in some way. It was not always easily expressed or explained, whether to others or even to themselves, but Jesus, they knew, had touched them. The work for these men in the forthcoming months and years will be to

listen to the voice of the Lord and discern His will. They are ready to follow; they just need to determine where it is that God wants them to go and in what capacity.

This is the nature of a vocation to the priesthood, and indeed of any religious vocation. It is a personal calling by Christ which asks for the whole of one's life in service of God, the Gospel and God's people. When a man senses that call to be a priest it is Christ instructing him: 'Feed my sheep; look after my lambs.' The fact that this calling is heard alongside the mandate to celibacy is keenly felt and clearly understood. Every act of God is an act of love, because God is Love. The vocation, the call, is itself a loving, personal action of God towards the one called. The response from the individual is a discernment as to what is the most appropriate way to love God back. That is why Jesus on the shores of Lake Galilee first asked Simon Peter, 'Do you love me?' Every true priestly vocation throughout the history of the Church has always been made in the same words. Even today, in a climate and culture which is often

hostile, men are being called to 'love God back'; even today they respond to His invitation. A man will give much for a handsome reward. He will give even more for an ideal. But only for love will he give everything. God knows this, of course; and so do those who hear his call.

If you wish to talk to a priest about a vocation to the priesthood contact Fr Luiz Ruscillo: [luiz.ruscillo@gmail.com](mailto:luiz.ruscillo@gmail.com)

### *Prayer for Vocations*

*Lord Jesus, the ministry of priests is a sign of your unfailing care. Call from among us the priests needed for the Church of today and tomorrow. Bless all students for the priesthood. Grant them joy, wisdom, courage and a generous spirit. Sustain priests with a real sense of your love and the support of those they are called to serve. Keep them faithful to their calling. Amen.*

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## Lark Hill Association



The AGM and Mass will be held at  
 Cardinal Newman College  
 on **Saturday 25th June 2022**  
 at 2.00 p.m.  
 Further details  
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# Pray in May with Mary's Meals

Join us in praying for the work of Mary's Meals this May, a mission carried out in Our Lady's name to feed children a daily school meal in some of the world's poorest communities. This meal brings children into the classroom where they can get an education, offering hope of a better future. Our work began with prayer, and prayer has sustained our rapid growth - from feeding 200 children in 2002 to feeding over 2.2 million children today in 20 countries across the globe.

### The Mary's Meal Prayer

Our Father, give us this day our daily bread and forgive us for the times when we take more than our share of the bread that belongs to all. Let us help You fill the starving with good things, not with scraps from our table. Teach us how to share what is not ours to keep. Clothe us with Your love that we may complete each good work You created us to do. Place in our hearts Your compassion for each starving child and use our little acts of love so that they starve no more. Amen.



We are now feeding 2,279,941 children every school day!



More information and some prayer resources can be found at Pray In May | Mary's Meals UK:

[www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk)

To find out about volunteering or to arrange a talk about our work, please contact [fran.lawson@marysmeals.org](mailto:fran.lawson@marysmeals.org)

## Children learn about Peace



Lancaster Faith & Justice Commission was delighted to welcome Aisling Griffin from Pax Christi to the Diocese.

Aisling undertook a number of 'Peace and Conflict' workshops with secondary schools within the area including St Bede's Lytham, Our Lady's Fulwood, St Cecilia's and Our Lady's, Lancaster.

Aisling asked pupils to consider and discuss statements such as 'If you want peace, you must prepare for war' and 'If you want peace, you must work for justice'.

Pupils were also asked to imagine how they would work for a better world if they were Prime Minister and what action they would take. Grateful thanks to Aisling and Pax Christi for a wonderful, informative visit and many thanks too, to the Xaverians who kindly hosted her accommodation.

Photos: Aisling working with pupils in Our Lady's School, Lancaster

# Putting Down Roots



Last summer Our Lady and St Edwards parish in Preston became aware that the roots of the four Cypress trees at the entrance to their church were potentially damaging the foundations of the church building.

this spring. Four families, the Metcalf family, the Wilton family the Machado family and the Alty family undertook the task of planting the new trees and will nurture the saplings in the coming months until they become fully established.

It was decided to remove the trees and consult widely on their replacement before undergoing a planting operation

The trees will provide an attractive entrance to the church as well as provide good environmental benefits.



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## Minsteracres Retreat Centre

### Christian Life in a new world: A Preached Retreat with Fr Donald Senior



The experience of the past three years – the pandemic, the effects of climate change, raging political and social conflicts – have brought profound change to our world. It is time Pope Francis has noted, to set out as pilgrims on a new and life-giving journey. The Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles provided direction to the early Christian community as it, too, entered a new time a new place. This retreat will draw on this biblical wellspring to reflect on discipleship the possibilities of Christian discipleship now.

**Monday, 11 July (6.30)-Friday, 15 July 2022, (2pm) £560**



### Rev. Donald Senior, C.P., S.T.D., Ph.D.

Fr. Donald Senior is one of Catholicism's leading New Testament scholars. He is President Emeritus of the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, where he is also a professor of the New Testament. A Roman Catholic priest of the Passionist order, Fr. Senior has served on the Pontifical Biblical Commission since Pope John Paul II named him to it in 2001. He has taught and led study tours in the Holy Land for over 25 years. In addition to having written books and articles too numerous to list, Fr. Senior is the general editor of The Bible Today and The Catholic Study Bible, as well as coeditor of the

22-volume commentary series New Testament Message. Fr. Donald Senior earned his doctorate in New Testament Studies from the University of Louvain, Belgium, and completed further graduate studies at Hebrew Union College and Harvard University. He is past president of the Catholic Biblical Association and of the Association of Theological Schools of the United States and Canada. In 1994, the Catholic Library Association of America gave him its Jerome Award for outstanding scholarship. In 1996, the National Catholic Education Association awarded him the Bishop Loras Lane Award for his outstanding contribution to theological education.

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Minsteracres Retreat Centre, nr. Consett,  
County Durham, DH8 9RT



## Minsteracres Retreat Centre

### A Day for those who have suffered bereavement or loss



The first of two days to be led by Chris Smith. Chris has been involved with the training and coordination of the Ministry of Consolation, a bereavement service for the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. It will be a day for people who have experienced bereavement or other significant loss and give them an opportunity to be heard, to share with others who have had a similar experience and to find hope and consolation as they adjust to a "new normal"

**Wednesday 4 May 2022, 10am-4pm  
£30**



### Jesus breathed on them and said receive the Holy Spirit

In this Pentecost retreat we will reflect on the role of the Holy Spirit in John's Gospel and pray for the release of the Spirit in our lives, that we may learn how to act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with our God. There will be times of input, times of silence and times of prayer and praise to help us open ourselves more fully to God.

**Friday, 3 June (6.30)-Sunday, 5 June 2022, (2pm)  
£190**

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## Remembering Sr Mary Benedict Bermingham Augustinian Canoness of the Mercy of Jesus, Boarbank Hall

**Sr Mary Benedict, otherwise known as Aunty Phyllis, who died on 19th March 2022, was born on 26th July 1927, a twin and one of 11 children, of a warm and hospitable farming family. As a young woman she briefly tried her vocation with the Carmelites, before visiting her younger sister, Una, who had already entered Boarbank as Sr Maria Goretti. Phyllis decided to stay.**

She entered the Community in 1951, and was finally professed in 1957. For the next 67 years she was, in the words of her Prioress, 'a faithful religious Sister, dedicated to prayer and the care of others.'

Sr Benedict nursed in Boarbank Nursing Home ('Marymount') until the late 1970s, and both colleagues and patients have recalled their happy memories of that time: 'she covered some nights with me as a Carer - in the days when only two of us were

on! She was lovely to work with'. 'She and so many of the Sisters at Boarbank shaped my early career as a nurse.' One ex-patient jokingly referred to her as his 'Sister Confessor.'

Sr Benedict then moved to the Guest House, where she continued to work until she was well into her 80s. Where the guests were concerned, nothing was too much trouble for her, and she was much loved, for her merry, even mischievous, humour and her warmth.

As one regular guest put it, 'She was very much, "the face of Boarbank"'. She was also remembered with awe by guests who had been children at the time, for her prowess - and relentless competitiveness! - at rounders.

One former volunteer remembers 'the wonderful working holidays I had as a

teenager', and said of Sr Benedict: 'The last of an era of sisters. I remember her in her prime, running the dining room with ultra efficiency, making sure we helpers did things properly!'

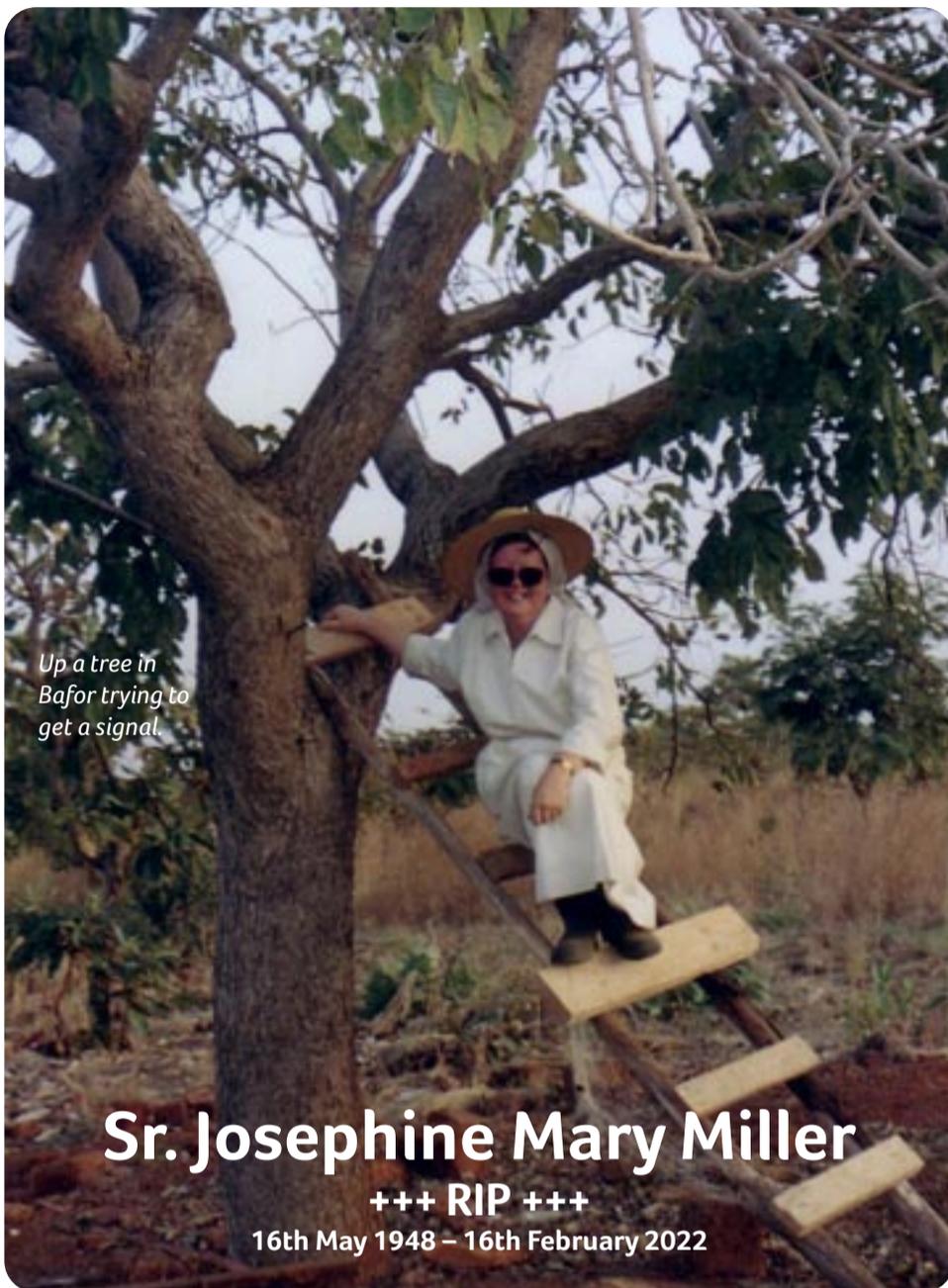
In recent years, Sr Benedict had moved to the Nursing Home, where despite her failing memory and her frailty, she retained her affectionate nature and her sense of fun, sometimes surprising us by the speed and wit of her repartee! A favourite enjoyment was singing 'Mollie Malone', often with the addition of verses of her own invention.

Sr Benedict retained close ties with her increasingly large family, and continued to visit Ireland for annual holidays, which were occasions of extensive hospitality and celebration. As her own siblings died, the next generation continued its links with Boarbank, and we were delighted

to welcome five of her relatives to her funeral, celebrated by Fr John Mackie, with Fr Dixie Taylor, on Thursday 24th March. The funeral was zoomed so that the wider family were able to join us virtually (and it is now available on the Boarbank website).

Although her memory loss deprived her of much that had brought pleasure to her life, she never lost her sense of God's presence, or her desire to pray. She would have thought it very appropriate to die on the Feast of St Joseph, patron saint of the dying. She might have been more surprised to have known that she was to appear in a newspaper article: in her great modesty she never expected praise or recognition for the tasks she carried out with so much dedication. 'Well done, good and faithful servant ... enter into the joy of your Master.'

*Sr Margaret Atkins*



Up a tree in Bafor trying to get a signal.

## Sr. Josephine Mary Miller

+++ RIP +++

16th May 1948 – 16th February 2022

**S**r. Josephine Mary was born in Exeter in 1948 but her family moved to Essex soon after and she had a great attachment to Southend all of her life. She was the middle of three girls, Elizabeth, Josephine, and Anne, all of whom were former students of the Bernardine Cistercian Order at our former school in Westcliff on Sea, Essex. Sr. Josephine attended Lindisfarne Preparatory School from the age of 4; it was a small primary school run by the Bernardines. She said she wanted to be a nun from an early age and entered after leaving school at the age of 18 in 1966, experiencing all the changes in the Church during the time of post Vatican II. She had a great love of the Liturgy and helped the Order tremendously in liturgical changes over the years. She loved to sing the Divine Office.

Over the years, she served the Order in many positions of leadership: Novice Mistress at Slough 1978 - 1990, Prioress General from 1990 to 2008 and Prioress at Hyning 2008 – 2020. It was during her tenure as Prioress General that she was instrumental in the establishment of a new monastery in Bafor, Burkina Faso a project that captured the imagination of the parishioners of St Joseph's Ansdell in the centenary year of their church in 2009 and who continue to raise funds each year to help with on-going developments there.

Sr Josephine Mary shared the fruits

of all this experience with the wider international Monastic world: as a speaker at conferences and sessions, facilitating community discernments, chair of the Union of Monastic Superiors in England & Wales, participating in many visitations in monasteries around the world.

She was also a gifted linguist and taught at Westcliff and then at Slough until her election in 1990 when she moved to our Mother House in Lille, France. She was a good teacher and leader, and knew how to draw the best from others, trusting them and maintaining high expectations of them. She was interested in people all through her life and sisters, oblates, friends, other monastic superiors, clerics of other denominations, all sought out her advice, appreciated her accompaniment and valued her support.

She wanted the best for each one, encouraging them in their spiritual and human journey. We valued this especially while she was the superior at Hyning. She was always encouraging the community to be involved in the events of the Diocese. In 2018, while still Superior, she was diagnosed with cancer and faced it with courage for the next 4 years. Her strong faith in the Resurrection and a peaceful acceptance of God's will in her life, helped her in the final weeks of her life. She died at the Hospice in Slyne, Lancaster, simply and peacefully; ready to meet the Lord she had served so faithfully all the days of her life.

*Sr Michaela Toulmin*



With her sister Anne and brother in law John on her golden jubilee.



With some of the local Bafor children.

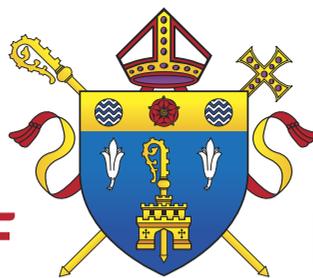
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DIOCESE OF LANCASTER

# Charter on the Care of Creation

## **My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,**

*I welcome this Charter on the Care of Creation, presented here as a statement of where we stand in the Diocese of Lancaster with regards to the environment.*

*Ours must be the most beautiful diocese in England. As Christians we recognise in creation the work of the Creator, and so for many, creation becomes a beginning, the first steps towards knowing the Lord.*

*How we live matters. How we live expresses what we believe. How we live reveals something of the God we follow and worship. Creation is entrusted to us as a foretaste of heaven, to be respected and cared for.*

*Our vocation as the People of God is to be a sign of hope to others, and hope is something very much needed in these times. I commend this Charter on the Care of Creation to you, hoping you find it an encouragement and something of a challenge to how you live your faith in these days, wherever the Lord has placed you and whatever your stage and status in life.*

*I express my gratitude to those who composed it, and extend my blessing to all who actively take it to heart. Christ is within it.*

**+ Paul Swarbrick, Bishop of Lancaster**

## **We believe:**

In Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth, everything seen and unseen. That creation reveals the glory of God. We are called to be stewards of God's creation. As stewards we must work with all people of goodwill to make our common home a place of beauty, wonder, worship, love, justice, peace, fellowship and hope. Cherishing and protecting the earth, its peoples and all its life forms is an essential part of our mission.

## **We challenge ourselves:**

To find Jesus in a simplicity of living. To adopt ways of living, models of production and consumption that are marked by respect for creation and the need for the sustainable development of peoples. To live in solidarity with the poor by not taking unfair amounts of the world's resources or creating unnecessary wastes of any form. To use our church and personal resources for better purposes, as each of our joyful choices can be a visible example to others and give them courage to follow.

## **We commit ourselves:**

To safeguard the integrity of the whole of life. To celebrate earth's gifts in prayer and worship. To live more simply and sustainably. To make the sacrifices necessary for all our global brothers and sisters to have their fair share of the resources they need to live in dignity. To educate ourselves about Gospel values and Catholic Social Teaching. To take full account of our environmental impact in our mission, pastoral and administrative activity. To promote trade justice, including support and encouragement of FairTrade. To review our commitment constantly, and our achievements annually, to identify what more needs to be done.

## **Conclusion**

We are called to be 'doers' of the Word, and not just 'hearers'. We will show by our lives and our actions that we are putting the Gospel into practice in the decisions we make every day.

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The Diocese is thrilled to welcome Stephen Garsed to the position of Environmental Lead. Stephen, together with a small support team, will be looking at delivering the vision outlined in Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter 'Laudato Si' by looking at ways we can work together to protect our common home and actively respond to 'the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor'.





Parishioners from Saint Anthony of Padua and Holy Family parishes Preston supported CAFOD's "Walk Against Hunger" this Lent by walking the 21-mile circular Guild Wheel path around Preston.

They did it in three stages on the first three Mondays in Lent. They dedicated the walk to the memory Deacon John Kilshaw who passed away earlier this year. They have raised over £1100.

Comments from some of the walkers:

Julie said

*"I took part in the Walk Against Hunger because I thought it was a fun way to raise awareness and money for people less fortunate than ourselves. It was very enjoyable because the company was great and I'd never walked the entire Guild Wheel before."*

Peter said

*"I took part to enjoy two of the great gifts given us by God - the joy of the natural world, and of good companionship - and to repay these gifts in a practical way with a little (a very little!) exertion, walking against hunger."*

Mark said

*"I enjoy walking for recreation, but I realise that many in the World have no choice but to walk just to find water, food or work. One thing which particularly attracted me to join in was the chance to share with others in representing our parish in a joint enterprise to promote CAFOD."*



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# Garstang Catenians Celebrate

**G**arstang Catenians took the decision during the pandemic not to have their normal monthly meetings. However, during that period 3 members of the Garstang Circle celebrated significant anniversaries of joining the Catenian Association.

Tony Burrow joined the Association on 15 May 1980 and celebrated his 40th anniversary of membership on 15 May 2020. Barry FitzGibbon joined the Association on 23 April 1981 and celebrated 40 years as a member of the Association on 23 April 2021. Tony and Barry were presented with their scrolls by the Catenian Director for Province 10 of the Catenian Association Mark Conroy at their annual Christmas Dinner celebration.

Peter Rimmer marked 50 years as a member of the Association on 26 October 2021. It was not possible to present Peter with his scroll along with Tony and Barry, so a presentation was made at Peter's home by the President of Garstang Catenians Gerard Reppe and the Vice President Gerard Power.

*Kevin O'Hanlon Secretary, Garstang Circle*



L to R Gerard Power, Peter Rimmer and Gerard Reppe



L to R Mark Conroy, Tony Burrow, Barry FitzGibbon and Gerard Reppe

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**Mass Listings – February 2022**

**St. Margaret Mary, Scalegate Road, Carlisle**  
Saturdays at 10.00 am  
**Saturday 5th February, 10.00 am**  
Sung Mass for Holy Souls

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

**Friday 25th February: 6.00 pm**  
**High Mass for Feast of St Walburge**  
with veneration of the relic

**Shrine of the English Martyrs, Preston**  
Mondays – Saturdays: 12 noon, Low Mass  
Sundays: 9.00 am, Low Mass  
(Please check the website for any variations: <https://licksp.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**  
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