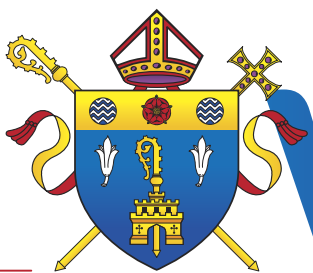


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of Lancaster

**The Official Newspaper to
the Diocese of Lancaster**

Issue 345 + December '22

INSIDE: pg6
Centenary of
St Bernard of Clairvaux,
Knott End



Happy Christmas

**A Happy and Blessed Christmas
from the Catholic Voice to all our:**

- Readers
- Contributors of material
- Advertisers
- Deanery Centres and volunteer delivery teams
- Publisher team and printing staff

We shall now be taking a short break before returning
with the February edition, our first publication of 2023.
Please submit any articles by 20 December. **God Bless**

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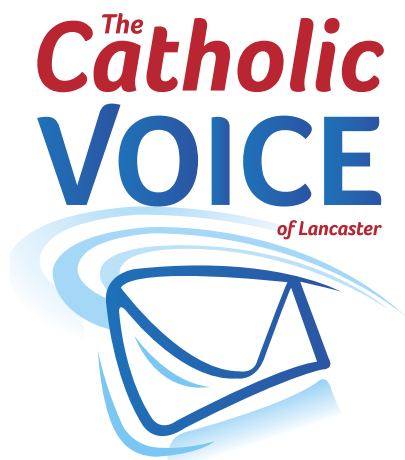
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Please send articles for publication on CD or by email, supplying any photos separate to the text (i.e. in jpeg format). Otherwise please type double spacing or write very clearly. Last date for copy is the LAST DAY of the month prior to publication. Photographs will be returned if you remember to put your name and address on the back of each and enclose suitable stamped and self-addressed packaging.



Advent – Getting ready with gratitude

It was a long wait for the arrival of the promised Hope of Israel. Hundreds of years, dozens of generations. There were huge expectations for the future king. Yet God does not work according to human expectations. No well-connected family, no rich palace, no servants; just a poor, exhausted, couple of migrants, displaced by a census, begging for somebody to show them some compassion. What an unprepossessing setting for the miracle of Christmas, a huge outpouring of love for humanity!

How do we respond to this amazing gift today? Under the guise of “tradition” we are seduced into going over the top. There are even magazines which tell us how to have “The Perfect Christmas”. But we don’t need other people to tell us how to have the perfect Christmas, we just need to look to the first two commandments and ask how we can love our God and how we can love our neighbour?

In the gospels there are many references to Jesus being full of compassion. Yet the 21st Century Western celebration of Christmas is often a time when the focus is so much on indulgence that compassion often goes out of the window even as we speak of “the season of goodwill”.

As our tables groan, how often do we express true gratitude to our ever, generous God, for this gift of abundance, and even more for the gift of his Son? How often do we think of the poor who will go hungry in our own country and worldwide? And how often do we think of those who have got into debt in trying to meet the Christmas expectations of 21st century society? Why do we fail to show gratitude? Is it not because we have missed the point of Advent? Have our preparations for this wonderful feast focused on the wrong thing – having rather than being?

We say that “Christmas is for children”. If we really want to make Christmas for children and a true celebration of the miracle of Bethlehem, we must dare to be different. We must do what is properly important rather than trying to meet the expectations of others. We need to focus on love. Advent is a wonderful time to engage children in the preparation for Christmas,

spending time and love to talk about Jesus and making things that celebrate his story, rather than just heading off to the retail park. The less we involve children in the preparations for Christmas, the more we patronise them; the more we stilt their imaginations; the more we stifle their sense of wonder and discernment.

There is another aspect to Christmas which particularly concerns us in the Environmental Justice Group: Christmas is an environmental disaster. If we truly care about our children – and about leaving a world fit for future generations of all races, on all continents, we need to use Advent to wake up to the immense impact of Christmas on the environment.

For several months now, huge container ships have been unloading vast quantities of “stuff” (*much of it single-use*) in preparation for Christmas. In the spring they will be returning with the “stuff” we no longer want, yet are happy to dump on poorer countries. Millions will “jet away”, producing huge quantities of CO2. Vast amounts of food will be wasted, including copious amounts of meat, whilst 800 million people across the globe starve. Some of our Christmas poultry will have been fattened with soybeans from the Amazon region, often on destroyed forest land taken illegally from indigenous peoples.

As we approach Advent and think about how to prepare for the feast of the birth of Christ we are bombarded by the advertising industry. Yet the following pithy comments by Pope Francis give us the true perspective:

“An economic system centred on the god of money also needs to plunder nature to sustain the frenetic rhythm of consumption that is inherent to it.

Brothers and sisters, creation is not a property, which we can dispose of at will; much less so is it the property of some, of a few, creation is a gift, it is a present, a wonderful gift that God has given us to take care of and to use for the benefit of all, always with respect and gratitude”

*Lancaster Diocese Faith and Justice Commission:
Environmental Justice Group*

Introducing Lancaster Diocese Environmental Justice Team:

Promoting Pope Francis’ encyclical, ‘*Laudato Si*’ and the Diocese of Lancaster’s ‘*Charter on the Care of Creation*’

From left to right: Sue Grubic, Sr Margaret Atkins, Stephen Garsed (*Environmental Lead*), Jane Pendleton and Fr Hugh Pollock.





Lancaster Diocese

Charter on the Care of Creation

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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YOUTH SERVICE



Keswick launches under water.

Update

One of our annual jobs at Castlerigg is refreshing the list of team members. It hangs in the hallway and, (*although there are probably a lot of mistakes and omissions*), it hopefully lists all of the priests, religious and lay people who have ministered at Castlerigg Manor since we opened in 1969! Check out our Facebook post from October 20th to see the full list – there are 222 people on the list from Fr Paddy O'Dea at the very top, to our latest leader, Katie at the bottom. We pray for all those who have visited Castlerigg over the years and everyone who has ministered here too. In November, we remembered especially those people who are no longer with us.

The ten, of those 222, who are currently working at Castlerigg have been very busy lately and that's going to continue into the winter. Since the Covid restrictions lifted we are delighted that all of our schools have stuck with us and we have even picked up around a dozen new ones! In other words, life is busy!

Forty six separate groups are booked into Castlerigg this term, including 30 separate retreats. We're also getting out a bit too... Preston, Lytham, Carlisle, Lancaster, and a few more places besides. As I say, life is busy!

One of our recent highlights was hosting the ASCENT, a wonderful organisation who we are partnered with. the ASCENT, (*they write it like that – it's a branding thing!*), is a discipleship process which runs in three locations: Brentwood, West Sussex and Cumbria. Young people in Years 10-12 sign up and join the process for three years. There are weekly term-

time online group sessions, mentoring sessions, and then three residentials a year, and that last part is where Castlerigg comes in. We host the three annual Cumbria residentials, and our team also get involved in the ministry. The aim of the process is to draw people deeper into their faith. It's been around for almost a decade now and it gets fantastic results.

One more fun thing lately was getting a few photos of some rather old graffiti in our tower roof. When I say old, I mean 1854! A joiner and a painter left their mark at Castlerigg after doing their work. Check out the photos!

Other than that, the main news from Keswick is the weather. The Autumn rains have left the Keswick launches underwater. (Photo above)

What else lately..?

Gap Years at Castlerigg

Although our team is almost at full strength now, there is probably still room for one more and we are definitely looking for people for 2023-24, starting in August. Basically, we need volunteers and we always will!

So, if you know a young person (*usually 18-22*) who wants to do a gap year with us, tell them to get in touch, or head to our website for more information. It's a wonderful year of community living, formation, growing in faith, working with some brilliant young people, and enjoying the Lakes.

World Youth Sunday

If you pay attention in Church, you might

have heard about something called World Youth Sunday a few weeks ago in the middle of November? What's World Youth Sunday, you ask? Well...

For years in this country, we've celebrated 'National Youth Sunday' on the Feast of Christ the King. In years where there wasn't a big international World Youth Day Festival (*on that point, see below...*) the rest of the World celebrated 'World Youth Day' on Palm Sunday. In England and Wales, we stuck stubbornly to the Feast of Christ the King. The Vatican tried and tried to persuade us to change until eventually they realised that actually we might be on to something and the world changed to come into line with us. And so now, globally in the Church, the Feast of Christ the King is 'World Youth Sunday.'

Rather unashamedly, we in the Diocese of Lancaster Youth Service, use this as a chance to ask for donations. And so, we ask if anybody might please be kind enough to spare us a few quid. If you are able, and if you missed the retiring collection in Church a few weeks back, please head to castleriggmanor.com and scroll down until you find the 'Make a Donation' button. If you want to make things a bit more interesting (*he says, like a poker player shuffling some cards...*) you can register for the lottery. It's £3 per ticket/ month and the winner each month takes half the pot. That way, you can support us and maybe win something back too. Again, details are on the website.

Tips for Youth leaders //

Great events for young people

It's time to bring back our 'tips for youth leaders' section. This time, we're going to

focus on some great events that you can take young people to around the country.

Obviously, there are the great events being run by us at Castlerigg Manor and there is the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes too. We also mentioned the ASCENT above and World Youth Day. You should check those out, but we're assuming you know about those. Here are a few you might not have spotted:

Youth 2000 // Youth 2000 is a Catholic organisation aimed at bringing young Catholics to full adult faith. Among other things, they run a festival at Ampleforth Abbey each August Bank holiday. Google them for more details.

Joel's Bar // Joel's Bar came out of the Celebrate Conferences which have been running for years and years. It was initially the Young Adults' stream of celebrate but it became its own thing a few years back. They run a conference every year, usually down south and usually in the spring-slash-early-summer. Again, google them for details.

New Dawn // New Dawn is a charismatic conference, but don't be put off by that word – it's not as scary as you might think. But yes, there will be a few hands in the air! New Dawn is actually open to all the family, but there is a specific youth stream which is brilliant and run by a very dedicated team. Again... google!

Social Media Links

A lot of events crop up from time to time which is another good reason to follow us on social media. We are @CastleriggManor on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and TikTok!



Photo Credit: Dean Calma / IAEA / https://www.flickr.com/photos/iaea_imagebank/47304024612

World Youth Day
in 2019.

There's a lot coming up in the months ahead, but I'd like to draw your attention to just two things:

Christmas Fayre

The Christmas Fayre is happening on Saturday December 17th at Castlerigg Manor. Check castleriggmanor.com for details. It will give us our first chance since Covid to welcome the general public (*and especially the Diocese*) to the Manor, so come along if you're able!

World Youth Day, Lisbon 2023

The next big World Youth Day event is happening next Summer in Lisbon, Portugal. It's July 31st to August 6th and we are taking a group from the Diocese. What's more, we've reduced the price to just £850 for the whole thing and there are still places available.

World Youth Day is a huge international festival where literally millions of young people from all around the world gather together with Pope Francis! So many people who go remember it for the rest of their lives and talk about it as a life changing event! For more information, get in touch with us or check out: <http://castleriggmanor.com/World-Youth-Day-2023/>

WHAT'S COMING UP?



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Photos
courtesy
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Centenary of St Bernard of Clairvaux, Knott End

During October, Bishop Swarbrick and parishioners from the church of Saint Bernard of Clairvaux at Knott End celebrated the centenary of the original church, almost exactly one hundred years to the day it was opened.

Although the church is now part of the Over Wyre parish, together with Saint William's at Pilling, it had its origins from St Mary's in Fleetwood. In the early 1900's, parishioners from the then small village went to mass by travelling to the ferry and crossing the mouth of the River Wyre. During the winter months this was often not a pleasant experience, especially for young children and older people. However, in the summertime there were plenty of visitors in Knott End, many of whom had come from industrial areas and the mill towns in northwest England. It soon became apparent that a

Mass centre was needed for the village. Mass was first said in Knott End on Sunday mornings in the large dining room of a local café, often with the windows open so that those who were not able to get in could at least hear what was happening inside. Eventually, in May 1922, a foundation stone was laid for the new church by Canon Pinnington, the Vicar General of Liverpool – work commenced quickly, and the church was opened by October of the same year. For thirty years, priests travelled to the church from Fleetwood – this was not forgotten by parishioners of the day who could remember that they had to make the same journey in years gone by, come rain or shine. It was only in 1955 that the connection with St Mary's was lost when the parish got its own priest, who became resident in the village.

The present stone altar is not entirely part of the original church and was imported from Italy by the first parish priest, Doctor John Cotton, a few years after the opening. Parishioners assembled it themselves. It was later adapted to its present place following the liturgical changes of the Second Vatican Council. Also, in the 1970's, a rather unique hand-carved wooden statue of our Blessed Lady was commissioned from the Tyrol region by Father Bernard Cochrane, the parish priest at the time,

who wrote to Bishop Foley in February 1975, stating "I have asked the artist to show a young mother holding out the Christ-Child in her arms towards the people, and the child turned towards us. I think that all statues should be didactic and the simple theology I want to get across here is Mary fulfilling her vocation of giving Christ to us." The typed letter ends with two handwritten comments: "We need a new organ, but there is no money left", and "Very good relations with the non-Catholic ministers who have been most kind."

Bishop Foley attended the church in March 1975 to formally open an extension, which doubled the size of the premises. Saint Bernard's now had a new entrance area, two transepts and a decent sacristy. The bishop was back a few months later for the blessing of three new bells, mounted on an outside wall, one of which is named 'Big Barney' in memory of the parish priest. Regrettably, the mechanism serving these bells succumbed to the salt in the sea air some years ago.

During the centenary Mass, which was held on the Sunday when we heard the story of the ten people cured of leprosy, the bishop related his experience in Zambia to our own situation. He told of a man in a small village who had suffered from this disease, and who also had to encounter many additional difficulties in life. Despite all this he travelled to church when Mass was being held on a given Sunday, and always seemed grateful for the gift of life – he wasn't a complainer.

Parishioners commented that at a time when we thank God for one hundred years of worship at Saint Bernard's, we too should be grateful for all those who have gone before us, and those who are still part of the Church community today; and maybe we too shouldn't complain about too much in our own lives.

After Mass, a hot lunch was served in the church hall, and a special cake which had been made for the occasion was cut, using the same ceremonial trowel that Canon Pinnington had used one hundred years previously when he laid the foundation stone of the church.

Canon Paul Embery

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"I have asked the artist to show a young mother holding out the Christ-Child in her arms towards the people, and the child turned towards us. I think that all statues should be didactic and the simple theology I want to get across here is Mary fulfilling her vocation of giving Christ to us."- Fr Bernard Cochrane



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Blessed Edward Bamber Catholic Multi Academy Trust

On Thursday 13th October, The Bishop of Lancaster, Bishop Paul Swarbrick visited to celebrate the four schools who recently joined the Blessed Edward Bamber Trust. Bishop Paul was accompanied by Fr. Docherty, Fr. Millar and Julie Jones from the Diocese as they toured St. Mary's Great Eccleston, St. Kentigern's, St. Wulstan's & St. Edmunds and St. Teresa's, meeting pupils and staff. Bishop Paul delivered assemblies, visited classrooms, ate lunch with the children and even led some singing during the day. He explained what his role as the Bishop was and delighted children with explanations of his vestments and the meaning of the Good Shepherd chain he wore. The children were fascinated by the Bishop's stories and spent meaningful time with him and Father Michael and Fr. John.

To advertise please contact Charlotte on 07932 248225 or email charlotter@cathcom.org



Golden Apple for Cumbria Primary School



St Cuthbert's Primary School in Windermere had been ranked the second best primary school in Cumbria out of 271 Cumbrian schools last January and is now very proud to have won the Golden Apple Award for being the best Primary School in Cumbria.



Lucy Bone (Acting Headteacher), accompanied by Jacky Kennedy, (the CEO of the Mater Christi Trust) attended the prestigious Golden Apple Awards held at Energus, Workington. Mrs Lucy Bone was very proud to accept the award on behalf of the whole school community.

Mrs Bone says:

"Being given the accolade of 'Best Primary School in Cumbria' is simply magnificent and makes me very proud of the hard work and commitment of the team at St. Cuthbert's. As a small school, we consider ourselves to be more of a family, where everyone is equally valued. We all know one another & look out for each other and as our mission statement states we always

'help one another, this is what we do with all of our hearts'. Our mission statement runs through everything we do in our school. I believe that our size is our strength, enabling us to offer a 'stage not age' approach to our learning, meaning we can tailor the curriculum to each and every child."

She continues:

"Our children always achieve academically. In the last published SATs results, we are very proud that we achieved 100% in all areas - in Maths, Reading, Writing and Science. This is well above the National Average and reflects the hard work of both pupils and staff."

"We were graded good during our last

Ofsted inspection and received a 1 in overall effectiveness in our latest Section 48 inspection in March 2022. This is the highest grade you can receive. We joined the Mater Christi MAT in Sep 2021, which is offering us even more opportunities for our children as well as extra development opportunities for collaboration amongst staff within the MAT.

"We believe the accolade of being the best primary school in Cumbria will help take us from strength to strength."

Through our enrichment opportunities, we give our children the chance to develop and explore out of the classroom, giving them the confidence and skills to flourish academically.





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We are always busy at St. Cuthbert's, taking every opportunity to enrich our curriculum for the benefit of our children. Take a look at our Facebook and Twitter pages to see what we have been getting up to.

All the staff and Governors are 100% committed to the children and the ethos of St. Cuthbert's. Everything we do is for the benefit of our amazing pupils. We have wonderfully supportive parents and our children are very proud of be part of our school. They're very proud to come to the best primary school in Cumbria!

We are so honoured that we have been given this accolade of the best Primary school in Cumbria 2022. (Read more at:

2022 Best Schools in Cumbria (snobe.co.uk) and St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School in Cumbria (snobe.co.uk)

We are Team Cuthbert's and we work tirelessly for our children.

We do have places available at school, in all year groups (N - 6) and we are in the process of changing our age range from taking 3 year olds to taking two year olds, which is something Windermere is in desperate need of. How exciting!! If anyone would be interested in coming for a look around. Please contact the school office on 015394 48125. Come and see the best Primary school in Cumbria for yourselves.

Mrs Lucy Bone, Acting Headteacher



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“Advent is the season for remembering the closeness of God who came down to dwell in our midst.” – Pope Francis

In 2020 Pope Francis urged us to “Let us make the traditional Advent prayer our own: ‘Come, Lord Jesus.’ ... We can say it at the beginning of each day and repeat it often, before our meetings, our studies and our work, before making decisions, in every important or difficult moment of our lives: ‘Come, Lord Jesus.’” And his words are just as relevant as we enter a new liturgical year with the first Sunday of Advent 2023.

His Holiness stressed the importance of being watchful and being aware of the closeness of God and not to get distracted by the fleeting things of daily life. Living our lives purely driven by

self interest the Pope advised that we “risk losing sight of what is essential”.

He urged that we make every effort to raise our hearts and minds to God in prayer and acts of charity. In these two acts he said we become closer to God and our faith increases.

So, whilst there is lots to do and get distracted by at this time of year the *Catholic Voice* urges you to find an oasis of quiet time every day to meet Jesus on the road in prayer and acts of love. In this way Christmas will certainly mean Christ is with us.



Bishop Paul's visit to the Kent Estuary

With great joy, our lively community in the Kent Estuary Catholic Churches of Arnside, Milnthorpe and Grange-over-Sands gathered to welcome Bishop Paul on Sunday 16 October. He celebrated a Mass at Christ the King, Milnthorpe for parishioners of all three of our churches. Then he joined us for a buffet at the Crooklands Hotel.

The Kent Estuary Catholic Churches represent the many Catholic communities in the small towns or villages of our diocese. They, together with their ecumenical partners, strive to be a welcoming family of faith which witnesses to Christ in their area.

Our communities, realise that, faithful to the Church, they have to plan for a future together with a light oversight from clergy. Our Bishop gave great encouragement to us in this work by his pastoral concern.

We thank him for being the chief shepherd of our communities in Lancaster Diocese and give him our support and prayers in his difficult task as Bishop of our diocese in changing times.

For further photos of the visit, and a recording of the Mass, visit on our website www.kentestuarycatholicchurches.co.uk

Fr Philip Smith


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The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse Statement from the Catholic Council on the Final Report of the Inquiry

The Panel of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse recently published its final report after seven years of work. The Catholic Council welcomes this report, thanks the Inquiry for its work and will carefully study its contents and recommendations.

In the work of safeguarding all who are members of, or come into contact with, the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales, at no point will the Church stop on its journey of dedicated effort in making the life and work of the Church safe for all.

Before the publication of the case study report into the Roman Catholic Church in November 2020, the Church commissioned an independent review into its safeguarding work and structures which is in the process of

being implemented. The new national safeguarding body, the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA), which began operational work in April 2021, provides a regulatory function to organisations within the Church in England and Wales ensuring that standards are upheld, and all safeguarding processes adhered to. These changes were fully aligned with the Inquiry’s recommendations in the case study report.

Key to this progress is the voice of victims and survivors of abuse which has been an integral element in the development of this new agency. The Church remains committed to listening with humility to those who have been hurt by the actions of Church members so that their experiences will inform our work.

It is important for us to again offer an

unreserved apology to all those who have been hurt by abuse in the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales and to reaffirm our commitment to the continued refinement and improvement of our safeguarding work to protect all children and the vulnerable.

Information regarding the Catholic Council
The Catholic Council for the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse was created in 2015, at the commencement of the Inquiry’s work. It has assisted IICSA under its Chair, Baroness Nuala O’Loan, and has representatives from both the Bishops’ Conference and the Conference of Religious. It has supported the numerous organisations that make up the Catholic Church in England and Wales in their engagement with IICSA and ensured that the evidence required by the Inquiry was collated appropriately.

Source: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/iicsa-final-report-statement/>

Further links

[cbcew.org.uk/safeguarding](https://www.cbcew.org.uk/safeguarding)
Safeguarding section on the Bishops’ Conference website.

catholicsafeguarding.org.uk
Official website of the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA).

iicsa.org.uk/final-report
The Final Report can be found on the IICSA website.

Should you wish to make contact telephone 0207 901 4800 or email Communications@cbcew.org.uk



Reflection by The Archbishop of Liverpool, Most Rev Malcolm McMahon, for Friends of the Holy Land

For many years I was hesitant to travel to the Holy Land on pilgrimage. The main reason for my reluctance centres on a fear that my illusions would be shattered and that many of the places associated with Jesus' life and actions would turn out to be fabrications of later generations. Some of that may be true but archaeology and biblical research have shown that much of the tradition is historically correct and that in certain places one can be sure to have walked on the same ground as Jesus.

In 2009 I made my first pilgrimage to Israel, and I came away very moved to have visited the biblical sites and in particular the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre. My fears had been allayed by the expert guide who went to great pains to explain things in the tiniest detail. But this pilgrimage wasn't simply an archaeological visit, I was struck by the people I met continuing the work of Jesus in orphanages, specialist schools, the seminary and Catholic University in Bethlehem, and the religious sisters, priests, and seminarians. These are often referred to as the 'Living Stones'. Their faith and their active expression of it was something I was unprepared for, and which had a deep effect on me, and opened my eyes.

If I have to say which places impressed me most apart from the tomb of Jesus in the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, I refer to my second pilgrimage to the Holy Land which wasn't to Israel but to Jordan. Like Jesus we 'passed

through the towns of the Decapolis' or at least some of them. Beginning at Gadara which is associated with Jesus casting out the demons from the demoniac and sending them into a herd of pigs. To stand at the top of the steep hillside over which the pigs ran in to the river below was a wonderful experience. From that vantage point to the right were the Golan heights, to the left in the distance Mount Tabor and below was the sea of Galilee. The view was awe inspiring because it took in so much of Jesus' life - and it was a long and broad view - and my eyes were opened. We then went to Jerash, another archaeological site in the Decapolis. In Jesus' time this was a busy Roman settlement on an important trade route and I realised that Jesus' ministry was in important cities, and not just villages and small towns. That too was an eye-opener.

Lastly, I want to mention a teenager selling olive wood rosaries in Bethlehem. He was Palestinian whose family had been displaced from their home several generations ago. He was also very persistent when I said that I had enough rosaries. He said that I thought that he and people like him were human rubbish. Obviously, I was disturbed by this remark, but I didn't want to give in to him. So, I bought two Magnums, sat on a wall with him and listened while we ate our ice creams. I didn't buy his rosaries, but our conversation opened the eyes of my mind in an unexpected way. *Malcolm McMahon OP*

To find out more about the work of Friends of the Holy Land, please visit www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk



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News from Boarbank

The Sisters at Boarbank were delighted to be able to welcome back so many old friends to celebrate our delayed Centenary on 21st and 29th September. We were especially delighted that our past and present bishops were able to preside at the respective Masses. An earlier celebration (also delayed) of Sr Margaret Middleton's Golden Jubilee was a similarly happy event for us, and a chance to give thanks for so many blessings over the years and even during these difficult recent times.

Sadly, however, our week of celebrations was followed immediately by the unexpected death of our chaplain, Fr John Mackie, a priest of the Salford Diocese, who has been a close friend of Boarbank for many years and our chaplain since 2018. He was ordained in 1973 and had been a popular parish priest and a devoted chaplain to the Diocesan Lourdes pilgrimage for many years.

Sr Margaret Atkins



Centenary Mass celebrated by Bishop Paul Swarbrick.



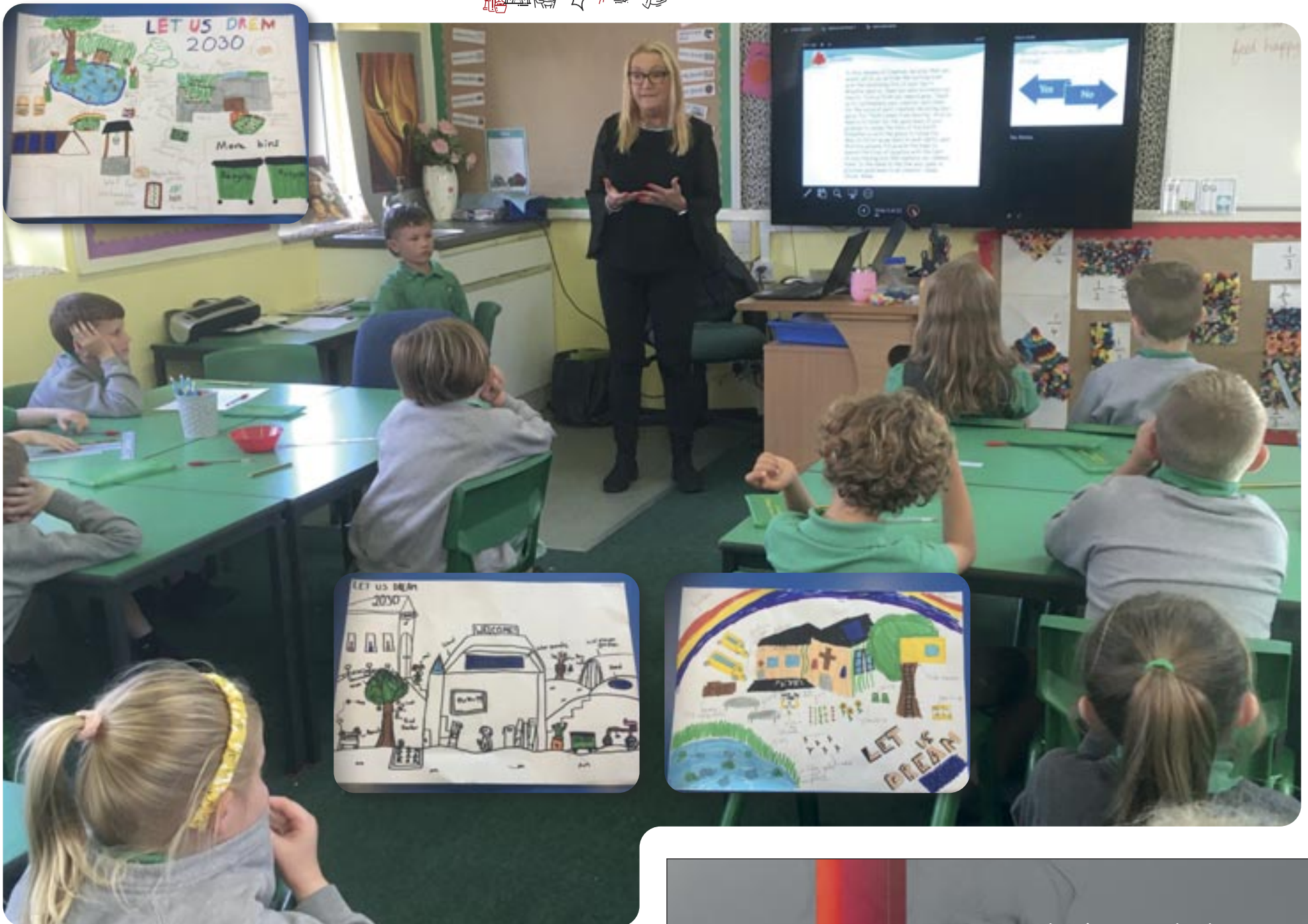
Sr Margaret Middleton with her family at her Jubilee celebrations.



Centenary Cake and Papal Blessing.



Fr John Mackie RIP
Eternal rest grant unto Fr John O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him, may he rest in peace. Amen.



‘Let us Dream’ – Laudato Si in action at St Columba’s school in Barrow!

Lancaster Diocese Faith & Justice worker, Sue Grubic, was delighted to be invited to St Columba’s RC Primary school in Barrow to promote the Journey 2030 ‘Let us Dream’ workshops where pupils use their imagination to create their very own eco friendly fantasy school.

Pupils and Governors worked together to create a vision in which schools and communities work together to build a better future for all!

Special thanks to Head Teacher, Claire

O’Donnell, Angela Pope and the Laudato Si, Care of Creation Group and Governors for their wonderful welcome.

I can’t wait to see how some of their amazing ideas have developed when I next return!

Details relating to ‘Let us Dream’ can be found on the Ecological Conversion Group’s ‘Journey to 2030’ website.

For more information or if you would like your school to partake in a workshop, please contact Sue at ldfsue@gmail.com



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Christmas Mass Times

Preston, St Clare's

Saturday 24th December
6pm: First Mass of Christmas
11:30pm: Carols & Midnight Mass
Sunday 25th December
The Nativity of the Lord
Mass at 10am
Monday 26th December
St Stephen Mass at 9.30am
(Mass for altar servers)

Preston The Parish of St. John XXIII

Christmas Eve
at English Martyr's Church,
Garstang Road: Vigil Mass
5pm.
at St. Joseph's Church,
Skeffington Road: Vigil Mass
6.30pm.

Christmas Day
at St. Joseph's Church
Christmas morning Mass at
10am

St Bernadette's Bispham

Christmas Services

Friday 24th December
5pm Children's Mass of
Christmas

7:45pm Carols followed by
8pm CandleLit Christmas Mass

Saturday 25th December
10am Christmas Morning Mass

Sunday 26th December
10am Mass for the Feast
of the Holy Family

St Annes-on-the-Sea Our Lady Star of the Sea

Christmas Eve:
4.00pm Mass (Family Mass)
8.00 p.m.

Christmas Day
9.30am Family Morning Mass
of Christmas
11.00am Family Morning Mass
of Christmas

St. Joseph`s Ansdell and St Peter's, Lytham

Christmas Eve Saturday 24th December

6.00pm St Joseph's
- Children's Mass
of Christmas
8.00pm St Peter's
- Candlelit Mass of Christmas with
Carols and Readings from 7.30pm

Christmas Day Sunday 25th December

9.15am St Joseph's
- Morning Mass of Christmas
10.30am St Peter's
- Morning Mass of Christmas

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