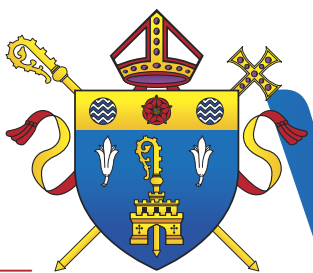


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The **Catholic**



VOICE *of Lancaster*

*The Official Newspaper to
the Diocese of Lancaster*

Issue 348 + April '23

*INSIDE: pg2-3
Rite of Election 2023*



Carmelites leave Preston after over 105 years

After over 105 years of dedicated prayerful service in Preston the Carmelite Sisters have vacated the monastery on St Vincent's Road in Preston to join other Carmels in Birkenhead, Liverpool and Scotland.

Bishop Paul Swarbrick was joined by many local priests for a Mass of Thanksgiving in February which was followed by an afternoon tea and time to catch up with the Sisters before their departure.

A Preston girl, Polly Kirkham, who became Sister Mary Teresa was a founder member of Preston Carmel and she was later joined by another Preston girl Winifred O'Neill who became known as Sister Mary Winifred. So many happy memories, so much history, so much good work!

We thank the Sisters past and present for all that they have done for the Preston community and for the wider diocese of Lancaster – God Bless you all!

You can read more on pages 8, 9 and 10.

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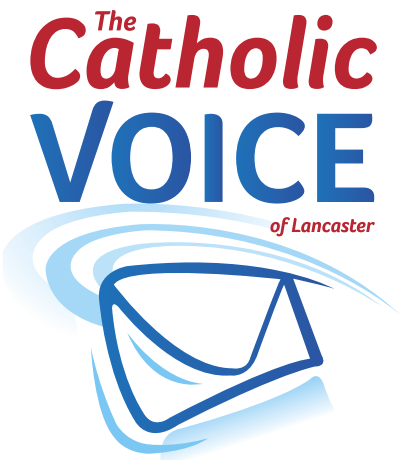
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*Bishop Paul Swarbrick with
the final five resident Sisters.*





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Rite of Election 2023



The Second Sunday of Lent is always preceded the day before by the Rite of Election held at the Cathedral in Lancaster when those who are to be received into full communion with the Church at Easter are presented to the Bishop by their sponsors and parish priests.

The first to be presented are the catechumens, those who are to be baptised. They are each called by their name and presented to Bishop Paul.

They are followed by the candidates, those who have already received Christian Baptism.

The Rite of Election is the ritual that marks the individual's entry into the final phase of their preparation to receive the sacraments of initiation, at the Easter Vigil. Following the Rite of Election, they are called the elect, since they have been elected by the Church (in the person of the bishop) to become members. This is a very happy occasion for all those involved and in the life of the Diocese. It is an opportunity for those who are to receive the sacraments at Easter to gather, meet with each other and Bishop Paul to pray for God's protection and care. Please pray for those being received this year.





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YOUTH MATTERS



The Halfway Point!

The February half term marked the halfway point of the academic year. As I write, it's the first day back for the team after half term and so a good chance to take stock and reflect on the year so far. We asked a few of the team to write a short paragraph about their year so far, and this is what they came up with...



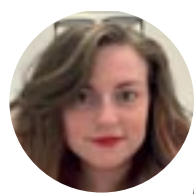
"I have thoroughly enjoyed my year so far at Castlerigg. It's been such a great experience, from meeting young people from all different backgrounds and lives to being part of a crazy community. I have made friends for life! I can't wait to make more memories and this year. I will remember it forever!"

– Dom



"I've been volunteering with the youth service since August 2022. Throughout my time at Castlerigg Manor so far I've had many opportunities both to grow in my own faith and to help young people grow in theirs. I find my work truly rewarding and have seen first-hand the impact it has had on those I have ministered to. Community life is also a wonderful one, and I have gained many valuable friendships over the past 6 months."

– Katie W



"It has been a great joy to spend time with all the young people that come through our doors.

Opening them to the joy of the Gospel and showing them that they are loved by God is one of the many joys of Youth Ministry in the Church."

– Katie F

Katie Flood – responsible for the last quote – has been with us on a temporary contract as a Programme Leader since the Autumn. She left us at the beginning of March for a four month sabbatical in South Carolina before returning to the UK to take up a new post. It has been a real joy working with her.

She has had a huge impact on community life and on our retreat work and we will really miss her.

Other News

One of the biggest developments of late is that we have been working hard to develop our retreat programme. We've put a heck of a lot of work into it over the past few years – starting during lockdown – but recently we've made another big stride forward with the advent of different themes for each year group. This makes it easier for our team to develop original content, but it also ensures that if young people come back to Castlerigg in different year groups then they won't get the same programme twice!

By the time you read this, Flame 2023 will have happened. At present, the coach from our diocese is almost full and we are looking forward to what promises to be a really exciting day, albeit very long. The coach will leave Castlerigg in the early hours of the morning and get back just before midnight!

On the same weekend, we are also holding our first preparation weekend for World Youth Day. There are still spaces, but we've got a good crowd signed up already and we are looking forward to visiting Lisbon this summer.

The prep weekend will give the group a good chance to bond together and get to know each other before getting on the plane in late July!

Join Our Team

We are currently looking for gap year volunteers to join our 2023-24 team.

We are also looking for a Programme Leader and we may have other posts to advertise soon as well.

Check out our website castleriggmanor.com and click on 'Current Vacancies.' If you've got any questions, Email our director, Jack – director@castleriggmanor.com – and he will be happy to have a chat.

The ministry team at Castlerigg Manor are the heart of the Youth Service. They all stay together and live as part of a community which is a lot of fun! But they work hard too.

They welcome groups to the Manor and occasionally go out to schools and parishes too. They give testimony, lead games, help out on walks and other activities, and they also lead small groups, and spend time with the young people letting them know that they matter.

Working at Castlerigg is an experience that hundreds of people have had, going all the way back to 1969. It builds confidence and skills, strengthens faith and, as well as anything else, it's just a heck of a lot of fun!

WHAT'S COMING UP?

World Youth Day // We still have spaces which we are offering at a very good price. Head to www.castleriggmanor.com for more details. World Youth Day 2023 is happening from July 31st to August 7th and it's being held in Lisbon, Portugal. Your chance to get together with millions of other young Catholics, oh and the Pope too!

Easter Retreat // April 6-9 2023, £65 – journey through the Easter Triduum at Castlerigg Manor. Sign up via our website.

LIT // Open Confirmation Retreat, May 26-28. Our open retreat for young people who have recently been confirmed, or are about to be. A chance to make some friends and reflect on what it means to be sealed with the Holy Spirit.

Follow Our Social Media

Young People – follow @castleriggmanor on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok

Adult Leaders – follow @castleriggmanor on Facebook, and you can also follow @YS_Castlerigg on Twitter and Instagram

Play the Lottery

Did you know that Castlerigg Manor runs a monthly lottery? It's there to raise a bit of money for the Youth Service and it's a bit of fun too. Plenty of people have won so far! Just to be clear, when we say words like lottery and win, don't imagine you're going to be going round the Caribbean on a yacht. It's not that kind of lottery. Winnings are more like a few hundred quid but look at it this way – you're probably a hundred thousand times more likely to win than the yacht version.

Check out www.castleriggmanor.com for more details. The lottery is important to us because it raises some vital funds for Castlerigg and for our work. Why is this important? Well, let's just say that we are expecting to pay fifty grand just on electricity and gas during the next financial year!!

And by the way, if you want to make a donation to Castlerigg Manor without the lottery thing, you can do that too. Again, check out our website.





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LIT

**Confirmation Retreat
26-28.5.23**

**EASTER RETREAT
6-9.4.2023**

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Wordsearch! // Last year, we put together a wordsearch for one edition and it proved really popular. Loads and loads of you asked for another one, and so... here is our Lent and Easter wordsearch. In this grid are 29 words associated with Lent and/ or Easter. Enjoy...

David Pope dip FD MBIFD

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Just under 10,000 young Catholics gathered in London at Wembley’s OVO Arena earlier in March, to celebrate Flame - the National Youth Congress.

Organised by CYMFed, the Catholic Youth Ministry Federation of England and Wales, this youth mega event has been described by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, as:

“Fantastic... full of energy, interest, but also prayer - with a deep quietness at times which, to me, has always been the real inner heart of Flame.”

Catholic leaders

Cardinal Nichols was one of the speakers alongside a roster of other high-calibre speakers including Cardinal Luis Tagle, Archbishop of Manila and a Pro-prefect in the Vatican’s Dicastery of Evangelization, and Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB of Perth.

Award-winning performers

Award-winning rapper Guvna B, a huge hit at Flame 2019, took to the stage as did talented singer-songwriter Adenike, who made such a big impression on ITV’s The Voice. She goes from audience to big stage having once attended Flame with her parish.

One Hope Project, a creative collective encouraging fresh expressions of worship in the Catholic Church, also performed, as did Faith Child, a MOBO and multi-award-winning rapper.

Fighting “Forever Chemicals”

Ohio lawyer Robert Bilott was in town to raise awareness of so-called “forever chemicals” - dangerous chemicals that have been dumped into the environment and, worryingly, are found in 99%

of humans. Robert has won many accolades for his work litigating against big companies such as DuPont. His story even caught the eye of Hollywood heavyweight Mark Ruffalo and was made into the film Dark Waters, with Robert played by the renowned actor.

Ahead of Flame, Robert spoke to the Bishops’ Conference about how excited he was to be speaking to thousands of young Catholics:


“I’m just really looking forward to being able to speak to young people. I speak to different college groups in universities across the US, because these are the people that have the passion and that are going to make change – they’re going to see this through.

“They’re much more attuned to a lot of these issues than folks in our generation and I love to see that passion. I love to see people who realise that they can make a difference. One person standing up, speaking out, saying, ‘you know what, we can change this – it can happen.’”


Charity and Clarity

Brenden Thompson and Georgia Clarke from Catholic Voices spoke about the need to talk with ‘charity and clarity’ about the Church and how the organisation was set up after Pope Benedict’s visit in 2010 to improve the Church’s representation in the media, and Therese Withers, a Catholic artist, lit up Flame with her artwork and images.

CBCW Communications team



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**Christ the King Catholic Academy,
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Ofsted visited Christ the King Catholic Academy in December. The Inspector commented on how happy pupils are and how well they achieve. Reading, provision in Early Years and support for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities are real strengths of the school. The inspector also praised how kind, caring and considerate pupils are and the wide range of opportunities that are available for pupils to benefit from. The school’s ambitious curriculum engages all pupils and helps them to achieve so well by the end of Year 6.


If you are interested in applying for a Reception place for 2023 for your child in this, or any of our Trust schools, please contact the Headteacher of the school to see if any spaces are available.

You are always welcome to visit any of our schools to see us in action. Come and join us!

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St. Wulstan’s & St. Edmund’s Catholic Academy, Fleetwood

If you are interested in working at any of our schools or the Trust, please visit www.becmat.co.uk/recruitment to see our latest vacancies.

We would like to wish you all a happy and holy Easter from all at the Blessed Edward Bamber Catholic Family of Schools.





The Vatican backed Laudato Si Movement organises an online Laudato Si' Animators' Course which is set up to educate and enable people to inspire others, in parishes, schools and in the world at large, to engage in dialogue and action on the current environmental crises. The Course, which starts on the 19 April this year, will educate and empower you to bring the Laudato Si' Encyclical to life.

The Course requirements include weekly readings including chapters from the Laudato Si' Encyclical, discussion groups, videos to watch, some webinars and some homework which may include things like writing your reflections. The Course will explain the causes and consequences of climate change, will show how the Laudato Si' Encyclical fits into Catholic Social Teaching and will encourage a personal ecological conversion to enable action for the planet. A short one minute video is available online at: youtu.be/Sy9YGWle8AA For more information and to register visit: laudatosianimators.org



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Preston Carmelite Monastery



St Thérèse of Lisieux (1873 – 1897)

St. Thérèse, help me to always believe,
as you did, in God's great love for me, so that
I might imitate your "Little Way" day by day.
(Photo of St Thérèse's Statue outside OLSE church)



This Statue was formerly sited at the
Carmelite Monastery in Fulwood.
The Carmelite Sisters were in Fulwood from 1917 to 2023.
When they left, it was gifted to
Our Lady & St Edward's Church.



The year was 1917, there was war in Europe that was spilling out to encompass the world; the USA entered the First World War in the April. In October turmoil in Russia became a Revolution. In the small unknown Portuguese town of Fatima, Our Lady appeared to children from the May until the October. The Code of Canon Law was promulgated by Pope Benedict XV and a superfluity (*the collective noun for sisters, I had to look it up!*) of Carmelite Sisters from London founded a new Carmel in the North West of England – here in Preston.

And now in February 2023, there is an on-going war in Europe, Russia is in turmoil, the Code of Canon Law has been

updated many times and Fatima has become a place of prayer and pilgrimage. And a superfluity of Carmelite Sisters are leaving the North West of England to be dispersed across the Carmelite world!

And as the great thinker Dr. Seuss once said "*Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened.*" And that is why we are gathered here this afternoon to thank God for the gift of this Carmel to the people of Preston and the wider diocese of Lancaster.

In the first reading Ben Sira (*the author of Ecclesiasticus*) urges us to praise and bless God for his wondrous works. And the prayer life and witness of this Carmel for over 100 years have been a visible sign

of God's blessings! Then we are asked to invoke a blessing on all that we may enjoy peace and gladness of heart and the abiding goodness of the Most High. And as the Sisters prepare to leave this place, we are asking for God's peace to rest with them and us as a new chapter begins in the life of the community.

And, again this is reflected in Jesus teaching his disciples in the Gospel of John. There will be challenges, changes and difficulties, but if we remain steadfast, the joy promised by Jesus will come to us.

However, the reality of closing a community, its loss to the wider community and the gap it will leave can

feel insurmountable. If, on the other hand, we look at this with the eyes of faith, with a heart of love and mind that contemplates the mystery of God, then we can see not loss, but opportunity!

There is a legacy of 100 years of presence, there are many individuals, families, parishes and communities that have been touched by the Carmelite charism and the guidance of the Sisters. There are the Lay Carmelites who will still be present in our midst and continue the work and prayer they are dedicated to. This site will for many years to come, still be remembered as the Monastery of the Sisters.

Continued on Page 11 >>

closes after 105 years



Polly Kikham of Preston a founder member who became Sister Mary Teresa >>

Bishop with the final five resident Sisters.

The Carmelite Sisters in Fulwood



In 1915 Archbishop Thomas Whiteside of Liverpool (the Lancaster Diocese had not been established) considered Preston a suitable place for a Carmelite Monastery. He asked Mother Mary of Jesus, Prioress of Notting Hill Carmel, if she would undertake the foundation.

Despite the difficulties of war restrictions, benefactors were found, and within 2 years Irish builders completed the building work on St Vincent's Road, Fulwood.

On the 12 April 1917 Mother Mary Jesus led a group of 9 sisters to form the new community and stayed with them for several weeks until they were settled, before returning to her own community in London.

Polly Kirkham a 21year old Preston girl, known as Sister Mary Teresa, was a founder member of Preston Carmel and she was later joined by Prestonian, Winifred O'Neil, known as Sister Mary Winifred, who celebrated all her jubilees in Preston Carmel including her Platinum (70 years) Jubilee.

On the 13 May 2017 a Centenary Mass of thanksgiving, celebrated by Bishop Michael Campbell and supported by 12 fellow priests, was held in the Carmelite chapel.

Over the last 100 years the Carmelite's of Preston have become greatly appreciated, respected, and loved by many.

At the time of the Centenary, the Fulwood Monastery consisted of 8 sisters, the Prioress, Sister Josephine, Sr Frances Therese, Sr Mary of Grace, Sr Teresa, Sr Patricia, Sr Mary Agnes, Sr Cecilia and Sr Mary Elizabeth. Sadly, Sr Mary of Grace and Sr Cecilia died in 2019 and 2020 respectively.

The Sisters will join other Carmelite convents. Sr Frances Therese and Sr Patricia are going to Liverpool, Sr Josephine and Sr Teresa to Dumbarton, Sr Mary Elizabeth to Birkenhead and Sr Mary Agnes to Dysart.

Please pray for all the Carmelite Sisters who spent time at Fulwood and especially for the 5 sisters who are continuing their ministry in different convents.

Frank McGrath

06.02.2023

Email: fmcg@outlook.com

Facebook: Francis J McGrath

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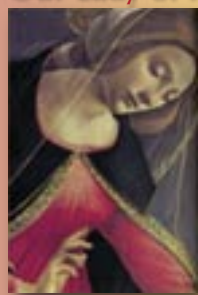
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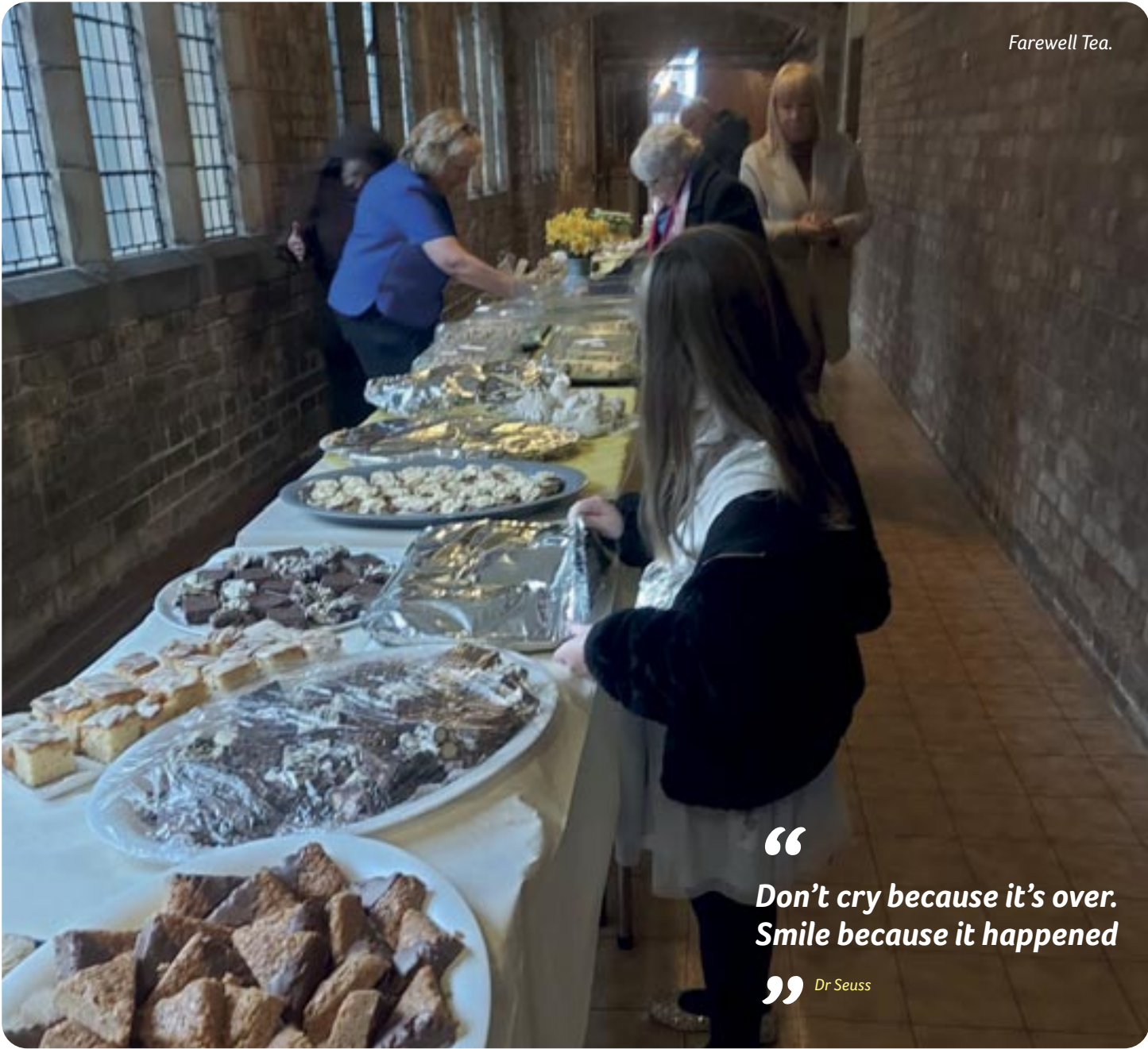


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Bishop with resident
and visiting carmelites.



Farewell Tea.

“
Don't cry because it's over.
Smile because it happened
” Dr Seuss

Page 11 continued from Page 8

In the history of the Church, as well as the Catholic history of Preston, many religious communities, parishes and other structures have come and gone. They have all offered a unique insight into the working of the Spirit and they all play their part in the promoting of the Kingdom and witnessing to the love, compassion and justice of Our Father.

The Carmelite Sisters maybe leaving this physical place, but each of them takes memories, friendships and prayers as they move to their new Carmels. The Carmel of Preston may no longer be a physical place, but it will remain a spiritual signpost to community, prayer and service.

We thank God for the gift that this Carmel is, but let our farewell, not be one of sadness, but a sign, in the words of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux:

I ask you for myself and for those dear to me the grace to fulfil perfectly your holy will and to accept for love of you the joys and sorrows of this passing life, so that one day we may be reunited in Heaven for all eternity.

Let me finish with the Prayer to the Saints of Carmel
Holy men and women of Carmel,
you found in the Carmelite Family a school of prayer,
a community ready to serve others,
and sure companions for your pilgrimage through life.
From your place at the summit of Mount Carmel,
Jesus Christ, help us to walk steadily in his footsteps,
that our prayers and good works may further the cause of his Church. Amen.

May the prayers and good works of the Sisters of the Preston Carmel further the cause of his Church, both here in Preston and to the new communities where they will be going to.

A wonderful evening at Westminster Cathedral!



The ecumenical Christian charity organised a rare evening of wonderful virtuoso singing and entertainment in Westminster Cathedral recently featuring the London Welsh Male Voice Choir supported by The Priests in a combined performance compered by Mal Pope of BBC Wales.

"It was a full house" said FHL Executive Director, Brendan Metcalfe. "There were over 900 people filling the Cathedral who had the rare opportunity to listen to London Welsh Male Voice Choir and The Priests in a marvellous setting with a great atmosphere."

"Our compère for the evening Mal Pope, kept us entertained and ensured the evening ran smoothly. It was a great privilege to have the generous support of these magnificent talents as well as the Cathedral team and the many volunteers so generous with their time, to make the event a great success. As a result, the concert has generated funds of almost £32,000 from the tickets sales, donations and other income on the night and spread awareness of the essential mission of Friends of the Holy Land to many new contacts as over half the people in the audience were previously unknown to us."

"I thank all that came out and attended the concert and supported this event. My question for them is – What next? I hope they will register to receive our news and keep up to date with the daily challenges faced by our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land, which are getting worse; thereby they can spread the news to their friends and local community so the 'living stones' are not forgotten."

Editors Note:

Friends of the Holy Land is a small ecumenical Christian charity (registered charity in England and Wales number 1130054). It works from an office in Kenilworth, Warwickshire, but has groups and supporters across England and Scotland.

FHL was inspired by a pilgrimage in 2007 and founded two years later by a group of returning pilgrims who felt called to try to improve the lives of Christians living in the land that is at the root of their faith. The charity operates an office in Bethlehem to support vulnerable Christians, meeting their emergency needs and helping when families fall into financial difficulty.

FHL's Bethlehem team also works with partner agencies to support Christians with medical costs and school fees, which can often account for as much as a quarter of a normal household's yearly income. The charity runs two major projects in the town of Christ's birth – School of Joy, providing education and therapy for disabled children, and St Martha's House, a day centre for elderly women, mainly widows or those whose families have emigrated.

FHL also provides long-term help to St Luke's Hospital in Nablus by supporting a medical exemption fund for the local Christian population. Our patrons include the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, Archbishop of Westminster Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Birmingham Bernard Longley and Dr Rowan Williams.

Annual Cross Fell Pilgrimage Announced

Cumbrian born John Bradburne used to climb Cross Fell regularly. Considering his impending beatification to become a Saint, the John Bradburne Memorial Society, which funds the Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre where Bradburne spent his latter years, are once again holding an annual pilgrimage on Saturday 15th July 2023 led by Bishop Paul Swarbrick.

Said Dr Gavin Young, JBMS Trustee and walk leader of this annual event, "This will be the third year that we have organised this walk. It is a fitting tribute to Bradburne and an enjoyable albeit hard climb. So, if you are coming, please be suitably equipped."

The day will start with a service in Skirwith, at St John the Evangelist Church at 10am and even if you are not coming on the walk, you will be very welcome, followed by the climb up the fell. For further information about this event please contact JBMS: Tel: **07979 187498** or Email: info@johnbradburne.com Website: www.johnbradburne.com

Editor's Note: Cross Fell is the highest point in the Pennines at 893m in altitude. It is located at the northern end of the Pennine moors and has extensive views of the Lake District, the west coast and also the east coast. The southern uplands of Scotland and the Cheviots can also be seen from here.

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Vatican's Chief Astronomer delivers Public Lecture on God and the Universe

A unique insight into science, the cosmos and religion has been shared by the Vatican's Chief Astronomer during a public talk at Heriot-Watt University on 6 February.



Brother Guy Consolmagno, travelled from Rome to the University's Edinburgh campus to deliver the 2023 Annual Public Lecture hosted by the University Chaplaincy.

More than 300 people attended the event in person as Brother Guy discussed what happens when political and social pressures mix with science.

Ahead of his talk, Brother Guy took a few moments to explain the Vatican's deep-rooted interest in science, saying:

"A lot of people wonder, why does the Pope hire astronomers? Why do we have an observatory? The short answer is simply to show the world that the Church supports science."

"The Vatican has been involved in astronomy since the reform of the calendar in the 1580s - that's more than 400 years ago. We have telescopes now in both Rome and in a mountain top of Arizona, which are pioneers for the new way of making telescopes. At the Vatican, we've got photographic plates - 10,000 photographic plates - of astronomical objects as seen over the last 120 years. We've got 1,000 meteorites, samples of every asteroid that we've been able to sample, including meteorites from Mars and the Moon."

"Space reminds me both how big the universe is, and how much bigger God is who created that universe."

The Vatican Observatory, which is based near Rome in the province of Castel Gandolfo, is one of the world's oldest active

astronomical observatories, with its roots traced back to 1582. It operates its own state-of-the-art telescope; has one of the world's largest meteorite collections and has been making important contributions to science and astronomy for 400 years.

Brother Guy and many of his team are Jesuits, a religious order of priests and brothers in the Catholic Church who work in areas including education and research.

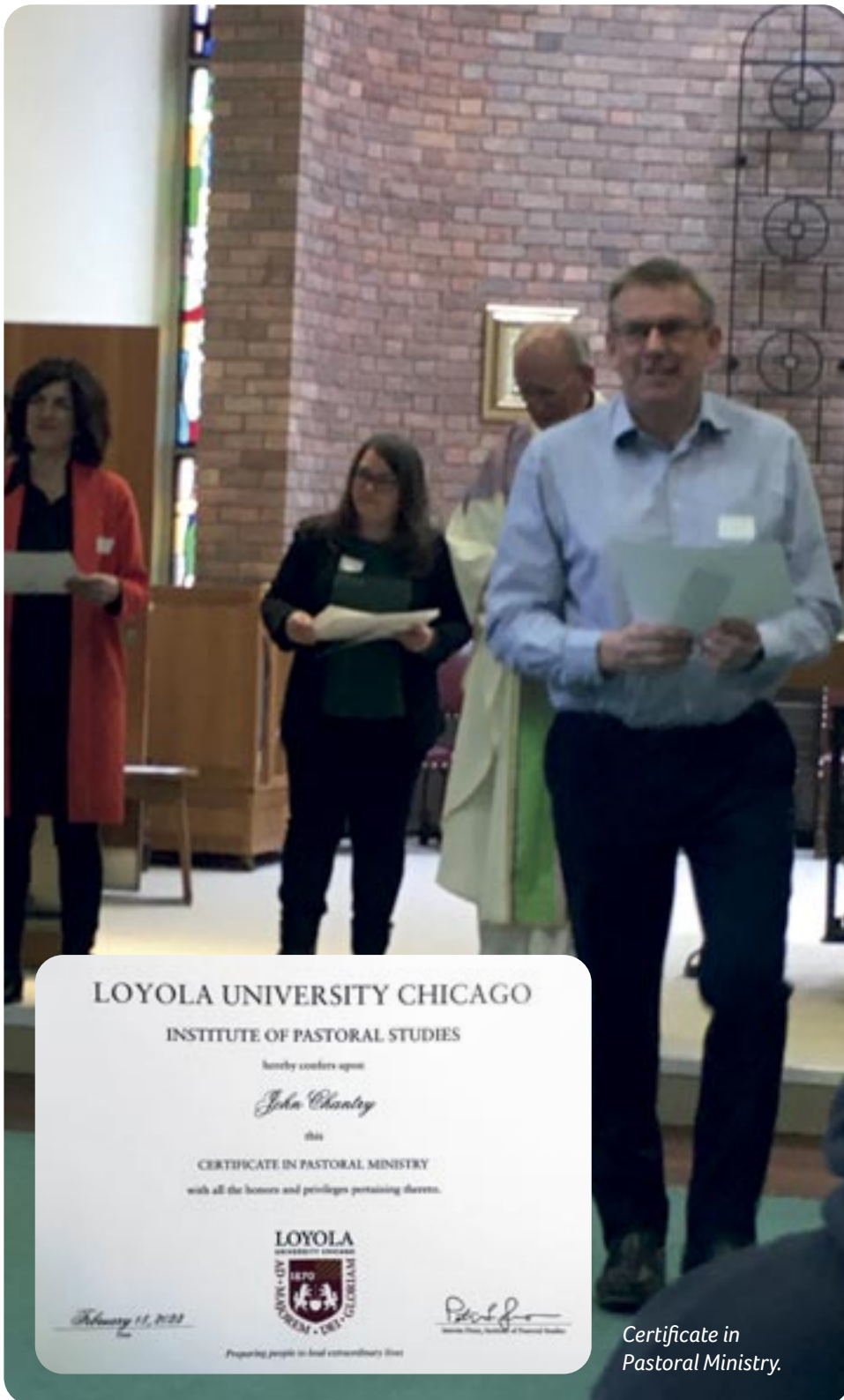
Reverend Jane Howitt is Chaplain of Heriot-Watt University and the main organiser of the event. She said: *"Our thanks go to Brother Guy for sharing a truly fascinating insight on science and religion. Thanks also to everyone who took the time to come along to this event."*

"Our Annual Public Lecture is one of the highlights of our year and we aim to cover interesting subjects from experts in their field, always looking to see how faith intersects with academic disciplines."

"The Lectures are, of course, about education but they are also important in sharing the work carried out by the Chaplaincy to staff, students and with members of the public."

"Our Chaplaincy is open to everyone from all backgrounds and cultures. We hold events throughout the year to which people of all faiths and no religious faith are welcome."

Further details of these events can be found on the Heriot-Watt website – www.hw.ac.uk – Brother Guy was planning to deliver further lectures in St Andrews, Stonyhurst, and London.



John Chantry receiving his certificate.

Congratulations to John and Mike

John Chantry of Our Lady Star of the Sea, St Annes, and Mike Laking of St Andrews & Blessed George Haydock in Cottam, Preston are Year 2 students on the Northern Diaconate Formation Programme and have recently received a Certificate in Pastoral Ministry.

Among other learning, a central part of their diaconate formation, over the past 2 years, has been to study for a Certificate in Pastoral Ministry through a programme run by Loyola University Chicago. This is a programme for anyone, catechists, lay people and clergy to provide up to date knowledge, skills, and education for pastoral ministry. Anyone with an interest in an overview of the Old and the New Testament, history of Church in Britain, Vatican II, growing in

faith, Parish communities and Catholic Social Teaching would find it very interesting.

John and Mike graduated from this programme on 18th February 2023 in a ceremony presided by Bishop Tom Williams at the Liverpool Archdiocese Offices. They now move into the Diploma phase to undertake further study of one of the topics previously covered and run a project in their Parishes. Their journey towards ordination as a Deacon in 2024 also continues with additional studies and learning about the sacraments including supporting their Parish Priest at baptisms, weddings and funerals. Unfortunately Mike was unable to attend the presentation and received his Certificate by post. *John Chantry*



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Monsignor Joseph Patrick Branson R.I.P.



Eulogy delivered by Deacon Stephen Pendlebury at the Requiem Funeral on Wednesday 4th January 2023 at St. Joseph's Church, Lancaster.

Friends – welcome to St Joseph's Church to receive with sadness the body of Msgr. Joseph Patrick Branson. Msgr. Joe would want his life to be remembered as a reflection of Sacrifice that he chose in following in Our Lord's Footsteps. Msgr. Joe would also hope that this Mass be a Celebration of a life well lived, freely given by God, and freely taken back.

Msgr. Joe was a man of great joyfulness! with the ability to engage comfortably with all ages in interesting conversation whoever they were, from all walks of life. He was a storehouse of information ranging from his tremendous interest in and knowledge of the history of Lancaster, but also the most mundane things like the price of tuna or where petrol was the cheapest, and of course where to find the best deal on a second-hand Mercedes car!

As for his preference as to exactly how he liked his lasagna cooked, well that was well-known in our house, as my wife would be told on several occasions, especially if it didn't quite come up to his standard.

Msgr. Joe was born on Aldren's Lane near to St. Joseph's church in 1937; as a young boy he was an altar server here at St Joseph's church for over 30 years rising to the rank of head Altar server.

Msgr. Joe was a Rock to his family 'The Barnes's', who knew him as 'Uncle Pat', and was a Lifelong friend to the Watson, Rutledge, and Lamory Families. Apparently, he even had piano lessons but that didn't last long as his father put a sledgehammer through the piano since he wasn't doing any practise!

Msgr. Joe was a late vocation to the Priesthood as he experienced a vast experience of all types of employment before going on to the Priesthood, such as working as a car salesman, as an assistant at Calvert and Heals and as a salesman for selling Ambulances

around the country. Msgr. Joe even ventured to the Isle of Man as a seller of women's Hosiery – and had many original pitch lines! He never got over a Manxman saying to him in the Hotel, 'so you're a come over then' to which Joe replied when he found out the man's brother came over to the UK – 'so he's a go over then!'

The only qualification Msgr. Joe ever had in life was LIK – licence to kill animals. He knew every cut of meat from every animal that passed through a butcher's shop and would often appear at our house for a meal with some huge cut of meat which he had acquired from some anonymous source!

Msgr. Joe was ordained in Rome and became a Curate and later a Parish Priest in the Plymouth diocese. He was sent to minister in Prisons as a chaplain by his bishop and eventually became Head of Catholic Chaplaincy of prisons in UK and then President of the International Commission for Catholic Prison Ministry – respectfully turning down an OBE in humility!

Msgr. Joe, whilst serving in the Plymouth Diocese became Chaplain to the Royal Marine's Commando division and Chaplain to the Apostolate of the Sea – even in his Eighties took on the role as Chaplain on the Queen cruise liners – and found himself ministering to the Philippine and Indian crew, many of whom lost their family relatives in the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami.

Msgr. Joe visited nearly every country on the globe apart from Russia and Australia, as testified by Christmas Cards arriving every year from all over the world. Joe had so many friends from all over the world, many of whom will have fond memories not just of his friendship but of all the practical support he was always willing to give, often at a cost to himself.

Msgr. Joe, whilst on his final tour as

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President of the International Commission for Catholic Prisons Ministry developed Throat Cancer in the late 1990's – 2000 and had to retire from the Prison Service and Priestly work for the Plymouth Diocese.

However, little did Joe know that this would open up a whole new life. Whilst recovering in Sri Lanka, he developed a friendship with a young man who was looking after him – Kumara Silva, and this struck up a lasting friendship for the last 26 years of his life, so much so that Joe adopted Kumara, Dishani and their three children as his God Family. Joe continued to look after them in many ways, visiting them once a year in December. Kumara, Dishani and their children were heartbroken to hear the news of his passing especially as he'd already purchased his flight ticket to visit them in January ... sadly it was not to be!

Msgr. Joe also managed to support two Orphanages, one for girls in Sri Lanka and an India Orphanage for children with Aids. He would often pack suitcases of clothes and other items to take out to the Orphanage's. My wife and I had the privilege of visiting the Sri Lankan Orphanage to see the amazing difference Joe made to their lives.

Msgr. Joe settled back home in Lancaster to retire on health grounds, but he had other ideas about that! He launched himself into helping parishes throughout the Lancaster Diocese, helping numerous Parish Priests to take holidays. Joe took on the task of providing his pastoral services at Nazareth House. He will no doubt be greatly missed as he would celebrate Mass five days a week with the resident's, Priests and Sisters, always taking time to sit and chat, bringing his usual joy and laughter to all he met.

Joe was also a great supporter of St. Joseph's Parish here in Lancaster and especially our church choir; only recently in December he not only came to support our Primary school Christmas Services

but also our annual Advent Meditation Evening!

Most of all though, Joe was my friend and brother in Christ and since my ordination to the Permanent Diaconate in 2001, we developed a friendship that would last over 22 years and was regarded as a member of our family. Again, I return to the word joy as he always brought us so much love, friendship, humour and steadfast support in so many ways to our family. The loss we feel at the passing of such a great friend and Priest will, we know, be experienced by so many of his close family and friends but also by the many parishioners and all those who knew him in so many different roles. We can only thank God for all the tremendous blessings his holy life has brought to those who knew him and pray that he now rests in Peace in the Arms of our loving father. ...

There are two humorous stories I would like to finish with. Joe had a dry sense of humour and would often take people to a certain plot of land near Halton and then reveal to them that they were 'standing on his grave'! He would often jokingly comment to Anna, my wife that he wanted his coffin lid off at his funeral. When she asked why, he would say: "so I can see who comes to my funeral".

Finally, when I sadly found my friend Joe, he had a lamp lit in his hand and this scripture instantly came to mind – and which is appropriate to finish –

"So it will be, at the end of all things, neither the angels in Heaven nor the Son of Man know the day or the hour, but only the Father. So, you must always be ready with your Lamps trimmed and burning brightly".

Rest in Peace Joseph!

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



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Catenians Celebrate Long Service

At a recent meeting of Lytham St Annes Circle of the Catenian Association a joint scroll presentation session was held.

GB National President Bro. Roger Lillie was delighted to acknowledge Bro. Tom Carter's 60 years with the Association. Tom celebrates his 99th birthday on 27 March. Tom recently fell over his wheelie bin but we are pleased to report that his mobility has improved of late.

GB National VP Bro. Mark Conroy presented a 40-year scroll to Province 10s Provincial Secretary Bro. Mike Grayston, Bro. Marks own province. Bro. Mike has been Province Secretary since 2006 following his year as Provincial President and earlier years as Provincial Treasurer. *Robert Thompson*

Information about the Association can be found at:

www.thecatenians.com



Easter Mass Times

The Easter Triduum at St. Joseph's and St. Peter's 2023 Ansdell and Lytham

Maundy Thursday 6th April
St. Joseph's 7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
with Washing of the Feet,
Blessed Sacrament Procession
and watching until 10pm with
Night Prayer of the Church
at 9:50pm

Good Friday 7th April
Stations of the Cross
St. Peter's 10am
and St. Joseph's 7pm
St. Joseph's 3pm
and St. Peter's 3pm
Solemn Celebration of the
Passion of the Lord

Holy Saturday 8th April
St. Joseph's 7pm Easter Vigil and
Service of Light

Easter Sunday 9th April
St. Joseph's 9:15am Easter
Sunday Morning Mass
St. Peter's 10:30am Easter Sunday
Morning Mass

Preston The Parish of St. John XXIII St. Joseph's Presbytery, Caroline Street,

All in St Joseph's Church

Holy Thursday
7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

GOOD FRIDAY
10am: Stations of the Cross
3pm: The Celebration
of the Lord's Passion

HOLY SATURDAY
3pm Blessing of Easter Baskets
8pm The Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY
11.15am Easter Sunday solemnity

St. Bernadette's Bispham

Maundy Thursday
7pm Mass of the Lords Supper.
9.50pm Night prayer

Friday
10am Stations of the Cross 3pm
Solemn Celebration of the Passion of
Our Lord and

Holy Saturday
7pm Vigil and Service of Light

Easter Sunday
10am Easter Sunday Mass

Our Lady Star of the Sea, St Anne's on the Sea

Holy Saturday
8.00pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday
9.30am (Family Mass);
11.00am Mass

**Wishing all our readers a
Holy and Happy Easter
from all at CathCom and
the Diocese of Lancaster**