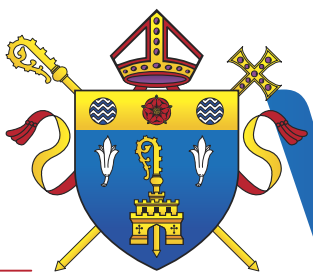


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*The* **Catholic**



**VOICE** *of Lancaster*

*The Official Newspaper to  
the Diocese of Lancaster*

*Issue 354 + November '23*

*INSIDE: pg3*

*Metanoia Faith  
in Action Awards*



# Pray for Peace

**F**riends of the Holy Land request all Christians and people of other faiths to unite in prayer for all who have lost their lives in the terrible events in the Holy Land, for the immediate release of those taken hostage and for all those living in the Holy Land in their anguish, fear and desperation.

Please remember in your prayers our Christian brothers and sisters trying to stay safe in Gaza and those in the West Bank and Israel staying at home fearful of the blind rage of the rhetoric of war, retribution and revenge. Pray for a swift cease-fire, a de-escalation to the violence in the wider area and that a path to a lasting peace be identified.

The *Catholic Voice* urges individuals, parish communities and schools to pray a least one decade of the Rosary every day for peace.

*Let us pray with one heart and one soul – Lord come to our aid, grant us peace, teach us peace, guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts and give us the courage to say: 'Never again war.' Lord Hear Us.*

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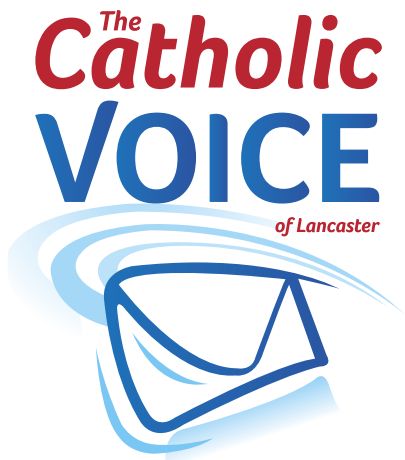
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# Know Your Faith...

**What is implied in the affirmation of God: “I am the Lord your God” (Exodus 20:2)?**

This means that the faithful must guard and activate the three theological virtues and must avoid sins which are opposed to them. Faith believes in God and rejects everything that is opposed to it, such as, deliberate doubt, unbelief, heresy, apostasy, and schism. Hope trustingly awaits the blessed vision of God and his help, while avoiding despair and presumption. Charity loves God above all things and therefore repudiates indifference, ingratitude, lukewarmness, sloth or spiritual indolence, and that hatred of God which is born of pride.

*Further reading: CCC 2083-2094, 2133-2134*

**What is the meaning of the words of our Lord, “Adore the Lord your God and worship Him alone” (Matthew 4:10)?**

These words mean to adore God as the Lord of everything that exists: to render to him the individual and community worship which is his due; to pray to him with sentiments of praise, of thanks, and of supplication; to offer him sacrifices, above all the spiritual sacrifice of one’s own life, united with the perfect sacrifice of Christ; and to keep the promises and vows made to him.

*Further reading: CCC 2095-2105, 2135-2136*

**In what way does a person exercise his or her proper right to worship God in truth and in freedom?**

Every person has the right and the moral duty to seek the truth, especially in what concerns God and his Church. Once the truth is known, each person has the right and moral duty to embrace it, to guard it faithfully and to render God authentic worship. At the same time, the dignity of the human person requires that in religious matters no one may be forced to act against conscience nor be restrained, within the just limits of public order, from acting in conformity with conscience, privately or publicly, alone or in association with others.

*Further reading: CCC 2104-2109, 2137*

**What does God prohibit by his command, “You shall not have other gods before me” (Exodus 20:2)?**

The commandment forbids:

- Polytheism and idolatry, which divinises creatures, power, money, or even demons.
- Superstition which is a departure from the worship due to the true God and which also expresses itself in various forms of divination, magic, sorcery and spiritism.
- Irreligion which is evidenced: in tempting God by word or deed; in sacrilege, which profanes sacred persons or sacred things, above all the Eucharist; and in simony, which involves the buying or selling of spiritual things.
- Atheism which rejects the existence of God, founded often on a false conception of human autonomy.
- Agnosticism which affirms that nothing can be known about God, and involves indifferentism and practical atheism.

*Further reading: CCC 2110-2128, 2138-2140*





# Metanoia Faith in Action Awards

**An evening full of graces... 'O God, we stand amazed with your miracles and we say yes to all that is to come.'**

**P**aul Briers said *"What a wonderful evening. I was invited to the Faith in Action Awards Ceremony in Preston led by Bishop Paul where over 70 young people received awards for reaching out to others, working in their communities, taking on leadership roles and becoming intentional disciples along the way. A true and living witness of Faith in Action. It was a privilege to be asked to open the evening welcoming everyone and to share my story of faith in action experience. Thanks be to God for these wonderful young people and the work of the Metanoia Project"*.

Bishop Paul reminded everyone that we are people of faith and we are evidence of God in our world. This can be extremely hard, the secret, he said, of making our burdens light is to listen to Jesus say *"follow me"*.

Metanoia celebrated their young people from their youth groups and the Chaplaincy at Corpus Christi High School who have listened to Jesus say *"follow me"* by completing their - pin, bronze, silver and gold Faith in Action awards.

A true celebration of all God has done through these young people who gave testimonies, led songs and prayers in thanksgiving.



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YOUTH

MATTERS

Due to unforeseen problems, it has not been possible to produce our normal fulsome account of activities at our Diocesan Youth Centre in Castlerigg, Keswick. However here is a flavour of what is coming up and if you are interested please get in touch with the Youth Team on 01768 772711.

Collage of photographs depicting a series of recent retreats held at Castlerigg >>>>>>



castleriggmanor.com >> what's coming up?

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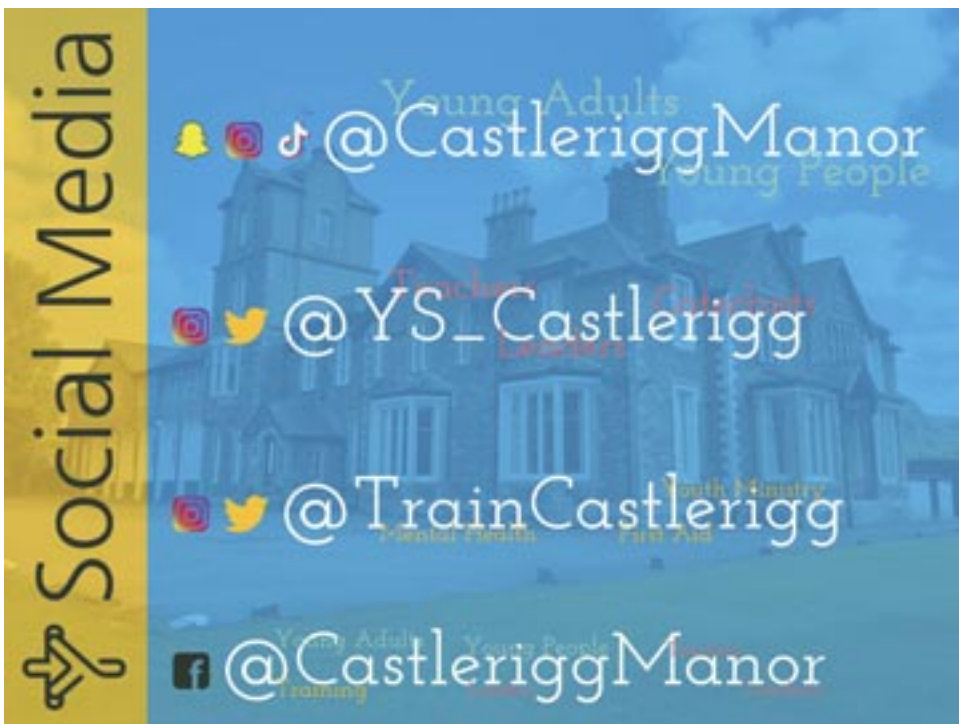
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**Fr Stephen Talbutt of St Clare's  
Preston shares a personal memory.**

# Remembering

**L**ife is a journey, who I am today is not who I was yesterday, or last year or 5 years ago. We all constantly change we are all constantly in a state of flux.

Experiences form us and change us sometimes in small ways that we don't notice and other times in life changing ways. We experience a lot of life defining moments as young people, school age up to young adult age, these experiences stay with us and help us define who we are.

In September 2020, just as we were coming out of the pandemic, my dear mum died, she had suffered from various ailments for a number of years and for her it was a blessing that the Lord took her out of pain and called her home.

But when I was going through her belongings I came across a notebook of hers, with various bits and pieces in it, names and addresses, phone numbers, recipes, birthdays and shopping lists. But when I turned the last page I found something remarkable, it speaks of one of these defining moments that mum experienced as a child on retreat with her school, she had written.

*"I always go back to an experience I had as a young person sitting in a quiet church, and the silence, what was it?"*

*It was beyond the physical, you could not touch it feel it or smell it, although it did appeal to my sense of sound, but it goes beyond.*

*Thinking back I was part of something beyond myself, a sense of stillness (very pleasant).*

*I would like to have stayed in that retreat, that experience.*

*But thinking back over the time which is more than fifty years now, it has stayed with me, the experience of stillness.*

*Thinking as I sit in this moment... God is in the silence.*

*Did not the prophet Elijah hear the voice of God in the silence?*

*It is by his grace I see, He is the one my soul seeks. He is all in all, He is closer to me than my next breath, and he is in my innermost being. He is the beginning and the end."*

This was a very personal and profound experience for my dear mum, something she rarely talked about but held deep in her heart.

We all have experiences of God throughout our lives, lets hold them close and draw strength from them.

Let's pray for the young people under our care that they may also have such profound experiences of God. That they may experience the reality and love of God which goes beyond and yet is so close to us. That they may find peace and joy through Jesus that will sustain them throughout their lives.  
Amen.

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## New Seating for Holy Family Blackpool

**T**he Carmelite Sisters gifted six benches to Holy Family Church, Blackpool when they vacated their monastery in Fulwood Preston earlier this year.

Here are before and after photographs of the church. The Carmel benches are at the rear, 3 on each side and of the same length. Although the end of the bench is slightly higher



*Before*



*After*

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# St Wulstan's Fleetwood on Pilgrimage

**I**t was an early start in September when the coach left St Wulstan's Fleetwood to take us to Manchester airport. There was the usual stop at The Tickled Trout to pick up those from outside the parish who were joining the pilgrimage. A lot of the pilgrims had been to The Holy Land with Canon Alf Hayes the previous year so the warmth and camaraderie was there from the outset, helping newcomers to settle in quickly and feel welcome. Despite recent stories in the media about delays at the airport everything went without a hitch and we arrived in Krakow in the early afternoon sunshine with plenty of time to amble around the main square and soak up the atmosphere.

Krakow never forgot its spiritual roots, even in the days of sinister totalitarian regimes. In turn the communist ideas underlying the establishment of an "ideal city"-Nowa Huta- crumbled when the regime dared to raise its hand against a modest cross raised by its inhabitants.

Krakow is the heart of Polish Christianity. Its historic churches house miraculous paintings and relics, age old traditions of religious communities and monasteries

live on, and processions and open-air Masses bring together tens and hundreds of thousands of followers. The city has been the backdrop of lives of an abundance of saints and blessed from St Stanislaus and Queen Jadwiga to Fr Stanislaw Soltys who lived in the fifteenth century and was canonised in 2010. It is in the atmosphere of this city that Saint John Paul developed.

We were fortunate to have our first Mass celebrated in St Mary's Basilica in the huge market square. It includes a breathtaking blue vaulted ceiling covered in gold stars and a magnificent wooden altar which is considered a masterpiece of Gothic sculpture. One of Krakow's most celebrated traditions is a forty second bugle call played every hour on the hour from the tower of St Mary's in each of the four cardinal directions. It is the Fire Brigade who perform this service and there are many legends as to its origin but for every tourist it is not to be missed. Our second day too gave us more opportunity to explore the city with visits to Wawel Cathedral, The Bishop's Palace and Jagiellonian University, which is the second largest university in Central Europe.







The main Marian Catholic shrine in Poland is known as Our Lady of Jasna Gora and this special place of pilgrimage was very dear to Saint John Paul who stayed there six times when he was Pope and chose it for the sixth World Youth Day. It was also the first town in the world whose offer of honorary citizenship he accepted. The belt of his cassock, shot through and bloodied during the assassination attempt in St Peter's square is displayed in a special case on Our Lady's altar. After Mass in one of the chapels there dedicated to St John Paul II, we were given a guided tour of the monastery where we could view the magnificent spiritual paintings of The Way of the Cross by a celebrated Polish artist. The painter has very cleverly woven in scenes and people familiar to us into each station as he draws us in to the suffering Jesus. As well as the customary fourteen stations, there are an additional four more which are named - The Resurrection, Thomas, Galilee and The Ascension. One could easily spend a whole day at this glorious place where most Polish people make a pilgrimage at least once a year in honour of Our Blessed Lady of Czestochowa.

On day four and blessed once again with sunshine, we headed to the town of Wadowice and to the family home of St John Paul II and the Basilica of The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary where he worshipped and where we were going to have our Mass. The family home is now a museum and includes many photographs, documents, vestments and items which belonged to or had a connection to him and which detailed his upbringing including the sad and untimely deaths of both his mother and his brother. It also includes the gun which was used in the assassination attempt on his life. There were also pictures of him with the gunman when he visited him in prison and forgave him. It has been said that when the presumably hired and skilled marksman volunteered to the Pope his surprise that he had survived the shooting that Pope John Paul told him that he attributed the fact his life was saved to Our Lady of Fatima as it was her Feast Day.

It would seem that no amount of skill and planning by the gunman and his associates could foresee that outcome.


... continued on Pages 10 and 11 >>



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On day five we travelled to Lagiewniki and the shrine of Divine Mercy. The shrine grew out of the spiritual heritage of Saint Faustina. The central place is the chapel with the miraculous image of the Merciful Jesus and the tomb of the apostle of Divine Mercy. We celebrated our Mass in this beautiful church. The image, which is familiar to most of us now, is a sign of the message of mercy which reminds everyone about the biblical truth of God's merciful love for man. It is also a summons to trust in God, to be merciful towards others and to bring forth the message of Mercy to the

world by the witness of one's life, by deed, word and prayer.

We also had a talk by one of the Sisters of Mercy about Saint Faustina and the Divine Mercy image. We had time to pray and reflect in the wonderful basilica there and climb the tower which has breathtaking views over the countryside.

Having secured a small number of tickets to Schindler's factory, we resigned ourselves to the fact that some of us would have to miss out until it was pointed out that a parishioner back in

Fleetwood was a friend of a friend of someone who worked in the factory and, lo and behold, after a phone call back home and some negotiating, extra tickets were made available to us and we were greeted as VIPs on arrival at the factory by the young man who had saved the day! He greeted us wearing a Fleetwood town football shirt and was only too happy to be of help. The factory itself is now a museum which details the horrific events for people living under Nazi occupation and the bravery of men like Schindler in their attempts to save Jewish lives.

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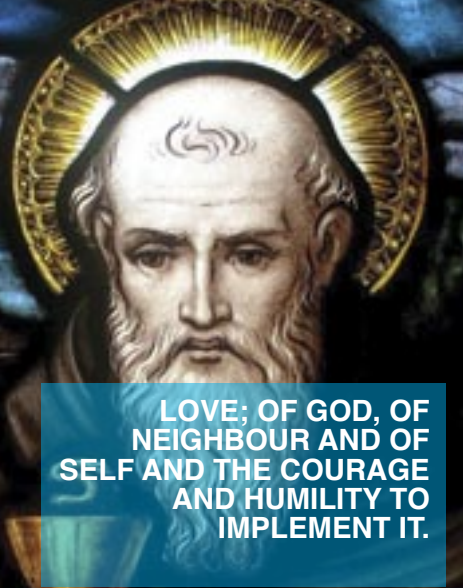
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With the ear of the heart.**

**Saint Benedict**

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Our final morning saw us visit the salt mines in Wieliczka which is a UNESCO world heritage site and a must for anyone visiting the area. As well as displays of historic salt mining technology and an underground lake, there are four chapels and numerous statues carved out of rock salt by some of the miners who worked there and who were obviously very skilled artists. Our daily Mass was celebrated in one of the chapels there. The marvellous sculptures, altars and statues pay testament to and reflect the deep faith of these simple miners.

The afternoon included a visit to Auschwitz Birkenau concentration camp which never ceases to horrify as you come face to face with man's inhumanity to man. The stacks of shoes, human hair, crutches etc that were removed from the prisoners and stored by the Nazis were chilling as we reflected on the many who had lost their lives there including Edith Stein, a Jewish woman who became a

Catholic nun. A daughter of Israel who, as a Catholic during Nazi persecution, remained faithful to the crucified Lord and, as a Jew, to her people in loving faithfulness. She was declared a saint in October 1998 and we know her better as St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross.

We paused at the cell of St Maximillian Kolbe and a prayer was said in his honour. He had made the ultimate sacrifice in giving his life for another and, in spite of the terrible torture he suffered, he tried to keep his fellow prisoners uplifted by hymns and prayers as he lay starving in a cramped cell you could barely move in. It is incredible to think that the man whose life he saved actually survived the death camp and was present at the beatification of Maximillian.

The day after we returned home, we learnt that a Catholic family of nine were beatified that very week. They had been executed by the Nazis during the war

alongside the eight Jews they had been sheltering. Pope Francis pronounced the devout Catholic Ulma family, including the child that Wiktoria was pregnant with, as "martyrs of the faith in doing good and in the service of those in need."

We had a wonderful prayerful and joyous pilgrimage to Krakow and would certainly recommend Northern Star Travel who organised the pilgrimage. We had a friendly and knowledgeable guide in Ania who was with us all the time and ensured that everything went smoothly. Thanks must go to fellow pilgrims who enriched and enhanced the whole experience by their presence and of course to Father Alf for his patience, good humour, uplifting homilies and spiritual guidance. We would also like to thank anyone who helped in any way in the preparation and organisation of the pilgrimage and a special mention of thanks goes to Steve Doherty for services rendered and much appreciated.

*Jenny Phillips*

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**A centenary Mass of thanksgiving has been celebrated in Carlisle to mark 100 years since their formation there. Twelve priests concelebrated Mass with principal celebrant Canon Paul Embery assisted by three 3 deacons. Canon Luiz Ruscillo gave the homily and based his words on Luke 8. 1-3. He emphasised the importance of lay organisations providing support to the church and the clergy.**

**The Supreme Knight of the KSC, Harry Welsh attended both the Mass and the reception and dinner afterwards in the St Margaret Mary's Community Social Centre, along with guests from other KSC Councils, wives and friends. During the speeches, mention was made of the untimely death just 4 weeks beforehand of the Council's Grand Knight Mike Esters who had masterminded much of detail of the Centenary event.**

During their time at Seminary training for the priesthood, many of the Clergy present had been supported financially by the Knights of St Columba and are Members of Honour, (MofH).

Funding of the event had been over a 2 year period and it is the intention that there are sufficient funds to be able to provide a legacy to the six Catholic Churches in Carlisle to provide a permanent record of this historic occasion.

**A little bit of history of the KSC in Carlisle**  
The Knights of St Columba was originally formed in Glasgow in 1919. Such was the appeal of the new KSC that councils were formed in Scotland, soon followed in England at Liverpool, Leeds and Widnes, The first Council in Cumberland was Co19 at Barrow in Furness and then Millom Council 57. Carlisle Council 60 was formed on 23rd September 1923.

The first Grand Knight of Council 60 was Lt Bernard Francis Rudden, MBE, born in 1877 and son of John Rudden who was killed in France in 1914 and is listed on the memorial at Our Lady and St Joseph's Church.

Bernard Rudden had served with the 2nd Battalion of the Border Regiment and was married in 1904 but the 1911 census entry is an Army record "in Barracks" and no children are listed. Bernard served in the Army for a total of 21 years and lived in Middleton Street completing his service as Adjutant to the Battalion at



1. Drone shot overlooking Carlisle.
2. The Clergy and Members of the Knights of St Columba.
3. The first Grand Knight of Council 60 was Lt Bernard Francis Rudden, MBE.
4. Fr James William Kenny, OBE mentioned in the history of the KSC.
5. Council 60 at the Shrine at Wetheral.

Carlisle Castle; he died on 26th June 1926 and is buried in Carlisle Cemetery.

There is little recorded of the Knights of St Columba in Carlisle between the two world wars. However, a number of familiar Catholic family names are revealed in the list of Grand Knights covering Council 60's first 50 years:- J. Fitzsimmons, JP, F A Jacobs, W R O'Hara, C Toner, J Burgess, J Houston, F A Finn, W Forster, J Kelly, H Barton, J McArdle, J W Morton, W Graham and J S Horseman;

Throughout the early years and to this day, men entering the priesthood are always offered assistance with funding whilst in Seminary and then as ordained Clergy those serving our Parishes are invited to become Members of Honour (MoH). Well remembered by many people are Rev Fr Francis Moulding and Very Rev Mgr Canon R L Smith who were MoH when they died in Carlisle. However, a third MofH died in less peaceful circumstances.

James William Kenny was ordained on 29th July 1939 at English Martyrs in Preston and appointed assistant priest at Our Lady and St Joseph's Church in Carlisle, was an honorary Chaplain to the troops at Carlisle Castle and was a Member of Honour of Council 60.

Fr Kenny joined the 6th Airborne Division in August 1943 and trained alongside the "Paras". As D Day approached, Fr Kenny was deployed with the Airborne Brigade and a few days after D Day parachuted into France. At the Battle of Caen he was in the thick of the action, administering the Sacraments to the dying and wounded. It is recorded that at the Battle of Caen he carried a wounded soldier on his back to safety after they had been cut off. This was linked in a D Day sermon by the Bishop in 1995 to St John's Gospel 10.27 "Not one of them would be lost". What was left of the 6th Airborne Brigade after D Day recovered to England and was re-equipped and prepared for further action. On Palm Sunday 1945 Carrying





the Blessed Sacrament, Fr Kenny dropped into the hands of the enemy opposition at the Rhine crossing and was killed, *"Laying down his life for his sheep"*. All three Kenny brothers served in WW2; it is believed that the brothers survived.

Perhaps the lasting monument to Council 60 is the creation of the Wayside Shrine at the corner of Wetheral Plains Road. Various sites were considered but it was Mrs Elwes of Warwick Hall and a parishioner of Our Lady and St Wilfred's who gave permission for the shrine to be established on her land.

20 years later in 1976 following exposure to the elements and damp rot, the wooden cross collapsed and restoration was required. KSC Council 60 undertook the responsibility for the restoration and re-erection of the shrine. The new Cross was blessed in Our Lady and St Joseph's Church and conveyed by the Knights back to Wetheral Plains Road where it remains today.

Every Good Friday since 1956 a Walk of Witness has been organised and funded by Council 60 and it is hoped that the tradition will continue for many years to come.

The other achievement in Council 60's early years was the establishment of the Carlisle Knights' Club in Warwick Square.

The work of the Knights of St Columba to support the Clergy and schools and to be involved with other Catholic societies and organisation continues to this day. On reaching the Council's Centenary, it is hoped that a new echelon of members might be forthcoming so that the Knights of St Columba can continue to *"Serve God by Serving Others"*.

The KSC across the Diocese welcomes enquiries from Catholic men wishing to join the Order. Those interested in joining should contact one of the local priests or see [www.ksc.org.uk](http://www.ksc.org.uk) for details of how to join.

*A.L. Parrini*

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More than two hundred people made the trip from Penrith, some on foot to bring the Eucharist to St Wulstan's church in Alston when it was dedicated in 1953.

**A**lston's local Catholic community and representatives of local churches gathered at St Wulstan's to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Church's dedication.

Fr Hugh Pollock, the Vicar General representing the Bishop, thanked parish priest, Fr John Winstanley, and the congregation for attending the service of thanksgiving. He was joined by Fr John Baron, Fr Jerome Ainsworth and Revd Deacon David Greaves, with the Revd Mary Elliot for Alston Methodist Church and the Revd Mark Nash-Williams, Vicar of St Augustine of Canterbury (CofE).

Fr John Winstanley said: "The community at St. Wulstan's were delighted to gather and give thanks to God for all that has been celebrated and shared in and from this building over the years. We go forward into

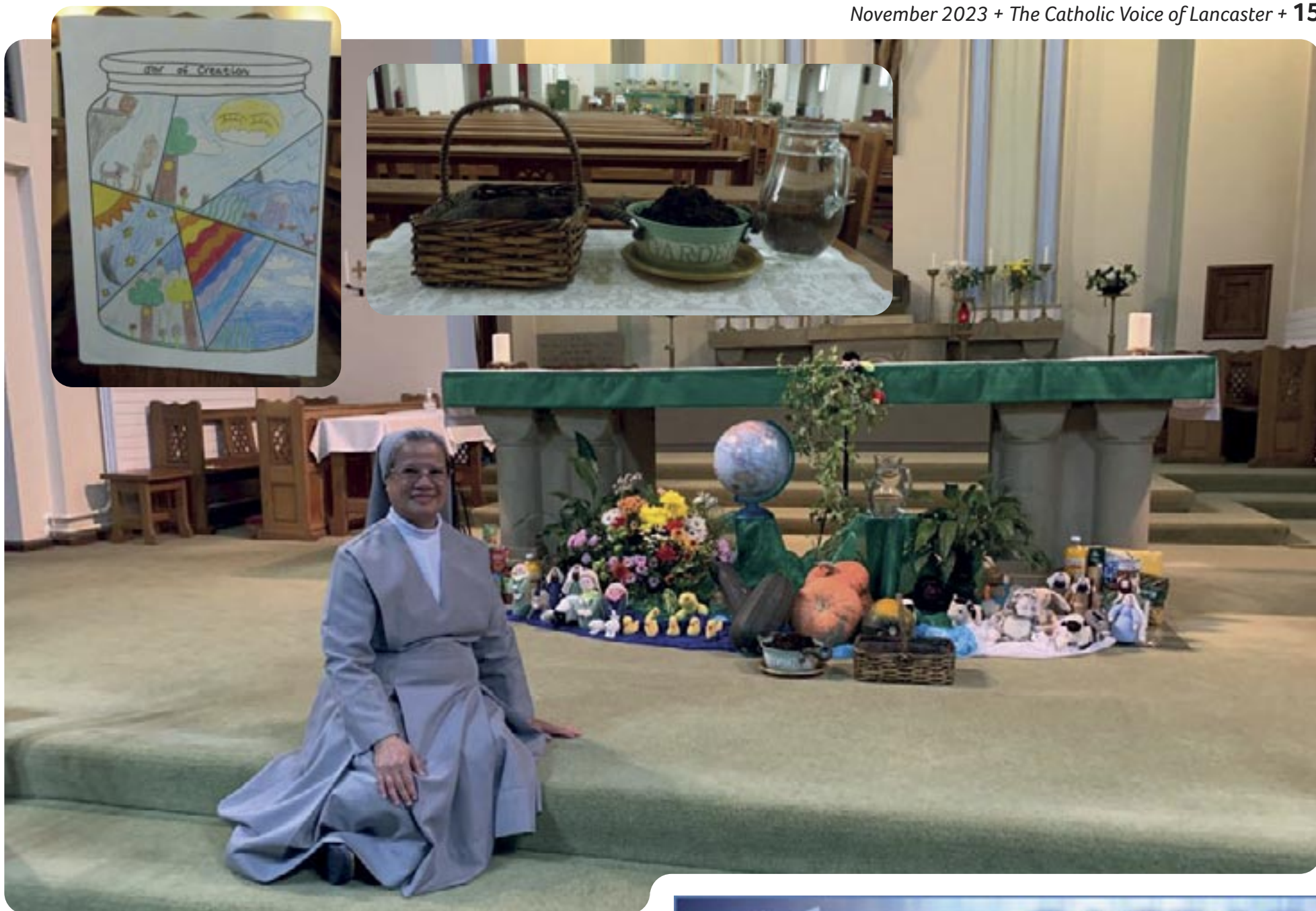
*the future enjoying this unique little church, serving both the Catholic and Methodist communities on Alston Moor."*

Fr Baron a former serving priest of the parish used his homily to recall many characters who were parishioners over the years of his ministry.

*"They made Alston such an interesting place to visit,"* he said. The Church was dedicated in 1953. The building previously functioned as the town's gaol.

Celebrations at the 20th September event continued with supper at Alston's Masonic Hall which was well attended. Parishoner Jeremy Graham thanked the priests and Fr John, Pat Struthers, Ann Parkin and all who had contributed to the occasion.





## The Season of Creation – Our Lady & St Edward's Preston

**T**hroughout September creation has been at the heart of our prayers and on the weekend of September 24th we dedicated our Masses especially to that theme. The altar was tastefully decorated as a focal point by our Filipino Sisters, Maria Dee and Shienrose. Our school children prepared artwork and Stephen Garsed prepared a poignant introduction to each Mass as water, soil and seeds were brought forward during the opening procession:

Today we have a special celebration of God's wonderful gift of Creation and acknowledgement of our responsibility to care for it.

Later in the Mass we will hear the words: *"Blessed are you Lord, God of all Creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer"*

We have brought to the altar three of the four things that God has provided to grow that bread: soil, water and seed. The fourth, light, is coming in through the windows at this very moment. It is a wonderful gift. It makes its own procession throughout the day - from dawn to dusk and we take it for granted. Thanks be to God for His amazing generosity.

We also take for granted all the less obvious organisms, such as the insects and fungi, which are essential for nature's recycling, and yet are under huge threat from the indiscriminate use of agricultural chemicals.

We celebrate these wonders of creation too, as the children have done in their artwork.

Thanks be to God for the immense variety of living things which, as Pope Francis says, *"Give glory to God by their very existence."*

In our Bidding Prayers we prayed that all of us, especially those in government, are moved to take the steps necessary to save our planet and protect the most vulnerable, including welcoming those seeking sanctuary on our shores as asylum seekers.

As a parish we support our local food bank, and this was an opportunity to invite people to bring harvest gifts to share with those in need in our own town. It was a memorable celebration, enjoyed by all and, hopefully, it will prompt us all to be mindful of the beauty of God's Creation, and the steps we can all take to preserve it for future generations.

*Emma McGrath*

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**C**arlisle and Penrith Catenians led parishioners from Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Carlisle, on a Pilgrimage to the Carfin Grotto, Motherwell. Father Norman Johnston celebrated Mass in the Glass Chapel, Our Lady, Maid of the Seas, which is dedicated to the victims of the Lockerbie air disaster. The Rosary was prayed in St Francis Xavier Parish Church.

**F**r Robert Billing, of the Diocese of Lancaster, was formally installed as Rector in an uplifting Liturgy celebrated by the diocesan bishop of East Anglia Rt Rev Peter Collins on the beautiful Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham. Bishop Emeritus Michael Campbell was in attendance.

Paul Briers



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