

The Catholic VOICE of Lancaster

The Official Newspaper to
the Diocese of Lancaster
Issue 252 + September 2013

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Thumbs Up for Ryan from Pope Francis



Originally from Kerala in India Ryan Gerian aged 4 years now lives in Grasmere with mum Meera and dad George.

The family were on a pilgrimage to Rome as a guest of Father Matthew at the house of the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales. Fr Matthew celebrated Mass for the family on the 25th June in St Peter's Basilica and obtained passes for the family for the Papal Audience for 26th June.

Queuing from 7.30 am the morning of the Papal Audience the family were astonished to find that St Peter's Square was already full with 100,000 people of all nationalities gathered.

Settling down at the back of the vast crowds Pope Francis eventually appeared, George held up Ryan and a security guard asked his name and where he was from, the security guard told Pope Francis.

Pope Francis held Ryan blessed him and gave him a kiss and then looked at us, waved and gave us a thumbs up!

George said "We stood there very surprised and happy that the Pope blessed our son. Ryan felt very happy and said he was surprised and he couldn't wait to tell all his friends that the Pope blessed him."

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EDITORIAL

An amazing thing happened during Pope Francis' celebration of World Youth Day at Rio de Janeiro – a staggering three million young people joined him in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Copacabana Beach.

Catholic journalists reported, '3 million kids in total silence on the beach in Rio is a powerful witness to the True Presence of God. A WYD event of real majesty,' 'Back from an impressive vigil on the beach. The silent adoration towards the end was beautiful. Lots of tears and emotion around me.'

One of the highlights of Pope Benedict XVI's state visit to the UK was the silent adoration of the Blessed Sacrament by 150,000 Catholics in Hyde Park. People there reported that the total silence of the congregation of mainly young people was a moment of palpable holiness that witnessed to a great love for Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

The reports from Catholics attending the vigil at Copacabana beach use similar words, describing the silent adoration of three million young people of the Blessed Sacrament with Pope Francis as a majestic event that was 'a powerful witness to the True Presence of God'.

Back here in the UK the highlight of Youth 2000, WYDFest and New Dawn events which attract young Catholics from all over the country has long been adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

The enthusiasm of young Catholics for adoration of the Blessed

Sacrament proves that God's grace always overcomes the schemes and agendas of man. For the past 50 years since the Second Vatican Council there has been a drastic decline in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in parishes up and down our country. Along with devotion to Our Lady, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was abandoned as out-dated and unecumenical. But as Our Lord Jesus Christ replied to St. Peter, "man's thoughts are not God's thoughts". (Matt 16:23). Young Catholics are responding to the divine thoughts and grace of God manifest in the Blessed Sacrament adored in the monstrance.

During the worldwide adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on the Feast of Corpus Christi for the Year of Faith Pope Francis said:

"The Lord in the Eucharist makes us follow His path, that of service, of sharing, of giving – and what little we have, what little we are, if shared, becomes wealth, because the power of God, which is that of love, descends into our poverty to transform it. Let us ask ourselves this evening, adoring the Christ truly present in the Eucharist: do I let myself be transformed by Him? Do I let the Lord who gives Himself to me, guide me to come out more and more from my little fence, to get out and be not afraid to give, to share, to love Him and others?"

The Catholic Voice of Lancaster is convinced that the prayerful response of young Catholics here and at WYD Rio witnesses to the inescapable conclusion that adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is God's answer to the poor catechesis and consequent scandals that have devastated and weakened the Church.



APPEAL

It would be a great help to the Editorial Team if articles and stories for the November and December editions could be submitted as soon as possible. Due to the Editor being away for most of October these editions need to be worked up, as far as possible, during September. *Thank you for your co-operation.*

Ladyewell Shrine Restoration



Following the fire at Ladyewell Shrine a tremendous amount of work had to be done to restore the shrine to its present pristine condition.

The restoration of the Reliquary was a particularly skilled and onerous task and we are fortunate at the shrine to have the services of Deacon John Monk who was able to undertake the setting up and research necessary to display the wonderful collection of relics to their best advantage.

I am delighted that the work has been completed and those who have visited the shrine during this Year of Faith have enjoyed seeing this wonderful work.

We also were awarded 11+ stars (*top marks*) by Nick Mayhew Smith in his book and television series Britain's holiest places.

The Shrine of O Lady of Fernyhalgh and the Martyrs has had one of its busiest years with many school groups and pilgrims taking advantage of Bishop Michael's promotion of a Plenary Indulgence when they visit the shrine, providing they fulfil the conditions.

The visit and talk by Professor Eamon Duffy on July 27th "*Blood, toil and tears*" about the English Martyrs is proving a great attraction in this Year of Faith. The Sacrament of Reconciliation has enjoyed renewed popularity this year, many sessions running into hours. Our Blessed Lady is bringing them back in great numbers. *Thanks be to God.* **Fr Tom Hoole**



Fleetwood Catenians' donate to Brian House

Fleetwood Catenian President Colin Barnes and his wife, Maureen presented a cheque for £700 to Lisa Martin of Brian House Children's Hospice, a specialist Children's unit within Trinity Hospice.

Brian House was Colin and Maureen's chosen charity, the funds being raised through various activities throughout Colin's Presidential year.

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Being a Young Catholic Today

Kieron, 19,
Castlerigg
Manor

Sprouting New Life!

My name is Kieron, I'm originally from Oldham near Manchester. Being asked to write about what it is to be a young Catholic is an odd topic for me as growing up being a Catholic was never a big part of my life; in fact it meant nothing to me.

Back home I was born and raised a Catholic but it was never a big deal; it was just a formality, a rite of passage, so to speak. It tended to be something I used to tick when filling out forms.

It wasn't until I moved to Castlerigg Manor on a gap year this past year that I really began to understand.

Often I used to ridicule and belittle stuff I didn't really comprehend so I chose to ignore my faith. So when I got here the first few weeks were difficult but I began to grow, began to listen and appreciate what it was to become a Catholic. I recently summed up my faith journey as being like a seed placed within me and it began to grow at the time of my Confirmation.

But when I neglected the seed and didn't feed it, the seed began to wither and die. Within this past year I have begun to take care of the seed and its growing now, sprouting a few leaves along the way. It's a difficult journey though no one ever said it was easy life. It isn't easy but it's important to take care of what's right and at this moment faith is right for me. I'm learning and growing each day in myself and with those who I had previously felt angry with and even lost, I am with the help of others learning to be more in tune with my emotions and use them for good.

As I said the seed continues to grow. Who knows maybe in a few years time it will have sprouted into a flower. I think I can safely say that is one aim we all aspire to.

On a Mission...



As part of the Youth Service's response to the Year of Faith, mini-missions have been offered to each area of the diocese. It has been fascinating to see how different parts of the diocese have responded to our proposal, each tailoring what we could offer to their local situations. But one thing has remained constant wherever we have been and that has been the welcome and hospitality we have received and an insight into the deep seam of faith within our diocese.

Besides our ongoing residential work at Castlerigg Manor, the Youth Service has worked with 2000 young people in 1 Sixth Form College, 7 High Schools and 25 Primary Schools. From small village primary schools such as St Mary's Claughton to the bustling Blackpool Sixth Form College, our team have experienced the breadth and depth of the diocese in every way.

Our greatest asset in the Youth Service is our young team of volunteers who have given completely of themselves this year. The witness of them sharing their faith joyfully and with confidence has been a real gift and brought a new dimension to our work in this Year of Faith.



Nick, 21, writes, 'Before each mission there was always trepidation as it is new territory for us all, but when we were actually in the schools talking about faith and its importance in our lives, then the effect of the Mission took over and we found that by and

large the young people were receptive to what we were saying. Being able to share with young people our own personal experience of faith was one of the best parts of the mission, and one which made the most impact on the young people of the diocese'.



Johannes, 19, from Germany, reflects, 'To have seen so many places around the diocese has been brilliant and to have met so many young people gives me hope. Working in the primary and secondary schools revealed to me that there is a generation coming that knows what really matters and that faith is necessary to be able to live. What will remain especially in my memory were the hot chocolate and chats each evening with Fr. David Elder when we stayed in Garstang'.

And, Anna, 19, writes: 'The mission was something that I felt quite terrified at the prospect of because I didn't know how people would react or whether they would be receptive, however I discovered a lot of great joy in it. The primary schools really inspired me and helped me to understand the idea that if we do not become like little children, we cannot enter the Kingdom of God.'

The openness of the children and the ease with which they proclaimed, "I have faith", struck me since we can become more fearful with time. Another thing that was amazing was visiting a youth group in St Clare's Preston where the young people were so grounded in their faith to the extent they would stand up for it and challenge others.

Young people truly do have a faith that we can all learn from, the openness of a child and the confidence to say that it is who they are and nobody can take it away from them'.

The Youth Service will conclude their round of Year of Faith missions with a school mission in St Mary's Blackpool and missions in West Cumbria in September and October.



Into the Unknown

Young People reflect on what Vocation means to them

Over the summer months the Diocese has been praying a novena for vocations. Young people are often the focus of these prayers as they find themselves at a crossroads in their life, wondering where their future lies. In a world of ceaseless Twitter, what do young people make of the idea of vocation and how do they hear what God is calling them to?



Richard, 20, from Workington writes: 'My Mum once said to me; "It looks like you have found your vocation" when I began working at Castlerigg and

she could see how happy I was. We kind of laughed about her using the word vocation because I'm from a very non-Catholic background. But looking back now, perhaps she was right. Vocation isn't about doing what people think you should be doing. It is about doing what makes us happy and ultimately doing the will of the Father. In the past when I was in a church or parish hall and a little old dear would come up and ask if I was going to be a priest, it terrified me. Now I have come to understand what vocation is. In truth I don't feel a strong call to the priesthood; however I feel a burning desire to do the will of the Father. Whether that is to be a priest, a deacon or a husband and father, I do not yet know. One thing I do know is that through prayer and patience I will find myself in the place where I am truly happy, find myself in my vocation, because vocation isn't something you do, it is something you live'.



Nick, 21, from Ulverston, reflects: 'It is interesting how often the word 'vocation' is banded around in Catholic circles and how little people understand its

importance. I know for me before I came to Castlerigg, the idea of vocation was something I never really thought about. I thought that you had to do what you wanted to do in life unless you were a priest, monk or nun, in which case you would feel called to the religious life. However, I have come to understand this year that we are all called to do something, we all have to do some discernment in our lives, whether that is taking on Holy Orders, entering into marriage or pursuing a vocational career (for example, nursing or teaching or even something like farming). All of these are ways in which we can grow in love by helping other people, by caring for the environment, by bringing ourselves and others closer to God. Vocations help us on our journey to become true children of God, which no Christian could doubt is what we are called to be'.



Ruth, 22, 'The idea of a vocation (to religious life) is both my greatest longing and my greatest fear. I often feel that a part of me is missing and I have not yet

found where I belong. More than that, I've long felt that my life is not my own to do with it as I want. This may sound depressing and stifling but I don't see it as that way. I believe that when you give to God He gives back a hundredfold and there is a huge potential for excitement and adventure. The unknown, however, is terrifying and the challenge for me is to learn to trust. I don't want to do anything that is not God's will and although that sounds like high words all I can do is follow the truth that is present inside me and the restless searching that tells me there is more in my life to give than I am giving now. Religious life is not something I would look at had there not been a niggles in the back of my mind for years, ever since I was nine years old. I believe that in following God's will for my life I will find my greatest fulfilment. But the struggle is to follow God's will because it is His will and not just for the want to find happiness. This life is so short and what is the point of living it without discovering where God wants me? Going to Mass, receiving the Eucharist and regular

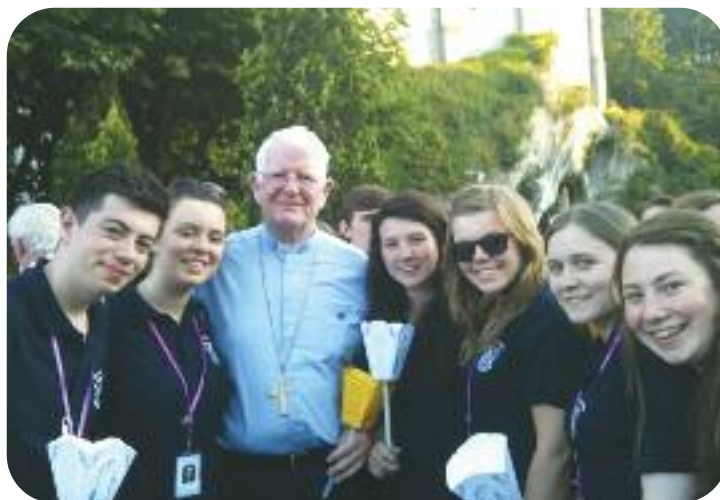
Confession are all ways that help me to find God's will, as does spending time with the Lord in Eucharistic Adoration. I have found that personal prayer every day and making full use of all the support that the Church offers in terms of retreats for young people and discernments groups are vital. Where I would be without them I don't know. Discernment can be a lonely and painful process and the support of individuals, priests and religious and those who have trod the road before is invaluable.'



Johannes, 19, who has been at Castlerigg this year, writes, 'To know that there is a plan, purpose and a higher calling for each and every one of us is a great revelation. It gives you hope and reminds you of the loving Father who provides. But the question of what one's vocation presents me with a challenge. On Facebook you can't put "priest" or "nun" as your relationship status. And the cheesy Hollywood movies

never end with anyone choosing a religious life. But I know that God plants desires in our heart which will lead us to be happy. A good spiritual director and praying the divine mercy chaplet everyday is helping me.

Friends who support me have set me on the right track. It is always easier to turn away but God wants us to be happy and gives us nothing we wouldn't be capable of!'



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Dear Editor

Preston pro lifers held a silent roadside vigil outside Avenham Health Centre on Saturday April 27th. Sixteen supporters stood at 3 metre gaps along Avenham Lane with pro life messages from 11am to 1pm holding pro life placards conveying a message to passing motorists.

The Abortion Act took effect on April 27th 1968 and 8 million unborn children have lost their lives. Marie Stopes International one of the biggest private abortion providers in the UK operates from Avenham Health Centre prescribing the RU 486 chemical abortion drug for early abortions. Although the Marie Stopes unit was not open at the time of the vigil it was responsible for 730 abortions in 2011 according to figures released to local MP Mark Hendrick by the Health Minister.

There was a good and lively response from passing motorists with many motorists indicating their support.

Yours,
Tony Mullett

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Dear Editor

I was truly saddened to read your 'stop press' comments in the July issue regarding the future of the paper. After a great deal of more soul searching, I regret I still have no inspirational suggestions.

My only thoughts are that reluctant as I am to point the finger at anyone, I have to say that in my experience I have not heard any priest in this area make even a passing reference to your plight at any of the masses I attend. On rare occasions I have seen our deacon hand out copies of the paper, but only rarely. Acutely conscience as I am of the many pressures priests are under these days and the high regard I have for them, I am afraid I see this omission as a real missed opportunity. Why can't the Bishop encourage each Parish Priest to include a supporting comment at the end of mass, and seek out a member of the congregation in each of our parish churches to hand out a copy at all masses. I suspect most people attending will know someone lapsed, or otherwise, or sick or housebound, who might just gain something from reading a copy. At the end of the day any drive to increase circulation has to start with the encouragement of the Parish Priest in church. I presume all the special minister's take a copy with them for their visit to the sick and housebound. I am sure all of the has already been suggested. Of course it's not just masses but also maybe christenings, weddings, confirmations etc etc.

I guess it says something when you cannot get a captive audience to take a free newspaper. I have never written to an editor in my life but this is such sad a situation.

Kind regards

Terry Millard via e mail

Editor's note

I would like to stress that the Bishop has in fact on several occasions called upon priests via the Ad Clerum to promote and hand out the paper in their parishes.

Dear Editor

Fr Bernard Woods was a rare person, he gave away power, he empowered. The people he met to use their own gifts for the good of the community. He didn't then just sit back and take no interest but he monitored, kindly all that they did and, like a good shepherd, led them to greener pastures.



His past parishioners in all the parishes he served in, remember him in different ways, the youth, because they knew he loved them without judgement, the older folk, as he always asked after them, and the families, with whom he kept in touch and ate with them, whether they were in Wisconsin (*where he took the Impact youth group*) or Preston. He was a man of the people, not standing on ceremony. But sharing in the lives of the people he served.

We attended a packed congregation in Walney Island to say our final farewell to Fr Bernard and we were touched by how many present were young and how many were from places in all the parishes he had served.

A special joy to Fr Bernard would have been to hear the warm comments from members of other Christian traditions who were present, as he worked tirelessly with other Christians and with other faith traditions everywhere he went. In this he was ahead of his time, he was a free thinker and kindness was his motive towards all. These gifts can't be learned in seminaries, they come with the wisdom of age and the gift of humility.

Derek and Elizabeth Alty

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"I believe, help my unbelief!" This was the theme given by NET Ministries to their 125 missionaries this year, myself being one of them. And this verse speaks to all of us in some way, I'm sure at times we all struggle a little with truly saying YES to Jesus, whilst knowing deep down that we do believe.

NET Ministries is a Catholic evangelisation missionary group, based in Minnesota in the United States. Their mission is to 'challenge young Catholics to love Christ, and to embrace the life of the Church'. I spent the last 10 months in the United States working for NET, and these are just a few of my experiences...

So, although before leaving for the United States I had spent the previous two years working for the Lancaster Diocese youth service at Castlerigg Manor, my time in America was a whole new experience of ministry! I set off last August to Minnesota amidst excitement, sadness and nervousness. Before setting off on any ministry work, I, along with the other 125 'Netters' were given 5 weeks of training, with the first 2 weeks being largely a retreat experience for us, at a secluded camp in the neighbouring state of Wisconsin. The idea of this is that unless we as missionaries are alive in our faith, then how can we possibly give to those we are serving? After two weeks, the 125 of us were split into 11 different teams. I was placed on team three, a travelling team, which meant that our ministry would be mainly retreat work, travelling from place to place putting on retreats in schools and churches.

After three more weeks of training, focussing on our ministry we were ready to hit the road! The first few weeks were a total learning curve; sometimes it felt like nothing would go right for us, but as a team we learnt to rely on the Lord, and to trust in God's plan for our ministry, not ours! Our schedule would work by diocese, and we would be assigned to a certain diocese for anything from a few days, to 4 or 5 weeks. Net retreats can be anything from 3 hours long, to a whole weekend, so there are always lots of things to think about. A retreat generally consists of games, talks, team members sharing testimony of their faith, time in small groups and prayer time. When possible, Mass, Adoration or Reconciliation is included in the schedule if there is a priest available; to show the young people the importance of the Sacraments and allow

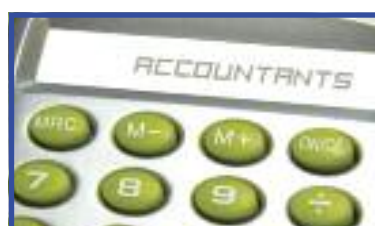
them to experience them. Seeing a young person deeply moved by a retreat was an amazing thing to see, and it was a blessing too, to think about all the conversions that we would not see – the one's that would happen in months and years from then.

In our first half between September and December we were based mainly in the Mid-Western states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, North Dakota and South Dakota. Our ministry in this part of the US brought us to many small towns where we held retreats for sometimes even as few as 8 young people! The simplicity of life in a lot of these towns was beautiful to see, as well as the landscapes of open plains and farmland, which make up a lot of the Mid-West. We also had new experiences with the cold weather, with one snowstorm bringing temperatures down to minus 20 degrees! Our second half from January to May led us west, to the states of Kansas, Colorado, California, Arizona and Nevada. And the change in states brought new challenges in our retreat work, with God leading us to retreats in many big cities and suburbs, and also in many Catholic schools, which was a largely new experience for us.



Although ministry was a large part of my time in America, my team who I was with for our nine months on the road, played a huge part in my life for that time, and still now that I am home. Along with 11 other young women and men, we were put together to work together, to pray together, to love each other, to care for each other and to serve each other. With 12 different personalities, it is safe to say that at times it was hard to love one another; but as the year progressed we were able to learn about each person more, and in turn learn more about how to love them best. As a team we grew very close as we spent time working together, travelling in our 12 passenger van, having fun together – basically spending all of our time together!

I would also spend time with my team mates when we stayed together at 'host homes'. The majority of our accommodation for the year was with host families – the people of the parish or



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school community who would open up their homes to us to stay, for maybe one night, or even up to a week. It would be easy to look at these situations to be simply just for the purpose of providing accommodation, but we were encouraged by NET to really interact with the people who host, and engage them in the work of Net. And sometimes our interactions with host families were some of the most fruitful. It was amazing to see the generosity and kindness of strangers opening their homes to us night after night, and I had so many amazing experiences, but one sticks out in particular. We were in Kansas City, Kansas, and I was staying with just one other team-mate, Bridgette. We turned up at our host home in a fairly run-down neighbourhood of the city, but we went to the door to meet our family for the night.

When we got there, we met the family – Mum, Dad, Grandma, two daughters and a son, but the only English speaking members were the two daughters! We spent the evening chatting with the family (via English-Spanish translation from the 2 daughters!) and sharing experiences and our lives with each other. When it came to bed-time, the parents set up an inflatable mattress for the two of us on the floor of their living room, and made up a bed.

Then the rest of the family went off to bed, splitting off into just three bedrooms, with all three of the kids sharing one room. We had an early start the next morning, but the mother of the family woke up early to make us breakfast before we left, and proceeded to tell us, via her daughter, that we were welcome back to their home whenever we wanted, if we were ever in the area again. And it was definitely heartfelt. This experience has stuck with me as such a raw example of generosity and simple hospitality, and of Christ-like love.

Above anything that I experienced on retreats, with my team, with host family experiences; my encounters with God this year pushed me to grow deeper in my faith. One of the scriptures that really resonated with me this year is from Galatians; *"I have been crucified with Christ, and I live now not with my own life but with the life of Christ who lives in me. The life I now live in this body I live in faith; faith in the Son of God who loved me and who sacrificed himself for my sake."* Through reading and reflecting on this particular scripture, it helped me to see that I was being able to

choose to sacrifice myself in many ways; in my ministry, in kindness to others, in socialising with people we would meet, in continuing on in my tiredness and sickness, in my homesickness and loneliness. But this wasn't me doing this; this was Christ living in me! And by allowing Christ to live through my words and actions, and my whole being, I was experiencing life that is given from God in a whole new way. I allowed myself to truly be crucified with Jesus through my sacrifices and sufferings, and offer those hardships for Him. Above anything else I learned this year, it was to unite myself with Christ, and in turn to grow closer to Him. I also realised throughout the course of the year, the desire I had for prayer and for the Sacraments, seeking them out whenever I could. My hope for the future is that I continue to grow in these areas, and use them to strengthen my faith, and in turn growing in a deeper love for my Catholic faith.

My experiences of working for NET this year, and also experiencing the Catholic Church in the United States have shown me that we have a lot to consider in our country, especially concerning our young people. Although the Catholic faith is declining in the United States, numbers at some churches are still high and many churches have busy youth programmes. And I'm not sure what their formula is for this, whether it is money, dedicated clergy or parishioners, good facilities. But the Church seems very alive in the United States, and in many places fairly traditional. There is definitely something we can take from their example of enthusiasm twinned with a deep respect for the tradition of the Catholic faith.

To think about that first verse again from Mark's Gospel, my experiences in the United States have really helped me to look at the areas of my life and my faith where there is a lack of faith. And God calls us all to do that, to look at the areas of our life where we have *'unbelief'*, and in that, reach out to Him in prayer, and to the Sacraments. Although my year was hard and challenging at times, it was extremely blessed in so many ways. I was very lucky to have such a profound experience, and I want to say thank you to everyone who helped me to fundraise to get there in the first place.

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For Catholics, marriage and family life are held in high esteem, and yet politicians and society seem to have a very different definition of marriage. *The Catholic Voice* recently dropped in on a one-day marriage preparation workshop in Preston to see how couples are being equipped to approach the life-long commitment expected by the Church.

Marie Vandome of Our Lady and Saint Edward's parish, Fulwood, led the workshop with three other volunteer presenters. She explained that the content of the workshop was centred on the couples' relationships, and was based on modern social research. *"The workshop aims to help couples to review what they expect from marriage, to understand the causes of conflict in relationships and how to develop skills in dealing with it. It also helps them with their communication skills and allows time to reflect on the*

commitment they will soon be making in the marriage vows," she said.

During the day, each of seven couples spent time working together as a couple and some time sharing with the whole group. Each theme was started with the group pooling ideas, followed by some input from the presenters. The couples were then given a short exercise to work through privately before coming back to the group with any points they wanted to share. Some of the themes were illustrated with role-plays by two of the presenters.

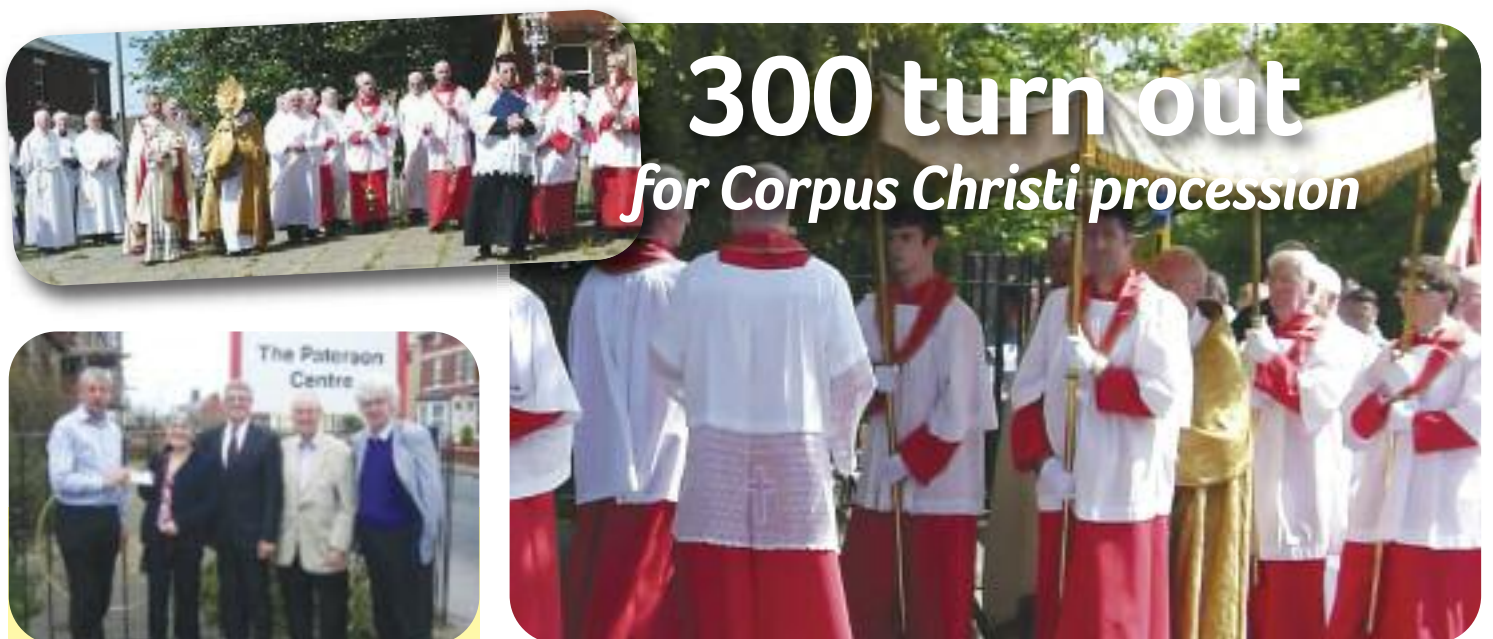
The response from the couples was overwhelmingly positive, all saying they would recommend it to a friend.

"The workshops have been running successfully in Preston for about fifteen years", Marie continued, *"We are always looking for new people to help present the*

workshops; no experience or qualifications are necessary as training and support will be given. The commitment is not great: typically two workshops per year. It helps if you are a good listener and able to encourage others to talk. If you are willing to work in a team and want to help couples to forge lasting marriages, please get in touch." Marie can be contacted on 01772 774067.

The Preston workshops are part of a collaborative ministry with the clergy of the deanery, in which the clergy lead the canonical preparation whilst lay people help couples develop key skills. The team from Preston are happy to help others get a marriage preparation service up and running in other parts of the diocese.

If you have a good-news story about marriage and family life, **The Catholic Voice** would love to hear from you. Please drop us a line at voicenews@hotmail.co.uk



Churches together in Ansdell and Fairhaven held Lent lunches throughout the Lent season culminating in £980.26 being donated to Face to Face a local homelessness charity.

Face To Face was formed in 1991 by the Lytham St Annes Council of Churches to assist young people who find themselves homeless, or living in inappropriate conditions.

Tony Cross, Ansdell

The Preston Deanery of St. Wilfrid and Our Lady held an outdoor procession church to celebrate the feast of Corpus Christi.

Two small altars had been erected outside St Walbuge's, one on the left and one on the right which was under the spire. At each altar we had a reading, a reflection and a prayer. As we moved to the next altar we had a hymn. Then we returned

into church for Benediction. Chief celebrant was our dean, Fr. Tom Singleton assisted by Fr. Simon Hawsworth, parish priest of St. Walbuge and Sacred Heart. A considerable number priests and deacons of the deanery also attended.

The congregation numbered about 300 and a retiring collection was taken for the St. Augustine's food parcel service.

Robert Bamber

For the past few years, parishioners of St. Anthony's, Preston have celebrated the feast of their patron Saint Anthony of Padua with a picnic on the presbytery lawn. The picnic is traditionally held on the nearest Sunday to the actual feast day and, so far, the sun has always shone.

The day began with the parish mass, which finished with the school children singing, "We praise you, St. Anthony", specially written by Jim Thomas. The parishioners gathered later for the picnic, followed by the singing group, "Lost and Found", led by parishioner Angie Strickland, performing songs from the shows and other hits in the social centre. To finish, a tree to commemorate the previous year's Preston Guild was blessed by parish priest, Fr. Peter Draper, and a memories box was sealed ready for storage until the next Guild in 2032.

During the day, parishioners took time out from the fun to demonstrate their support for CAFOD and the Enough Food for Everyone IF campaign by forming a human IF. Parishioner and CAFOD worker, Patrick Gardner, said, "The parish's support has been fantastic. Thank you St. Anthony's for acting in solidarity with our sisters and brothers across the world who do not have enough food, and for bringing these vital issues to the table at the G8", and described the day as, "a great event indeed." The coordinator of the day, Ian Mulholland, said, "Wonderful to see all the Parish groups coming together to celebrate the Feast Day of St. Anthony, not just at the Mass but at all the other events during the day." A good time was had by all!



Faith and Courage

A report on the day organised by WOMEN TOGETHER IN THE DIOCESE OF LANCASTER, Saturday, July 13th 2013 in Lancaster.

It was one of those lovely warm summer days when women from all parts of the diocese arrived in the cool of the Cathedral at midday where we were graciously welcomed by Bishop Michael who presided at our Mass together. For the first time our new banner with the diocesan coat of arms was on display in the Cathedral, the beautiful handiwork of Rosa Malloy.

After Mass we walked over to the Cathedral Social Centre to enjoy the generous hospitality of the volunteer catering team who had prepared a substantial buffet lunch for us. But first there was little ceremony to perform: the banner of the Bishop's own coat of arms, which Rosa had worked, had been framed and was presented to Bishop Michael, as you will see in the photograph that was taken. He was obviously delighted with this unexpected gift. Our enjoyable lunch together was followed by a talk given by

Father Andrew Allman, Vocation Director for the diocese.

He began by introducing himself and reminded us that we were coming to the final week of the diocesan nine week novena for vocations when the focus for prayer was for courage to respond to God's will. He likened this to the famous 'walk of faith' as it is called on the top of Blackpool Tower! Courage takes faith and he then went on to explore that with us as he spoke about women who are models of faith and courage in scripture.

As he recalled in turn the stories of Ruth the foreigner who would not abandon her destitute mother-in-law, of Judith, in her conquest of the Assyrian general, of Esther, the queen who risks her life to save her people and Hannah who gives back her son to God in gratitude, he showed how each revealed an aspect of faith to us. He spoke of faithfulness in our family ties

and care for older members; faithfulness in prayer, making space for God in our lives and openness to God; faith that is enriched by gratitude. Finally he spoke of Mary's faith from her readiness in freedom to allow God's will for her to be revealed only gradually, her complete trust in God's promises and in her Son, to her standing resolutely at the foot of the cross, fulfilling her part in his sacrifice of love.

All these women, together with many others in the gospels, were called to great acts of faith and courage in both private, hidden and public ways. They are models for us who are also called to exercise our faith with courage no matter what the circumstances of our lives.

So the day ended with that encouragement and we left for our different parts of the diocese enriched by the whole experience of the day we had spent together.

Sister Philomena Grimley SHCJ

At Our Lady's & St Michaels in Workington a group of Explorer Scouts led the readings for the liturgy and asked members of the congregation with English as their second language to read the prayers of the faithful in the own tongue. This was to remind us that the Holy Spirit sent the Apostles to the gentiles and people hearing the Apostles in their own native tongues.

The idea was based on trying to get a language representing every continent. Spanish being Latin America the Holy Fathers own country of Argentina, Nigeria - Africa, Indian - Asia, Philipino - Australasia & Oceania & Irish - European. And for the Explorer Scouts, it formed part of their Faith Partnership Award in getting the youth more involved in the Liturgy. It also forms part of the Scouts Queens Award.

Present on the photograph is Rev Father Thomas Kalapurackal, Explorers: Alex Glaister, Patrick McNicholas & Mark Laird (*missing from the photo is Robson Scott*). Readers: Nkoyo Akpan who read in Efik (*Nigeria*), Texila Vargheese in Malayalam (*Indian*), Charles Peat in Tagalog (*Pilipino*), Dr Jose Fidalgo in Castilian (*Spanish*) Sister Eleanor Gilligan (*missing*) in Gaelic (*Irish*). *Paul Glaister*



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Fr. Bernard Woods RIP



When Fr. Bernard preached at the funeral of Deacon Peter Williams in Our Lady and St. Edward's, Fulwood, Preston, just five weeks ago today, he acknowledged the shock people felt upon Peter's sudden death. We acknowledge the same feelings today upon Bernard's sudden death as we unite in prayer with his sister Mary and their family and friends.

In the days after the announcement of Bernard's death a phrase came to mind from St. Irenaeus of Lyon, who wrote in the second century: *'The glory of God is man fully alive; and the glory of man is the vision of God.'* Bernard was a man who was fully alive in every sense – so active. The motive for his life and activity was the vision of God. We offer the Holy Mass for Bernard in which the death and resurrection of Christ become present for us, praying for his eternal salvation – that he will see God face to face.

The Paschal Candle, which burns at every funeral, reminds us of our hope in Christ's resurrection. The scripture chosen supports our prayer for Bernard today. St. Paul in the first reading takes us to the core of our faith; to all that we celebrate in the Mass: *'We believe that Jesus died and*

rose again and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus'. In the Gospel reading, Jesus on the Cross, speaks to the man next to him who we call *'the good thief'*. This man, like Bernard, had a loving heart which was open to Christ. Jesus says to him: *'I promise you today you will be with me in paradise.'* In faith, we can apply these words of Our Lord to Bernard.

There will be many people who knew Bernard better than I did, and over a longer period of time. Some of his contemporaries from seminary days at Thistleton, and Ushaw, and for a short time in Rome at the English College and the Gregorian, called him *'Ben'*, as in *'Big Ben'*! I got to know him in 1997, when as a seminarian, I was on placement with him for a whole term at Our Lady and St. Edward's. Even though I could not keep up with Bernard's pace of activity, he didn't put me off! On the contrary, I was inspired by the faithful way in which he served people of all ages and how well he knew them. He was kind and a great host. Bernard had a special gift for working with young people who felt so at home with him. He had done some training in this area and his involvement went beyond the diocese to the YCW, Impact, and the International Youth Festival. He returned recently from this year's Easter gathering in Finland.

In recent years Bernard and I have been part of the same Priests' Emmaus Group. Bernard was invariably late for our gatherings and entered the meeting room like a whirlwind, complete with rucksack! However, when it was his turn to lead the Lectio Divina at the start of our meeting, he would usually be there on time with a

thoughtfully chosen piece of scripture. His contribution to the group was excellent. He was really in touch with the pastoral reality of peoples' lives and his good humour and genuine interest in others was much appreciated.

Today the Church celebrates the feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to her cousin Elizabeth. Mary carried Jesus within her and touched the life of her cousin who was pregnant with John. Fr. Bernard touched the lives of others because of his knowledge of, and love of Jesus Christ. This was so in all the parishes and schools where he served and in the many other roles he had.

Bernard's first appointment was as assistant priest to Fr. Paddy O'Dea in Keswick, along with Lakeside House, and later Castlerigg. As parish priest he served at St. Mary's, Kells, Whitehaven; Our Lady and St. Edward's, Fulwood, Preston; St. Cuthbert's with St. Margaret's, Blackpool; and since 2009 here in the parishes of St. Columba's, Walney, with St. Patrick's, and Sacred Heart, Barrow. His other roles included Barrow Catholic Youth Centre, staff member in the Junior House at Ushaw, Director of Castlerigg Manor, and Director of the Catholic Caring Services.

Bernard was brought up in the faith in his family home and in the parish of St. Bede, Carlisle, where he was ordained priest in 1968. His father John died when he was 12 and Mary was 10. Their Mother Norah lived much longer and made her home with Bernard at the Presbytery in Fulwood where she died. Mary relied on Bernard's support, not least on his practical abilities. Before he went to visit her in Carlisle, he'd

ask her which tools he should bring with him! For Bernard, his faith was expressed in a simple, no-fuss, life-style. Mary received a call the other day from a parishioner enquiring about what to do with Bernard's clothes. She said: *'just take them to a charity shop'*. Afterwards she realised that most of them came from a charity shop in the first place! Bernard was a life-long supporter of Carlisle United. Once he was offered tickets to watch Manchester United. He appreciated the opportunity to see a premiership side but he didn't enjoy it as much as watching his home team of Carlisle!

We will all miss Fr. Bernard. He would want us to pray that any sins and faults will be forgiven. And we want to thank God for such a good and faithful priest. He died in his chair having celebrated the Mass of Pentecost in his parishes. This solemnity completed our celebration of Easter. May the vision of God now be a reality for him. A pupil at one of his schools said: *'He was just like my Grandad'*. A younger pupil wrote: *'Hope you are having a nice time in heaven'*. With such warm and affectionate thoughts we pray:

Eternal Rest grant unto him O Lord.....

Fr John Winstanley



Sr. Mary Anthony Levi RIP

My love lifts up his voice, he says to me, 'Come then, my beloved, my lovely one, come. For see, winter is past, the rains are over and gone. Flowers are appearing on the earth. The season of glad songs has come, the cooing of the turtledove is heard in our land.' (Song of Songs 2:10 – 12 NJB)



This text is from the reading of the feast of the Visitation, the date chosen for the funeral of Sr. Mary Anthony. The answering of Christ's call led her on an

adventure of faith, to an encounter with him across the decades in fidelity to prayer, the work of teaching and hospitality and above all in the people she would meet and for whom life might never be the same again. Her father's family were Jewish in origin and her love of Scripture stemmed from a connection with the stories from Scripture which she loved. Her love of Scripture, especially John's Gospel, was evident in the many talks she was to give to help others discover the love of the Beloved for them. Into many fractured and wounded lives, she was able to reach out and touch them in a very simple and humble way.

She met the Bernardines as a boarder at our former school in Slough and as she often observed with a laugh, she tried hard to resist God's call to the Order. However, after studying Modern Languages she entered the Bernardines

in 1955. She thought she would last a few weeks, not over 50 years! As a teacher, and then Headmistress, she touched the lives of many students and staff and remained in contact with many of them until her death in May of this year.

She spent time in our community in Goma, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and eventually returned to England to work in our retreat centre here at Hyning. In 1993 she was named superior of the community of Slough and returned to the place she had first heard the call of God. In 2002 she returned to the community at Hyning. She worked with many of the guests who come to our door needing a listening ear and a caring heart, sharing her love of God and her love of Scripture. Always ready to listen to a guest in any form of need, she lived out the Rule of St. Benedict's recommendation that *"all guests who arrive be received like Christ, for He is going to say, I came as a guest, and you received me"*. (Chapter 53)

When Christ called her to Himself, she responded with the same openness and faith as she had lived. The suddenness of her illness and death shocked all those who knew her but she accepted her illness simply and with great faith, ready to respond to the call that had led her all her life, *"Come then, my beloved, my lovely one, come."*

Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her; may she rest in peace Amen.

Sr. Michaela Toulmin



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Our Lady of Appleby once again welcomed the thousands of Travellers and hundreds of horses gathered in Appleby for the annual horse fair. Fr Aleks Makulski parish priest of Appleby and Fr Davies from Luton ministered the Sacraments in the open air amidst the constant backdrop of horses being to and from the camp to the river.

Hand bells were rung summoning people to Mass on Sunday which was held on the roadside. The numbers of people swelled as Mass started beneath a tent garlanded with flowers. And despite the many distractions a respectful devotion was maintained throughout with many of the congregation genuflecting as they approached to receive Holy Communion.

After Mass the congregation took part in a Blessed Sacrament procession through the camp.



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The primary focus will be to help initiate the development of a Parish Plan to increase lay participation in collaborative Ministry.

Salary £17,000 - £20,000 per annum

dependent upon knowledge, skills and experience of successful applicant.

*This position is covered by a genuine occupational requirement under The Employment Equality (Religion or belief) Regulations 2003, Section 7, subsection(2).

To apply, please request an application pack from the secretary to the Parish Council on mariatate@me.com or by post to Mrs Maria Tate, c/o St Wilfrid's Presbytery, 1 Winckley Square, Preston, PR1 3JJ

Closing Date: Friday 20 September 2013
Interview Date: Wednesday 9 October 2013

I have come that they may have life and have it to the full (Jn 10:10)

Being a part of St Columba's Catholic School means we get the chance to meet with Jesus and glimpse eternal life. Our life in school is like a journey and as we move along the sometimes smooth and sometime rocky and unknown path we need to be sure our children know that God is walking beside them. We do this by sharing our faith in the hope that it spreads.

Faith comes from deep within and to share it means you need to look at the people you are sharing with and see what they need. A smile, a helping hand, praying with someone, listening or even sharing a scripture passage, song or hymn may reach out to someone.

We have to work hard to give the gift of Jesus and the message of the Gospel to our children, our families, our parish and one another. We need one another so that we can learn from one other. We need the elderly parishioners and the young families to inspire us with their lives and their stories.

We need to look for the 'good' (the God) in each person and realise we are all his children. "Being a teacher at St Columba's School and being in the parish helps me to look after the children in the best possible way I can." (Catherine Flynn Reception Class Teacher). Ellis Heywood age 7 years: "You



do not need to worry because God is watching you and looking after you no matter what!"

"Serving other people and putting yourself last is another way to meet with Jesus. Getting on your knees is not always easy but we need to try to do this in school, in our families, in our parish and in our wider community then our lives will be FULL." (John Haythorn: Deputy Head)

On June 11th following the sudden death of our parish priest Fr Bernard Woods we had a celebration to open our new entrance and prayer room. Bishop Michael, Monsignor Turner, Fr Luiz, Fr Watson and Pat Hurley (previous head teacher) came to join us. It was a uplifting day and we named our prayer room 'Pentecost Prayer Room' in memory of Fr Bernard Woods.

Our school is 97 years old and much has changed during this time. It is becoming harder to get our children and families to come to Church. People do believe in God but sometimes the demands of modern life make Sunday Mass unimportant. This is the real place we are coming from at the moment and we know we are not alone. All we can do is use what we have inside us to try and make a difference. We need to continue to look after people in the best way we can so that they might see or feel Jesus in their lives.



Walking in their footsteps

In this "Year of Faith" we are given a great opportunity to learn more about the men and women who were martyred for their faith. Along with two pilgrimages to Ladyewell, Fr Robert Billing, Laura Raistrick and Deacon John McCann, took 20 students from Years 7, 8, and 9 on the Lancaster Martyrs Walk.

Our aim was to learn about the history of the Catholic Church, to learn about the lives and deaths of some of the many martyrs who died for their faith in this country. We saw in a very real way, their faith and courage, by walking the same route that those martyred in Lancaster, had walked on the way to their execution.

Despite a rainy morning, prayers were answered and our little group set out from Our Lady's in dry weather. Led by Laura, we climbed up to Lancaster Priory where Fr Billing spoke to us about how it had become illegal to be Catholic in this country, and how the Catholic Churches had to become Anglican. We then made our way, from the Castle, where many Catholics were imprisoned, to the martyr's memorial stone, up the hill from Saint Peter's Cathedral. Going through Lancaster town, we stopped at the Golden Lion pub, where the martyrs were offered one last drink before their execution. Being good Catholics, many accepted a beverage, but we, however, continued on our walk. Our next stop was Lancaster Cathedral, where we had a fascinating tour by one of our Year 9 pupils Jack Nicholls. After a moment of prayer we continued to the memorial stone. Fr Billing and Deacon John McCann, a Governor at Our Lady's, led us in prayer and Fr Billing gave us his priestly blessing. It was a fun and enjoyable day for all as well as a challenging example of the faith that we are all called to live, and the sacrifices that we are all, in some way, called to make.

Laura Raistrick

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Larmenier Village



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A unique retirement solution was recently revealed at Larmenier Village. The site was a nineteenth century villa belonging to the Thwaites Brewery family, and then cotton magnate John Thompson. It was bought in 1917 by the Sisters of Nazareth. The culture of care and religious observance initiated by them has continued and is integral to the ethos of Larmenier Village.

The Sisters recently celebrated a hundred years of providing care, dovetailing appropriately with the completion of the second phase of the village. Echoing the strong local Catholic heritage the apartment blocks are named after four of the Lancashire martyrs. Following the upheavals of the English Reformation, the Roman Catholic faith remained strong in Lancashire. Many young men left to train in Europe for the "English Mission", returning secretly to minister to the faithful. If they were discovered they faced persecution and death. St John Southworth and St Edmund Arrowsmith who died for their faith were canonized in 1970, while John Woodcock and Thomas Whitaker were beatified in 1987; these are the martyrs remembered in the new apartment names.

Today, Larmenier village is designed for independent, stylish living. Visitors to the Open Day were impressed by the generously proportioned and thoughtfully designed accommodation. Many commented on the attention to detail, quality of the design and decor, all providing maximum comfort. There are integrated areas for residents to meet and socialise, indoors and out. The beautifully landscaped gardens provide a tranquil, relaxing environment, with quiet seating areas, an unusual herb garden and interesting paths to enjoy.

The "trial in style" scheme, offers the chance to sample the Larmenier experience for any period up to a week. This newest adaptation will surely provide a development which is fit for purpose and durable for the next hundred years, providing a quality home environment for the more discerning older person.

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS

A Re-union is arranged

When friends get together they inevitably start to reminisce: the memories of a miss-spent youth, work, even school days, if they go back that far. Such memories are either seen through clear or sometimes rose-coloured glasses, but they are precious memories never-the-less.

Such an opportunity will occur on Saturday 5 October 2013, when all ex-pupils and teachers of the Blessed Sacrament Primary School, Preston, are invited to attend a school re-union with a difference, the difference being that it will be open to ex-pupils and teachers of all ages. And there is no doubt that the memories will flow. It will take place from 7.00pm in the Blessed Sacrament Parish Centre, Moorside Avenue, Ribbleson, Preston, PR2 6LU.

The organisers, at least 3 of them, attended the school in the 1950s and their memory banks have already started paying out. Bernard Melling, Linda Barnard (*Nee Brooks*) and Dave Melling recall that, when they first went to Blessed Sacrament, the head teacher of the Infant school was Mother Joan of the Society of the Child Jesus; Mother Brendan was head of the Juniors and another nun, Mother Carmella, was responsible for the final year of the junior girls. Mr Joe Counsel was the teacher of the final year of junior boys. He later became head master.

The legacy of attendance at a Church School

It wasn't just the formal RE classes, but the extras that came with attendance at a faith school. Memories abound, but several have formed part of the legacy left by attendance at the school. They include preparing for First Holy Communion. Mother Joan was in charge and we can remember vividly her telling us all that

"...when you genuflect you should say 'Jesus I love you'"

The hymn that we sang at our First Communion was "*Jesus Thou art coming, Holy as Thou art...*" Some of us now use the words of that hymn as preparation for communion, saying it as a prayer, rather than singing it. Much of the religious education was, in those days re-enforced by parents and another legacy of the school and home is, on adoring the sacred host at the consecration of the Mass, saying "*My Lord and My God*", acknowledging St. Thomas' earlier denial of Christ's resurrection.

Abiding memories of the things we were taught which have lasted through to the present day are: the bowing of your head when the name "*Jesus*" is invoked, something that was a part of your '*upbringing*' as far as R.E. in school. One can see that our generation still continue the practice when at Mass today, however, the younger generation don't appear to have this instilled in them, why, one asks oneself?

Another school tradition which has had a lasting effect is the practice of giving to the less fortunate which is a feature of our lives today. We got the '*giving*' habit at school through a scheme known as the Bishop's fund which ran throughout lent.

Each person received a card with squares which were marked each time you took money into school for this purpose. When your card was full, you could get another one and start again. At the end of lent, the two people, one boy and one girl, who had contributed the most money, had the honour of presenting the entire school contribution to the Bishop at Easter. He then distributed it to various charities.

We recall the Catechism being an integral part of our daily R.E. lessons and was recited almost like the times tables, again something which is perceived to have '*lapsed*'. Whether that is a fair assumption or just an age thing it is difficult to tell.

The organisers are hoping for a big turn-out on the night and urge everyone reading this to let their former class-mates know of the event and to come along. It promises to be a great night out.



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During this 'Year of Faith', a wonderful way of deepening one's faith is to go on a retreat, where we can get away from the world for a few days and quietly meditate, pray, focus and deepen our faith.

I have just come back from my first time to Ampleforth Abbey where I went with 15 other ladies from all over the country but mainly from the Lancaster and Liverpool Diocese with Kate Jordon from St Mary's RC Church in Leyland organising the Retreat which has been going every year for the last 34 years.

It was a Ladies' Retreat to based on literature from Richard Rohr, and was led by Fr. Christopher one of the resident Monks from Ampleforth Abbey. The Retreat was called "Homeward Bound". The Accommodation is very comfortable and it was a great blessing to sit in the choir with and join in prayers with the Monks in the Church. The Friday evening we got to listen to the young choir from Ampleforth College which was so beautiful and also on Sunday when the Abbey was

completely full, again the singing was truly amazing. The retreat was from 4.30pm Friday until 1.00 pm Sunday with Saturday afternoon a free afternoon where you can either walk round the extensive grounds and information area and cafe or go into the nearby village.

Retreats are always a way to deepen your faith, building on the foundations and have some time to pray and meditate in the peaceful and silence of the beautiful Abbey and surrounding grounds, as well as meeting other people searching to build up their faith.

If any ladies reading this would like to come with us next year, please contact myself and I will put you in contact with Kate, don't think because you have never been on a retreat you would feel lost, far from it we are all at different stages of our faith, and all there to help each other you would receive a very warm welcome and meet some lasting friends.

Contact me on tasmith1@blueyonder.co.uk or through the Catholic Voice. *Teresa Smith*

Retreat of Faith - Ampleforth



Golden Jubilee

Canon Thomas (Harry) Doyle, Alston Lane, Preston celebrated 50 years of priestly ministry in June.

Born in Ireland in 1936 he is one of 5 Children, 2 Brothers and 2 Sisters. He entered the training college in Ireland before moving on to Carlow Seminary in Ireland and was ordained in 1963.

His first appointment in the Diocese of Lancaster was as curate to St Mary and St Michael's Garstang. From there he moved to St Thomas of Canterbury and the English Martyrs, where he took on the running of the Youth Club. Other projects included the planning and building of Canterbury Hall.

Canon Doyle later moved to Our Lady and St Michael's Alston Lane where his greatest pleasure has been the ordination to the priesthood of Fr. John Moriarty, on 11th July 2010, who was an Altar Server from August 1991.

John Wilkinson

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