

# The Catholic VOICE of Lancaster

The Official Newspaper to  
the Diocese of Lancaster  
Issue 253 + October 2013

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*Sr Emma*

On Sunday 8th September, Our Lady's birthday, Sister Emma Haynes made her final, Perpetual vows as a Servant Sister of the Home of the Mother, in Valencia, Spain. It has been an eight year path of prayer and careful consideration through Candidate and Novice, before now becoming fully professed. Sr. Emma hails from St Joseph's parish Lancaster where her parents David and Sandra Haynes are still parishioners.

*Sister Emma is pictured left with Sister Kristen Gardner from the USA.*

## Trio of Professions to the Religious Life

*Sr Silvana*

Sister Silvana centre made her First Profession of Vows on 28th August - the Feast of St. Augustine.

*Photo' courtesy of Bishop's Blog.*

Please remember Sister Emma, Sister Silvana and Sister Hilda in your prayers and pray that other young women may have the courage to answer God's call and follow them. You can read a little more about the Sisters and their communities on Page 16.

*Sr Hilda*

On Saturday 31st August the Bernardine Cistercians at the Monastery of Our Lady of Hyning celebrated the First Profession of Sister Hilda.

*She is pictured here with The Prioress General of the Order, Sr. Mary Helen Jackson to whom she made her vows.*

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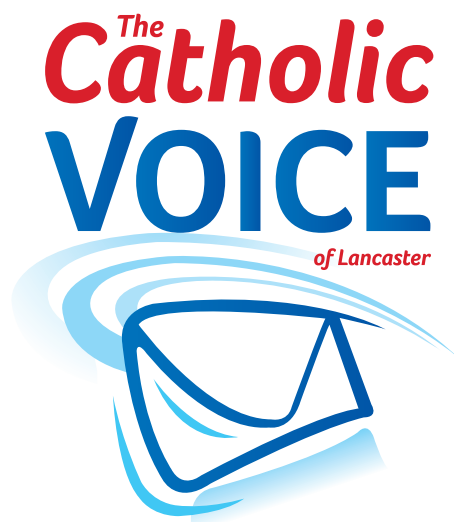


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## EDITORIAL

**T**here has been a lot of activity in the Diocese over the summer months. The Catholic Voice is pleased to report this month: three Professions to the Religious life and a new seminarian who recently has begun his studies for the priesthood at St Mary's College Oscott.

Bishop Campbell has also given a number of new appointments to some of our priests:

**Father Emmanuel Gribben** (ex The Willows & St Joseph's, Wesham): Parish Priest, Our Lady of Furness, Barrow in Furness (to reside at St Mary's Presbytery).

**Father Francis Oleseni:** Continuing as Assistant Priest, Our Lady of Furness, Barrow (to reside at St Pius X Presbytery, Barrow in Furness).

**Father Andrew Allman** (ex St Bernadette, Blackpool): Assistant Priest, Our Lady of Furness, Barrow and continuing as Vocations Director (to reside at St Columba's Presbytery, Walney).

**Father Andrew Broster** (ex Our Lady & St Patrick, Maryport): Parish Priest, The Holy Cross, Kirkham (The Willows) & Wesham.

**Father Tom Butler** (ex Armed Forces): Parish Priest, Our Lady & St Patrick, Maryport and Priest in Charge, Our Lady of the Assumption & St Cuthbert, Wigton.

**Father Jim Allen** (St Bede, Carlisle): to assume pastoral care of St Edmund Campion, Carlisle as Priest in Charge.

**Canon John Watson** (ex Our Lady of Furness, Barrow): Parish Priest, Our Lady & St Joseph, Warwick Square, Carlisle & Priest in Charge, Our Lady & St Wilfrid, Warwick Bridge.

**Father Anthony Gaskin** (ex Our Lady of Furness, Barrow): Assistant Priest, Our Lady & St Joseph, Warwick Square, Carlisle & Our Lady & St Wilfrid, Warwick Bridge.

**Father John Millar**, continuing as Assistant Priest, Our Lady & St Joseph, Warwick Square, Carlisle & Our Lady & St Wilfrid, Warwick Bridge.

**Father Joseph Nnabugwu** (ex St Mary, Fleetwood): Parochial Administrator, Our Lady of the Assumption, Blackpool.

**Father Michael Murphy** (ex St Cuthbert, Wigton): Parish Priest, St Mary, Fleetwood.

**Father Peter Hart** (ex Our Lady & St Joseph, Warwick Square, Carlisle & Our Lady & St Wilfrid): Parish Priest, Our Lady, Star of the Sea, St Annes.

**Father John Winstanley** (ex St Joseph, Ansdell): Parish Priest, St Kentigern & Priest in Charge, Christ the King, Blackpool.

**Father David Burns** (ex St Kentigern, Blackpool & Christ the King, Blackpool): Parish Priest, St Joseph's, Ansdell and to assume pastoral care of St Peter's, Lytham - upon the retirement of Father Francis Flynn - as Priest in Charge.

**Father Kevan Dorgan** (Our Lady of the Lakes & St Herbert, Windermere): to assume pastoral care of the Mater Amabilis, Ambleside (to reside at Windermere) as Priest in Charge.

**Canon Seamus Flannery VG** (St Mary, Ulverston): to assume pastoral care of Our Lady of the Rosary & St Margaret, Dalton in Furness as Priest in Charge.

**Father William Glasswell** (ex Our Lady of the Rosary & St Margaret, Dalton in Furness): Parish Priest, English Martyrs with St Ignatius, Preston.

**Father Tom Singleton** (ex English Martyrs with St Ignatius, Preston): Parish Priest, St Joseph, Cockermouth and Priest in Charge, Our Lady & St Charles, Keswick.

**Father Pawel Szatlewski** (St Maria Goretti, Preston): to assume pastoral care for The Blessed Sacrament Parish, Preston as Priest in Charge.

**Father Robert Billing:** to continue as Bishop's Secretary & Diocesan Secretary and begin studies for Licence in Canon Law at Leuven (Distance Learning).

### Secondary School Chaplains:

**Father Jim Burns**, to be Priest Chaplain, Our Lady's Catholic College, Lancaster.

**Father John Winstanley**, to be Priest Chaplain, St Mary's, Blackpool.

**Please remember our Religious, our Seminarians, our priests and all they serve as they live out their vocations amongst us.**

>>>>



# STOP PRESS

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yes it is only 2  
months away!**

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# English Catholics honour three English Martyrs whose relics are kept in the Pazo De Gondomar

*A group (St. Wulstan and St. Edmund's and friends) visited the English College, Valladolid. We spent a weekend in Santiago de Compostela and visited Gondomar etc. An article appeared in the local paper as we were the first English group to visit the relics held there for 400 years. Mass was celebrated in the tiny chapel there.*



**T**hirty people from the United Kingdom celebrated Mass in the chapel where the remains have been since they were rescued by the first Count, Diego Sarmiento de Acuna in the XVII century.

King Henry VIII's breaking away from the Roman Catholic Church in the XVI century condemned hundreds of Catholics, reluctant to accept the new Anglican religion, to years of persecution. They were treated as criminals and were the object of torture and violent executions.

The first Count of Gondomar, Diego Sarmiento de Acuna, Spanish Ambassador in England between 1613 and 1622, initiated the clandestine practice of rescuing the bodies from their first graves in order to give them a Christian burial where they could receive the homage due to them. So even today, two caskets of relics still conserved in the chapel, bear witness to this. These contain the remains of three such men: St. John Almond, Blessed Thomas Maxfield and Blessed John Forrest, who was the confessor of King Henry XIII's first wife, Catherine of Aragon.

In homage to these martyrs and the bravery of D. Diego, a group of Catholics from the United Kingdom, visited Gondomar yesterday and celebrated Mass in their memory. They were welcomed by the present Count, Gonzalo Fernandez de Cordoba and his family. According to Patricia Gonzalez who organised the visit, the occasion acknowledged the role played by Diego Sarmiento de Acuna in the history of English Catholicism. "Research shows that he disinterred these martyrs and brought back their remains hidden in his own luggage" she said.

The Spanish Ambassador tried to intervene in the case of Blessed Thomas Maxfield. He asked the judges to pardon him or at least to reduce his sentence. After the martyr's hanging, drawing and quartering, Diego Sarmiento de Acuna managed to rescue his remains which were sent to Spain "they were hidden at first on the Island of San Simon".

Yesterday, apart from the Mass offered by two English priests in English and Spanish, the group was shown the Pazo de Gondomar by the present owner and heir to the title, Gonzalo Fernandez de Cordoba. "We were shown the exterior, the Patio de Armas and the vineyard". The visit ended with a glass of wine.

"The visit was very interesting and exceeded expectations" said Patricia Gonzalez. "This is the first time most of us have been to Galicia". After the visit to Gondomar, the group planned to be at the Pilgrims' Mass on Sunday at the Cathedral in Santiago.



**I**t was a great honour to both Mrs Paddy Parker and the parish of St Anne Westby when she was recently presented with the Bene merenti award. Paddy has worked tirelessly and with devotion and enthusiasm for the parish for over 50 years and well deserved the recognition.

Fr. Peter Burns presented Paddy with the special papal medal and certificate after Mass on Sunday 11th August, and her family and the whole parish were rightly very proud of her. Well done!

Mary Cuffe

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## Being a Young Catholic Today



## Catching the Lourdes Bug!

**B**eing a young Catholic in 2013 can be a testing experience. There are fewer and fewer young people in church congregations, and young people are often ridiculed or discriminated against for practising their faith.

However, when I went to Lourdes with our diocesan pilgrimage, my faith was boosted in a way that it had never been before. To see the hundreds of people from our Diocese: priests, VIPs, carers, able-bodied pilgrims and young people; amongst the thousands of others from all-over the world, come together to pray to Our Lady and St. Bernadette, gives you such an amazing feeling that words cannot describe. But a pilgrimage to Lourdes certainly gives you a lot more than this. The week was full of unforgettable memories, with both the VIPs and the other young people, and I made many new friendships that I'm sure will last much longer than the week we spent together. I can't wait to go back next year- I've definitely caught the Lourdes bug!



# We can all be Saints! - Young People in Lourdes

*"Completely fulfilling", "Endless joy", "The most special place in my life", "Spiritually uplifting"*

**T**hese are not descriptions of Heaven (though they could be), but of Lourdes. In the 'Year of Faith', our diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes was always going to be a very special event.

Over the course of the past year, eighty young people from every corner of the diocese have been meeting up for preparation days and retreats to prepare for the pilgrimage. Once at Lourdes different things touch different people, but few are left unmoved. For some it is the meeting of new people and especially in serving the VIP pilgrims. One young person was struck at "seeing how happy and spiritual all the VIPs seem to be despite their problems. This really affected me and made me realise how important faith is. I was amazed at their positive outlook to life despite their many problems and illnesses". Over the course of the week it was wonderful to see the smiles on the young people's faces as bonds of friendship grew with pilgrims of different generations.

Other young pilgrims were particularly moved by the way in which they found themselves closer to God and the way in which they experienced the community of faith. One wrote, "Being able to share with people that I am a Catholic has been such a joy. To be with so many people of my age celebrating our faith was the best". Many spoke of the quiet time at night down

at the Grotto, when the crowds had dispersed, and our young people sat beneath the stars, listening to the flow of the River Gave, and watching the flicker of candles, deep in thought and prayer. "Spending time in the Grotto at night is incredible", one pilgrim reflected. "It gives you a chance to think about everything, and using the time to pray helps you to feel relieved. You can share your worries and thoughts with Mary and know she's listening to you".

Chloe, 16, from Fleetwood, writes, "Summer 2013 was my first pilgrimage to Lourdes and definitely won't be my last! Beforehand, I had heard so many incredible stories about how young people's faith had been touched by their experiences in Lourdes and this was made personal to me when I had first-hand experiences and was able to develop and understand my faith in the presence of Our Lady. I was able to connect immediately with many of the other young people who supported me in this journey.

My most memorable experience was the Torchlight Procession. This truly gave me goosebumps and being able to practise my faith and honour Our Lady along with many other pilgrims made me feel so accepted and gave me a sense of belonging. In the day-to-day routine we went about, hearing and understanding many of the V.I.P's

stories and seeing their faith was very humbling and will stay with me for a very long time. Lourdes 2013 has changed me in terms of faith. I am now aware that by putting my faith in the centre of my daily lifestyle, everything else will simply fall into place".

Rachel, 17, from Kirkham, returning for the second time, writes: "After a long 28 hours on the coach we got our first glimpse of Lourdes and the Upper Basilica through trees and many of us felt like we hadn't even been away...The Pilgrimage officially began the next day with us Youth very eager to start pushing wheelchairs and getting to know the VIP's whether it was their first time in Lourdes or their tenth, everyone had something in common, faith.

This year we were extremely lucky though to go to Lourdes, as 4 weeks prior to our pilgrimage, Lourdes was hit with devastating floods. Thankfully the clear up process was a miracle and everything was in place for our pilgrimage to be undertaken. We were even blessed this year with brilliant weather though the Torchlight procession gave us some rain but that just gave us the chance to wear the fetching rain ponchos! Lourdes teaches me that—as a young person—I am not alone in today's society, as through Lourdes young people are brought together throughout the diocese all due to faith and friendship".

Fr Philip Conner



# Such Love! - World Youth Day in Rio

**Just two years ago, Pope Benedict XVI announced the location for World Youth Day (WYD) 2013 – Rio de Janeiro! The atmosphere amongst the Brazilians in Madrid was electric. At that point I didn't dare to imagine that I would get the chance to travel across the world and share another WYD with them. But God had other plans! I heard about the Assumption Volunteer Programme last summer, applied, and, with the overwhelming support of my parish and many others, found myself en route to Rio for what would be a whirlwind six-week adventure!**

A group of six of us spent the first month volunteering with a Salesian initiative 'Amar' which runs projects in the favelas (shanty towns) and also for the many street children in the city. "Reason, Religion and Love" are the three principles upon which the projects are founded – that the children should be formed in their faith through reason and, through it all experience unconditional love. Most of the children have been exposed to drugs and violence from an early age. It was heartbreaking to see children being forced to grow up so quickly, some as young as 7 are living on the streets. The problems facing them are so vast, at times I felt completely helpless. While I could play with the kids, or have basic conversations (with little Portuguese!), it all seemed insignificant when faced with the reality of their lives. All those working at the projects were a true inspiration; they seek not to solve the big problems but simply to love each and every child they meet, be it through an affectionate hug, a game of football or a quiet "well done" and smile.

Rio is such a vibrant place, full of colourful

buildings and lively music, and upon the arrival of millions of pilgrims the city really came to life. Young Catholics from all over the world flooded the streets, bringing with them cheers and anthems from their countries. Yet there was no division in the crowd, no competition. Everyone there was united in faith. From the huge Masses on Copacabana to the smaller catechesis sessions, every conversation was filled with this same joy found in our shared Baptism.

Despite the excitement of WYD, it was impossible to forget all I had experienced beforehand. The poverty on the streets was still so apparent and I was struggling to see how God, who brings such immense joy to so many, could also allow innocent children and families to suffer so greatly.

During his homilies, Pope Francis often spoke about our call as Catholics to be missionaries; that is, to be a bearer of Christ in a world full of darkness and suffering. When he arrived in Brazil, the Pope stated, "I have neither silver nor gold, but I bring with me the most precious thing given to me: Jesus Christ!" This simple statement helped me to understand everything I had experienced with Amar. The Lord has chosen to work through us to make His presence known in the world. Although our actions may often seem insignificant, through Christ each small act of love is transformed and can bring about real change. For me, this is the joy of faith, and the reason why events like World Youth Day are so beautiful. The 3.7 million people who gathered on Copacabana beach were a true sign of hope – the Church is alive! The enthusiasm of everyone I met in Rio has left me feeling strengthened in faith, in trust, and with a

real desire to follow the words of Pope Francis – "Go, be not afraid and serve".

Besides Becky, a group from St Cuthbert's Blackpool ventured forth, and here the Lavery's and Ball's share their experiences of celebrating their faith and witnessing to its joy:

*"They sang, they baked, they begged all in an effort to raise funds for the 21st World Youth Day in Rio De Janeiro. 5 intrepid young Catholics from the parish of St Cuthbert's Blackpool, responded to the call to travel to a meeting with 3 million young Catholics and Pope Francis on Copacabana beach. Lucy, Luke and Jack Lavery, along with Eli and Will Ball were fortunate enough to go. The journey was difficult, the fund raising impossible, but yet again God provided and £10,000 was raised with the help and support of the parishioners of St Cuthbert's and the generosity of many others.*

*The young people travelled with over 350 youth of the Neocatecumenate Communities in England. The call from Pope Francis to "Go and make disciples of the nations" became a reality, when the young people went two by two to the shanty towns to give their witness to those they met.*

*Many friendships were forged and many vocations formed as over 3,000 young men and 2,000 young girls responded to the call to the religious life at a vocational meeting with Kiko Arguello, founder of the Neocatecumenate. Seven of the vocations were from England. And now, the baking begins again as the announcement for the next WYD has been made. See you all in Poland 2016!!"*

*Becky, 21, Bispham*



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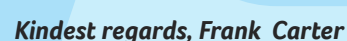






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***Yours sincerely, Wanda Kruszyńska***



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Dear Editor

**"Go and Make Disciples of All Nations"**

There are few opportunities presented that allows all corners of the Church to come together like World Youth Day does and at Castlerigg Manor this summer we were truly blessed by the support and presence of literally so many representatives from religious congregations; inter diocesan representatives, lay organisations, priests and ministers, that I can only but be deeply grateful. All of these people came to support 70 young people in their journey of faith and the evidence of the effect of this will be told for a long time to come. One religious sister even returned from a commitment in France to make sure she was there for our Vocations Fair. All of these representatives showed such desire to connect with our young people that they could be left in no doubt that the Church loves and cares for them. It was truly humbling to experience such commitment and support for our event and whilst nowhere near the size and scale of World Youth day in Rio, I am convinced it had no less an impact and depth of teaching and sharing that would be found there. This event for young adults I believe has equipped them with a depth of Church teaching and knowledge that will give them confidence to be the generation that truly responds to the call to "Go and Make Disciples of All Nations".

The Youth Service would like to extend our deep gratitude to all those from Salford Diocese, Lancaster Diocese and beyond, who took the time to be with us, walk with the young people and bring Christ's presence to them. Thank you.

**Yours sincerely, Ruth Corless**  
Director of the Diocesan Youth Service

Dear Editor

**Lancaster Diocese Pilgrimage to Lourdes 19th-26th July 2013**

As we entered the Shrine such a wonderful sight  
With everywhere bathed in its glorious light  
We stood overwhelmed by the sudden release  
Of our pent-up emotions to ineffable peace.

Somewhere in the distance a wonderful choir  
Professing to Mary "Our hearts are on fire";  
Then a thousand more voices joined those from afar  
The most beautiful "Ave, Ave Maria".

A brief glimpse of Heaven with a touch of your hand  
Feel the rock of the Grotto then you'll understand  
Why so many people come year after year  
To savour again how it feels to be here

Why they try to recapture those wonder filled days  
When the child Bernadette was permitted to gaze  
At the beautiful Lady who chose her to convey  
Her request for a church and for pilgrims to pray.

It was here at the Grotto that most Holy place  
That Mary our Mother overflowing with grace  
Offered this invitation to all those who sought her  
"Go drink at the stream and bathe in its water".

Now millions of pilgrims gather each year  
To pray where Our Lady chose to appear  
And all those so privileged are enable to tell  
What took place at the Grotto of Masabielle.

**By Harry Lister**

Dear Editor

Just wanted to say a massive thank you to all the people who donated towards the 'Lourdes' van. £1340 was raised which goes a long way towards the annual running cost of £1900. We appreciate all the support given.

Before we went to Lourdes we heard about the floods and many hotels were out of action. Unfortunately the garage where we store a lot of our equipment like the wheel chairs and commodes, were under 6ft of water/mud and it took a good three days for Phil and I to clean up and sterilise the chairs etc. Due to the flooding a lot of equipment had to be thrown away, like blankets, waterproofs and other medical equipment that has took years of fundraising to supply.

During pilgrimage week not all the chairs could take the pace due to the damage of the flooding and we were down to just 40 usable chairs. The youth section were brilliant in supporting us running to the different hotels collecting the ones which needed mending over the week. They were a brilliant bunch pushing our VIP's to the different Masses and all round supporting our pilgrimage to be the best.

The heat took its toll on quite few people from our normal English weather we are use to, with so much preparing ourselves for the heat, some of us were still not ready for it. It was great to be one in Lourdes as our Diocesan family, to see so many familiar faces. It was a real joy to be with people again, we certainly missed the ones who couldn't get out this year. However, candles were lit and prayers said at the Grotto for all.

**Many thanks again, George Benson**

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**M**y name is Stephen and for the past 25 years I have been working in the computer sector. Last month I started my priestly formation at St Mary's College, Oscott! So what would make an established computer administrator leave the security of a good job, career, house, home and happy life to start training to become a Roman Catholic priest?

### Well therein lies my story...

I come from a very devout Catholic family. My grandparents and mother were a big influence in the faith. I attended St Peter's Cathedral Primary School and then went to Our Lady's High school and onto college.

After finishing college and starting work I gradually abandoned the church, I could no longer see the point in going to Mass or attending the services which had been so much a part of my early life. In a way my faith no longer felt alive to me. At this time I led a pretty normal kind of life enjoying socialising with friends, listening to music and going to festivals, playing guitar in a few bands, reading, watching films doing sports. Looking back I can see that I never gave Jesus or my faith much thought, although I believe He was always there to be seen in my mum and grandparents' witness to their Faith.

In September 2009 things changed, when the relics of Therese of Lisieux visited Lancaster. Out of the blue my mum asked me to help serving refreshments at the Cathedral Social Centre.

I agreed to help and spent the first evening in the Social Centre feeling a bit like a fish out of water helping out where I could but generally not feeling of much use at all. At mum's suggestion and because I was curious to see what all the fuss was about I went over to the Cathedral and sat at the back of the church whilst masses of pilgrims filed up and down the aisles venerating the relics. I was struck with a sense of inner peace such that I hadn't felt since my school days. After spending a while simply sitting in the church I returned to helping at the Social Centre. The next evening, I attempted to go to the Mass; however, the church was so full I couldn't get in. Later when the crowds had disappeared I returned to the quiet church, I was struck by that simple awe and palpable sense of the divine which was quite overwhelming and certainly not something I was expecting. I just sat in the church relishing something which seemed I had lost for such a long time. I missed the departure of the relics of St Therese the following day due to work, although I'm sure she has never really left me.

Following this experience I felt I needed to be at church and started to attend daily Mass. Although I hadn't said them in a number of years, I found I enjoyed saying prayers which were imprinted on my memory; they began to come alive and mean something, the words of the Hail Holy Queen especially stood out for me.

The joy of this rediscovery was immense and that sense of inner peace and stillness



*Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of mercy,  
hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope.  
To thee do we cry,  
poor banished children of Eve:  
to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning  
and weeping in this vale of tears.  
Turn then, most gracious Advocate,  
thine eyes of mercy toward us,  
and after this our exile, show unto us  
the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus,  
O merciful, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary!  
Amen.*

*Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.  
That we may be made worthy of  
the promises of Christ.*



when kneeling in front of the Blessed Sacrament was *(and still is)* exquisite.

The next episode in my story was during a weekend to Belmont Abbey, where I had taken my mum. We stayed at the lodge but joined in with the community for the daily divine office, during each of these experiences God opened up my heart a little further and it was at Mass on the Sunday that I walked up the aisle with the rest of the congregation who were receiving Holy Communion, however, for me I had my arms crossed over my chest to simply receive a blessing. After this Mass I knew that I wanted to receive Christ again in Holy Communion and after tentatively receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Holy week I received the Lord in Holy Communion for the first time in fifteen years.

For the next year daily Mass became an integral part of the day, as did attending Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary and Vespers on Sundays. At this time I felt a new sense of spirituality, joy, awe, love and the presence of God who was so very real and alive. The thought of religious life occurred to me around this time, I began mulling it over and praying about it. I firstly approached the Capuchin Franciscans, who, at that time, had a house in Preston. Under the guidance of Brother Paul I attended a few discernment weekends joining other men who like me were trying to discern God's will for their lives.

After being asked by Father Stephen to

become a Eucharistic Minister I discussed my growing desire with him to put my name forward for the priesthood. He put me in touch with Fr Andrew the Lancaster Vocations Director. During the last couple of years, I have been meeting regularly with Fr Andrew to discern whether I have a vocation to the priesthood. And so last November I submitted a formal application and on 2nd May I was accepted by Bishop Michael Campbell to start formation this year at Oscott.

It's going to be quite a change! But as our Lord Jesus says "Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid, trust in God still and trust in me" and with this in mind I am setting my feet resolutely on the path and look forward to seeing where our Loving Lord Jesus will lead.



***Please keep me and all those who are discerning their vocation in your prayers.***

If you are interested in finding out about the priesthood or religious life don't put it off! Have a word now with your parish priest today! *Courtesy of the Cathedral Blog*

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# TAKING A CLOSER LOOK AT...

## St Mary's, Yealand Conyers

**The church of St Mary's is the oldest and smallest of the 3 parishes under the care of Canon John Gibson. The site for Catholic worship goes back to the 18th century when a chapel, which now serves as the church hall, was opened in 1782.**

The current church commissioned by Richard Gillow (*of Leighton Hall and cabinet/furniture fame*) opened in 1852. The whole complex of church, house and hall is now Grade II listed. A leaflet giving a brief history of the church is available in the porch and it is hoped to produce a more detailed history in the future. It is well worth a visit, although regrettably it is currently only open at Mass times, 6pm Saturday and 9am Wednesday.

The parish covers a largely rural community with few young families and a predominance of older people. Following the retirement of Fr Joseph Bamber on Easter Sunday 2009, the pastoral parish council embarked on a steep learning curve under the excellent guidance of Canon John Gibson. In addition to the day to day running of the parish a major refurbishment of the complex was started, in view of the age of the buildings the upkeep of the fabric is a continuous and at times expensive task.

The presbytery and hall underwent a complete refit with much of the work being undertaken by a small number of dedicated parishioners whose efforts helped to keep the work within budget. The house is now rented out on a long term basis and the hall is regularly used by a local art group and a dance class though we would welcome other users to make the most of the facilities. Hire charges are very reasonable. The income from the house and hall will hopefully enable the church to be refurbished in the future, in particular the heating needs to be improved in winter to retain and increase the congregation! The annual influx of holiday makers from the many local caravan

sites substantially increases the congregation in the summer at the popular Saturday vigil mass. The church is favoured for weddings in view of the fine architecture, superb country setting and ample car parking. The extensive grounds including two graveyards and parking areas keep a small group of volunteers busy especially in the summer.

Links between the 3 parishes continue to develop with parishioners attending services, fund raising activities (*especially for CAFOD*), talks and discussions held in each of the parishes. As part of St Mary's contribution to the Year of Faith "*Lectio Divina*" is held once a month giving people an opportunity to think and pray about the scriptures. The rosary is also said after Mass each Wednesday. In the past 3 years more members of the parish have taken on tasks including reading the liturgy and Eucharistic ministry. Hopefully these and other commitments will continue to attract people.

Ecumenical links with St John's (*C of E*) and the Quakers are well established with an annual Ecumenical Service rotating between the 3 churches and a number of social/musical events supported and enjoyed by all. The Christmas Carol Service with Kirkby Lonsdale brass band is a popular event though for 2013 it is being temporarily suspended until the church heating is improved! To quote Fr Bamber "*Many are cold but few are frozen.*" The statue of Our Lady, on the lawn at the rear of the church was originally in the chapel at St John of God, Silverdale. The view from the "new" cemetery is quite spectacular, weather permitting, and visitors can sit awhile on Fr Bamber's commemorative bench.

After 231 years St. Mary's continues to thrive and will hopefully be able to continue to support the Catholics of the area for many years to come.

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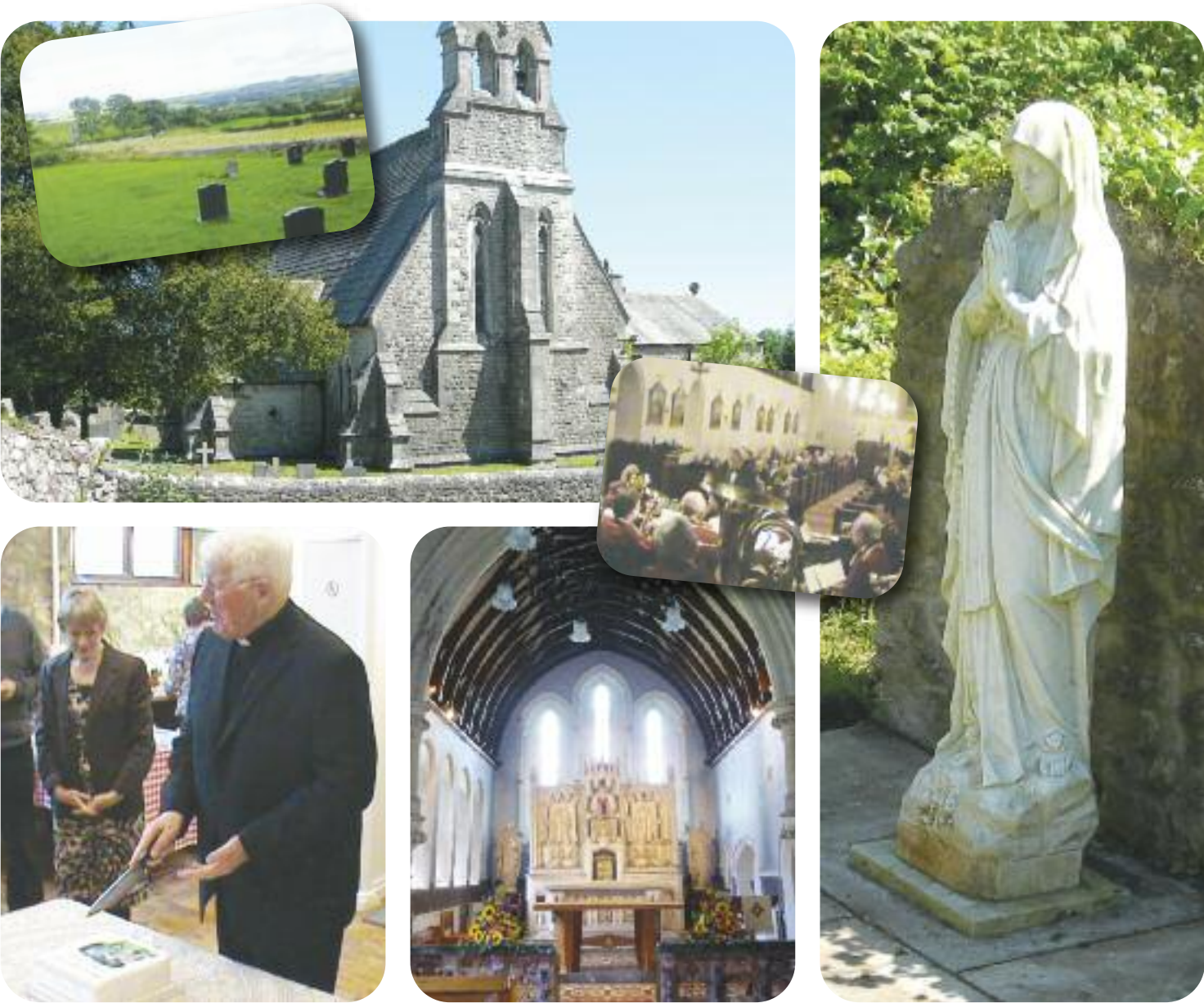
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# TAKING A CLOSER LOOK AT...

## St Charles Borromeo, Grange-Over-Sands

**The church is dedicated to St Charles Borromeo 1538-1584 - Archbishop of Milan and Cardinal. Father John Bilsborrow, later Bishop of Salford, established this church in 1883 with the help of John & Ellen Sutcliffe Witham of Kentsford. Canon Richard Langtree 1883-1929 purchased the adjoining field and created an outstanding rose garden.**

Despite the fact that Grange is such a quiet and peaceful little township with no industry of any kind, St Charles' was the first Church in the Lancaster diocese to suffer damage by enemy action in May 1941.

### Parish Social Life:

The Ladies' Group meets for lunch in the Fr Magner Room each month and organises short outings locally for its members. From time to time they invite a guest speaker.

The Men's Group meets once a month at Hampsfell House Hotel. At each meeting there is a guest speaker. Afterwards, a warm buffet supper is served.

The Sunday Lunch Club meets on the last Sunday of each month. The meal, prepared by three parishioners, is primarily intended for older parishioners and those who are living alone.

The Social Committee consists of a group of parishioners who organise a wide range of social activities for the benefit of the parish and any visitors who may wish to join in. Events have included flower festivals, quizzes, illustrated talks, wine tastings and lake cruises etc.

### Ecumenism

Two parishioners are members of the local "Churches Together" committee, one presently taking the office of president. Events such as the annual Carol Concert at Boarbank Hall, the Week of

Prayer, a Walk of Witness on Good Friday and currently the first of what is hoped will be an annual "Freely Given" Fun Day, as outreach to residents and visitors.

### Outreach

Together with the Ecumenical outreach, the Parish is involved with Cenacolo and Fr George and Fr Francis, priests working in Africa.

### Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and Readers

The parish has 9 extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, their ministry includes assisting with the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass and taking the Eucharist to the sick and housebound within the parish. 11 Readers cover St Charles and St Cuthbert's (Chapel of Ease) at Flookburgh.

### Deacons

Two Deacons, George Bissett and Joe Pryzlucki share in weddings, baptisms, funerals, preaching and organising of a variety of activities assisting Parish Priest Fr. Alf Parker.

### Prayer Group

Around 6 or 7 members have met weekly for the past 8/9 years.

### St Vincent De Paul

The SVP has been active in St Charles' parish for many years. It has 8 members and meets regularly to review work that needs doing in the parish. The majority of the work undertaken by members is visiting the sick and elderly either in their own homes, residential care homes or in hospital; providing transport to Mass, hospital etc. They are also active in the diocese by supporting the furniture project and internationally by providing financial support to our twinned conference in India, and also sponsoring students. The conference also supports the Sudan Baby Feeding Appeal.



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# The Divine Gardener

*Oh Lord You are the Divine Gardener You planted us as tiny seeds with such love into your rich soil and waited, Waited to see if we would come to the surface and know your tender care, Some stayed for a long time in the soil, happy to just be there, For others it took a lifetime to eventually appear, nervously, And for others who felt your love early they broke through quickly into life.*

*When we took that first step and first appeared as tiny shoots, You nourished us with your life giving water, And poured down on us your light and love, Tenderly You cared for us, watched us grow and waited with infinite patience, Waiting for us to hear your tender loving voice, Waiting for us to give ourselves totally into your care, Then, your delight in us showed in our growth, From tiny green shoots, we all became different, Unique and special to Your divine heart, Each one a wonderful creation of Yours, Lord The Divine Gardener, Some strong and green, towering above all the other plants, Others tiny beautiful flowers that covered the ground, and others strong and tall waving in the breeze, bending to hear your voice, and others flowers with petals of amazing colours of the rainbow,*

*Yet, sometimes the world and all its distractions comes and takes some of your precious shoots by the roots, They are broken and dying without your tender care, Yet you tenderly pick them up and replant them so carefully, Supporting and loving them, until they come back to life, Sometimes much stronger and more beautiful than they were before. Oh Lord, the Divine Gardener, Let me always live in your rich soil, be watered by your life giving water, Feel your light and love on me, Be a creation of your love, and fill your house with my fragrance, The fragrance of God's love.*

Anon

## Farewell to a much loved Headteacher

- Mrs Brigid Gildert ,  
St John's RC Primary School  
Poulton-le-Fylde



**B**rigid was born in 1952 and grew up in Workington, the third of four girls. She attended St Patrick's primary school and then moved on to St Joseph's High School before entering Teacher Training College at Christ's in Liverpool where she met John, her future husband.

After a short spell teaching in Liverpool Brigid moved to Our Lady of Lourdes in Carnforth where she spent five happy years learning the art of teaching. She married John in 1975 who was, by now, teaching at Our Lady's High School in Lancaster.

Brigid and John have two children, Christopher and Ruth. And whilst the children were growing up Brigid took a short break from teaching before taking up a post at SS Patrick's and Mary in Morecambe and eventually a deputy headship at St Mary's Fleetwood before moving to St Joseph's Wesham as headteacher.

In 1997 Brigid moved to St John's School Poulton as headteacher and it is here that she retires from a long a fruitful career or should that read Vocation! For one does not achieve what Brigid has achieved without having a full blown commitment to teaching, to her teaching staff, the children in her care and as Advisor to nine schools.

"We all wish her happiness in retirement, which has been well earned" said Fr John Walsh PP.

The school said farewell to Brigid at a Mass concelebrated by Canon Luiz Ruscillo, Fr John Walsh and Fr John Moriarty during which Brigid was presented with a Papal Blessing and the Bene Merenti medal.

The final word goes to Brigid who addressed the children at Mass by encouraging them to "Love one another" and for each child "to pledge to be the very best that they can be and to be always true to self".

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## A Fitting Tribute

**M**ass was celebrated at St. John the Evangelist Poulton-le-Fylde in August and incorporated the blessing of the headstone of Canon Edmond 'Ned' Patrick Carey who passed away in March.

Over 200 attended the Mass along with the choir and organist from St. Bernadette's Bispham, good friend Kath Pickup and her daughter Sarah gave a duet, Canon Alf Heys led the service and gave a fitting tribute assisted by Father John Walsh, Father John Winstanley, Canon Bob Dewhurst, Father John Moriarty and Deacon Bill Milton. The memorial was covered with the Irish flag which was removed before the headstone was blessed.

Chris Hull, Blackpool





## Fr. Tom Quirke RIP

**Fr. Tom was born over 90 years ago in Banagher, Co Offaly. He was educated in Banagher and later the Marist Brothers Juniorate in Dumfries, Scotland - followed by University College in Dublin.**

He spent a large part of his adult life as a teaching brother. But at an age when many teachers were looking to retirement, God had different ideas for Tom. He was nearly 60 when he began training for the priesthood.

After ordination, he served as Assistant Priest at Our Lady & St Edward, Preston, then at St Walburge, Preston, and then on to Our Lady Star of the Sea, St Anne's.

His final appointment was as Parish Priest of St Margaret Mary, Carlisle where he served until his retirement in 1997. It was a parish he was delighted to serve. He said that when Bishop Brewer asked him if he would like to go to St Margaret Mary's as Parish Priest he had to try hard not to seem too keen on accepting the

appointment - because his Mother always had a particularly strong devotion to St. Margaret Mary's. It was as though it was made for him. One of the first things he did was to purchase of statue of St. Margaret Mary and create a shrine there dedicated to his parents. At the blessing of the shrine he said he had been disappointed to find that there was in the Church - no stature, no picture, nothing about St. Margaret Mary. When the Stained Glass window of St. Margaret Mary was pointed out to him, he said "Gee, I never noticed that".

He left his mark on St. St. Margaret Mary's in other ways. Because he was getting hard of hearing he asked Canon Bob Dewhurst to get him a doorbell that he could hear. To this day, the industrial fire alarm still shakes the Presbytery at St Margaret Mary's, when anyone presses the bell.

People of the parish remember Tom as a great Priest for getting the Youth of the Parish involved. This evidently was a feature of his earlier life as a Marist

Brother which continued through in to his Priestly life.

Fr Tom encouraged teenage children to read and become Ministers of the Holy Eucharist as soon as they were old enough. He felt that it was a way in which children and young adults could build up confidence. He would also encourage any participation in events around the Diocese such as the Castlerigg Easter services and further afield such as World Youth Day & the Music week in Leeds Diocese every year.

Although he suffered poor health for a major part of his last years at St Margaret Mary's, this did not curtail his activities as he tried to run the parish even from Hospital or Boarbank where he went to recover from his heart attack.

He continued his friendship to the Parish long after retirement and he offered his last public Mass on the Field at St Margaret Mary's in May last year. He thought about retiring to St. Gregory's where he often came to Supply, but

eventually went to St. Winefride's and then to the care of the Sisters at Boarbank.

In all that he did, in all that he was, Tom was a man of faith. The Gospel reading today comes from Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount" and is more commonly referred to as "The Beatitudes". The Beatitudes describe as happy or blessed, those who imitate Jesus' attitude of gentleness, compassion, and mercy, those who patiently wait for his coming, who thirst and hunger for what is right. Happiness comes to those who allow the grace of God to act in their lives; who have the eyes of faith to see God ... and allow others to see God in them.

We have been blessed to have Fr. Tom as a priest of our Diocese. And as he returns for burial to the place of his birth we pray that he may he now enjoy the fullness of God's kingdom, *'through every age, and forever'*.

*Fr Peter Draper*

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

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### Mass Listings - October 2013



Sunday October 6th at 6.00 pm  
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost  
Christ the King, Harraby, Carlisle



Sunday October 20th at 3.00 pm  
Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost  
St Mary's, Hornby

Due to clergy moves there is no longer Extraordinary Form Mass at St Mary's, Barrow. Please check with Local Representatives or on the website for future information, and if travelling long distances, please contact us before you set off, as changes do sometimes occur.

Mass is also celebrated every Sunday at 9.00 am at St Mary Magdalene, Leyland Road, Penwortham.

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Website: [latinmasslancaster.blogspot.com](http://latinmasslancaster.blogspot.com)





Fifteen months ago at her golden jubilee, I said to Sr Maureen that I thought it was a risky step to ask someone who had embarked on the Ursuline journey with her to speak at that celebration. The risk had nothing to do with thoughts or premonitions of sudden death, but the shock of Maureen's death has probably shaken all of us in the depths of our being.

Maureen was born in April 1937. Her family always meant a great deal to her and it is sad, if not almost unbelievable, that her much loved younger brother, Michael, died so suddenly just after her golden jubilee. Nor did she live to see the twin boys to whom her niece, Catherine, gave birth some ten days ago and whose arrival Maureen anticipated with such joy.

After primary school, Maureen went to the Ursuline Convent in Wimbledon where her intellectual prowess was quickly very apparent and she went on to successfully complete her BA Hons in French at the University of Leicester before entering the novitiate. Our novitiate days embrace a wealth of anecdotes! But suffice it to say that we made it to temporary profession on

# Memories by Sr Anne Benyon

23rd April 1962 and then to the House of Studies in Wimbledon. Here Maureen began her study for an MA in French by thesis and completed this on Gabriel Marcel at King's College in the University of London.

From the House of Studies she went to the newly opened Christ's College in Liverpool and became a member of the French department under the leadership of Tom Gilmour. Maureen loved the life of the College and was held in great affection by staff and students alike. She was responsible for Angela Hall, a student hall of residence and also lectured in the Divinity department, all of this she took in her stride and together we organised away weekends – initially with the members of the chapel choir. We also walked the hills and enjoyed being young! Maureen was instrumental in indirectly encouraging the Ursuline vocations of two students. Not surprisingly, given her intellectual and organisational qualities, Maureen was next appointed Vice-Principal and remained in this post until the Ursulines withdrew from Christ's College in the early 1980s.

Tertiaship, a year of renewal in Rome and Senegal, and some time teaching in Ursuline schools in Ilford and Wimbledon, followed – but not for long. In 1985, Maureen was appointed provincial of the English province. As provincial she demonstrated her gifts of leadership and her vision for the future. Smaller communities were opened in Beckton and Surrey Docks. It was a time when there were a number of younger middle aged Ursulines and although the number of new vocations had begun to fall away, the future looked positive and inviting.

Much to her surprise, Maureen was next asked by Mother Bernadette Josèphe, prioress general, to go to Cameroon as local prioress there. This came as a shock to Maureen, who had been looking forward to resuming her ministry in England. As always, however, she took up the challenge with courage and energy, both in the community and the school. As delegate of the community in Cameroon, Maureen took part in the general chapter of 1995. In all, she participated in three general chapters, either as provincial or delegate. Her experience of different provinces and of the work of chapters was invaluable when she generously responded to requests for simultaneous translation from French into English at generalate meetings.

There are many who can bear witness to her gift for making strong, firm friendships, and who will miss her support and generosity. And so, in Maureen's journey, we arrive at the end of the 20th century, when it might be expected that she would be able to take some well-deserved rest. Her sight which had never been good was clearly deteriorating, which caused her suffering but not resentment. However, this time marked the start of what has been arguably the happiest and certainly an exceptionally fruitful part of her life. She came to Lancaster on her return from Cameroon in 1995. She embarked with Sr Zela and the various Ursulines who joined the community at different times on a very different life. At diocesan level, Maureen was involved in preparing candidates for the diaconate. At St Thomas More, she established the Marsh Age Link (and was still chair of the management committee). This continues to embrace those living nearby in a variety of activities. A satellite parish under the umbrella of this cathedral was set up. The beautiful peace garden in the grounds came into being. All in all, Maureen- and Zela too

– became an essential part of St Thomas More, helping families, knowing well so many contacts. It is abundantly clear today how much the community has been taken to the hearts of all the parishioners and so many others. The Company of St Ursula came into being as did the Angelinas, a group of young mothers who look to St Angela for help and guidance. These innovations speak volumes of the depth of prayer which gave birth to them, and of the heartfelt love of St Angela. our foundress.

Maureen had frequently expressed her wish to live and die in Lancaster. I suppose Rhodes is rather a long way from Lancaster, but Maureen's love, prayer and spirit is rooted so firmly here it embraced her whole being. Her love and prayer for Lancaster and indeed for all of us will continue to enfold the Ursulines, her family, St Thomas More parish and all those she knew and loved. Maureen died on what would normally have been the feast of Saints Peter and Paul. At Mass on the Sunday, when we celebrated the feast in England, I was struck by the beginning of the second reading which in many ways summed up so much of what Maureen's life said to me on that day.

*"My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing"*

A woman of tremendous self-giving, accepting of what God might offer her, courageous, persevering; a woman of prayerful fidelity and committed to her Ursuline vocation. **May Maureen rest in peace.**

*Abridged by the Editor*

## A stunning retirement community set on the edge of the Ribble Valley

The next phase of this success story is now available – **SHOW HOME READY TO VIEW**

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The Sisters of Nazareth recently launched the second phase of their retirement development at Beardwood on the edge of the Ribble valley. The Open Day was well supported by representatives of senior citizens groups, clergy and the local business community. Guests enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch in the Garden Lounge.

This unique retirement solution provides an alternative to the traditional ideas of "down-sizing" and offers an innovative approach to retirement living. Here residents can combine an active life-style and independence with access to an extensive range of "hotel style" social and leisure facilities and support if needed.

The high quality of the accommodation impressed the visitors who were treated to a tour of the attractive and generously proportioned apartments and bungalows. Residents have access to a range of thoughtfully designed facilities providing them with every modern convenience. In addition to the restaurant, bar and coffee shop there is a cinema, games and hobbies rooms, hairdresser, laundry, a visiting doctor and a minibus in a totally secure environment. Externally the landscaped gardens are spectacular, with views over the Ribble Valley. The gardens provide sheltered seating areas, a terrace leading from the Garden Lounge, perfect for summer barbecues, an unusual herb garden and the chance for keen gardeners to access small allotments.

A unique signature for the village is its Catholic history and ethos. The Sisters of Nazareth who recently celebrated one hundred years of providing care in Blackburn, have continued their mission, providing a safe, caring and tranquil environment. Many of the existing residents have chosen Larmenier Village because of the strong Catholic ethic, which is embodied in the beautiful octagonal chapel, placed at the very heart of the village. An important feature for many is the daily Mass. In addition the various buildings are named after some of the Lancashire Martyrs including John Southworth and Thomas Whitaker.





# One Faith. One Family.

**H**ow many 15 year-old boys do you know who, without embarrassment, admit that being part of a lively faith community helps to give meaning to life? Yet Tlotlo, a 15 year-old South African schoolboy, declares, *'The parish is home to me. Growing up as a young boy I didn't see the point and my mum would drag me to church. But now, I come to church on my own. I'm not ashamed. Other teenagers might lose interest, but I don't.'*

Tlotlo lives in Mogwase, a platinum mining town close to Sun City in South Africa's North-Western Province. Tourists from across the world visit Sun City and the magnificent Pilanesberg National Park, but bypass Mogwase, reluctant to witness the poverty of its mining community. But the tourists are the losers. Those who live in the shanty compounds surrounding the mines experience tremendous hardship, but the Church is also alive and active, truly *'one faith and one family'*.

Many Catholic parishes throughout Africa are subdivided into Small Christian Communities, (SCC). These family clusters sustain the faith, life and energy of the parish and the local community, especially in remote areas where a priest might not be regularly available.

Mogwase's SCCs are the building blocks and mortar of the parish. Is a new church or classroom needed? The SCCs make the bricks and provide the labour. Does the church property need cleaning and maintenance? The SCCs see to it. Are there sick people in the vicinity? The SCCs visit them, pooling meagre resources to ensure that the patient has food and medicine. When there is a death, the nearest SCC organises the funeral and the burial. They prepare children for the Sacraments, instruct converts and form church choirs. Understanding that they belong to *'one faith and one family'*, their weekly meeting identifies and plans concrete ways of putting the Gospel into practice.

Tlotlo left the Church for a while, but not for long. *'I didn't find what I wanted elsewhere. I can now see that this is where I belong and this is my faith.'* After a request from the parish priest, he now helps youngsters whose faith is shaky. *'My mum was a good example in coming to church and being active in the SCC. Both of my elder brothers were enthusiastically engaged in the SCC*

*and advised me to stay involved. I feel blessed. It gives me an opportunity to serve God.'*

*'In the SCC, I have a second home, amongst people who saw me grow up from a baby into the young man I am today. My faith has helped me mature and be more understanding. I have become a youth leader. To my surprise, I was elected Head Boy at my Catholic school.'*

Jacinta is Tlotlo's mother and a parish catechist. She explains that the parish community's impact extends beyond their own parish. *'Sometimes in our SCCs we find non-Catholics joining us. They don't have that same sense of community and family in their own churches. They see that we care for the poor. We don't have much to give, but we pray for them. We also pray for the sick who come to the church from the hospice down the road. We have a healing service once a year.'*

*'I joined the workshop for catechists simply because I wanted to enrich my faith. I wanted to understand in adulthood what my faith meant. When I became a Catechist, I was invited to lead a group of young people who had just made their First Communion and stayed with them until Confirmation.'* Jacinta laughed as she reflected on her value to her parish family. *'Now I prepare all the parish candidates for Confirmation. Nobody wants me to leave the group!'*

Jacinta described the impact of the SCC on her own and her family's lives. *'My husband and I had three children. The eldest is the altar server. My husband helps with leading the service when the priest isn't here. We can only have Mass every two weeks, so it is the SCC's responsibility to lead a prayer service when there is no Mass.'*

*'I am proud to have this faith passed on to me by my parents. I don't remember a day without going to Mass. On Saturdays my mother, sisters and I would wake up and go and clean the main church. In the evening Father Vincent would take us home and say Mass in our house. The SCC built a sub-parish church here. When it was finished, people could see it and find us. We grew from 20 coming together for Mass under a tree to over 300 in our own church!'* She added, *'I even founded a choir. We started with 12 singers and now there are more than 30.'*

World Mission Sunday is about helping parishes such as that in Mogwase. It is about supporting parishioners just like

Jacinta and her son Tlotlo, who speak so confidently about their parish family as they live out their faith surrounded by the appalling poverty and hardship of a mining township.

The hands of the SCCs become ours, reaching out to the poor and needy, providing a lifeline to child-headed households where parents have died of HIV/AIDS and bereaved children are left to care for each other. Countless families, where one or more members has HIV/AIDS, could not cope without the daily visits and nursing care given freely and unstintingly by SCC members whose faith in God underpins and inspires their generosity.

*'One faith. One family.'* World Mission Sunday is the annual day of solidarity

celebrated by the Church across the world. The collection in your parish helps the SCCs in Mogwase to continue caring for each other. It sustains 1,069 dioceses in developing countries. Without your help, many parishes would struggle to survive.

World Mission Sunday shares and builds our faith, nurtures and strengthens the family of our Church. In Brazil in July, Pope Francis declared *'Go and make disciples. Go beyond the confines of what is humanly possible and create a world of brothers and sisters.'* This is also the message of World Mission Sunday as we celebrate *'One faith and one family in Christ.'* *by Missio*

**To find out more about World Mission Sunday, go to [www.missio.org.uk](http://www.missio.org.uk)**



## STONYHURST

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# Trio of Professions to the Religious Life



## Sister Hilda, Bernardine Cistercian

After completing her time as a postulant and then a novice, Jane Frances became Sr. Hilda, received her habit and made her vows.

The Rite of Profession took place during a special Mass, attended by Bishop Michael Campbell O.S.A. and celebrated by Bishop Hugh Gilbert O.S.B. of Aberdeen. The Prioress General of the Order, Sr. Mary Helen Jackson, received Sr. Hilda's vows, which are made for three years at First Profession.

First Profession marks the beginning of a Sister's life as a Cistercian nun, as she publicly promises stability, conversion of life and obedience. These are the three monastic vows in the tradition of St. Benedict, whose rule is followed by Benedictines and Cistercians around the world.

Bishop Gilbert spoke of the actions we make accompanying the primary action of the Holy Spirit, through whom profession is received by the Sister as a gift from God.

Sisters from Bernardine monasteries in Gloucestershire and France were joined by friends from many stages of Sr. Hilda's life, going back to her school days, to rejoice with her, her family and the community at Hyning.

Indeed, the Church was full of family and friends to witness this significant event in the life of Sr. Hilda, the life of the Cistercian Order of the Bernardines of Esquermes, and of the Universal Church.



## Sister Emma Haynes SHM

Sister Emma's father David writes "Our eldest daughter Emma has been for the last eight years following a path she started when she was 18 and which came to fruition on 8 September when she took her final vows as a Servant Sister of the Home of the Mother.

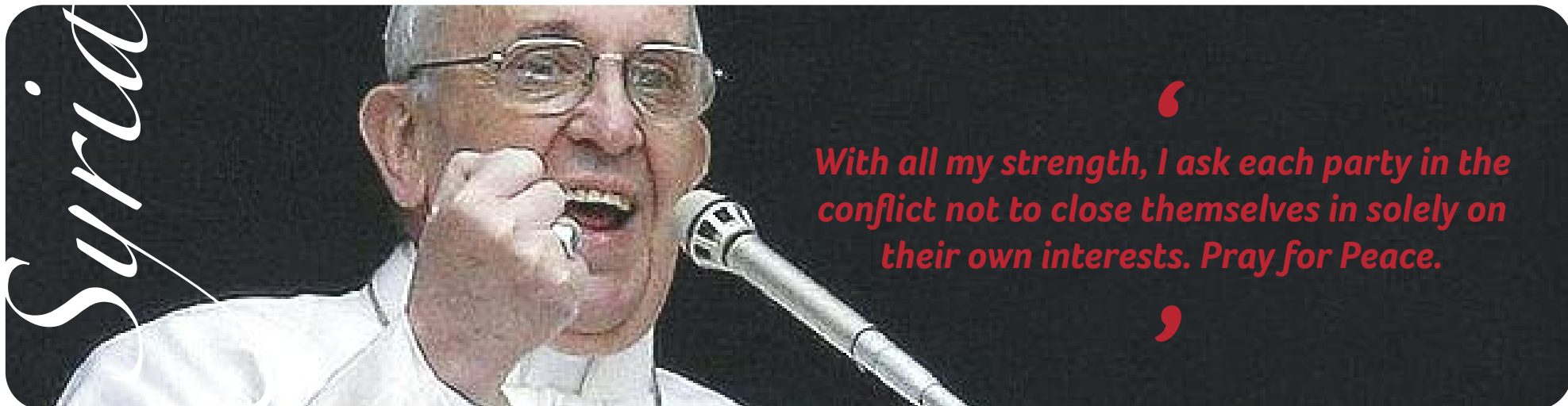
Her journey towards a vocation initially started in the UK, but it was only through going on a summer camp for girls in southern Ireland that she became aware of a relatively new Catholic community of religious sisters, priests and brothers, the Home of the Mother, in Spain. This is an orthodox association with complete allegiance to the Church, but exuding a youthfulness which is perhaps in need elsewhere. It is a shame they are not widely known in the UK, but that will be a later goal. After an invitation to visit, she felt this was her calling and has progressed from there."



## Sister Silvana, Augustinian Canonesses

The spiritual life of the Augustinian Canonesses is structured on the Gospels and the Rule of St Augustine: 'Before all else, live in harmony, being of one heart and one mind on the way to God, sharing everything in common.' Their constitutions enable them to put this into practice, summing up the characteristics of life as Canonesses through: liturgical and personal prayer; sharing all things in common; and the service of the sick and needy through

works of mercy and hospitality. Sister Silvana's life will be lived in the stability of a monastery, which, implanted in a particular church, 'aspires to be a centre of vibrant love for the building up of the Body of Christ'.



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