

The Catholic VOICE *of Lancaster*

The Official Newspaper to
the Diocese of Lancaster
Issue 262 + September 2014

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“Wherever consecrated people are, there is always joy!”

Pope Francis



The ‘Year for Consecrated Life’ officially begins on November 30, 2014, the first Sunday of Advent. Pope Francis has called for a special year long focus on Consecrated Life, asking the Church’s religious sisters, brothers and priests to ‘wake up the world’ with their testimony of faith, holiness and hope. It will end on February 2, 2016, the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life.



“They (the consecrated) are men and woman who can awaken the world. Consecrated life is prophecy. God asks us to fly the nest and to be sent to the frontiers of the world, avoiding the temptation to ‘domesticate’ them. This is the most concrete way of imitating the Lord.” – Pope Francis

To mark this ‘Year for Consecrated Life’ the **Catholic Voice** will be carrying interviews and articles on the consecrated life over the next twelve months.

Prayer

God, Our Father, thank you for your son, Jesus, our Good Shepherd, who leads us to fullness of life.

By our baptism, we are called by name to continue the mission of Jesus.

Give us the grace to listen with an open heart to the voice of Jesus and to respond generously with a joyful spirit.

Strengthen the men and women you called to serve through consecrated life.

Guide all who are discerning their Christian vocation.

In gratitude we offer this prayer through Jesus and the Holy Spirit, united with you forever.

Amen

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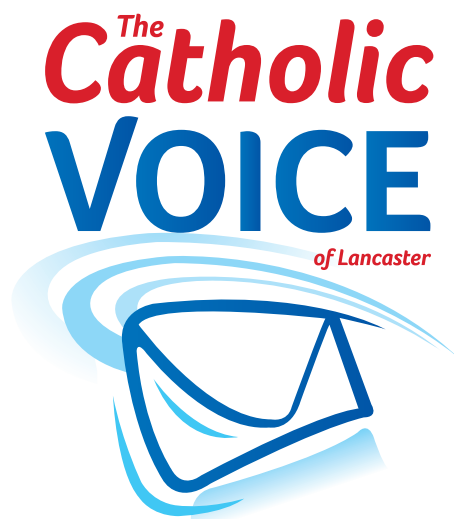


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EDITORIAL

As the Catholic Voice prepares to go to print for the September edition, (somewhat early due to summer holidays), the military temperature between Israel and the Hamas forces in Gaza is rising. The escalating conflict has already caused the deaths of many innocent people and the possibility of ground force activity could lead to many more casualties.

The rhetoric from the opposing sides has so far resisted any international political mediation to broker a ceasefire and lasting resolution. And as the situation grows graver by the day the **Catholic Voice** would urge all those with any influence to be unstinting in their efforts to prevent any further human distress and suffering.

Back in May when Pope Francis visited the Holy Land he pleaded for peace saying "We must always go out in courage to the path of dialogue, peace and reconciliation" And he invited President Mahmoud Abbas and President Shimon Peres to the Vatican in June to pray for peace, "I wish to invite you, to join me in heartfelt prayer to God for the gift of peace". "I offer my home in the Vatican as a place for this encounter of prayer".

Pope Francis referring to the joint prayer held in the Vatican on 8 June, said: "Some people might think that such a meeting was

in vain. But this is not the case because prayer helps us not to be conquered by evil or resign ourselves to violence and hatred." Pope Francis, before reciting the Angelus prayer on 13 July, invited all the faithful to join him in praying for peace in the Middle East by praying:

Lord help us!

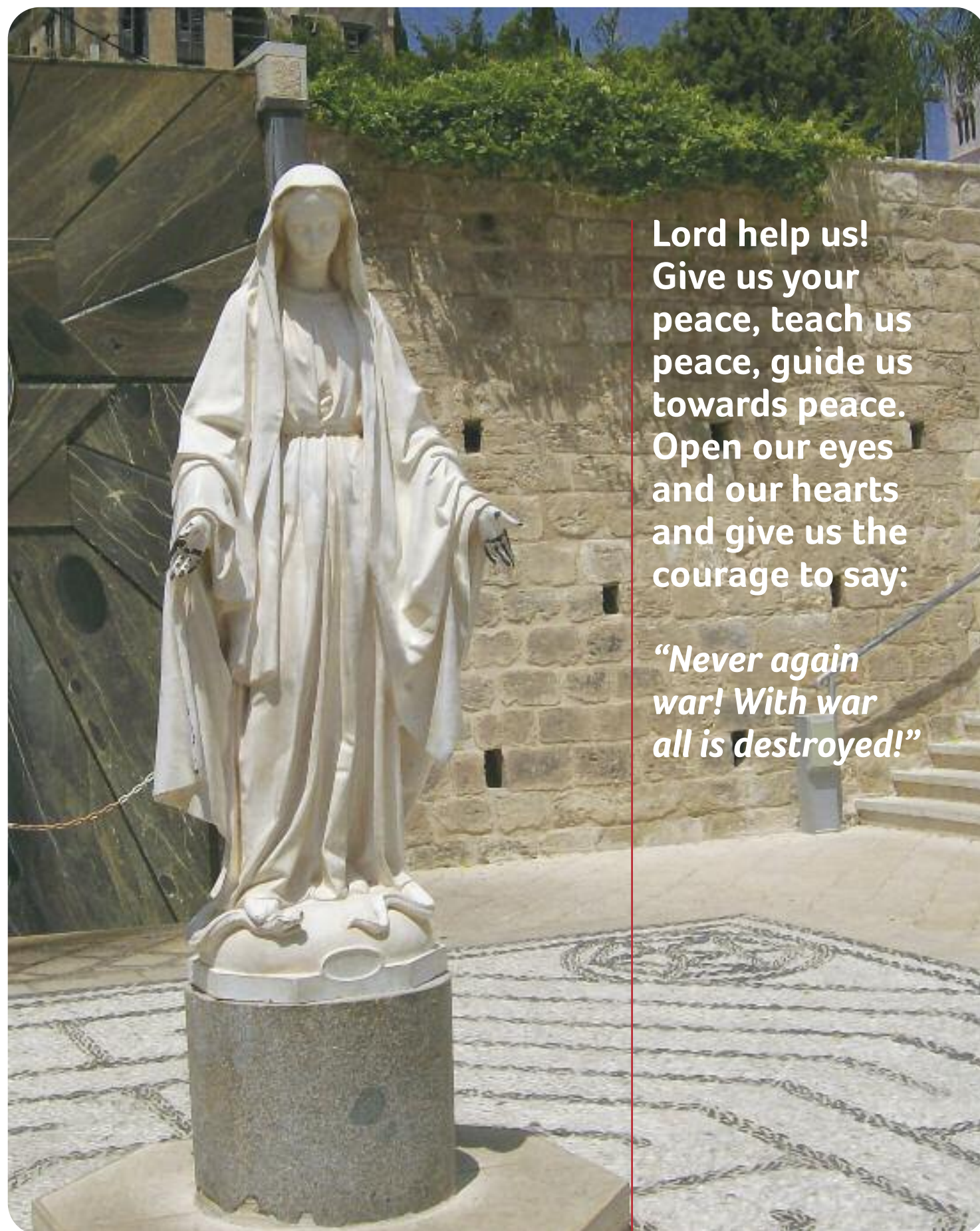
Give us your peace, teach us peace, guide us towards peace. Open our eyes and our hearts and give us the courage to say:

"Never again war! With war all is destroyed!"

Give us the courage to perform concrete gestures to build peace. Make us available to listen to the cries of our fellow citizens who ask us to transform our arms into instruments of peace, our fears into trust, our tension into forgiveness. Amen.

The **Catholic Voice** would also like to encourage individuals, parishes, schools, religious communities, families and prayer groups to seek the intercession of Mary the Queen of Peace by reciting the Holy Rosary during the month of October for a lasting peace in the Middle East.

Photo below: Statue outside the Church of the Annunciation Nazareth.



**Lord help us!
Give us your
peace, teach us
peace, guide us
towards peace.
Open our eyes
and our hearts
and give us the
courage to say:**

**"Never again
war! With war
all is destroyed!"**



Matrimony Matters

We have heard the Father expressing his love for Jesus and describing him as someone *"in whom my soul delights"*. How often do we say to each other *'I really feel wonderful when I am with you'*? Words and acts of affirmation are so important and they are the best way to tell our partner that we love them. Yet, so often we submit to a culture in which there is a reluctance to give praise in case it leads to unwelcome expectations or unhealthy pride.

Sometimes, we just have the wrong focus. We can be acutely aware of the ways in which our spouse annoys us, and makes mistakes, without recognising the efforts they are making. Sometimes we are not aware of his/her accomplishments. It would be better at such times to look for good things and affirm them for who they are, their qualities and achievements, rather than taking them for granted or being critical.

It is good to work things out together instead of doing our own thing. When we feel critical we need to develop a sensitivity that will flag up danger signals in our heads so that we remember that *'this is my chosen one'*, and by affirming our husband or wife, let them know how much they mean to us.

PRAYER

Lord, when I feel critical of my beloved, please help me to be aware of the efforts they are making and, instead of just voicing my criticism, let me give praise for their achievements.

Amen

"Our souls may lose their peace and even disturb other people's, if we are always criticising trivial actions - which often are not real defects at all, but we construe them wrongly through our ignorance of their motives." - Saint Teresa of Avila

"We all know there is no such thing as the perfect family or a perfect husband or wife. I won't even mention a perfect mother-in-law...It's us who do exist, sinners. Jesus knows us well and He tells us a secret: Never let the day end, without apologizing." - Pope Francis

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (Corinthians 13: 4-7)



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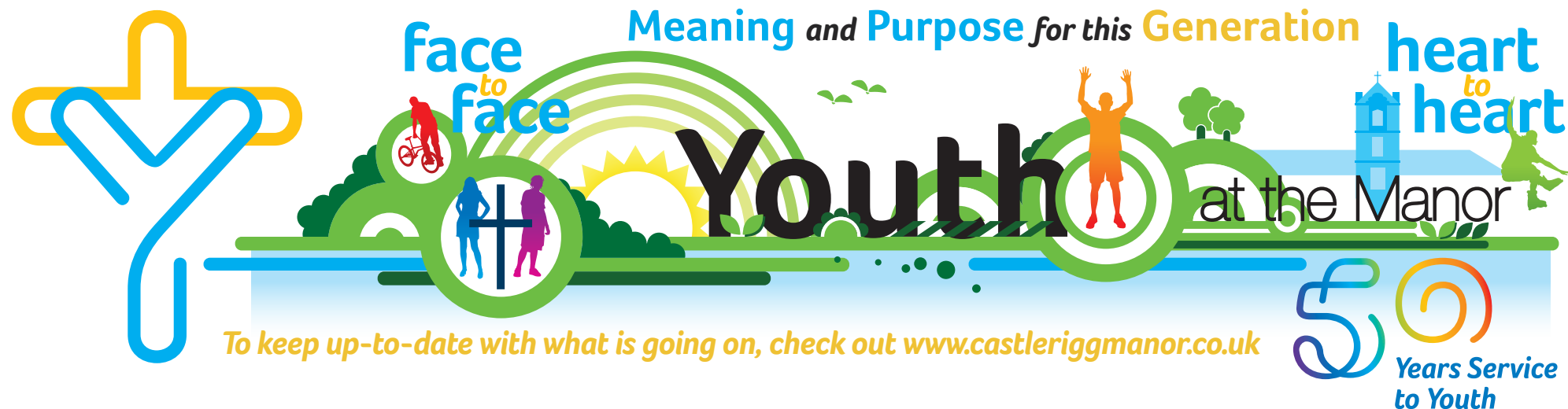
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Being a Young Catholic Today

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An Amazing gift of freedom

Being a young Catholic today – the first thing to remember about such a statement is that, in terms of faith, age really is just a number. Whether you're 8 or 80, your faith is equally important. However, the truth about youth is that we do have it differently in society.

I have only a small group of friends that live close by who are Catholics, which means that my social interactions with people of faith are limited. However, I wouldn't have it any other way, because the specified gatherings for young Catholics such as Castlerigg retreats, pilgrimages to Lourdes, among other activities, provide young Catholics like myself with the opportunity to realise that I am not alone.

We all have different lives; different hometowns, accents, career paths, futures, all heading in multiple directions. But God is what has bound us all together. I believe fully that my time surrounded by other young Catholics has helped me to develop my confidence in proclaiming my faith, as well as strengthening my relationship with God.

Realising that I am not the only young Catholic out there has given me the amazing gift of freedom.

Surviving University

- A student's perspective

Moving out to university is one of the most exciting times of your life; suddenly you're going to be greeted with a whole new world of freedom, where it's up to you and you alone, to make the daily decisions, that up until now, have mainly been made by your parents or guardians.

You know, it's up to you to decide whether you're going to actually get up out of bed that day and go to lectures (*my advice to this one is DO go to your lectures, as tempting as it is to stay in bed watching Netflix all day... You WILL regret this at the end of term*). It's up to you to decide what you're going to have for tea (*more advice: nobody will judge you for having beans on toast every day, and it's considerably cheaper than ordering from Dominos every day*). And it's up to you to decide whether you're going to keep on going to church at the weekend. Without anyone there to get you out of bed on a Sunday morning, actively choosing to get up and go to Mass might be one of the hardest things you encounter.

First things first, you're going to have to tell your new flatmates that you are a Catholic. For me, I hadn't even been in the flat an hour and someone had spotted my pink sparkly statue of Our Lady. The best thing you can do is be honest from the start. It doesn't have to be exaggerated into a big announcement, but don't hide it. It is not your mission to convert everyone you're living with; your presence in your halls will be enough to show people that hey, actually, maybe the Catholic Church isn't all bad news!

It might seem that choosing to go to Mass at the weekend will mean turning up to Saturday night festivities late, or dragging

yourself out of bed on Sunday morning. However, it is so worth checking out your university's Catholic Chaplaincy. The chances are that the Mass times are chosen to suit the students – and yes, they do take into consideration the fact that even Catholic students enjoy a night out at the weekend! Getting the balance between the amount of time you spend socialising and the amount of time you spend with Jesus isn't something you have to work out for yourself. Stick around the chaplaincy for a bit and you will find like-minded people who are in the same position as you. Many chaplains will offer spiritual direction where you can go and talk with the priest about any struggles you're facing.

Being Catholic and being a student isn't incompatible, or unrealistic. At university you become your own person, and your faith will not hold you back but will in fact make you stronger! Check out Phillipians 4:13 – “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Also, I like this from Pope Francis, “Dear young people, please, don't be observers of life, but get involved. Jesus did not remain an observer, but he immersed himself. Don't be observers, but immerse yourself in the reality of life, as Jesus did.” Don't be afraid to let your faith become an active part of your life, as Pope Francis says, immerse yourself! You're Catholic, you're not an alien, it's as much a part of you as the way you laugh and the way you talk. Be open and be true to yourself, and you'll sail through university life. (*Just make sure you take my first piece advice too and attend your lectures!*)

Sarah, 19, Kirkham



Sleeping Rough

At the end of June, 30 members of the St Mary's College Blackpool Youth SVP took part in the annual St. Mary's sleep-out in aid of local homeless charities.

The young people began their vigil by choosing their sleeping area and trying to make it as comfortable as possible. Some were more successful than others as they constructed mini cardboard 'coffins' to keep the light out. Others gambled on a balmy night being warm enough for them not to need much cover.

Soon after they arrived, William, John and Leanne from the 'Blackpool Foyer' joined them and shared their own experiences

of homelessness. William is one of the organisation's case-workers and he told us about the work they do in helping young people develop skills and become more confident at independent living. John and Leanne both shared about their time on the streets in Blackpool and how the Foyer has enabled them to get some stability in their lives again.

So how was the experience? One of the young people, Kirsty, reflected, “The SVP sleep-out was the most sobering, burdensome and turbulent but rewarding experience. I now grasp the salient things – food, warmth and a sense of security – that all should have, but often do not.”

Simon Stewart



One of the great growth points in the Church over the past few years has been the emergence of festivals with a faith focus. Over the past months, some of the young people of our diocese have attended the Catholic Renewal at the Travellers Fayre, Appleby, the Brightlights Festival at Aylesford Priory, Invocation at Oscott, the Faith Conference at Woldingham, Youth 2000 at Walsingham, and the Big Church Day Out in Sussex. Here, some of our festival goers reflect on their experiences....

The Appleby Horse Fair is one of the oldest horse fairs in the country, attracting 45,000 Travellers and other visitors. It is a real celebration of Traveller culture, but up until recently, there had been no space designated for prayer and faith which has been so important for the people. Anne Casey has worked tirelessly in recent years to correct that, and working with Fr Alex in

Appleby, has built up a tent dedicated to the Travellers Renewal, where prayer, adoration, and the Sacraments can be celebrated. This year Bishop Campbell was in attendance. Tilly, 19, from Castlerigg, writes, 'My experience at Appleby was truly inspiring, seeing all the Travellers with such strong faith and seeing them stand tall and proud made me so happy to be united with them as a Catholic'.

Richard Teasdale, 22, from Workington went to Wiston House in East Sussex, in his words, 'Camping, eating, praising and smiling at The Big Church Day Out festival. There was a lot of joy over the weekend, a real sense of happiness. Music is a fantastic way to bring people together and around 15,000 Christians came together all to celebrate one thing. Jesus. Some of the biggest names in the Christian music genre gathered to entertain and, most importantly, lead us all in worship. All weekend we found

ourselves comparing this festival to others. Mainly Radio 1's big weekend. I'm no expert on festivals but I have been to some. One thing I noticed about this one, compared to the others, is that I came away feeling refreshed, full of joy and full of life. When I came away from T in the Park, by contrast, I was drained, exhausted and wanted to hide from everyone. There's the difference. I would take joy over exhaustion any day of the week. And that's what I had, a joy and a certain knowledge that the Church is indeed alive!'

The Brightlights Festival. Festival-goers took over Aylesford Priory and pitched their tents to reflect upon the theme of "Fully Human, Fully Alive, Fully Living". We were blessed by the presence of fantastic bands with a Christian flavour who had us on our feet and praising God. Our most inspirational speakers for the weekend were the parents and friends of Blessed Chiara "Luce" Badano. They told the story

of their daughter and friend, of her love and generosity for Christ in the midst of her pain and suffering. I would encourage those who have not heard of Blessed Chiara, a 17-year old young person who died in 1990, to read her story. Her story is an encouragement to us to say our yes to Christ. We also witnessed a powerful drama from 'TenTen' Theatre entitled, 'This is my body'. It was a one-woman play showing the story of a victim of human trafficking. We were enlightened to the fact that many of the products we buy may have been produced by those who have been trafficked.

The next big events that the Youth Service are organising is Flame 2 at Wembley Arena on 7 March 2015, and World Youth Day in Krakow in 2016. We will be taking coaches to both events. Please contact the Youth Service as soon as possible to reserve spaces: www.castleriggmanor.co.uk



Stepping into the Gap

from Blackpool to Sierra Leone



Neal, 21, is working with the CAFOD 'Step into the Gap' programme based at St. Mary's Catholic College Blackpool. He has recently come back from a month long trip to Sierra Leone in West Africa, visiting community projects funded by CAFOD in Makeni and Kenema.

Neal said his trip was "eye opening and truly inspiring. It gave me the chance to stay in communities with extremely basic conditions: no water or electricity. This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I will never forget."

Sierra Leone is still recovering from a long, bitter and vicious civil war which devastated communities and the lives of its citizens from 1991- 2002. Caritas Makeni and Kenema are some of the local organisations that CAFOD work with in Sierra Leone to set up livelihood projects. These projects are designed to be long-lasting, giving people the skills, resources and opportunities to cope with disasters and provide for themselves, rather than being dependent on aid.

The latest project to unlock the potential of the Moringa cake as a food supplement to increase the productivity and profitability of poultry and fresh water fish in Sierra Leone is coming on well. Families can now afford to send their children to school, to buy food and resources, and most importantly, the Moringa cake project has empowered communities. Neal said of his trip: "This has been an experience of a lifetime and I am now able to keep these stories photographs and memories for life but also to share and educate people on CAFOD's work overseas."

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Dear Editor,

I would just like to send my best wishes to Father David Branford on his book "Cadwallan" which featured in the May edition of the **Catholic Voice**. My first thought when reading the article in the Voice was of surprise at a Priest writing a book which didn't have a religious content.

My curiosity got the better of me and so I got the book on my Kindle, how glad I was, the story line was brilliant the whole way through, it also kept me guessing who were guilty? Quite surprised at the outcome! Sincerely hope Father Branford has the opportunity to write at least another

book, I would love the **Catholic Voice** to give us the information if he does.
With many thanks, yours sincerely
Mrs Maureen Gornall, Scorton Parish

Dear Editor,

Alex Walker gives himself away (**Catholic Voice** June edition Letters Page) when he talks about married priests and women priests being amongst those whom the Lord will send into His vineyard presumably as part of the 'New Evangelisation'. Is he not aware that Pope John Paul II definitively stated in *Ordinatio Sacerdotalis* (1994) that the Church has neither the authority nor the power to ordain women to the priesthood? In boldly contradicting this infallible ruling of the Sovereign Pontiff and also by his use of the phrase "basic communities" much beloved by the proponents of liberation theology, Mr Walker betrays his own dissenting agenda which he unsuccessfully tries to disguise by portraying it as part of the New Evangelisation.

May God bless and reward Bishop Michael Campbell for his truly "imaginative and courageous approach" in bringing the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest to St Walburges so that once more, in Priest Town, the Traditional Latin Mass which is ever old and therefore ever new, will once more be at the heart of the life of the Church just as it was in the age of our Lancashire Martyrs.

Richard M. Gillett, Preston via e mail



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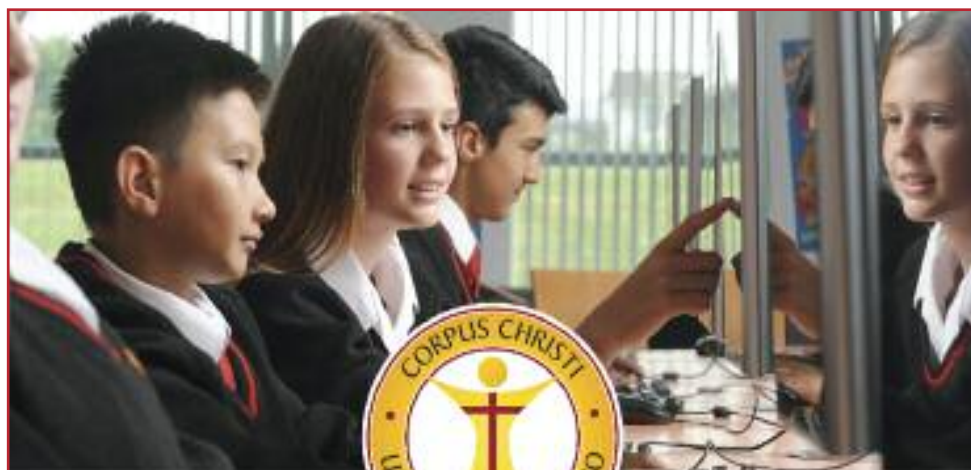
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Our Faith

Why are faith, hope, and charity virtues?

Faith, hope, and charity, too, are genuine powers bestowed by God, of course that a person can develop and consolidate with the grace of God so as to obtain "the abundant life" (John 10:10).

What is faith?

Faith is the power by which we assent to God, acknowledge his truth, and commit ourselves personally to him. Faith is the path created by God leading to the truth that is God himself. Because Jesus is "the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6), this faith cannot be merely an attitude or "confidence" about something or other. On the one hand, the faith has definite contents, which the Church professes in the Creed (profession of faith), and it is her duty to safeguard them. Anyone who wants to accept the gift of faith, in other words, anyone who wants to believe, acknowledges this faith, which has been preserved constantly through the ages and in many different cultures. On the other hand, part of faith is a trusting relationship to God with heart and mind, with all one's emotional strength. For faith becomes effective only through charity, practical love (Gal 5:6). Whether someone really believes in the God of love is shown, not in his solemn affirmations, but rather in charitable deeds. (YOUCAT questions 306-307)

What is hope?

Hope is the power by which we firmly and constantly long for what we were placed on earth to do: to praise God and to serve him; and for our true happiness, which is finding our fulfilment in God; and for our final home: in God. Hope is trusting in what God has promised us in creation, in the prophets, but especially in Jesus Christ, even though we do not yet see it. God's Holy Spirit is given to us so that we can patiently hope for the Truth.

What is charity?

Charity is the power by which we, who have been loved first by God, can give ourselves to God so as to be united with him and can accept our neighbour for God's sake as unconditionally and sincerely as we accept ourselves.

Jesus places love above all laws, without however abolishing the latter. Therefore St. Augustine rightly says, "Love, and do what you will" which is not at all as easy as it sounds. That is why charity, love, is the greatest virtue, the energy that inspires all the other virtues and fills them with divine life. (YOUCAT questions 308-309)

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Sunday September 14th at 3.00 pm
Exaltation of the Holy Cross
St Peter's Cathedral, Lancaster

Sunday September 14th at 6.00 pm
Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Our Lady & St Wilfrid, Warwick Bridge, Carlisle

Saturday September 20th at 8.00 am
(This Mass is part of the 40-Hours Devotion)
Our Lady & St Joseph, Carlisle

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

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Holy Land 2014



The conflicts in the Holy Land are well recorded and span thousands of years and today the Holy Land is still a focus of the world's media as division, claim and counterclaim continue to abound.

As a guest of the Ministry of Tourism in Israel and as part of a small UK press group I travelled to the Holy Land in May which coincided with the visit of Pope Francis. I was fortunate to see the Pope firstly at Ben Gurion airport as he was greeted by President Peres and Prime Minister Netanyahu and on the following day at the residence of President Peres where the Pope and President Peres planted a tree for peace.

What a contrast in the two receptions; the first reception at the airport was very formal and arranged with military precision; the second reception was more about the children, Pope Francis was greeted by a number of sick and disabled youngsters before moving to a platform where a 100 strong children's choir drawn from all faiths greeted his arrival with an

'Alleluia' song. Before he left the children sang "Peace Will Come" with a number of the smaller children moving to surround the Pope as they sang.

The audience at the second reception was mainly made up of young people and they were all keen to 'get on camera' and 'give an interview'. One group was from the Convent of Nazerath School in Haifa which is run by the Carmelite Sisters who were attending with their Principal, Sister Ghada. She said *"I am immensely proud of all our 750 students who come from both Christian and Muslim backgrounds. We have around 30 of them here today. All our students attain high levels of academic achievement but there is also strong emphasis on communication and social issues"*.

Wesam, 16, is a keen footballer, he plays in defence for his school and his local team Haippoel Haifa. He said *"Pope Francis should create a football team at the Vatican, and I will play for him."* Asked why he was keen to play football for the Pope, Wesam said *"He is against racism, he is not arrogant, he is modest, I like him."* Wesam

like his friend Nawras are Orthodox and were both proud to say that they attend Church each week. Adi, a Catholic aged 16, explained that all the students studied English, Arabic, Hebrew, Italian and French at school and the average grade attained was 100%!

Our small press group was provided with a personal tour guide, Benjamin, who looked after our busy schedule; making sure we were where we should be to see and listen to Pope Francis; that we didn't miss a press conference or roof top reception given by the Mayor of Israel; as well as providing excellent commentary as we followed the Gospel trail.

From Tel Aviv we travelled north to Nazereth and the Basilica of the Annunciation and Mount Tabor before moving on to Tiberias and the Sea of Galilee visiting Magdala (there will be a separate article on Magdala in the October edition), Tabgha (the traditional location of the miracle of the loaves and fishes), Capernaum where we visited the Church of the Primacy of Peter and the Mount of

the Beatitudes. We followed the River Jordan from a simple creek in the north down to the Dead Sea before moving on to Jerusalem; the Garden of Gethsemane, the Via Dolorosa, and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre with much more in between. Special mention must be made of our visit to the Bible Lands Museum where we were given time and hospitality from the Director Amanda Weiss, as well as a private tour of many ancient artefacts – a must visit for anyone travelling to the Holy Land.

The final words must go to Jason a 22 year old Catholic from Venezuela who had won a competition run by the Ministry of Tourism to travel to the Holy Land. *"It is a childhood dream, I have always wanted to come to the land of Jesus and Mary – where it all started. Israel is a land blessed by God. In my country there is conflict, every day I pray the Rosary for my country to come out of crisis. Every day I learn about humility from Pope Francis, he is a fundamental pillar of my life, he teaches me that it is not a bad thing to follow Christ and, that Christ doesn't take, He gives everything."* **Edwina Gillett**

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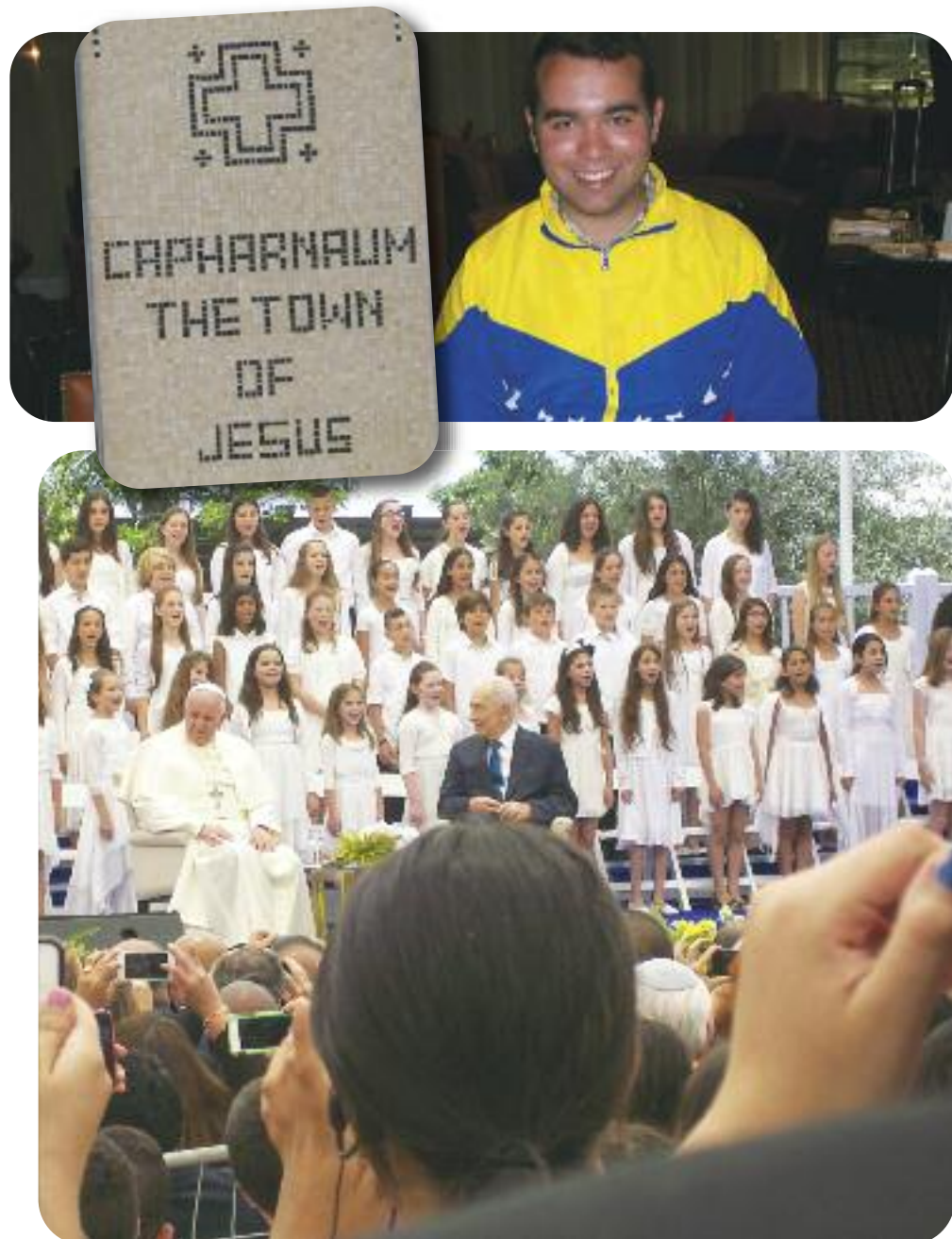
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- Joys and Challenges of Being a Sister

Sr Zela has recently returned to Lancaster to work on the ongoing formation of the Company of Secular Ursulines. The Catholic Voice interviewed Sr Zela on the vocation of an apostolic religious.

Why were the Ursulines founded?

The Ursulines were founded in sixteenth century, in Brescia, Italy, by St Angela Merici. The principle options for the women of her day were to be married or sent into a monastery, and either option was decided for them. Angela believed that a woman had the maturity to make choices about her life for herself, and live by them, and that it was possible to live a life of consecration in the world. She set up the Company of St Ursula in the last five years of her life. The women stayed where they were living doing the works they were called to. Now this was very daring, and she was heavily criticised.

After her death, people tried to bring pressure on members of the Company either to marry or enter a monastery. The Church didn't think it was appropriate for all these women to be running around the streets of Brescia, so they enclosed us.

A second branch developed – a religious branch. The only apostolic ministry we could do involved people coming to us. Ursulines therefore became known as teachers, whereas it would be truer to say I'm a consecrated woman who happens to teach. There are still women who follow the original vision. We call them Secular Ursulines.

What is Ursuline Spirituality?

Angela didn't give her members of the Company anything to do – you weren't required to teach or nurse or do social work. The vocation was union with Christ, to be a spouse of Christ for the good of others. Throughout her writings she tells us to live and act as is becoming a spouse of the Most High. Realise your dignity, value your vocation, thank God for it. She recognised that everyone was unique so their calling would be expressed in various ways.

The heart of the charism is a spousal relationship with Christ. One historian described the Company as founded from the pierced side of Christ on the Cross. If you look at the mystery of what took place on the Cross, Christ gave himself for the Church. The dynamism that effected this birth was the release of the Spirit. In Angela's writings she is constantly telling us to find refuge at the feet of Christ. The blood that flows from the side of Christ, unites Christ with the Church, and is the bond between the Sisters of the Company.

How did you know you were called?

When I was about 17, I was at an Ursuline

boarding school, and I was dreaming about the ideal husband. I came panting into chapel, in my PE kit, and had my little daydream, and then suddenly a horrible thought occurred to me, 'Maybe God's got some other plan for me. Oh horror, I don't want to know! There are lots of other nice girls you could choose Lord!' My initial reaction was horror and fear. I tried to run away from it. I was like that for several months, until in my prayers one night, I said, 'OK, Lord you win'. I told my mother, who encouraged me to go to University first, so I dutifully obeyed and went to university, in the course of which I decided it wasn't for me after all! In my second or third year of teaching, this little nagging feeling came back. One day I was in the staffroom with another member of staff who had already decided she was going to enter. I had witnessed her doing her application form, and choosing what clothes she was going to bring, and I had been teasing her about her trousseau etc. I looked down at this very posh pair of shoes I had on, and asked, 'Do you think these would do?' And I knew in that moment I had said 'yes'. I just knew it. And then I felt sheer relief and joy. I remember one woman asking 'have you taken pep-up tablets or something? You are bouncing around, full of beans'. The hours I spent agonising for so long didn't get me anywhere. You just have to take the plunge. I was basically convinced that the Lord had been on at me for so long – for eight years! There was no pretending that he hadn't been 'at me'. Some people go in 'just to see'. Whereas for me, it was so painful tearing myself away from friends and family that I thought once I'm in, unless they ask me to leave, wild horses won't take me away. What really attracted me was this whole notion of spousal relationship, and the silence and prayer.

What difference did Vatican II make to religious life?

Since Vatican II the religious branch has become in many ways more like the secular branch. My novitiate was very monastic. We had the rule of silence, we lived in dormitories and we didn't go out. When I left home I thought I would never go back. Vatican II removed papal enclosure from apostolic religious.

The one thing I miss since Vatican II is the silence. Vatican II has thrown the responsibility for the quality of your religious life onto you. Before, it was all arranged for you. A bell rang, you got up. Another bell rang you said your prayers. As one nun said to me once, 'I made my vows, but the Order kept them for me'. The structures supported you so you could get by without making any really big decisions for yourself.

What have been the main joys?

The opportunity for more prayer, retreats,

silent days, spiritual reading, access to good libraries, conferences, courses I have been sent on, theology and so on.

The support of my sisters in community. At times of crisis you realise it. I remember when my father died that I got all these letters from people who I didn't have any particular relationship with. It was part of the community's culture to be compassionate to people who had lost a mother or a father. There's that underlying bond.

The opportunities to be involved in ministry are amazing. Being a religious, people come to you, you get asked to do talks, give retreats, and guide people. There's no end of ministry which comes from the fact of belonging to an apostolic group and having grown into it. They say religious never retire.

What have been the main challenges?

It is difficult when you live in community with people who you don't get on with, and you have to do a job that you don't find congenial, or are sent to a house that you don't like: those are the crosses that

knock you into shape. Ultimately when you make your vows you surrender your will. 'Do with me Lord what you want'. Living in community knocks the corners off you. I prefer to keep silence, but my neighbour wishes to talk so we talk, and that's very good for me. Living in community teaches you to die to self.

Angela's is very much a spirituality of trusting God. I've surrendered my life into God's hands, but He is Somebody who loves me and cares about me and He will look after me. One of Angela's phrases I like is: 'God wants only your good and your happiness'. So it seems like a mess at the moment, it will work out all right. Leave it to God and He'll work out everything marvellously in His own time. Total trust. He's asked something of you. He'll take care of it.

Katherine Daniels



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Its early Autumn and there’s that back to school feeling in the air as the children chatter excitedly and make their way into school in their neat new uniforms. Without a goodbye or kiss, Benjamin runs into school in a very excited fashion as he can’t wait to be in his new classroom and see his school friends.

At the school gate, some of the new reception class children are crying and clinging tightly onto their mums. The class teacher, waiting expectantly, offers each of these children a comforting smile and a warm hand and with a little gentle encouragement manages to coax the children into school, one by one. For the mums, a strange feeling envelopes them; a mix of both nostalgia and sudden emptiness. As the mums walk down the school path to a new stage in their life, memories flood into their heads of their children as babies, which leads many of them to shed a few tears. A trip to the coffee shop with the other new mums is on the agenda which will soon remedy this momentary sadness. At the front of the red bricked church, the branches of the russet leaved horse chestnut trees are laden with conkers. At home time, there will be much excited stick throwing to see who can get the biggest conker, and this activity is not just enjoyed by the children! The morning air, fragrant with the scent of ginger biscuits from the local biscuit factory and the late blooming lavender, is slightly cooler now, and there is a sprinkling of dew on the grass.

I make my way around the side of the church with my hoe and through the iron gate leading into the walled garden. The garden is a fantastic space, surrounded on all sides by a wall and a mix of shrubs, laurel, holly and box. To me, this characterful walled garden is my idea of heaven and is such a peaceful haven. The garden is split into two halves which are separated by apple, pear and plum trees which are now laden with heavy ripe fruit. One half of the garden is laid to lawn which is used for garden parties and outdoor events. The other half of the garden is split into long plots. The plots are used by both parishioners and the school children to grow a selection of fruit and vegetables.

In good cheer, I make my way to my plot which I have been cultivating and nourishing with mushroom compost for the last month or so. My plot is now in a state of readiness and it’s time for one of my favourite tasks, bulb planting. I have divided my plot up into four areas and today I am ready to plant up daffodil and lily bulbs. The lilies seem such a relevant plant to be in a church garden, partly because of the long length of the stems which will be good in the church vases, but also due to their symbolism. In the Christian Era Lilies became a symbol of the Virgin Mary and were grown in many Monastic gardens throughout Europe. I will also be planting tulip bulbs, but these will be planted up around November time when the cold weather arrives as doing this helps to prevent Tulip Fire.

Pleased with my planting, I decide that’s it time for a break and sit on the cool church kitchen steps with my flask of coffee surveying the garden. I wonder how this wonderful garden has

transitioned through time and I make a mental note to try and find out.

Its break time at school and there’s lots of activity in the playground. I can hear the children chattering animatedly and they are singing nursery rhymes. In the warmth of the Autumn sun which bathes the church garden in the most wonderful autumnal golden light, my mind wanders back to my school years at St. Josephs and to the joyous Harvest Festival Services, where we would take food into the local community, and enjoy the most wonderful Harvest Suppers. Harvest Festival was not just seen as a celebration of the harvest brought in by the Farmer, but a celebration of community life and the chance to give to the needy and it’s great to see the same traditions and values are still at the heart of Catholic life today, so many years on, and that we, as a family, are able to partake in the same wonderful traditions.

As the school bell rings which signals the end of break time, I decide it’s time to carry out a last task in the garden today. The last task is to plant up the Rosemary, which I propagated in the summer, and which has taken root. Rosemary with its sweet pine like scent is fantastic in floral displays and wreaths and, like the Lily, has its own Symbolism, which is that of ‘remembrance’. It is often used during weddings, war commemorations and funerals. Here I will be doing a bit of guerrilla gardening as I have spied a small sandy/stony bed in full sun the rosemary will love, and hope Father Andrew Broster doesn’t mind.

As I wander down the cracked old path towards my car, I think about what other jobs there are to do in the garden this month:

- Plant spring flowering bulbs
- Take Cuttings of Bay and Lavender and place in pots of sand to root in the cold frame
- Prepare pots and bowls of bulbs for indoor flowering, such as hyacinths, and put them in a dark frost free place to encourage strong root growth
- Clear any weeds from the ground and fork a layer of leaf-mould and well-rotted manure or compost into the top few inches of soil.

And I also plan my next visit to the Garden.....

Susan Wood is wife of David and mum to nine year old Benjamin who attends St Josephs Primary School, Wesham. Susan has a strong bond with St.Josephs as she attended school there, was married there, and Benjamin was Christened there. Susan is a writer and trainee horticulturist in her third year of study and is absolutely delighted to be trialling a cutting patch within the walled garden at St. Josephs Church, so that flowers can be grown for the use in the church.

Over the coming months, follow the highs and lows and Susan’s musings as she develops the cutting patch. Susan also blogs at www.fabulousfylde.co.uk

Rev (Flt Lt) David Skillen

Rev David Skillen, a Permanent Deacon from the Diocese of Lancaster is the first Permanent Deacon to be commissioned as a Chaplain in the Royal Air Force. He was commissioned following training at RAF Cranwell as part of a specialist entrants course which included a Salvation Army and Presbyterian Chaplains, doctors and a lawyer. David, a former police officer and teacher has been posted as Catholic Chaplain to Royal Air Force Brize Norton in Oxfordshire.

Father James Caulfield, Principal Roman Catholic Chaplain to the RAF said: *"I am very proud that David will be serving as the first Permanent Deacon to be commissioned as a Chaplain in the RAF, but there is a great deal that a deacon can offer in provision of pastoral support to service personnel and their families. David will be going to RAF Brize Norton, the hub of the transport fleet and more significantly the home of the RAF Aeromedical team and the site of the repatriation ceremonies. His previous work as a policeman and in prison chaplaincy will be of great value. His experience as a teacher will assist in teaching the Beliefs and Values Programme to the RAF trainees."*

Deacon David Skillen graduated from RAF Cranwell on Thursday, 19 June, as the first Deacon to be commissioned for chaplaincy in the Armed Forces of the United Kingdom. From the Diocese of Lancaster, Deacon David served in the police before being ordained to the permanent diaconate and working in school chaplaincy. Having successfully completed Officer Training, he begins his new ministry at RAF Brize Norton.

"Deacon David's commissioning is good news for the Bishopric of the Forces", said Bishop Richard Moth, Bishop of the Forces, "and will help us to explore new possibilities for chaplaincy. Given his experience, I am sure Deacon David will bring much to his role and I ask everyone in our RAF community especially to keep him and his family in prayer as he begins his new ministry."

Deacon David was born and grew up in the West Cumbrian town of Cleator Moor. He is the second of three children to David and Carol, and he is married to Nichola and together they have three sons Matthew, Alec and Jude. David attended his local Catholic primary and secondary schools before going on to study at the University College, Bretton Hall, in West Yorkshire, graduating from Leeds University with a BA (Hons) degree in Popular Music Studies (1996). David then served as a Police Officer with Cumbria Constabulary and it was during this time that he felt a calling to ordained ministry. In order to discern further his

sense of calling David entered Catholic Education, qualifying as an RE teacher in 2003. Following much prayer and discernment, and successful selection, he began his diaconal studies and formation in 2006.

On 10th July 2010 David was ordained as a Permanent Deacon for the Lancaster Diocese, aged 35, by Bishop Michael Campbell OSA. At the time he was full time chaplain to St Benedict's Catholic High School in Whitehaven, Cumbria, where he had worked both as a teacher and then as the first Lay-chaplain.

Upon ordination he was appointed to serve the parish of St Begh, Whitehaven, a Benedictine parish of Belmont Abbey. In 2011 David completed his Master's degree with the Maryvale Institute, Birmingham, in Catholic Pastoral and Educational Studies. He also continued as the full-time chaplain to St Benedict's school, and he served on the Lancaster Diocesan Board of Education, until last year when he left to pursue selection as an RAF Chaplain. Upon graduation from RAF College Cranwell, and as a Commissioned Officer, Deacon David will be the first deacon to serve as a Commissioned Chaplain in the RAF, a prospect he is deeply excited and humbled at. He graduates into the rank of Flight Lieutenant.

"I can't wait to get stuck into the work of serving the men and women of the Royal Air Force and their families as a padre. They say God works in mysterious ways and certainly I would never have imagined myself ministering in this context, however, trusting in God's plan for me and for my family, I am now raring to go! This is an ideal place for a deacon to be at work on behalf of the Church, a sacramental sign of Jesus' closeness, and joyfully bearing witness to God's love in what can be the most difficult of circumstances for our very brave men and women."

In his spare time David enjoys playing, listening to and writing music, both popular and liturgical. He enjoys keeping fit, something which has been critical in the build up to and in the completion of RAF Officer training. David and his family enjoy time spent outdoors, walking and caravanning, and they look forward to exploring their new surroundings when they arrive at RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, soon.

Anyone interested in exploring the possibility of a vocation as an RAF Chaplain can contact the Chaplains' Branch direct or visit their local RAF Recruitment office.

Article courtesy of Independent Catholic News



Deacon Skillen appears on the right of both 'photos.



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Exaltation of the Holy Cross

The feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, 14 September, celebrates three historical events: the finding of the true cross by Saint Helena, mother of the Emperor Constantine; the dedication of churches built by Emperor Constantine on the site of the Holy Sepulchre and Mount Calvary and the restoration of the True Cross to Jerusalem by Emperor Heraclius.

The feast is also a celebration and commemoration of God's greatest work: His salvific death on the Cross and His Resurrection, through which death was defeated and the doors of Heaven opened.

As Catholics we make the sign of the Cross before prayer which helps to fix our minds and hearts to God. After prayer we make the sign of the Cross to keep close to God. During trials and temptations our strength and protection is the Sign of the Cross.

At Baptism we are sealed with the Sign of the Cross, signifying the fullness of redemption and that we belong to Christ. When we make the sign of the Cross we give our entire selves to God- mind, body, soul, heart will and thoughts. *Jenny Phillips*



Racial Justice Sunday

Racial Justice Day is observed by British Christians on the second Sunday in September which this year falls on the feast of 'The Exaltation of the Cross'. Past themes have included – 'Being An Inclusive Church', 'Tackling Human Trafficking', 'Migration- building human barriers', and 'Dreams of the beloved Community'– which celebrated the fiftieth Anniversary of Martin Luther King's I Have A Dream speech.

The Catholic Agency for Racial Justice (CARJ) began in 1995 and is an independent charity and agency of the Catholic Bishops' Conference. CARJ encourages all Catholic parishes to mark and observe the day by making an appeal and having a second collection to show their support for the important issue of Racial Justice.

Jenny Phillips

PRAYER

Father, you have given all peoples one common origin. It is your will that they be gathered together as one family in yourself.

Fill the hearts of mankind with the fire of your love and with the desire to ensure justice for all.

By sharing the good things you give us, may we secure an equality for all our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

May there be an end to division, strife and war. May there be a dawning of a truly human society built on love and peace.

**We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord.
Amen**

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Young People in the Church



"Young people often fail to find responses to their concerns, needs, problems and hurts in the usual structures. As adults, we find it hard to listen patiently to them, to appreciate their concerns and demands and to speak to them in a language they can understand..." Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium*: 105

It was precisely out of concern for young people in the Church today that Women Together in the Diocese of Lancaster decided to organise a day in June in the Cathedral Social Centre on Young People in the Church: Challenge and Hope. Simon Stewart, who leads the chaplaincy team at St Mary's Catholic College, Blackpool together with Neil Gilbride and James Budzynski-Seymour, led the day.

The morning session focused on the Challenge. Simon helped us to understand why "we find it hard to listen" as we considered the culture gap which has been created by social media, how we live in such a noisy culture so that listening, deep listening for what lies behind the words, is a lost art. With some shocking statistical information we were made more aware of the "concerns, needs, problems and hurts" young people are struggling with:

- 118,000 divorces a year in the UK, the highest rate in the EU
- In 2011 there were 89,000 LAC (Looked After Children) in the UK
- 100,000 children are reported missing every year and 25% at risk of serious harm
- 164 suicides amongst 15–19 year olds in UK in 2012 and massive numbers of those who self-harm.

How difficult it is for them in a society such as ours, with no stable family life, to grow up, to establish a sense of personal identity and self-worth and to know they are loved!

Yet, through quotations from anonymous prayers that young people leave in the chapel at St Mary's, we not only heard of the burdens they carry, their confusions and insecurities, but also their longings, their fragile faith, their courage and goodness:

“Dear Lord, no matter how much pain people go through, no matter how tragic their life, please let each and every person know that you are there for them. Let them be able to see the light in the darkest of places. Let love for them help them get past any hurdle in their life. Tell them from everyone in the world that they are unique but the problems they experience are not, for someone will know how to tend to that feeling and make them better. There is always someone there. You are never alone.”

Simon invited us to see Jesus' proclamation in Luke's gospel, when he announced his mission in Nazareth of good news to the poor, freedom for captives and sight to

the blind, as our manifesto now in relation to young people. So we spent time discussing and sharing on these questions:

- How can we be more welcoming to young people in our parishes?
- How can we support parents who are struggling?
- How can we support our schools in the work they do?

The afternoon session, with the focus on Hope, was led by Neil and James. They told us how they came to volunteer as young adults for the year-long Step into the Gap project. This has offered them an opportunity to be part of the chaplaincy team at St Mary's, to help in local parishes, to support the work of CAFOD in the diocese and spend several weeks overseas with CAFOD projects. They described the wide range of activities they have been involved in within the College where the chaplaincy has been placed at the centre.

They have learnt the importance of 'deep listening' and been very humbled as they have taken part in Rainbow sessions which help young people through life's storms and they have realised what these young people are coping with and how they minister to each other. They have experienced the students' creativity and generosity as they raise funds throughout the year for CAFOD, collect for Blackpool's Food Banks, and support other projects. Neil went to Sierra Leone and James to El Salvador with CAFOD this year. So they have also been sharing their experiences of these life-changing visits since their return in assemblies at St Mary's and with

children in our Catholic primary schools in Blackpool. Both acknowledged that the year had been challenging and inspiring, giving them time to discern their future life choices. In them we found evidence of what Pope Francis describes: "Despite the present crisis of commitment and communal relationships, many young people are making common cause before the problems of the world and are taking up various forms of activism and volunteer work. Some take part in the life of the Church as members of service groups and various missionary initiatives in their own dioceses and in other places." *Evangelii Gaudium* 106

At the close of the day, as we reflected on what we had heard and shared, we all agreed with what was expressed for us in the vote of thanks: that it had been one of the most inspiring days we had ever attended and we only wished more could have such an opportunity.

*Sister Philomena Grimley SHCJ
On behalf of Women Together in the Diocese of Lancaster*



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Discovering St Bede the Venerable (673-735)

On 27 May (2 days after the feast day of St Bede) a pilgrimage began from St Bede's Church in Carlisle with around 45 parishioners from St Bedes and St Edmunds as well as those from other parishes. Led by Parish Priest Fr Jim Allen, morning prayer was recited on the journey to Jarrow where Bede spent much of his life.

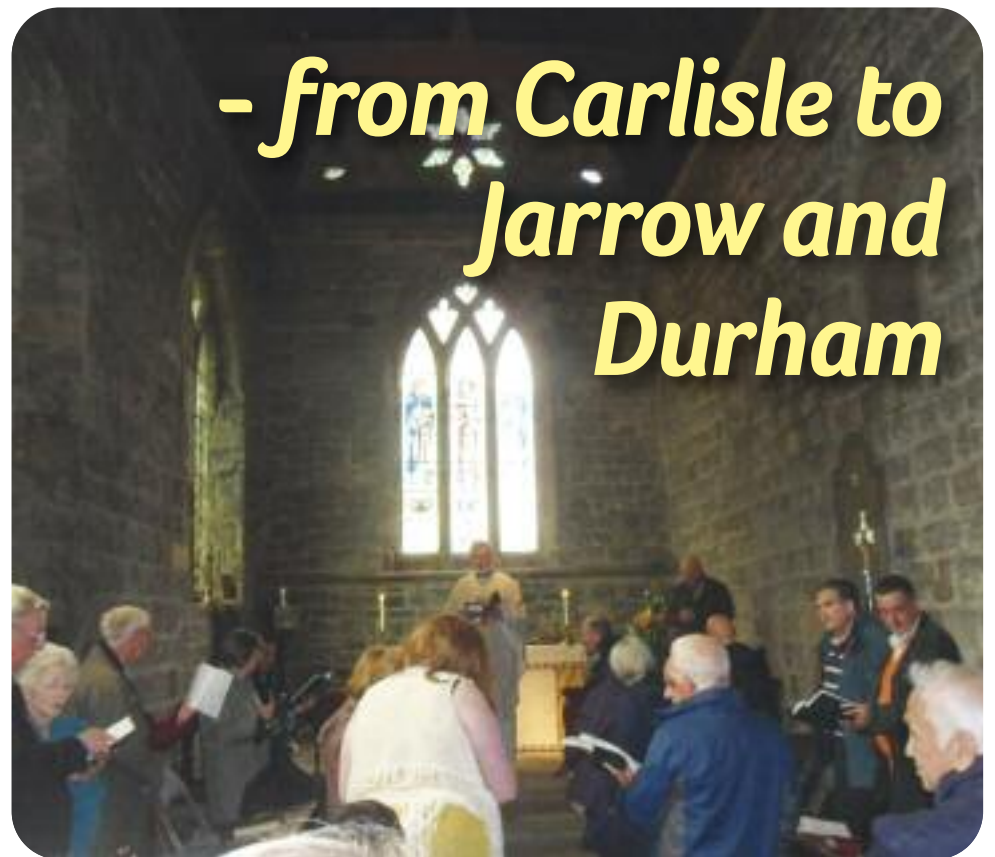
Entering the monastery at the age of seven, Bede spent a lifetime devoted to the monastic life and his work writing, translating and teaching.

Arriving at St Paul's in Jarrow pilgrims were greeted by church verger Jimmy Guy who

gave an interesting and informative talk on the life of St Bede within the monastery, describing some of the main events in his life as well as his dedication to monastic life and his scholastic work.

Mass was then celebrated within the same chapel that St Bede and his brother monks would have worshipped in and a holy relic of St Bede was venerated.

Journeying on to Durham, afternoon prayer was recited at the tomb of St Bede. The size and beauty of the cathedral helped pilgrims to reflect upon the contribution of Bede to our understanding of the history of the Church.



- from Carlisle to Jarrow and Durham

This day of learning, reflection, prayer and worship was also a wonderful opportunity for pilgrims of all ages to spend time together, getting to know one another and at the same time pray and worship together.

A quiz was held on the return journey to Carlisle with questions on the life of St Bede as well as other less theological questions on the number of sugars Fr Jim takes in his tea. The prize was of course perhaps Bede's most famous work: 'Bede: The Ecclesiastical History of the English People'.

A great day was had by all and I would encourage everyone to discover a little more about their own patron saints and the history of the Church. *Fr Jim Allen*

PRAYER

O God, who brings light to Your Church through the learning of the Venerable Bede, Your holy Priest, mercifully grant that Your servants may always be enlightened by his wisdom and helped by his merits.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

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Evangelisation on the Airwaves

A Catholic newspaper has taken the next step in reaching out to Catholics around the World. The Catholic Universe, the biggest selling national Catholic newspaper in the UK, has launched an online radio station, aimed at those who may not pick up the newspaper. Andy Severyn, singer/songwriter, of St Joseph's Ansdell is part of the production team for this new initiative.

The station's shows include 'Catholic Coffee Morning' in which presenters discuss news stories and issues from a Catholic angle, as well as secular shows at breakfast and drive-time, with current chart music and chat.

With shows targeting different age groups, the schedule also includes 'Storytime' for children, 'Young and Catholic' for young adults and 'Church Hour' with hymns and church focused content for the older generation.

The station manager Louise Kelly said: "the idea was to reach people who may not read a newspaper but may turn on the radio.

We want to give people a way of connecting with their faith in their daily lives without having to set time aside. People can listen while they're driving, doing the housework or relaxing at home, just as they would with any other radio station."

The station also includes shows about sport, travel, an Irish hour of music, and a Polish show.

Listeners can tune in online at the station's website or via an app on their mobile. **www.universecatholicradio.com**

Photo left to right Louise Kelly, Lukasz Lukasiwicz, David Nash and Claire Bennett.



Safeguarding News

Every human being has a value and dignity which we as Catholics acknowledge as coming directly from God's creation of male and female in his own image and likeness. We believe therefore that all people should be valued, supported and protected from harm.

The Catholic Church has a rich diversity within its membership and in its outreach to others. We are in contact with people who are vulnerable due to age, disability, illness; with those who are marginalised, facing difficult times; we visit the sick and housebound, families under stress. We provide practical and spiritual support; arrange activities for the young and not so young. We care for those hurt by abuse; minister to and manage those who have caused harm. Our Church provides welcome to those who come with a sincere desire to find Christ in our liturgical and social life.

All this is an expression of "safeguarding"! We are all involved!

The Safeguarding Commission is a group of independent people appointed by Bishop Campbell. Charles Proctor is 'The Chair'; he has extensive experience of managing statutory Child Safeguarding Services.

Other members provide a rich mix of professional experience coming from police, legal, health, social services, educational, backgrounds. We also have representation from Religious Congregations.

The Commission advises and makes recommendations to Bishop Campbell, Religious Superiors and guides the work of the Safeguarding Office.

Safeguarding Staff

Jane Robinson is the new safeguarding

Co coordinator. Working 3 days per week she is the lead for case-work, managing Covenants of Care and for implementing the plans agreed by the Commission and Bishop Campbell.

She is a registered social worker, with experience of working in the independent and public adult social care sectors. For 12 years she was the Safeguarding Adults Coordinator in a Local Authority.

Deacon Chris Barwise needs no introductions! He works with Jane to ensure the effectiveness of all our safeguarding work and continues to take responsibility for co coordinating the DBS checking system, as well as being link person to Religious Orders.

The Office is open Monday – Friday 9-5pm. Jane & Chris both work at other times by arrangement.




What can you do?

1. Continue doing the good work in Parishes and your Religious Congregations!
2. Look for safeguarding on www.lancasterdiocese.org.uk - lots of useful links
3. Attend training events coming soon to a deanery near you! See the webpage for calendar and how to enrol
4. Talk to your Safeguarding rep if you have any concerns that someone may not be safe or contact The Safeguarding Office 01772 728433.
5. Contact Jane via email on: janerobinsondpo@btconnect.com if you:
 - Want to know more about being a member of the Commission
 - Want her to attend a deanery meeting
 - Have ideas on how to do safeguarding better!
 - Have a good news story about safeguarding in your parish

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A Visit from the Bishop

PUPILS and staff were delighted when Bishop Michael Campbell OSA visited Corpus Christi Catholic High School Preston.

After a short visit to St Clare's Primary School earlier in the day Bishop Campbell met Head teacher, Mr David Hubbard and visited the school Chapel before sharing tea and biscuits with a group of pupils in the Chaplaincy.

The pupils from Years 7, 8 and 9 chatted with the Bishop and got to learn a little more about his background and how he came to become a Bishop. The group were fascinated to find out that after completing his studies for the priesthood in Rome, Bishop Michael became a Religious Studies teacher and taught in Jos in Nigeria for four and a half years.

Many pupils were also impressed to hear that the Bishop had met Pope Benedict XVI, who knew a lot about him and even asked him about Preston. Bishop Campbell had also shaken hands with Pope Francis.

After visiting the Chaplaincy, the Bishop was given a tour of the school by two Year 8 pupils, where he was impressed by pupils cooking samosas in Food Technology and loved the atmosphere and facilities in the library.

Year 8 pupil, Anto Vallooran was one of the pupils who gave the Bishop a tour, he said: "It was a great experience to be able to meet the Bishop in person and be able to ask him questions. It was an experience that not many people will be able to enjoy. I thought he was very interesting and it's been enjoyable having Bishop Michael in school."

Being a former teacher himself, part of the Bishop's day included visiting two Religious Studies lessons to see what the pupils learn in class and to give him a chance to answer some of their questions. Bishop Michael, had lunch in the school's award winning restaurant 'Il Cenacolo' before leading afternoon prayer for Year 7 in the hall, and an afternoon prayer for all staff. Bishop Michael thoroughly enjoyed his visit to the school.

He commented: "I've absolutely enjoyed being here today. There has been such a warmth and welcome from everybody and I can see that all the pupils are very content here. One of the things I enjoy most about my job is meeting people and in particular being back in the classroom, so it has been great to be so welcomed in lessons."

Sarah Johnson, Communications Officer

Prayer – For the New School Year

Lord Jesus, we ask for Your help as we begin this new school year.

Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us.

Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings.

Open our heart and mind to new friends and new teachers.

Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our studies and courage to accept new opportunities.

Help us to be attentive to one another and let us experience Your presence in our new friends. Jesus, inspire us to do our best this year! Amen



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