

The Catholic VOICE of Lancaster

The Official Newspaper to
the Diocese of Lancaster
Issue 263 + October 2014

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Lourdes 2014

The Joy of Conversion

Before coming to Lourdes I did not know what to expect, I thought I wouldn't have anything in common with people on the trip as I don't really go to Church when I'm at home, but I was wrong. There are so many lovely people here and I hope when I am home I will go to Church more.

— A pilgrim

A pilgrimage to Lourdes is different for each one of us whether travelling as an Assisted Pilgrim, a Nurse, a Doctor, a Youth team member, a Carer, a Priest or have simply heard Mary's call.

Every experience before, during and after is always personal, even though there are many shared moments. But each moment is unique to each person.

Alf Benson, publicity officer for our Diocesan Pilgrimage shares his thoughts of this year's pilgrimage on Page 8 and on Page 9 there is a collage of images from Lourdes 2014.



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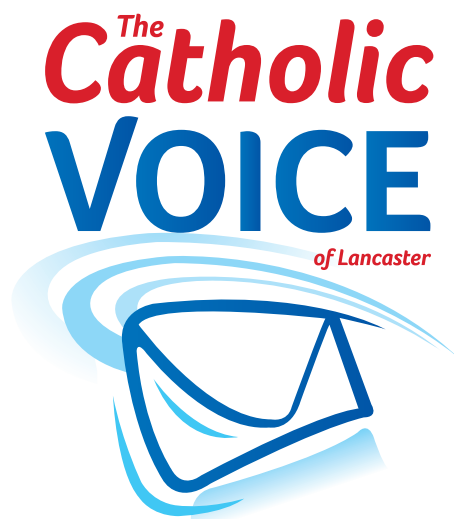
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EDITORIAL

Following last month's editorial, *The Catholic Voice* persists in its call to all readers to continue their constant prayers and sacrifices for the cause of peace in the Holy Land, Iraq, Syria and the Ukraine and wherever conflict is rife or threatening in our world today. It is incredible that there are so many different 'hot-spots' in need of our prayers all-at-once. We turn first to the wisdom of Holy Mother Church to know what it is that we are asking for and in what ways might it come about.

Set out beautifully in the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, the 'Promotion of Peace' explains that all of us baptised in the faith have a certain vocation to be peacemakers.

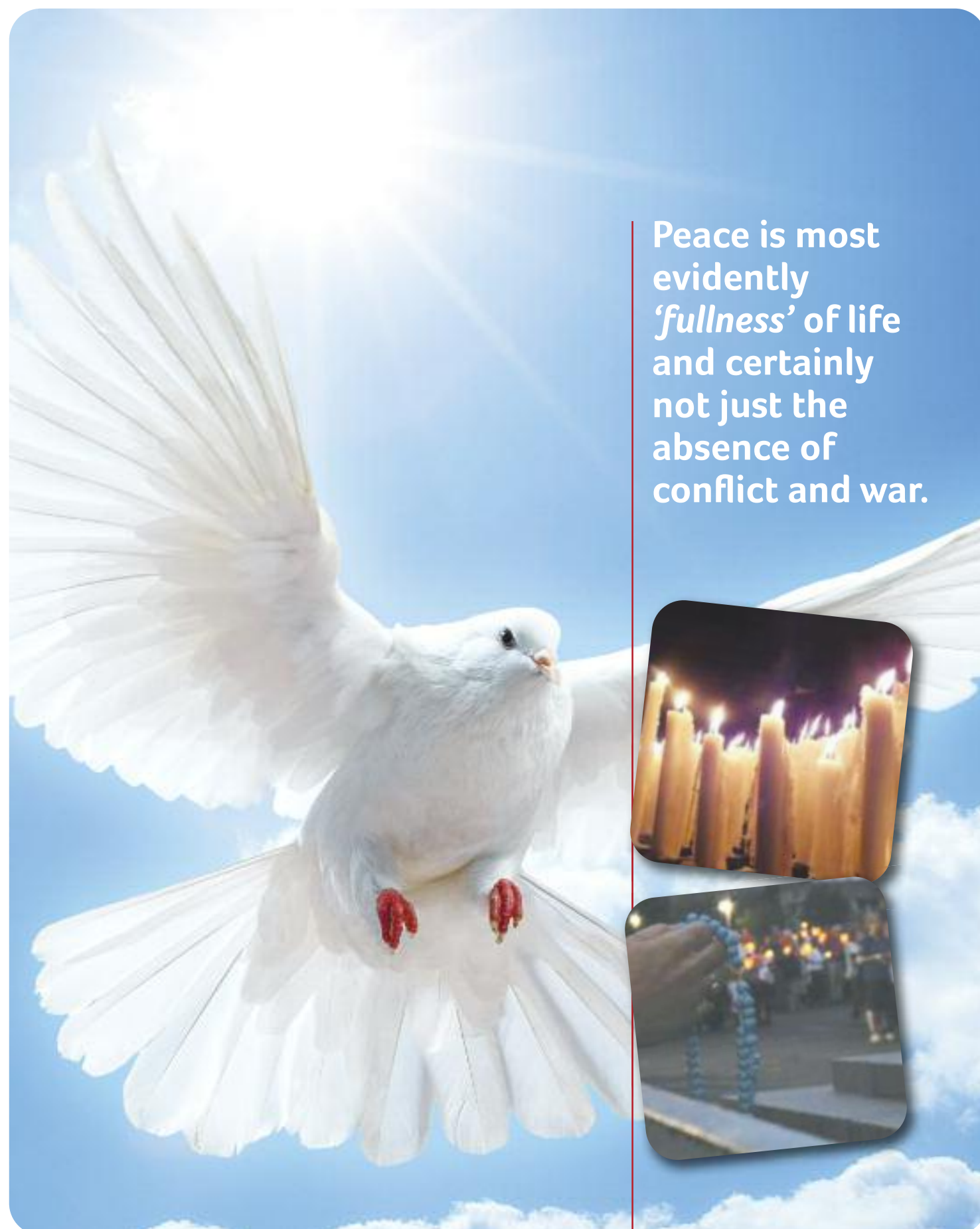
The word 'peace' itself comes from the Hebrew word Shalom as used throughout the Old Testament. It literally means to be complete – to have 'fullness', as well as 'prosperity' and 'well-being', 'success' and 'safety' and when addressed to someone it conveys all these blessings. Later the word developed its meaning as the opposite to war and also spoke of 'inner' peace. In this history we see how it is much more than simply the absence of violent conflict. Peace is 'order', so this first starts with maintaining peace with God and then establishing peace among nations, peoples and individuals.

As we know from Scripture, peace is God's gift to us, as He

initiated a covenant with His people. Christ gave peace to his disciples before his Passion, and was the manner of greeting for the Risen Christ. Yet we all know in life how easy it is to 'let go' of this peace, in the trials and troubles of life, in the midst of our own sins and shortcomings and those of others too, as well as our fear of suffering and being alone. It is only through confidence and trust in God that this gift remains. Peace is most evidently 'fullness' of life and certainly not just the absence of conflict and war.

Even though true and lasting peace can only be achieved eschatologically, (at the end of time, and brought about by God), the goals of right relationship, harmony within and among individuals, nations and societies, and a life of fullness remain goals toward which every nation and society should strive. If our striving for peace means living a fulfilling life (what might also be called a life of human flourishing) then peace-building must include attention to improving the conditions in which people live.

Our Tradition observes that war becomes more likely when people suffer injustice. Peace is already shattered when people are oppressed; their dignity is taken and then war is a direct threat to life. Hence Pope Paul VI's famous phrase, ***"If you want peace, work for justice"***.



Peace is most
evidently
'fullness' of life
and certainly
not just the
absence of
conflict and war.



Made for a Purpose

Being a Young Catholic Today

Rachael, 18,
Whitehaven



My faith leads the way in all that comes my way

Showing your religion openly will always be difficult. It appears we live in a society of pessimism, where many have decided it is easier to believe in nothing than to accept there is a God that loves them and open up to Him.

As young people, we have probably been affected most by this. However, this does not mean we should be stopped from having a faith and acting on our beliefs. My faith has brought me through many difficult times; not only through God but also through other young Catholics I have met because of Him. During retreats at Castlerigg and the pilgrimage to Lourdes, I am inspired by the strength of such people to keep their faith together, despite so many obstacles in their lives.

Being a young Catholic may be difficult in times of negativity, but God has brought me through so many struggles in my life, and I know that with the help of Him I can bring myself through all that comes my way.

– The Invocation Festival



Not entirely sure what I'm going to do with my life, I decided to attend Invocation, which is a national discernment festival to help young Catholics like myself discern their role in the Church. The festival took place over a weekend at St Mary's Seminary at Oscott College.

The weekend took the form of various talks, workshops and prayer times delivered by priests, religious and lay people, geared at helping young discerners to listen to God's voice and to discover His will for them. The talks offered advice and food for thought centred on discipleship and how we respond to our personal encounter with Jesus Christ. There was also a good balance of free time, with the opportunity to reflect and talk to the speakers and many religious who attended.

On the last night we had a Reconciliation Service with adoration inside the beautiful chapel. Just when I thought it couldn't get any more atmospheric, we were told that Confession was available outside, with 20 or more priests scattered about the grounds. Receiving the tender and gentle mercy of Jesus with the backdrop of a hazy pink sunset is one of the most beautiful

experiences I have ever had, and one I will never forget.

Following on from this was the torchlight procession, something I've never experienced before, processing with the Blessed Sacrament through the grounds of Oscott illuminated by candlelight. The weekend was drawn to a close with Sunday Mass, celebrated by our very own Cardinal Vincent Nichols, who gave a very inspiring homily talking about his own vocation but also how Jesus calls us according to what fits us best – His yoke is easy!

As a precept to the weekend, we were given these words from St Catherine of Siena, 'If you are who you were meant to be, you will set the world on fire.' This reminded us that each and every single one of us is made for a purpose, with a specific part to fulfil in God's plan, even if we don't know what that is yet. How exciting is that?! I think there are some who thought I might return from Invocation in a habit... but what I did return with was the desire to love God completely with my whole heart, one day at a time... and in His time He'll show me the rest!

Nichola, 22, Blackpool



CAFOD's Great Generation

Pupils from seven schools, across the Diocese of Lancaster, came together to learn how young people can fight poverty with CAFOD.

The CAFOD 'Great Generation' Day at Christ the King Catholic High School, Preston, saw 141 students learn about the work of the Catholic aid agency. Pupils also received training in campaigning techniques and information on CAFOD's World Cup action in Brazil.

CAFOD's Rosa Trelfa, Diocesan Manager for Lancaster, said: "It gives us great hope and energy to see young people so enthusiastic about standing in solidarity with children and young people around the world. These pupils are part of the Great Generation Nelson Mandela spoke of. We thank them and their schools for their generosity and hope that they will continue supporting CAFOD's work."

Rosa Trelfa

How a Ham Sandwich Changed My Life

Moving out from home can be a stressful time for any individual or family, particularly if you're an eighteen year old girl starting university.

Like most people, beginning this journey of freedom and independence, I maintained that I needed to transfer every item I'd ever owned to my new dorm room... Dad was thrilled. However, in the one or two boxes marked 'stay at home storage', I managed to pack up my relationship with God and leave Him behind. For some people this concept might sound absurd; however for others it may feel all too familiar. Having freedom and independence at university requires a measure of responsibility; as a young adult, you are now responsible for maintaining and practising your own faith, and for myself I found this a challenging feat.

When I started university my faith diminished rapidly. Thankfully, although I gave up on God, He showed countless times that He had not given up on me. One day in particular, my friend and I were running particularly low on cash (something which I'm sure many will have the delight of experiencing). It was common knowledge around campus that the Christian Union handed out free lunches to all who attended their meetings. So, we gave it a go, and you could say that that ham sandwich changed my life. In the meeting I was reminded how much God loves each of us, and how silly it was to think I needed to separate my life and my faith. God is a part of us from our beginning to our end, through the

old times and the new times, and, through the good days and the bad days. Surprisingly, from then onwards, I realised maintaining your faith at university isn't quite the dilemma that most people imagine it to be, but actually really easy and really good fun.

So here are five tips that worked for me:

1. First thing to remember, you are Catholic, but this doesn't change who you are as a person; it only adds to all the wonderful qualities you already possess. So be honest and proud of your faith, most people you meet will be intrigued and respectful, and, it's definitely true what they say, the friends you make at Uni' are your friends for life.

2. Between going out, socialising and the mountain of work you'll be drowning under, making time for prayer can take a back seat. However, nearly all universities have an incredible chaplaincy service, with convenient times for students, so making a decision between a few extra hours of kip and Mass, doesn't have to be an option.

Additionally, making yourself known within the chaplaincy and joining faith-based societies really does make a huge difference. You'll meet tons of like-minded people who will help you get involved with events, talks and pilgrimages.

3. Charity is at the heart of Jesus Christ and at university there are countless activities and volunteering opportunities which you can get involved in. Jesus came to allow each of us to 'live life to the full' (John 10:10). Therefore, sacrificing your time to help others to achieve a full and better life is a fantastic and incredibly exciting way to show your love of God and others to those around you.

4. All these previous tips are brilliant for helping to fuel the fire of your faith, but for some people their relationship with God can be private and personal.

So it's great to remember that your life itself gives glory to God and to learn to live as a reflection of Christ with love, compassion and kindness will only strengthen your connection to Him. Using your talents, working your hardest, and, just making the most out of each of the gifts He gave you is what we are made to do.

5. Most importantly, remember that



God loves you when you're throwing yourself around a filthy club, playing corridor football, ploughing through your second consecutive all-night library session and when you're cutting the mould off your cheese because there is absolutely NOTHING left in the cupboard.

University is a fantastic experience: I would recommend it to anyone. You will share in more friendship, love, mayhem and mischief than most people will in a lifetime. So 'Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go' (Joshua 1:9).

Hannah, 22, Wrea Green

Brother Mud & Sister Blister

A Pilgrimage to Chartres



Over the Pentecost weekend, one hundred British pilgrims and I joined thousands of Catholics in an epic journey across France from Notre Dame de Paris to Notre Dame de Chartres. The 70 mile walk took us two and a half days to complete and these were filled with songs, prayers, Masses and lots of sun.

While walking along in the British chapter, carrying the banners of St Alban and Our Lady of Walsingham as well as several Union Jacks, we bonded over sore feet and steadfast determination to reach our goal.

We were given several uplifting meditations a day encouraging us to live life like the saints and, as Saint Francis would have done, learn to accept 'brother mud' and 'sister blister' without complaint. Obviously the experience was a challenge for all but none could refute the fact that it was worth every visit from 'sister blister' when we finally reached our goal and marched up the final hill to the cathedral, singing loudly, accompanied by the thunder rolling over our heads.

Seeing Chartres Cathedral lit by lightning was truly spectacular; I will never forget that final march in the storm. When we settled down for the last Mass of the pilgrimage and the sun broke through the clouds every heart was filled with a happiness and satisfaction that overcame all tiredness.

On this pilgrimage we all made firm friends, shared excitement, pain and joy as well as sweets and water. For me one of the best parts is meeting these new people and seeing the thousands of Catholics who all share my beliefs and my faith. We really did all feel like a family and, as a 15 year old girl who grew up in the countryside, it is not often that I experience that feeling. The Chartres pilgrimage is probably the most incredible thing I have done in my life and the experience is so compelling that I am certain I will be back again and again. It brought the faith alive for me and created memories that will never leave. I look forward to next year.

Lizzie, 15, Penrith

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In July's edition of *'The Catholic Voice of Lancaster'* there was an interesting article about John Bradburne written by Brian Parnaby. In the last paragraph Mr Parnaby writes that *"He would be the first native-born Cumbrian to be granted sainthood."* Forgive me for being pedantic. Whilst this statement is true, it is also not quite true at the same time. It is a little like saying that the British broke the German Enigma codes. Whilst true, it is not quite the whole story. In early 1939 the British said *"The Enigma codes are unbreakable"*. What they didn't know was that the codes had been repeatedly broken by the Poles as early as 1932. In late 1939 to the astonishment of the British, the Poles gave the British and French examples of Polish produced Enigma machines, associated equipment and documentation. As it was obvious that Poland was about to be overrun by its' Nazi and Soviet enemies, the Poles had to hand over their knowledge so that the work of breaking the German codes could carry on.

So it is with John Bradburne. He might possibly be called the first native-born Cumbrian saint if canonised, but again this is not the whole story. There was a St. John Boste (1544-1594), who was one of the forty martyrs of England and Wales. He was born in Dufton then in the county of Westmorland. Today Dufton is in the newish county of Cumbria.

*Kind regards,
Jerzy E. Woźnicki via email*

I thank Alex Walker for drawing our attention to the Holy Father's encyclical *Evangelii Gaudium*; and the coming of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest to St Walburge's, Preston.

I hope Mr Walker already knows the joy of gathering to pray (*and reflect if you will!*) and that he is not waiting for an official personal instruction to set about doing this – we are blessed in our parishes by still having times of Adoration, in the Cathedral on both Saturdays and Sundays, and for those of us unable to attend Adoration, we can continue to pray daily in our own homes. I know households that do already join together to pray the Rosary. I'm sure there are very many such gatherings. The faithful always have the freedom to pray, study, act and to be ministering angels to each other, as down the ages; and we do not need permission to do this – the family is not lightly called the domestic Church. And since without a priest there are no Sacraments, then commensurate with our great desire to receive Our Lord in the Sacraments, then in it is incumbent upon us to pray earnestly for priestly vocations!

The Holy Father exhorts us to an “ever watchful scrutiny of the signs of the times” [Evangeliium Gaudium 51]. Pope Francis quotes Pope Paul VI and elsewhere in Pope Paul VI’s same encyclical is written; “Our Lord’s exhortation to vigilance is equally applicable to things which may be of more immediate concern to us, the dangers and temptations which threaten to corrupt men’s moral lives and turn men away from the right path of truth” [Ecclesiam Suam 21].

In this way I turn to the subject of married priests, a subject close to my heart, because it is one addressed by Father Ronnie Walls. His biography *"Love Strong as Death"*, published in 2000, is an expanded version of his earlier book *"The One True Kirk"*. Father Walls explained that it is not marriage that is an obstacle to priesthood, as much as priesthood is an obstacle to marriage. He had good reason to know – he was a minister of the Church of Scotland prior to his conversion to Catholicism in 1948. When he and his wife converted, it never occurred to him to seek ordination to the priesthood. He knew too well the tension in being torn two ways. He said no other relationship may be allowed to interfere with or work against the union of man and wife. It was not until a car crash claimed the life of his wife, Helen, that he offered himself to the priesthood and was ordained in 1977. I recommend his book to all with time to read it.

About nostalgia and the coming of an Old Rite foundation to St Walburge's – nostalgia means to me *"looking back"*, and *"remembering the past that has gone"*. This idea I must contradict, in the most friendly way possible. For me, currently attending the Old Rite each Sunday at St Mary Madgalen's Penwortham, attendance is not out of homesickness or to remember *"days gone by"*. I was born in 1970, and from the day that I made my First Holy Communion until 2004, I received Our Lord on my hand. I never attended the Traditional Latin Mass until 2007.

'See, the Tabernacle of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his people, and God Himself will be with them...' Revelation 21:3. Lord, send us priests. Lord, send us holy priests. Lord, send us many holy priests.

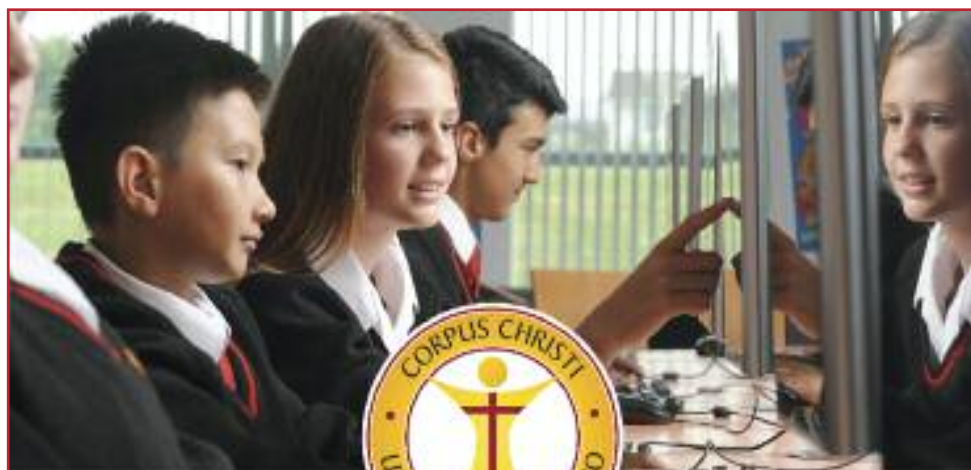
Yours sincerely
Ruth Smith, Lancaster

+++++

Since my return to the Catholic Church a few years ago, I have regularly attended both the Novus Ordo Mass, and the Traditional Latin Mass (*for the first time*). What has been the most inspiring to me has been attending Mass in both rites said by priests, with people who know that Jesus Christ is truly present, Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Eucharist, who love Him, and are personally trying to live out an authentically Catholic life. This means accepting the Church as Christ's Mystical Body, and assenting to all of Her Teaching, Tradition and Magisterium. It is hard work, and needs our willingness to surrender our pride, ego and self-will. With the Grace and help of the Sacraments, each other (*living and dead*), and all the riches of our Catholic Faith, we can be healed, nourished and made new, not as we want to be, but as Christ, with His Love, Mercy and Life wants us to be. He can then act in our lives as and how He wants to, for His purposes and so that we can be happy with Him for eternity.

We live in a crazy world which lies to us in so many ways about who God is and who we are, and what the relationship is between us. It pretends to offer us comfortable easy solutions, but these are fake and which take us further away from God's Living Presence, despite our good intentions. In this world, people (*Priests, Religious and lay people*), who are committed to living out the authentic Catholic Faith with integrity are a shining example to me, and I am very grateful to them.

Yours sincerely
S Connors via email



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Mgr Canon Francis Slattery

– Diamond Jubilee – a family tribute

An informal multi-faith celebration was held in August to celebrate Mgr Slattery's 60th anniversary of his priestly ordination. His contribution to local interfaith and multi-faith work was recognized by the presentation of a framed map of Jerusalem by Rev John Hetherington, Secretary of SLIF (South Lakeland Interfaith Forum).



My name is Damian Slattery, Damian Francis Slattery. Actually – it's Damian Francis Francis Slattery. (It's a long story!) Uncle Frank, Francis, Monsignor, Father Frank, even Uncle Dank.

On behalf of our family near and far, from across the decades and some long gone – from our grandfather and grandmother and Auntie Margaret to my mother, Edith, Frank's sister-in-law, back in America, dear friends Tom and Eunice Moore here tonight – welcome all and thank you for being here. This evening there are four generations of the family in this room: Frank, the Monsignor, of course, my cousin Mary – her father was Frank's younger brother, Bernie – and me – my father, Des, was Frank's older brother by four years. He died 28 years ago at 61. Bernie died 20 years ago at 61. Bernie's wife, Marilyn, is here. Frank, of course, is the brother who chose to live his life here, not in America. I should think about relocating – very quickly. Mary's children are here too. As well as Mary's granddaughter, Savannah.

But really, Frank's long and valued life is surely due in large part to his career, his calling, his vocation – in addition to this location. The love and caring he has shown his parishioners and all who have called on him over the decades – his commitment to all of you – has given him the strength to work on and on...and to live on and on...

As I said 10 years ago on the occasion of his 50th anniversary celebration – we are so envious of you who have him in your lives on a weekly, if not daily, basis. And yet, he is in our hearts every minute – and we in his – I am sure. And that gives us – sometimes – an almighty strength. For all of you, he is truly the centre of your holy family.

For all of us – family and lifelong friends – he is the heart – the very centre of our family – our very human, imperfect family. How lucky, how blessed are we all.

With all our love, Uncle Frank – Happy Diamond Jubilee!

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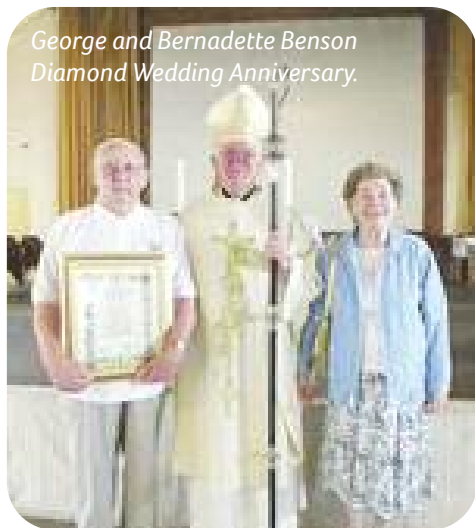
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The Joy of Conversion

George and Bernadette Benson
Diamond Wedding Anniversary.



Confirmation of
Leo Seed.



I have shared many special moments in Lourdes, many moments and many feelings and this year was no different. Here are some of the highlights.

On the 18th of July the Diocesan family of Lancaster travelled by plane, coach, car, train and van to Lourdes. Some were first time pilgrims others visiting for the 31st time. Each day we processed as a Diocese from the hotel to Mass.

At our first Mass we especially remembered the Martyrs of Lancashire and gave thanks for a safe journey before gathering in front of the Rosary Basilica for the customary Diocesan photograph. I took part in the Youth team's catechism session, with a focus on the purpose of Lourdes and what Mary calls us to do while in Lourdes. There was a discussion about penance and how to make a good confession. Hearing young people talk about what they face as Catholics today and showing their faith was a real privilege.

Participating in the Way of the Cross on the upper stations as the sun goes down definitely helps to focus on the suffering that Jesus went through to save us. The statues are life size, with detailed facial expressions which draws you in to the reality of each station, forcing you to focus on the journey and suffering that Jesus endured. It certainly allowed some time for conversion, some time to bring ourselves closer to God.

A 'must do' is the International Mass in Underground Basilica of Pius X. In the past I have often found it difficult to be a part of it; owing to the number of people in the Basilica and the various languages. I would often be in the back away from the people taking part in and I would often feel that I was watching Mass not taking part. But when I look at the thousands of people gathered in one place to share in the Holy Mass, the many people from all over the world under different flags and banners to be witnesses to the miracle of the Mass it makes you feel part of the wonderful family of the Church.

Lourdes is all about reconciliation but Confession can sometimes strike fear into many people. However, after a homily that spoke to the soul and filled the heart with

a passion and motivation to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation many people stood up and walked over to confess their sins and receive forgiveness. It was a wonderful thing to see so many of the congregation embracing this wonderful Sacrament.

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick was followed by the Passage through the Grotto for the sick pilgrims; a time to move through the place where Mary visited the young Bernadette in 1858. A precious few moments to be close to Mary in her special place.

We all joyously shared and celebrated in the Confirmation of Leo Seed and the 60 years of marriage of George and Bernadette Benson. If anyone was feeling down that day, seeing Leo's beaming smile, which was truly infectious, would have made anyone break out in a smile.

A trip to the Lake of Lourdes for a relaxing afternoon preceded evening Holy Hour, a time that was taken to reflect on the many Sacraments that we had the joy of celebrating so far.

We had the privilege of sharing the celebration of Mass at the Grotto with the Archdiocese of Glasgow before meeting up later to say the Rosary at the Podium opposite the Grotto.

One of my favourite parts of Lourdes is the Marian Procession. This is a time that you feel like everyone who is in Lourdes has all made their way to the Domain at the same time. It is truly a wonderful sight seeing so many candles raised in devotion of Our Lady of Lourdes. Another special time is the Blessed Sacrament Procession.

This year Bishop Campbell led the thousands gathered there in devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.

So soon it was time for our Mass of Farewell. Before Mass, Cardinal Vincent Nichols spoke to us with a focus on Assisted Dying Bill and the Dignity of Life. The Mass celebrated the Martyrs of Cumbria, the success of this year's Pilgrimage and the Joy of Conversion as in this week in Lourdes everyone had taken steps to be closer to God. *Alf Benson*



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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Blind and now I can see...

Young people in Lourdes



A group of 77 young people joined the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes. For many young people, the opportunity to go to Lourdes with other young people, to pray at the holy shrine and to serve the VIPs proves to be a life-changing experience.

Liberty Apricot Turner, 16, writes, 'As a first year pilgrim I found Lourdes fascinating. At first I found the experience overwhelming but I soon began to notice and understand the amazing people that had travelled to Lourdes WITH the most interesting stories. My opinion changed for the better when I saw a sick child being blessed by the Bishop and her mother standing beside her had the most beaming smile. Before this experience I was very blind when it came to God's love. This experience really showed me the hope and happiness God can bring to people. I felt very close to home being in Lourdes and I cannot wait to return next year!'

Alice O'Donnell, 16, writes, 'As this was my first time going to Lourdes I didn't really know what to expect and I could never have imagined how amazing the experience would be. Whilst spending time with the VIPs I had the opportunity to get to know people from all over the world and to listen to some truly amazing stories that I will never forget. Every single person was so supportive and I really feel as if I have made friends for life and couldn't have asked for a better group of people to go on the journey with. My faith has grown so much and the experience has inspired me to put my faith into practice every day. From having the incredible experience of meeting Cardinal Vincent Nichols to holding the banner in the torchlight procession, I have so many special memories of the pilgrimage to Lourdes and I can't wait to come back next year!'

Others spoke of the experience down at the Grotto late at night:

'Deeply cleansing and spiritually rewarding' as if 'Our Lady was holding me in her heart, releasing all my inner pains, getting me back on track'.

'The baths was an amazing spiritual experience too; you felt bare and it felt easier to open up to God'.

'The International Mass really showed just how many Catholics there are and how you are never alone in your faith. Being from a small parish, I rarely witness a vast amount of people praying and celebrating Mass. This trip showed me there are lots of people my age practising their faith'.

'The Cenacolo visit made me glad lives could be transformed for the better through faith'.

'Hearing stories of people keeping their faith through tough times has encouraged me to strengthen my faith and to turn to God when I need prayers'.

'I realised I wanted to get baptized'.

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The sale of the official photo for the 2014 Lourdes Pilgrimage will be available soon if you would like a copy please email publicity@lancasterlourdes.co.uk

Next year our Pilgrimage will take place Friday 24th – Friday 31st July!

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Pope Francis

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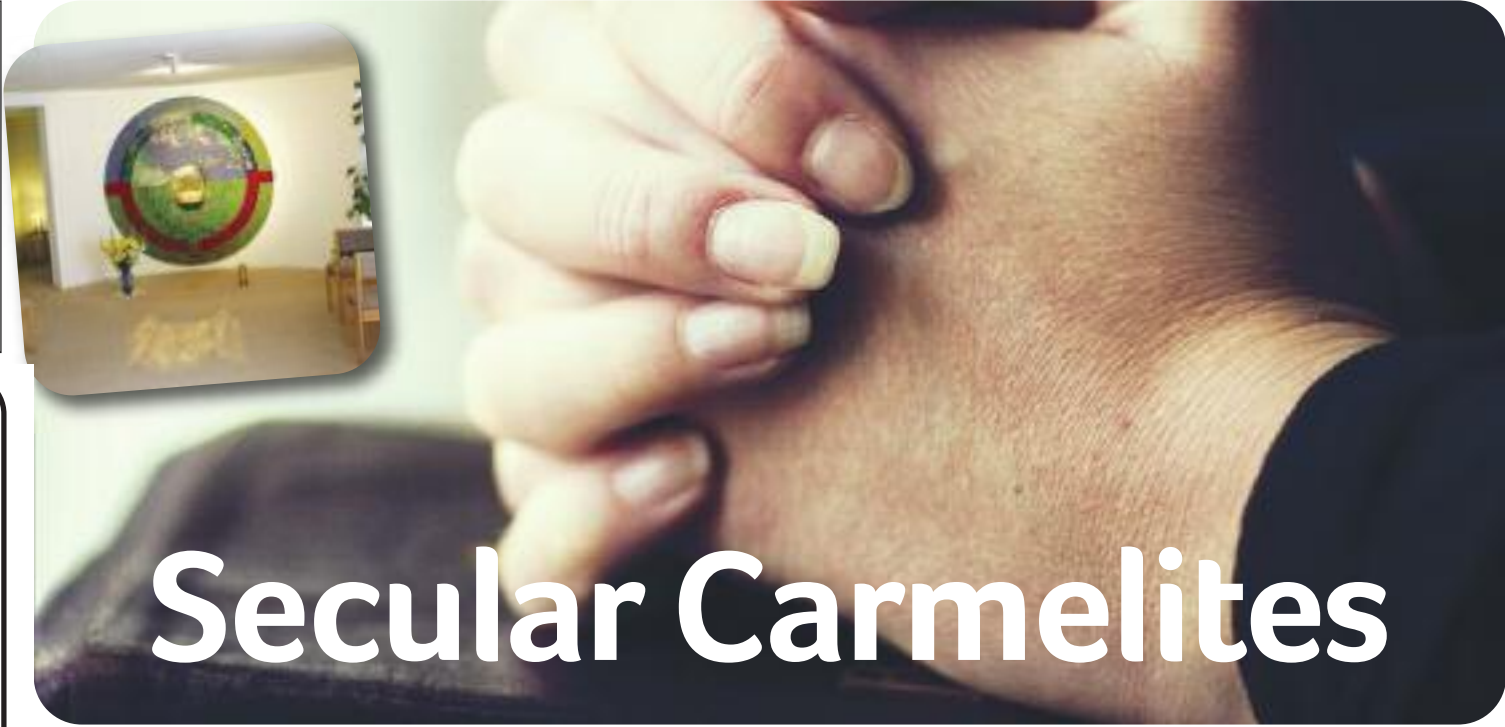
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Christine found herself in turmoil. She felt unfulfilled spiritually and at a crossroads where her faith was concerned. For enlightenment she turned to Tabor, the Carmelite Retreat House in Preston, for guidance and joined prayer groups and retreats there in the hope that God’s plan for her would be revealed.

Having spent six months with one of the secular prayer groups at Tabor she knew that she wanted to live more deeply her Baptismal vocation as a member of the Carmelite family according to the Charism of the Carmelite Order. Carmel is identified with prayer and meditation. A person seeking formation, which is a time of discernment and growth, attends the monthly community meeting and a formation meeting. This is followed by the Inquiry Phase which requires attendance at three monthly meetings when, after each meeting, there is an opportunity to discuss an assigned article on Carmelite spirituality. The member will have met with the community director to discuss their vocation.

An introduction to the Carmelite way of life is known as Phase 1 and lasts for twelve months. This trial period includes sessions on prayer and scripture, community, ministry, Rule and Statutes, Carmelite saints and Carmelite history and traditions. At the end of this phase, candidates may request membership into the Order (Reception). This deepening of the member’s prayer life, sense of community and call to ministry is known as Phase 2 and lasts for two years. Some session topics include Carmelite spirituality, Scripture, life of prayer, silence, spiritual direction, Sacraments, Carmelite role models, living in community and being a contemplative in an active world. At the end of this

phase, members may request to make Temporary Promises and move onto Phase Three which lasts for three years and is a special time of discernment and living the life of a Lay Carmelite. The Formation group decides on a topic of study related to Carmelite spirituality. At the end of this Phase, members may request to make Final Promises. Formation does not end after Final Promises as members continue to study Carmelite topics.

The Lay Carmelite is expected to participate in the daily celebration of the Eucharist when possible and spend about one half hour in meditation each day, that is reflecting on the Scriptures, Lectio Divina or some other appropriate type of personal reflective prayer. The Lay Carmelite also prays in union with the Church through recitation of the Liturgy of the Hours–Morning and Evening Prayer. They attend their community meetings and wear the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel daily as a sign of dedication to Mary, as a sign of trust in her motherly protection, as well as an expression of their desire to be like Mary in her commitment of Christ and to others.

Christine has never looked back since she sought enlightenment at Tabor and deepened her faith. Her life is now filled with joy. Carmelite spirituality is to know God, so that God may be known.

Jenny Phillips

*Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you,
All things pass away.
God never changes,*
*Patience obtains all things.
He who has God finds
He lacks nothing,
God alone suffices.*
St Teresa of Avila



On the 28th June 2014 Seminarian John-Paul Evans was ordained Deacon at St. Mary’s College Oscott. John-Paul was one of six transitional Deacons ordained that day.

Deacon John-Paul comes from the parish of Saint Mary’s Great Eccleston where many prayers have been offered over the years of his formation in Seminary. The parish of Saint Mary’s continues those prayers as Deacon John-Paul begins to minister to the people of the Lancaster Diocese. Let us all join the parish Saint Mary’s praying

for our new transitional Deacon. Deacon John-Paul has just completed a two month placement at Our Lady & St Edwards Parish Preston assisting Fr. Bob Horn in ministering to the people of the parish. Deacon John-Paul is also, as part of his placement, assisting me at the Royal Preston Hospital as assistant Chaplain. Deacon John-Paul certainly has his work cut out for him working in both a parish and hospital in the service of the people of God.

As a Deacon, John-Paul is called to put himself at the service of our Bishop, our

Priests and the lay faithful of the Diocese of Lancaster, in fact the word ‘Deacon’ comes from the Greek word ‘diakonia’ meaning service. Deacon John-Paul is following in the tradition of Saints Stephen and Lawrence and the many Holy Deacon’s whose stories are known throughout the Church, all of whom offer themselves in love wherever the Church needs them.

Please keep Deacon John-Paul in your prayers as he continues to journey to Priesthood.
Fr Darren Carden
(Courtesy of the Vocations Blog)



Race for Life 2014

For the fourth consecutive year girls from St Joseph's High School Workington have participated in the Race for Life.

It started when Year 9 students were challenged to, 'Give Something Back' to the people in their community. This year saw a record number of participants

from the school, 77 students and 5 staff and sponsor money, once all collected, should total a massive £7,000. Not only was it a good day out and good exercise, but it was such a positive experience which offers hope and support to all those children who have or have had, family of friends suffering from Cancer.

Tom Ryan



Mrs Kelly Retires

Mrs Elizabeth Kelly has spent the last 17 years as Head Teacher at St Peter's Catholic Primary School Lytham. She retired at the end of term in July amidst many celebrations to thank her for her unstinting work.

The celebrations included a Mass in her home parish of St Joseph's Ansdell which included a presentation from the Governors, a special barbecue organised by the PTFA, a 'New Beginnings' assembly, where ex pupils now studying at St Bede's Catholic High School came and presented Liz with flowers and a photograph and also two Summer Concerts – children wrote poems about Mrs Kelly and song words were adapted to show how much she meant to the children.

"Mrs Kelly always had the children at the heart of everything, she was supportive and a good listener taking on board each new initiative introduced into schools and achieved two 'Outstanding' Ofsted inspections. She also used her knowledge and wealth of experience to support other schools" said Deputy Head Teacher Mrs Cath Kelly.

Mrs Kelly helped to create a wonderful memorial garden – The Millennium Garden – a place for children to sit, chat

and relax as well as helping to create an outdoor learning area – Squirrel Wood where she was part of the Saturday morning nettle-clearing and bark-spreading team. She found the funding for two Trim Trails which the children then played a part in designing and she also worked alongside the parish community to plan and organise the monthly children's Mass at St Joseph's Ansdell.

Mrs Cath Kelly who will be Acting Head Teacher for the first term of the school year said that "it would be impossible to list all of Mrs Kelly's achievements over the 17 years of her headship, there have been so many."

St Peter's Primary School, Lytham will welcome Mrs Angela Heyes, (currently Deputy Head Teacher at St Kentigern's, Blackpool), in January.



50 Years as a School Governor

School Governance – Service to God and Service to Others

In July the school community at Christ the King Catholic Maths and Computing College, Preston came together to recognise the outstanding contribution made by Joyce Allen who has served as Governor for over 50 years. Mass was celebrated by Fr Frank Osman and Canon Luiz Ruscillo. Joyce was joined by her family, fellow governors, clergy and staff and students both past and present. Presentations were made from the school, the governing body and the Diocese.

"The whole community of Preston can be proud of the ambitious programme which has been achieved by the Roman Catholic community. This fourth opening of a Roman Catholic Secondary school sets a seal on the united efforts of both the Church and the Local Education Authority." These were the words of Monsignor B K O'Neill when staff and Governors assembled for the first time on 30th August 1965. In preparation for the opening of what was then St. John Fisher RC High School, Monsignor O'Neill had the previous year begun to assemble a governing body for the new



school. One of the first people that he approached was a young mum by the name of Joyce Allen. Although somewhat surprised to be asked, Joyce responded positively and so began a 50 year connection to the school which continues to the present day. Monsignor O'Neill's recognition of Joyce's talent and potential was indeed an inspired one!

On behalf of everyone connected with Christ the King, we give thanks to Joyce for her unwavering commitment, support, enthusiasm and encouragement.

Damien Callagher

"Prayer in action is love, and love in action is service. Try to give unconditionally whatever a person needs in the moment. The point is to do something, however small, and show you care through your actions by giving your time ... We are all God's children so it is important to share His gifts. Do not worry about why problems exist in the world – just respond to people's needs ... We feel what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean, but that ocean would be less without that drop." – Mother Teresa

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Rest in Peace

I first met John Hawkins in September 1966 the 26th to be precise the day I arrived at the English College in Lisbon and at that time he and me were the only Lancaster Students there.

Most of my recollections belong to that era and the early seventies. *"He had for his sins previously been at Ushaw College, if my memory serves me correctly,"* a place I as a teenager had only once visited and I felt it bore more than a passing resemblance to Dartmoor. So when I was told that I was going to Lisbon and not Ushaw I was a very relieved 18 year old. Apologies to those of you who have maybe different views on that establishment but it was a very murky and cold day in February that I saw it and I have been traumatised ever since.

In college John was quite a celebrity. He was then and remained a great sportsman and was captain of the college football team and led us to victory in the Portuguese Inter seminary League. Ronaldo wasn't around at the time, so from a student body of not much more than 35 this was quite a feat. We weren't just playing other seminaries we were playing internationals and John was the Bobby Moore or Geoff Hurst.

But John wasn't just a footballer while we were in College, he was great Linguist and spoke very fluent Portuguese, in fact in his own time he would take the new students after the morning lectures to teach us Colloquial Portuguese. His method was to speak in Portuguese the whole time so as to immerse us in it; this he did with that ease and good nature that so characterised him.

Because of his ability with the Language he was Editor of the college Magazine – not you would think any big deal but in those days under the Dictatorship of Salazaar there was censorship so any publication that was made, had to go to the State Censor; a task which fell to John as Editor and these people took things seriously. There were laws about holding gatherings of people and there were political prisons if you stepped out of line in even the most minor ways. But John took all this in his stride and was a great and effective ambassador not just for the college, but for this country because we were seen as quite an important outpost and were one of only two land based establishments that could fly the white Ensign on the college building when the British navy were in port.

John was also quite an intellectual and was part of a group who used to gather with the Irish Dominicans and others for some regular and very serious theological discussions and I know that the contribution John made was considerable.

In 1968 he went home to be ordained in his home Parish of St Albans in St Annes and I next came across him when he was a curate at English Martyrs in Preston in 1971. These were the glory days of that Parish which had three other priests along with Fr Frank Lea who I think introduced John to the great game of golf. The presbytery was enormous, the dining room could accommodate a wedding reception and I remember sitting there talking to John after the early Mass one day and I was sat in the PP's chair. The PP later came in and advised quite politely about the wisdom of sitting there; being PP of English Martyrs carried with it a certain amount of gravitas, and who did I think I was usurping his position.

It was while he was there that John organised what were to become annual winter reunions of Lisbon priests in the Lake District. John had the uncanny knack of getting to know people who were either well placed or just stinking rich; and the first place he got for us to stay at, was near Ambleside owned by some eminent doctor and it cost us peanuts to stay there for the week; but after a few years it became unavailable. This minor setback was no problem for John who immediately came across another kind gentleman who owned a couple of Chip shops and he had a huge place near Hawkshead which was even better and cost us nothing. On these trips which were in winter we would go walking in the Fells but John would disappear to the golf course.

The golf was something he started when at English Martyrs and was obviously a very good student achieving a single figure handicap, something which greatly helped the Lancaster clergy golf team considerably in the annual national clergy championships, now sadly defunct through lack of numbers.

But his ability at golf and his knack of being able to associate with the well connected he was able to take back to Portugal there he knew the owner of The Penina Golf hotel in the Algarve a championship course designed by the great Henry Cotton and this got John free golfing holidays for several years the only obligation being that he celebrated Mass each day for the family and hotel staff.

John however did better so that at the end of the fortnight he was there and his bar bills were all on a tab when he presented the tab at the end the owner just tore it up and said forget it so not only did he stay for free and play for free but his drinks were on the house as well.

It would however be wrong to give the impression that his life was all beer and skittles or in John's case golf balls; he did great work at English Martyrs, was closely involved with the Cursillos de Crisandade a particularly Iberian style of renewal which were very effective in the 1970s; he was Vocations Director and PP at St Bernadette's Lancaster accommodating the Diocesan justice and peace group and concluding his priestly career at St Pius X Barrow.

It would be a sad epitaph if we were to sum up his life by the after effects of the stroke that so damaged him in these last years. With Fr Peter Draper I saw John in the Barrow nursing home earlier this year, I brought some photos from our Lisbon days that I thought might help, but sadly we got no response but we and I am sure his sisters are so grateful to the staff there for their obvious dedication to his care and also of course to the parishioners of St Pius X who were so faithful in making visits to him during that long stay.

So as we look back over his life and reflect on what he taught us perhaps first of all we should acknowledge that gentle unthreatening manner he had when dealing with people. I can never remember him raising his voice or losing his rag; what an important quality to bring to the priestly life; where we are especially called upon to imitate Christ in our dealings with others.

And as the gospel reminds us it is only by dying that we gain life. You could say that John died 6 years ago and not being able to communicate for so many years must have been a desperate ordeal for him as it was similarly difficult for those who visited him. If we all have some share in the sufferings of Christ, then we don't have to look far to see how John so closely followed Our Lord's example.

It does take you back in a most realistic way to the reading from Isaiah that we have on Good Friday *"harshly dealt with he bore it humbly never opening his mouth"*.

A sombre note on which to end, but as shortly we go to bury his body at the Park Cemetery I just think that there would be a wry smile on his face when he realises that his mortal remains will only lie about an eight iron chip from the par five 15th fairway of Fairhaven golf club where we trust and pray he will rest in peace.

Rev Canon Robert Dewhurst

May the Angels lead you into paradise

+++++
May angels guide you and bring you into paradise; and may all the martyrs come forth to welcome you home; and may they lead you into the holy city, Jerusalem.

May the angel chorus sing to welcome you, and like Lazarus, forgotten and poor, you shall have everlasting rest.

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Fr John Hawkins
R.I.P. 1943 - 2014



Here is a transcript, (*abridged by the Editor*), of the panegyric given by Fr Alf Parker at the Requiem Mass offered for Fr Joe Hothersall on 29 July 2014.

My Lord Bishop, Mary and all the family and friends, Reverend fathers and my dear brethren welcome to this Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of Fr. Joe and a celebration of his life.

To Mary, Michele and all the family may I offer our deepest sympathy and sincere condolences on this occasion of your sad bereavement. You are all in our prayers. *"I thank God for that day on which was given to me which is not given to Angels, that I should offer God to God."* These words of St John Vianney express what is fundamental and central to the life of a priest. As we come together this morning to pay our final respects to Fr Joe, a fellow priest and dear friend of many, it provides us with the opportunity to reflect on the awesome nature of our own calling for we are what Fr Joe was and someday will be what he is.

As priests we are to be identified with Jesus Christ in a very special way: with his life, his labours, his suffering, his temptation and his passion. Unworthy though we are, we are the hands, the eyes and the tongue of that Body through whom Christ speaks, acts, suffers, and offers his sacrifice to the eternal Father. Through us Christ baptises, absolves, blesses, teaches, guides and offers sacrifice. This is your life priests of God. Not one necessarily of privilege but rather of service, a life not of exterior grandeur but hopefully of an inner peace in Christ, a life of Spirit rather than the letter. We believe that through our ordination we are indeed clothed with the very person of Jesus Christ.

Today we come to pray for a friend, a fellow priest, a man who was well aware

of his own failings and weaknesses. A man of deep faith, a faith learned from his parents, a faith in which he truly believed that Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

My initial contact with Fr Joe was at Ushaw when in Divinity. At a distance I saw a man with a fairly permanent smile on his face, a joke on his lips and a willingness to give of himself and a help to anyone who needed a helping hand. We battled and at times joined forces on the football field and the cricket pitch. As well as his interest in football Fr Joe was a very keen fisherman and lover of dogs.

However, a more permanent contact came when he joined the staff at Underley; he had not changed and he was a great asset to the sports side of college life despite his lack of knowledge of the true sport of rugby! He added a new zest to the life of the priests and he was the source of many a good 'belly' laugh!

During his retirement at High Wray Fr Joe shared the Cross of Christ with typical spirit; a smile, a joke, a good laugh and a deep personal spirituality. No serious complaints he simply got on with his life. To all those priests and friends and family who supported Fr Joe through his active priestly life and retirement – many thanks. Finally, may I once again offer our sincere condolences and sympathy to Mary and Michele.

May they thank God that their brother, uncle and dear friend was a good and faithful servant and I say not in grief that he is no more but in thankfulness that he was and we were privileged to share in that life. May he now, reunited with his beloved parents, rest in peace.

***Eternal rest grant unto Fr Joe, O Lord
And let perpetual light shine upon him.
May he rest in peace. Amen***



Fr Joe Hothersall R.I.P.



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Photos courtesy of
Night of Light website
(www.nightoflight.org)



Reclaim Hallowe'en for the Church



The 'Night of Light', is an international initiative to reclaim Hallowe'en for the Church. It is running in many, many countries in the world from England to India, from Africa to New Zealand and Hungary to the United States, with uncountable numbers of people involved. Celebrations have taken place in small chapels and cathedrals in parish churches and monasteries in schools, homes and on the streets. The inspiration for it was received by Damian Stayne the founder of the Catholic community, Cor et Lumen Christi.

Why the Night of Light?

What immediately comes to mind when you think of Hallowe'en? Probably, like most people, it is the images of witches and ghosts and so on, which belong to the dark world of the occult and magic – images of darkness and death.

In fact Hallowe'en ('All Hallows Eve'), the evening of the 31st October, is the vigil (beginning) of the feast of All Saints – the feast in which we celebrate the glory of God in His saints – the victory of light over darkness in the lives of God's holy ones in heaven. Jesus is the 'Light of the World'. The saints lived by that light, and became a beacon in their own generation. We too are called by Jesus to live out this vocation – to be the 'Light of the world' today.

It is for Christians to reclaim Hallowe'en for God so that it is transformed from a night of darkness into a great Christian festival once again. In this way, in years to come, when people are asked what immediately springs to mind when they think of Hallowe'en, they will think of Jesus Christ and the glory of God in His saints.

So what are the key elements of the Night of Light?

- A Vigil Mass for the feast of All Saints (including an offertory collection for the poor as poverty is just one example of darkness in our world today).

- All night Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament – to join the saints in heaven in the worship of Jesus Christ the True Light.
- Treats and fun for the children in celebration of All Saints and the Light of Christ. Perhaps the lighting of a candle at supper and sweets and fun events in families or schools, e.g. a bonfire or dressing up as saints.
- Placing a light in your window (safely!), and a picture of the Risen Christ as a sign to passers-by that yours is a Christian household and Christ is your light.
- In addition, some may like to wear a white item of clothing as a symbol of belonging to Christ our light.

Vatican Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelisation backs Night of Light for Hallowe'en

The secularism which presently pervades western culture has put forward the thesis that it is better for one to live in the world as if God does not exist. This impetus to remove God has had tragic consequences in the lives of so many who have now lost themselves as a consequence of removing God from their lives. For this reason, I commend you on your Night of Light initiative.

During his Wednesday Audience prior to the Solemnity of All Saints, Pope Francis has stated: 'To be a saint is not a privilege of a few. All of us in baptism have the inheritance of being able to become saints. Sanctity is a vocation for everyone.' May the Night of Light initiative spark in the souls of many the desire to become saints – Cardinal Rino Fisichella (President of the Pontifical Council for the promotion of the New Evangelisation)

The 'Night of Light' has the endorsement of the Bishops Conference of England and Wales.

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Motherhood of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Our Lady & St Joseph, Carlisle

Sunday October 19th at 3.00 pm
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
St Peter's Cathedral, Lancaster

Shrine Church of St Walburga, Preston
Sundays: 10.30 am Sung Mass
Mondays – Saturdays: 12 noon Low Mass

Mass is also celebrated every Sunday at 9.00 am at St Mary Magdalene, Leyland Road, Penwortham.
Local Representatives: Bob & Jane Latin Telephone: 01524 412987 Email: lancasterlms@gmail.com Website: latinmasslancaster.blogspot.com

Mass of Blessed Edward Bamber



Blessed Edward Bamber was born in Carleton. He was a seminarian in St. Omer, and at the English College of St. Gregory in Seville, where he was ordained a priest in 1626.

For sixteen years he served the Catholic Mission, mainly in Lancashire, but was imprisoned between 1643 and 1646 and condemned to death for being a priest. On the 7th August 1646 he was hanged, drawn and quartered in Lancaster. Blessed Edward and his fellow martyrs were beatified by Pope John Paul II, on the 22nd of November 1987.

In July Bishop Campbell joined many of clergy, parishioners and friends at St Winefride's (*Home for retired priests in Bispham*) for the annual Mass to honour local martyr, Blessed Edward Bamber.

We were fortunate to have plenty of sunshine for the outdoor Mass as well as choir members and musicians from the local parishes to lead the music. During Mass, Dorothy O'Grady, a member of staff at St Winefride's was presented with the Benemerenti Medal. Dorothy

was appointed as domestic help at St Winefride's House on 18th June 1991.

Dorothy has loyally served our retired priests for twenty three years and speaks with great warmth of many she has looked after. Dorothy is a person who works quietly behind the scenes with just the care of our priests her mission. All of which is undertaken with great patience, discretion and always a kind smile. It is her attention to detail that makes her so special. The community at St. Winefride's, and indeed all who come in contact with Dorothy, speak of nothing but praise for her steadfast dedication and her warmth of character. Apart from working tirelessly to keep the house shining like a new pin, whenever support is needed Dorothy is there.

Thankfully, retirement is not in Dorothy's sights, but it was felt by all at St. Winefride's that our appreciation of her dedication should be recognised. As an integral member of a strong and happy team, we are all the richer for having Dorothy on board. A great colleague and a friend to everyone. *Barbara Lynch*

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Is it permissible to offer assistance in dying?

To bring about death directly is always against the commandment "You shall not kill" (Ex 20:13). In contrast, to stand by and assist a dying person is humane and even obligatory. What really matters is whether a dying person is killed or allowed to die. Someone who kills a dying person (*euthanasia*) breaks the Fifth Commandment. Someone who helps another person in the dying process obeys the commandment "Love your neighbour."

In view of the certain impending death of a patient, it is legitimate to withhold extraordinary or expensive medical procedures that are not proportionate to the expected outcome. The patient himself must make the decision to forgo "extraordinary" measures or must have stated this intention in an advance directive. If he is no longer capable of

doing so, those who are legally entitled must represent the express or probable wishes of the dying person. Ordinary care of a dying person should never be discontinued; this is commanded by love of neighbour and mercy. Meanwhile it can be legitimate and in keeping with human dignity to use painkillers, even at the risk of shortening the patient's life. The crucial thing is that the use of such medications must not aim at bringing about death, either as an end in itself or as a means of ending pain.

Why is abortion unacceptable at any phase in the development of an embryo?

God-given human life is God's own property; it is sacred from the first moment of its existence and not under the control of any human being. "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you"

(Jer 1:5). God alone is Lord over life and death. Not even "my" life belongs to me. Every child, from the moment of conception on, has a right to life. From his earliest beginnings an unborn human being is a separate person, and no one can infringe upon his rights, not the State, not the doctor, and not even the mother. The Church's clarity about this is not a lack of compassion; she means, rather, to point out the irreparable harm that is inflicted on the child who is killed in abortion and on his parents and on society as a whole. Protecting innocent human life is one of the noblest tasks of the State. If a State evades this responsibility, it undermines the foundations of a rule of law.

(YOUCAT questions 382-383)

Can a handicapped child be aborted?

No. Aborting a handicapped child is always a serious crime, even if it is done

with the intention of sparing that person suffering later on.

Can experiments be performed on living embryos and embryonic stem cells?

No. Embryos are human beings, because human life begins with the fusion of a sperm cell and an egg. Regarding embryos as biological material, "producing" them and then "using" their stem cells for purposes of research is absolutely immoral and falls under the commandment "You shall not kill." Research on adult stem cells is a different matter, since they cannot develop into human beings. Medical interventions on an embryo are justifiable only if they are made with the intention of healing, if the life and unimpaired development of the child are assured, and if the risks involved are not disproportionately great.

(YOUCAT questions 384-385)



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