

The Catholic VOICE of Lancaster

The Official Newspaper to
the Diocese of Lancaster
Issue 264 + November 2014

INSIDE: p05 On a Mission to Bosnia
p11 Canon Nick McArdle RIP
p13 They Never Stop Smiling



The situation for Christians throughout the Middle East continues to worsen.

The ancient Christian communities in Iraq and Syria are daily subjected to threats and atrocities at the hands of Islamic State forces, while Gaza's Christians continue to suffer in the wake of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

Many have been forced to flee their homes, leaving everything behind and with little hope of a brighter future.

The Patriarchs, Bishops and clergy throughout the region are offering what help they can, while neighbouring peoples, including the Kurds and the Lebanese, are attempting to offer shelter and relief to the thousands of displaced families who cross their borders each week.

Chaldean Catholic Patriarch Louis Raphael I Sako of Baghdad explained that there are at present "about 120,000 Christians

living in Iraq as refugees ... they need everything because the ISIS terrorists have taken all they had."

Lebanon, with a native population of just 4 million, is now home to over 1.1 million Iraqi refugees, as well as to hundreds of thousands of Syrians who have also been forced to flee their country in the face of advancing Islamic State forces.

The Diocese of Lancaster has responded generously to the request for prayers and donations, but more help is needed. Winter is fast approaching and the freezing temperatures will add greatly to the suffering of families currently living in tents in overcrowded refugees camps.

Aid to the Church in Need request your continued prayers and financial support to ensure the survival of these Christian communities which stretch back to biblical times. See page 12 for how you can help.

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The Catholic Voice of Lancaster

is published on the last Sunday of the month previous to publication date.

The Catholic Voice of Lancaster is published by its owners. The Trustees of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lancaster, a registered charity, (No. 234331), and is wholly independent of and separate from any previous newspaper published by or on behalf of the diocese.

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PUBLISHED BY:

CathCom Ltd. N2 Blois Meadow
Business Centre, Blois Road, Steeple
Bumpstead, Haverhill, Suffolk CB9 7BN
020 7112 6710 / www.cathcom.org

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EDITORIAL

The poppies of remembrance are all around us once more as we begin the month of November. And this year, marking 100 yrs since the start of the First World War, we are surrounded by many calls to “remember”. The days of All Saints and All Souls which begin this month could be mistaken for part of this pattern of Remembrance: “We will remember them”. In a sense, of course, they are days which lead us to a prayerful remembrance of all who have gone before us, but they are so much more than bare remembrance. Instead they are days of solidarity, a rich shared life, living communion, because our Catholic Faith teaches us that in Christ we are united beyond the limits of past and present.

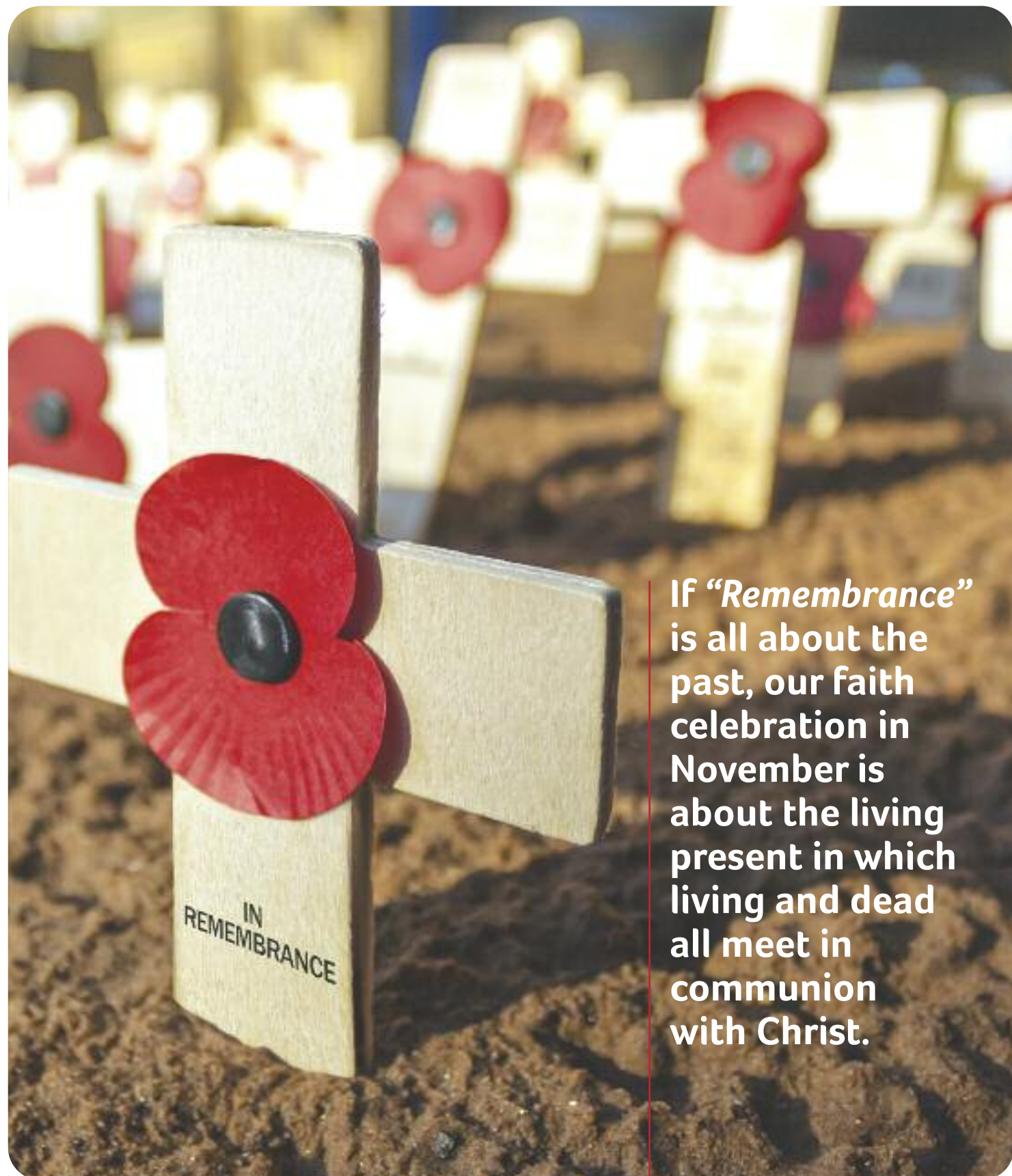
If “Remembrance” is all about the past, our faith celebration in November is about the living present in which living and dead all meet in communion with Christ. So, we don’t only give thanks for the example of the saints as past history, we also celebrate their presence as living companions, friends and supporters on our journey of faith here and now. And we don’t only respectfully remember those who have died, we support and pray for them, we can still love and help them in Christ.

We are part of a living exchange of love and care which we call the “Communion of Saints”. It is a great gift to us as we live our own journey as disciples, we are part of a living family of faith beyond all limits of time and place, all parts of the Body of Christ right now. In each Mass we are united in Christ, and in that union we join with all the family across continents and across time. The Apostles and early martyrs are our companions, the

English martyrs with their powerful witness stand beside the altar, our own friends and families living and dead are praying and being prayed for. Here is the great cloud of witnesses who join us in every Mass.

So perhaps it would be good this November to see that we are all disciples together here and now. We have much to gain from the great witnesses of faith of past years, but also much to gain from the witnesses of faith who remain true to Christ in the face of great trials in this present moment. We are acutely aware that in many countries modern martyrs are dying for their faith, and many more are threatened daily and face hard lives simply because of their loyalty to Christ. And all around us in our own surroundings are people who have shown the face of Christ to us. This witness of men and women, young and old, in past and present makes us think about our own discipleship, our own place in the great family of believers.


Let’s take strength from this great cloud of companions to walk the road of discipleship with confidence. Articles in this edition of the **Catholic Voice** remind us of the call to solidarity with those in need, and solidarity with suffering members of the Church today. Our faith helps us see our whole life as a life called to loving communion. We live this out in our care for those around us and our thankfulness for their support. And as we do that for those we can see, we do it also for those who have gone before us as well, being helped by their prayers and praying for them. In Christ we are called into a living family of mutual support, we give thanks for this Communion of Saints.



If “Remembrance” is all about the past, our faith celebration in November is about the living present in which living and dead all meet in communion with Christ.

Matrimony

Matrimony Matters



Jesus' message to the Samaritan woman at the well, reminds us of His first miracle at Cana in Galilee where, to meet the needs of the people, He changed water into wine. He also promised us "living water, where we will never be thirsty again ... a spring inside ... welling up to eternal life". In other words grace, poured into us, overflowing through our life in Him and His life in us.

Throughout our life, grace is there for us to call upon, and to respond to. Grace came to us through our baptism, and as Christian couples, we are blessed with particular graces through the Sacrament of marriage: Healing, through asking for forgiveness and/or forgiving each other when hurts exist; Elevation, raising each other up when we are down-hearted, and Radiation, bringing each other life and love through affirmation and encouragement. Let us always seek out our living waters'.

Prayer
Lord, may we always know that you are with us, offering us the grace that can quench our own and each other's thirst. May we always seek to draw on the waters of life you have given to us in and through our Sacrament of Matrimony. Amen.

www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk
Extract from 'I AM WITH YOU YEAR A' & BOX-SET

Garstang Catenian's commemorated Brian Winstanley's 60 years membership of the Catenians with a commemorative scroll presented by the Grand Vice President of the Catenian Association Peter Woodford, who had travelled up from Reigate in Surrey to honour Brian's achievement.



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66 I've still in my own home but now have more confidence knowing I have support from my carer partner **55**

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Being a Young Catholic Today

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Something to Live For

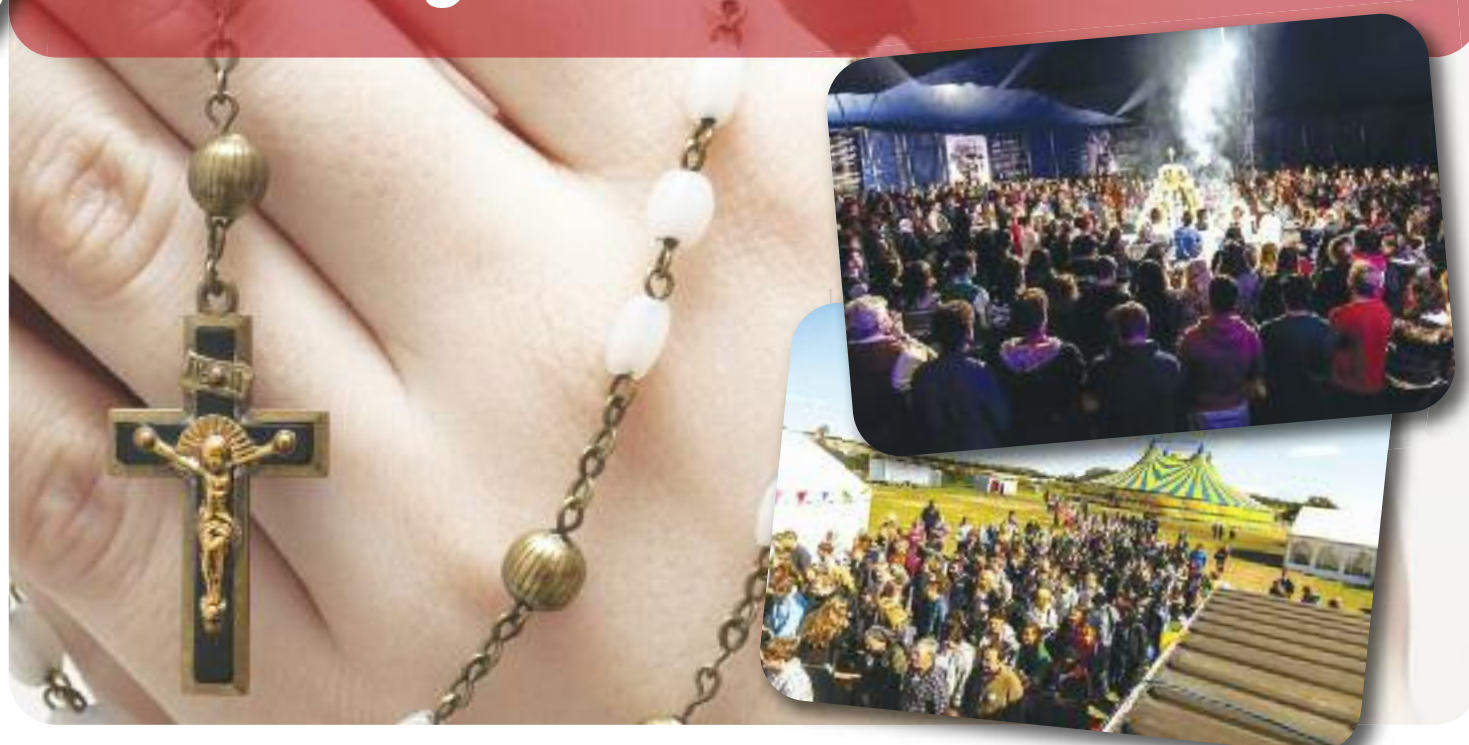


A few weeks ago I had the pleasure of joining young Catholics like myself in the diocese's annual Big Walk through the Lake District. During the walk, we spent a short period in which we each individually made our way down into the Ennerdale Valley, in silence and in solitude. For me, it was a defining moment, slowly descending into the green embrace of the valley as the mountains rose up behind me; the harsh, windswept rocks and brush of the mountaintops contrasted with the soft green trees and grasses lower down. The only sounds were the wind and the footsteps of the person a while behind me, reminding me that there is always someone there, whether that be physically or in spirit.

I took the opportunity to perform an examination of conscience. Had I been a good Catholic? Had I let God into the whole of my life in my actions and my words? To be honest, no. Yes, I had been going to Church, praying every day, but this was just a routine; being a Catholic is something to live, not merely a list of tasks to check off or rules to follow. What had happened? I think the problem is that, with the whole world open to us, we forget how good we have things. It's easy to forget to turn to God when we don't need anything, which, come to think of it, seems a little bit ungrateful. The endless distractions of modern life are sufficient to keep us from considering anything deeper than our everyday preoccupations; considerations which, as I found, reveal to us that we do need God after all, because that's the whole point.

It was then that I realised, as I reached the bottom of the valley, why these times in which we can reflect on the lives we've built around us, times in which we can experience the wonder and awe of God's creation, are so important. It's something we need to do more often.

"Thy Kingdom Come, Thy will be done"



Pretty famous words from a somewhat famous prayer that we even said in my state primary school. On the August bank holiday weekend I – along with 15 other young people from the diocese – made the 332-mile, 6 hour 27 minute journey to Norfolk. Not just to Norfolk but to Walsingham, a tiny village about 25 miles east of Kings Lynn. But I wasn't just there camping like I told some of my family, ill at ease in explaining the 'God Festival'. I was there celebrating, singing, dancing, praying, listening, learning and journeying with hundreds of other young adults at a Youth2000 retreat.

I'd never been to a Walsingham Youth 2000 Retreat before so I wasn't really sure what to expect: everyone had told me how great it was and I'd given up going to Leeds Festival for it, so I had pretty lofty expectations. I'm not going to run through a series of events or log my day by day activities but all I need to say is, after a summer essentially spent at Marian Shrines I half expected to be disappointed. I wasn't. I went home exhausted, in need of a decent meal, but I went home elated. No way did I want that weekend to be over.

This article isn't so much just about Youth 2000, but more about a realisation that I had whilst I was there. I had a couple of realisations actually, one being that I have the best group of friends ever! The second

realisation I had was that of Christ. Jesus is always waiting; I suppose I'd always known this but I was yet to experience it in the way I did that weekend. Or I certainly hadn't experienced it as powerfully as I did at Walsingham anyway. It first happened when I had somehow signed up for a 6am to 7am adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Now it's the summer holidays so I had not seen 6am at all so it was a shock! I expected to go in there, to be freezing cold and to fall asleep. Now I was definitely freezing cold but I got in there, prayed my rosary, looked at my watch and thought, great, now what am I going to for the next 40 minutes. I prayed Morning Prayer, still 25 minutes to go. Then I took my watch off and put it in my bag and forgot about it. Why was I counting the minutes until I could get away? I didn't have to do anything special. I was sitting in the most special place in the world – right at the feet of Christ. Not the foot of the cross, but the feet of Christ, alive in the Blessed Sacrament, burning with love and compassion.

The second occasion when I really experienced this was at the end of the festival. Now I'd spent most of the last morning at the hospital so by the time I got back I had missed Mass but went into the tent to find everyone. The Blessed Sacrament was gone, for the first time in 5 days, but everyone was still praising, praying and thanking God for all he had

done for us over the weekend. And that was when it struck me. We are the Church. We are Christ's hands and feet, his eyes and ears on Earth. And it's our mission to go out and be people of God. To love, to care, to cure, to be kind, to laugh, to live, the way He made us to live. To live in Love.

Reflecting upon the experience and my life in general, it struck me that it's now been 3 years since I left Sixth Form. If things had worked out exactly as I had planned, I would now have graduated from the University of Cumbria with a QTS in RE Teaching. Or the more likely scenario is that I would have wasted 3 years of my life drinking and failed my degree because I was immature and lazy. As it happened God had a different plan. He wanted me to spend 2 years at Castlerigg Manor so I could grow into the person I am today before moving on to my career. **We all have a different journey in life, some of us reach our goals quickly and some of us a little slower. But we will all burn as bright.**

Christ will be waiting for us all and we are all made with a purpose. All of us in our schools, colleges, at university, at work, with our friends, have a responsibility to be Christ's hands and feet on Earth. Youth 2000 gives us the courage to do that. That's the experience of the Church that every young person should have. And that is when 'Thy Kingdom will come' here on Earth.
Richard, 21, Workington

On a Mission to Bosnia



This summer 10 young people and 6 adults from St Clare's Parish, Preston, travelled to a poverty-stricken former Refugee Settlement in Bosnia and Herzegovina. 'Hodovo' has been our parish and primary school 'outreach' project for a few years now.

The people there were 'ethnically cleansed' from other parts of the former Yugoslavia during the recent civil war. We carried on the work started by the Kendal parish. Over the years the settlement has been provided with: a sports play area, a bakery, a clinic, fresh water supply, a school library facility, PE and other school equipment. We have also sponsored the young people

there to come to the UK on two occasions.

Our task this time was to paint the classrooms of the primary school and in two days we managed to transform the rooms with blue and white paint. While we were painting, some of the children in the settlement came to see what we were doing and some teachers also visited.

The boys played football together (*the Croatians won every game*) while the girls played volleyball in the gym. A young lady, with an excellent talent for languages, translated what we wanted to say. Although there was a clear language barrier, we still managed to make good

friends with the children, who were similar ages to us.

After this our time in Hodovo, we travelled to the shrine at Medjugorje for the Youth Festival. In the evenings, we joined thousands of young people for the Youth Festival events. I truly felt the presence of Our Lady, in the beauty and peace of the area but also in the friendly people around me. It was incredible to see so many young people from many different countries who shared my faith and it gave me hope that Christianity will never die. Some of the events we attended included a procession of all the flags of the world, a night full of singing and dancing, led by the nuns on a

stage and a show hosted by the Cenacolo Community as well as Mass and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. A special moment for me was the singing and dancing night, as the crowds united with one voice and the same actions to praise God.

I have learnt a lot from this trip, made connections with new Croatian friends and strengthened my faith and I believe this is the same for everyone who came. I want to thank St. Clare's Parish for giving us this amazing opportunity to go to two very special places and represent our diocese in Hodovo and at the Medjugorje Youth Festival 2014. *Nisha, 17, Preston*



The Big Walk



This year marked the tenth year of the Big Walk. Unlike previous years of dismal weather and downpours, we had two full days of sunshine.

Twenty-two young people met at Honister Pass, staying the night in the Youth Hostel amidst the old slate mines and towering crags. The first morning of the Big Walk started off on a positive note: blue skies and sunshine everywhere! The ascent was gruelling, but the spectacular views made it all worthwhile. We trekked into Ennerdale, despite having

lost Castlerigg's dog Bosco along the way, and spent the evening relaxing around a fantastic meal prepared by the ladies of Cleator, a quiz and a bonfire. There was tea, biscuits and guitar music under the stars.

The trek from Ennerdale to Cleator Moor was accompanied with clear skies the following day, and was made in record time. Spirits were high over the weekend, and we were lifted even higher when we had reached our destination. We are looking forward to next year's Big Walk already!

Lizzie, 21, Blackpool

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Dear Editor,

'Evangelisation on the Airwaves'

When I read the above article in the September edition I was reminded of an item I read once which impressed me so much I wrote it down and it goes as follows:

'Beatified French priest Daniel Brottier of the Fathers of the Holy Spirit and missionary said that photographs were more important to him than his Military Medals'. He said "Have faith in publicity" and his motto was 'If your cause is good enough, publicity will help you to triumph and retrieve the money spent'. He put photographs on Metro notice boards etc., with excellent results.

I know his motto to be true when I have heard of good results from publicity.

Yours sincerely
Mrs F. Smith, Preston

Your letters

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Dear Editor,

Thank you for the electronic copy of my article on John Bradburne, (*Catholic Voice July edition*) which reads very well. I note however that you have expunged most of the 'inserts' I wrote regarding my personal connection with Southern Rhodesia. These 'inserts' (or comments) were done, not through any desire for self-aggrandisement on my part, but purely to inform the reader of my local knowledge of the area where John Bradburne worked with the lepers and my occasional involvement with them through my work as a policeman, and to acquaint readers with my connections and understanding of the Chizezuru (*Mashona*) people.

I sincerely hope that the reason for omitting these facts was not fear that my article was promoting White supremacy at that time. The reverse is actually the case; the overwhelming majority of the indigenous people of Zimbabwe would now, I am sure, gladly exchange their current lot under the tyrant Mugabe for the quality of life once lived under paternalistic White control.

Yours sincerely
Brian Parnaby

Editors Response
The 'inserts' were excluded purely on the grounds of the space available to publish the full story.

Dear Editor,

Living 4 miles from Skirwith I was very interested to read Brian Parnaby's piece on John Bradburne in the July edition of the Catholic Voice. More needs to be written about this unusual and saintly man.

However, Brian Parnaby is wrong about Cumbria having, as yet, no native born saint. Saint John Boste, one of the 40 martyrs of England and Wales, was born at Dufton just 6 miles SE of Skirwith on the Fellside.

Yours sincerely
Gavin Young via email

Dear Editor,

Having spent almost four decades in the Royal Air Force I read with interest the article on the Rev (*Flt Lt*) Skillen in the September edition of the Catholic Voice.

Without a doubt, Padres (*Sky Pilots as we called them*) were (and doubtless still are) an integral part of Service life. That they are few in number shows how urgent is the need for someone such as Deacon Skillen to fill the gaps. I recall that in the first week of my Training, a visit to the Padre was part of my induction process. I came away with a small prayer leaflet issued on behalf of the Principal RC Chaplain, which carried on one side the "Memorare", a picture of Our lady of Perpetual Succour and inside a few words on how one could carry out a crusade of prayer as the Rosary was "said on most Units daily". That leaflet is still in my wallet. Dogeared and stuck with sellotape though it is!

Times have changed in the Royal Air Force as they have in the world around us. (*Will the UK still be the UK if and when this email is printed*)? The need for spiritual welfare has however not and perhaps in such challenging times it is even more relevant.

I wish the very first Permanent Deacon to be commissioned in the Royal Air Force (*and his family*) a very long and successful career in the Service, be it at RAF Brize Norton or any other posting. I for one will pray for him.

Chris Crocker, Ansdell



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Dear Editor,

It is difficult to read Mr Gillett's letter published in the September edition of the Catholic Voice without some apprehension.

As a mother and grandmother I pray very often for young adults in my family to return to the practice of their faith. I also pray for my own generation that we may be better examples of Christianity to the next generation. We all fail in this and without God's help, we could begin to lose hope that future generations of young people may leave the Church and never return. Faith will only be regained when people, especially the young, witness Jesus' followers carrying out loving acts to others in His name. Some of this is being done already in soup kitchens, drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres and work with the homeless and street sex workers. As a collective witness we can, as a church, make present again Christ's hands and his feet and his voice to others. His healing message will reach others only when it is first spoken from the mouths of Christians and Catholics.

The New Evangelisation must first stem from our own hearts, we must not spend our energy excluding and dividing and deciding who is in the right, and what particular doctrine must be adhered to. Jesus did not always stick to the letter of the law in fact he had not got many good things to say about the religious people of his time. He cut through their hypocrisy and with a pure heart washed the feet of the poor and lame and powerless. He did not wear special clerical clothing to do this and did not identify with the establishment in any way. He was despised and derided and still did not cling to power or identity. Most of all he spoke to women and prostitutes, outcasts, tax cheats and lepers were the ones he sought out. Is our present Catholic Church doing this? Is a special choir outfit and a ceremony in Latin really in line with this Christ of the Gospels? It may answer in part those who miss the traditions of the past but will it really serve to increase the faith of future generations? Will it draw those on the outside of the Church towards a living Gospel? Will it indeed serve the poor or those who are desperate to find real meaning in their lives? The world is hungry for the word of God, we can choose to hide ourselves in righteous clerical huddles or we can claim back the new breath of the Holy Spirit and courageously go out and teach all nations.

Elizabeth Alty via email



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Mass Listings – November 2014

Sunday November 2nd at 6.00 pm
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
Our Lady & St Joseph, Carlisle

Friday November 7th at 7.00 pm
Requiem Mass for those buried in the churchyard
Our Lady & St Wilfrid, Warwick Bridge, Carlisle

Sunday November 9th at 6.00 pm
Requiem Mass for Remembrance Sunday
Our Lady & St Joseph, Carlisle

Sunday November 16th at 3.00 pm
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
St Peter's Cathedral, Lancaster

Sunday November 16th at 6.00 pm
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
Our Lady & St Joseph, Carlisle

Sunday November 30th at 6.00 pm
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(Proverbs 17:6)

**“The crown
of the
aged
is their
children's
children”**

‘For as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another’

(Romans 12.4-5)

St Paul reminds us of the different gifts and tasks of different members of the Church: teaching, or helping the poor, for example. Families are a microcosm of the Church, and are similarly enriched by a variety of roles within them. We often focus on the parents, as breadwinners, educators, nurturers and carers. We sometimes neglect the contributions of the other generations.

The young and the old need each other. Cicero noted this even before the birth of Christ: ‘Just as wise men, when they are old, delight in the company of young people with their fine gifts, and old age is easier for people who are befriended and loved by the young, similarly, young people rejoice in the guidance the old can give them, which encourages them to try to live well.’ Pope John Paul II agreed. As he wrote about the elderly in Familiaris Consortio, ‘above all they carry out the important mission of being a witness to the past and a source of wisdom for the young and for the future.’ And everyone knows the joy that lights up a grandparent’s eyes at a visit from their youngsters.

Grandparents share the past, grandchildren the future, each with the other. The stories of the old are history, and they give the young the security of knowing from where they have come. The stories of the young are dreams, and they give the old the excitement of imagining where they might go. And each grows through the

experience: children become less childish, and the aged stay young at heart. No wonder the relationship between them is often a special one. To quote again from Familiaris Consortio, ‘The elderly often have the charism to bridge generation gaps before they are made: how many children have found understanding and love in the eyes and words and caresses of the aging!’

Not just the family, but the whole of society needs this bridging of the generation gap. Recent experience, very sadly, has taught us that laws alone are not enough to protect young people from exploitation or the elderly from neglect. We need genuine and mutual affection and reverence between young and old, rooted in relationships of familiarity and respect. Imagine, for example, a six-year-old excitedly playing me the tape of his interviewing a couple who had lived through the Second World War; or a teenage carer in tears at the funeral of an elderly resident from in our nursing home.

Affection and reverence of this sort will first be learnt within the family. That is why the Second Vatican Council called the family ‘the first and vital cell of society’. The ordinary moments of family living – the bedtime stories, the Sunday lunches, the visits to the zoo – from these grow friendships of wide and lasting significance. The building blocks of the family are the building blocks of society. Reverence, like charity, begins at home.

Sr. Margaret Atkins

Our Faith

How strongly obligatory is the truth of the faith?

Every Christian must give testimony to the truth and thereby follow after Christ, who before Pilate said, “For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth” (Jn 18:37). This can even mean that a Christian lays down his life out of fidelity to the truth and love for God and mankind. This ultimate form of commitment to the truth is called martyrdom.

What does it mean to be truthful?

Truthfulness means that one acts sincerely and speaks honestly. The truthful individual guards against double-dealing, misrepresentation, malicious deception, and hypocrisy. The worst form of untruthfulness is perjury. A great evil in all communities is slander of other people and malicious gossip: A tells B “confidentially” something derogatory that C said about B. (YOUCAT questions 454-455)

What significance do the poor have for Christians?

Love for the poor must be in every age the distinguishing mark of Christians. The poor deserve not just a few alms; they

have a claim to justice. For Christians there is a special obligation to share their goods. Our example in love for the poor is Christ. “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Mt 5:3) is the first sentence in Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. There is material, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual poverty. Christians must look after the needy of this earth with great consideration, love, and perseverance. After all, on no other point will they be evaluated by Christ so decisively as on their way of treating the poor: “As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me” (Mt 25:40).

What are the “corporal works of mercy”?

To feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick and the imprisoned, and bury the dead.

What are the “spiritual works of mercy”?

The spiritual works of mercy are: to instruct the ignorant, to counsel the doubtful, comfort the sorrowful, admonish the sinner, bear wrongs patiently, forgive all injuries, and pray for the living and the dead. (YOUCAT questions 449-451)

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As Pope Francis says, 'Anyone who has truly experienced God's saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love' (Evangelii Gaudium 120). However here are a few pointers that it might help to think about before you head out...

Opportunities

There are plenty of missed opportunities to share the good news within our own families, work places, friendship groups and Churches. We don't have to go out of our way to find people thirsty for the living water that only Christ can offer. Evangelisation is generally much more effective within existing relationships of trust, where you can share in someone's life, walk with them and speak light and hope into their real experiences - 'It will be your witness that brings him the restlessness on which the Holy Spirit works' (Pope Francis, Homily, Domus Sanctae Marthae, February 27, 2014). So absolutely everyone is already ideally placed to begin evangelising.

Our Calling

Evangelisation is not just a bright idea that someone came up with because our Church buildings are getting empty, it is our calling and has been since Jesus told his followers to 'go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News' (Mark 16:15). Evangelisation is the work of the Church, as Pope Paul VI reminded us; it is her 'vocation. ... She exists in order to evangelise' (Evangelii Nuntiandi 14). And before anyone says 'yes but that means the priests and nuns who have had lots of training', Pope Saint John Paul II was clear that evangelisation 'cannot be left to a group of specialists but must involve the responsibility of all the members of the people of God' (Novo Millennio Ineunte 40). So this is a great responsibility but also a huge privilege that God has entrusted to each one of us.

Blessed Mother Teresa famously said, 'we are called to be faithful not successful'. In stepping out with the Good News we are cooperating in God's plan for all of creation. We mustn't forget that God is already there, ahead of us, that He knows that person better than we do and cares about them more than we do, that we are meant to be cooperating, not forging our own way. We must always trust that the 'Holy Spirit is the principal agent' (Ecclesia in Asia) and He knows what needs to happen and when in each individual's life.

God is love – real and alive

Our vocation is to bring people into an encounter with Jesus, not an institution or a philosophy, but a person who is alive and active.

Our message must ring out over and over

'Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you' (Evangelii Gaudium 164). At the heart of our faith is a relationship with a Person. God is willing to go to the ultimate lengths to demonstrate His love for us. He created us to share in His divinity for eternity. He lavishes His love upon us day after day, and is so close to us that He dwells within us. Once a person has begun to walk and grow in that relationship, then, and only then, can Catechesis (the gradual teaching of the faith) begin effectively.

First steps

- First we need to recognise that we along with 'every member of the Church ... ought to grow in awareness that he himself is continually in need of being evangelised' (Evangelii Nuntiandi 15). We must take seriously the relationship we are offered and invest in it as we would any important relationship, spending time in prayer, making every effort to continue to develop and grow in faith, receiving the Sacraments regularly, listening and responding to God's plan for our life and in particular praying about who He wants us to reach out to, how and when.

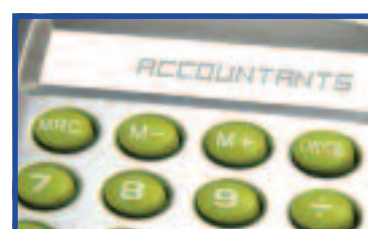
For the Word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword... it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart

(Hebrews 4:12)

- Next we must become more and more familiar with Scripture, because this is where we get to know Jesus better. 'For the Word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword... it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart' (Hebrews 4:12). Whether or not we are good with words, there is nothing we can say to someone that will be more effective than God's Word being proclaimed because then Jesus is present. And finally being able to share what God has done in your life and continues to do each day – is highly effective and probably the most accessible way of reaching out to those in your everyday life. If you are able to share the basic Gospel message with joy and examples of your real life experience then your faith will shine like a beacon. 'I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for the salvation of all!' (Rom. 1:16)

Abridged from an article by Ruth and Joe White available online at their website: www.metanoiaproject.co.uk

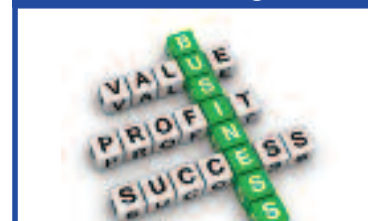
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50 years of Religious Life



On August 30th Sister Helen Bamber, celebrating her Golden Jubilee of Religious Life in the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, welcomed parishioners, family and friends to a Mass of Thanksgiving in the new Church of Christ the King, Blackpool.

The Mass was celebrated by Fr Tom McGuinness S.J. assisted by Fr John Winstanley, Fr. Peter Cookson and Fr John Moriarty. In the context of the readings and hymns she described her life "pilgrimage" expressing her gratitude to God.

"I thank God for each one of you here today. You are all significant people in my journey through life this far because meeting you and knowing you have helped to make me the person I am with the faith I have. Mary's words, 'The Lord has done marvels for me', are words that I can truly say".

My life has been a pilgrimage and will continue to be. It started in Lytham where I was born, baptized and brought up in a very happy family with my three sisters – all here today with husbands, children and grandchildren. I became aware of the many blessings which I recognized as God-given including my family, my education, my faith and friendships, so at the age of 18 I felt called to a new stage on the journey which culminated in making my first vows in the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. After years of further study I qualified as a teacher and I made my final vows in Preston, in Winckley Square school chapel.

The journey continued, teaching Religious Education and Classics here in Blackpool for eight years and in Birmingham for three. Then I moved on to Leeds to be co-chaplain for students at the University. I am delighted that quite a number of former students are able to be here today as well as former colleagues with whom I taught.

After five years in Leeds I was asked to join the community in Lancaster and while there found myself involved in pastoral and spiritual accompaniment ministry, walking with many other people on their faith journeys. Over the next twenty years in parishes and retreat houses this was my main ministry and the people I walked with and worked with continued to be a source of great inspiration and blessings. In 2007 I was invited to join the staff of the Seminary at Ushaw where I had contact with the young men training for the priesthood in my role on the pastoral team. (Now one of these is the hospital chaplain, Fr John Moriarty and I am a volunteer in his team).

My journey has now brought me back to Blackpool. Sister Anne Stewart and I came here almost two years ago and we are very blessed in our parish of Christ the King and in our involvement here. So thank you all again for coming along to join me in this Mass of Thanksgiving at this particular point in my ongoing journey.

After the Mass Sr Helen and Sr Anne welcomed everyone to a celebratory party in their home on Grange Park.

Catenians Celebrate 100 Years

Blackpool and the Fylde Catenians celebrated their centenary in May with the celebration of Mass by Fr Chris Cousens, and a celebration dinner thoroughly enjoyed by almost 200 people.

More information about the Blackpool Catenians can be obtained locally from Des Stevenson on 01253 860188.





Panegyric delivered at the funeral Mass, St Bernadette's Lancaster on Wednesday 10 September:

'I told you I was ill' – an epitaph quite appropriate for Nick. Over the past months he had increasingly been unwell. He had a hospital bag packed. Despite a 111 call and a few days later a 999 he was unable to get into hospital.

He finally made it in July and was relieved that all necessary tests were being made. He was eventually transferred to the Royal Preston Hospital for further tests and seemed content with that. Whilst there he took a turn for the worse with pneumonia and was in Critical Care. Surprisingly one of his questions was, *'how did Sunderland go on?'* I actually couldn't remember but I did assure him that I remembered that Newcastle had lost – and he was very comforted by that.

In hospital he was aware of the seriousness of his condition and he knew that it was unlikely that he would be able to come back to St Bernadette's. He was very appreciative of his time here, a very contented retirement, and said that *'like St Bernadette I have enjoyed poor health'*.

In the past he had always recovered but not so this time and death came as a friend; he was weary, realistic and ready. *'I am in good hands'* – referring both to God and to the medical care. That care of the doctors and nurses, and the support of those who visited and all who were praying for him are greatly appreciated.

The night before he died Fr Darren Carden, the hospital chaplain, had prayed with him and gave him a blessing and then asked Nick to bless him – which he was just about able to do. It is comforting to know that right up to the end he was still ministering.

At one hospital visit he gave me a note saying, *'these are the readings for my funeral'*. I reminded him that he had already chosen some and he just replied *'I have changed my mind'*. The readings from Ephesians, from Psalm 27 and John 4 provide an insight into his understanding of his priestly vocation.

God's grace is everything; we are all called to co-operate in the great gift of God's love *'how infinitely rich he is in grace'*. All achievement is God's gift: *'not by anything you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit'*.

Nick had a keen sense of stewardship: gifts received were to become gifts returned in service. I found a quotation from Blessed Robert Southwell on a well-worn card in the same file as his Will which concludes: *"God is my gift, himself He freely gave me, God's gift am I, and none but God shall have me."*

His pastoral concern is seen in the choice of gospel. Jesus talks about how the sower and the reaper rejoice together: *'I sent you to reap a harvest you had not worked for. Others worked for it; and you have come into the rewards of their trouble'*.

Nick never envisaged priesthood as anything other than God's work and his small part in that continuous plan, *'to do the will of the one who sent me'*. He felt privileged to be able to reap where others had sown, and to sow the seeds for another generation of believers – always conscious that God gives the growth.

In 1961 he was ordained in St Peter's Cathedral – at a Saturday morning Mass by Bishop Thomas Bernard Pearson. No fuss, no photographs; just a meal in the Royal Oak with his parents and a few friends from his home parish in Houghton-the-Spring, Co. Durham.

His first appointment was to St Ignatius' in Preston and later he was to serve in St Joseph's, Preston. His time in Preston left him with a great affection for the Catholic Community there and a place he would regularly visit. He had a short appointment at St John Vianney in Blackpool – this was a difficult time for him as it coincided with his mother's illness and subsequent death.

His arrival at St Bede's, Carlisle was a great consolation and there he flourished under the patronage of that great Northumbrian saint and appreciative parishioners. *'New praises be given'* written by St Bede very much summed up his feelings.

From St Joseph's, Preston he moved in 1971 to St Joseph's, Lancaster and was there for 8 years – many here have fond memories. In 1989 he was appointed to Hornby & Caton in the Lancaster Deanery; he was to be there 16 years until his retirement and spent his final 9 years here in St Bernadette's – making it a total of 33 years in the Lancaster Deanery. It is very fitting that he will be buried in Lancaster in the Cathedral Cemetery.

A major part of his *'sowing and reaping'* was through his work with the Marriage Tribunal and the Diaconate training programme. To these he brought his pastoral concern. In his retirement years he became chaplain to the Women Together in Lancaster. Many will remember a fine pastoral priest. And to all he would say, *'not to anything I had done, it is all God's work'*.

Those who know him well will remember a person with wide interests especially in music, art, history and current affairs. He was a good story teller and there have been many anecdotes over the years from his experiences as an apprentice joiner, his time of military service in the army, life at seminary, as well as travelling. Cherish your memories and pray for him. They are signs to us of God's grace working in him.

Although a Canon, he certainly would not want to be canonised. He asks your prayers. He was very conscious of his shortcomings and would often speak about them himself: he could be very forgetful and consequently he was often late, and at times could be impatient – he remarked that in one former parish he was sometimes referred to as *'Fr Grumpy'*. He had his feet firmly on the ground.

Let us pray for Nick and commend him to God's love and mercy. Give thanks to God for the many ways that he has touched your life – and we take comfort in the words of St Paul which we heard earlier: God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life in Christ and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus. May Nick now enjoy a safe lodging, a holy rest and peace at the last.

Fr. Peter Foulkes

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him, May he rest in peace Amen.

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New North West Base for Aid to the Church in Need



In April this year Dr Caroline Hull from Lancaster was appointed North West Manager for Aid to the Church in Need ("ACN"). The charity identified a need for a regional UK branch in 'Old Lancashire' because this Catholic heartland contains a major concentration of the charity's benefactors – over 33,000 to date. ACN supports the Church in countries where Christians are persecuted for their faith. Caroline says *"This area has Catholic families that reach back to the Middle Ages, who have known persecution, who feel connected to the Lancaster Martyrs, and that may make people more compassionate in reaching out to persecuted Christians"*. *The Catholic Voice* caught up with Caroline recently to find out more:

How did ACN start?

Caroline explains: *"In 1947 a young Norbertine priest, Father Werenfried van Straaten – responding to calls for reconciliation by Pope Pius XII – appealed for food and relief to take to displaced German refugees. The one food people had which would not perish was bacon, so sides of pork poured in, earning him the nickname 'The Bacon Priest'."*

In the 1950s, Father Werenfried and his team helped to keep the faith alive behind the Iron Curtain. Today ACN supports 5000 projects in 130 countries across the World, helping build and restore churches, train clergy and religious, and provide vehicles, catechetical materials and children's Bibles. Donations aim primarily to build up the faith. ACN only provides humanitarian aid to partners it already knows and works with, usually priests and religious orders. Overheads are low: Caroline's office is her dining room.

On 4 November ACN launch their comprehensive Religious Freedom Report in the House of Lords which describes the state of persecution of any religion throughout the world. This reveals the striking statistic that 80% of those persecuted for their faith are Christians.

Today ACN is particularly active in trouble spots such as Syria, Gaza and Iraq. One such project is run by the Good Shepherd Sisters in Lebanon, who provide medical assistance from their dispensary to Christians displaced from Iraq and Syria, as well as peace education for Muslim and Christian pupils, and psychological support for victims of trauma and sexual abuse. People urgently need food and water.

What can we expect to see in the North West?

"In the past there have been lots of interesting talks and prayer events in the South, and now you can expect to see events happening in the North West". ACN North-West is organising a series of Prayer vigils for persecuted Christians across Lancashire and Cumbria:

- **Our Lady of Eden, Carlisle**
Saturday, 29 November 2014 @7:30pm
- **Lancaster Cathedral**
Sunday, 15 February 2015 @3:00pm
- **Our Lady of Furness, Barrow**
Wednesday, 25 February 2015 @7:00pm

• **Holy Family, Freckleton**
Sunday, 1 March 2015 @3:00pm

• **Tabor Carmelite Centre, Preston**
Monday, 2 March 2015 @ 7:00pm

• **Holy Trinity & St George, Kendal**
Saturday, 7 March 2015 @ 10:00am

Resources for Schools

Caroline and Lorraine McMahon have produced a new resource called *'Prayers from our Hearts'* for primary schools. This focuses on the experience of Iraqi and Syrian Christian refugees encamped in Lebanon. It is gentle and age appropriate, and includes an assembly plan. It encourages children to think about what it's like to be a Christian in another part of the world where you can be persecuted for what you believe and have to flee with your family and leave everything behind.

Children are taught to weave prayer hearts which will be sent to Sr Hanan in Lebanon. The pack even includes recipes to enable the school to cook a typical Middle Eastern school lunch. Gentle fundraising is invited, e.g. a non-uniform day. An exhibition of 50 panels of pictures and text, an assembly and Prayer vigil plan will shortly be available for Secondary Schools. These panels feature the work of artist Farid Georges, a Syrian Orthodox Christian, who is currently trapped in Lebanon and cannot get to Germany where he and his family have legal asylum status. Caroline remarked, *"His family's experience has really brought home to me the human experience behind some of the shocking statistics we all read about"*.

How can we help?

"The first thing that everyone asks us for is prayer", says Caroline. You can attend one of the forthcoming prayer vigils, and – in union with all ACN employees and millions of Christians worldwide – say the Angelus for persecuted Christians at midday. You can donate at the ACN website; request *'Prayers from our Hearts'* for your school, ebay for ACN, or volunteer to be a parish representative. Parish reps will be critical in raising awareness about persecution.

To be a parish rep, please approach your Parish Priest first, before getting in touch with Caroline at caroline.hull@acnuk.org or 07815538425.

Thank you

Caroline thanks all benefactors from the Diocese of Lancaster who have prayed and made donations already. ACN only receives help from private benefactors.

"It is so moving to come home and see someone has posted me a cheque for the church in Iraq, or a parish has spontaneously taken a collection. And it does make a difference: Worldwide one in eleven seminarians is funded by ACN. And every 26.5 seconds a Mass is being celebrated somewhere in the world, the stipend of which was financed by ACN."

You can follow Caroline's blog at: www.acnnorthwest.blogspot.co.uk or Twitter twitter.com/ACNUK_NW Link to ACN on Facebook: www.facebook.com/acnuk.northwest Donate at: www.acnuk.org

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They Never Stop Smiling!



This summer a group of sixth formers and teachers from Our Lady's Catholic College, Lancaster travelled to Uganda. Together we delivered a mixture of Science, English and extra-curricular workshops to both Ugandan teachers and students.

The sixth formers delivered lessons in Biology, Chemistry and Physics to the students as well as extra-curricular workshops in Karate, First Aid, Team Building, Sports and Music. A video on 'Life at OLCC' was shown and questions answered on what school was like in England. The teachers delivered teacher training courses to Ugandan teachers in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Our first location was Bukinda in the Kabale district. We visited the Apostles of Jesus Seminary, St Paul's RC Secondary

School and the Giant's School. OLCC has been supporting St Paul's for a long time now and it is good to see how it has developed and flourished. In contrast the Giant's school is quite a new and developing school but it was amazing to see how much spirit and energy the students had despite their lack of resources. At all of the schools both the Ugandan teachers and students were incredibly eager to learn and develop themselves, taking advantage of every opportunity they were given.

There were many assemblies where the Ugandan students showed us their traditional dances, sang beautiful songs or revealed amazing talents such as still walking and break-dancing. In return we taught them the Macarena!

Every morning we attended 6.30 Mass

at the Seminary and were treated to beautifully harmonised and accompanied hymns by the boys. We attended an outdoor Sunday Mass at St Paul's where, once more, the singing was wonderful: there was lots of clapping along and some students accompanied the Gloria with a spiritual dance. In return we sang 'Christ Be Our Light' and though our singing was not quite as impressive as theirs, they appreciated hearing a new hymn.

Whilst in Bukinda we visited Lake Bunyoni and went on a boat trip. The lake was beautiful and it was great to spend some more time getting to know our hosts. We then travelled to Nyamirama in the Kanungu District on the edge of the Great Rift Valley, where we visited Newman Primary School and Poullart des Places Secondary School. They are relatively new schools and part of a

thriving Catholic community in a very remote, rural area.

Here the teachers once more gave courses in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. These were taught in the new science laboratory which our donations had helped to build. The sixth formers gave music and karate workshops and played games outdoors with the primary children. We ran the RSC Global Experiment for the Ugandan secondary students and they were the first school in Africa to log the results online!

The trip was thoroughly enjoyed by the whole group and many plan to go again. Uganda is a beautiful country filled with fascinating and awe-inspiring people. Though they have little they never stop smiling – something we could all learn to do.

Rebecca Lowe

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(LEFT) Members of NDV Institute

SECULAR Carmelites

Consecrated to God, Active in the World

(Left 1) Notre Dame de Venasques sanctuary
(Left 2) Living and working in the world

“Do not forget: be revolutionary!”

With these words, earlier this year, Pope Francis urged members of secular institutes, consecrated by the three vows (*Poverty, Chastity and Obedience*), to live their vocation to the full, while being sent as witnesses to the living God into an atheist world that thirsts for God.

Living the spirituality of Carmel in the simplicity of ordinary life, while humbly using one's talents in professional work, whether in the public or private sector, is at the core of the charism of the Notre-Dame de Vie (*Our Lady of Life*) Secular Institute.

This union of Action and Contemplation involves an intense prayer life guided by the teaching of Venerable Fr. Marie-Eugene of the Child Jesus OCD. Fr Marie-Eugene was a Carmelite priest and founder of the Institute. In his practical synthesis of the works of St Therese of the Child Jesus, St Therese of Avila and St John of the Cross, entitled “*I want to see God*”, he provides essential keys that help us live in faith and persevere in silent prayer, so as to put God first in every aspect of life.

We find our fulfillment in a total gift of self to God: our will and intellect, all our projects, plans and talents, as well as our deepest poverty. This prevents us from getting lost amidst all the world's entanglements. The consecrated members of Notre-Dame de Vie may be sent to various surroundings or geographical areas, to be there as the radiator that spreads its warmth, while often remaining unnoticed. They bring prayer into the heart of their activities, as


the essential way to be more transparent to God's grace and become instruments of the Holy Spirit, progressively transformed by his action.

Besides a two year initial period of formation at the mother house in Venasque (*France*), or in the Philippines, and two daily hours of silent prayer, Notre-Dame de Vie's consecrated members return regularly to a house of the Institute, as if to their family home, for stays of varied length, of which one per year must last at least three consecutive weeks. They live a fraternal life in small groups or alone and remain in touch with the superiors through modern means of communication and through visits.

The members of the Institute come from more than twenty different countries living and working in very different environments over four continents. The Institute also has a branch of laymen, and one of priests (*most of them working in various dioceses around the globe*). Together, they form a family within the Carmelite Order that takes part in the Church's mission with “*the full responsibility of a presence and a transforming action in the world and from within the world to shape it, make it holy and bring it to perfection.*”

For more information visit
www.notradamedevie.org

“Silent prayer is in a sense the sun and the centre of all the day's activities. Each day one feels that one has scarcely done anything else of importance.” Fr Marie-Eugène, *La Force de la prière (The Power of Prayer)*,



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Philipino members at work



Religious Communities and Safeguarding

"Being loved and being safe go to the very core of the Church's ministry to children and vulnerable adults. The Church should also be a community in which abused people know they can find healing, justice and right relationships restored. This is particularly important when the abusive behaviour has come from trusted members of the community who have broken the trust placed in them. Christ came to heal the wounds of sin and division. The Church has the same mission"

***** (Safeguarding with Confidence, the Cumberlege Commission 2007)

Religious communities have been actively involved right from the beginning in helping to shape and implement safeguarding policies and procedures in the Catholic Church in England and Wales. Each religious community has its own Safeguarding Representative just as each parish has. Their role is to ensure that members of the congregation are aware of their responsibilities, have regular updates and training and have DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks as and when appropriate. The Safeguarding Representative also has the responsibility of liaising with the relevant safeguarding commission in the handling of any abuse allegations.

Due to the fact that religious congregations have communities in many places and are involved in a wide range of ministries, the safeguarding structures for them were slightly different. Until recently religious communities were served by 4 regional safeguarding commissions. Each

commission was required to have an independent lay chairperson and professionals from the police, social services, probation and so on as well as religious representatives themselves. In 2012 in line with a move to a "One Church" approach and the recommendations of the Cumberlege Commission, there was some restructuring and religious were asked to consider new safeguarding arrangements. Each religious community has 3 options:

- To form their own commission
- To join with other religious and form a commission
- To align with a safeguarding commission in a Diocese

All commissions are of course accountable to and monitored by the National Catholic Safeguarding Commission (NCSC). Most religious communities in the UK have now aligned with a commission in a Diocese. Some larger religious congregations have their own commissions, such as the Jesuits

and the Sisters of Mercy. Five religious congregations have joined together to form SCOE, a Safeguarding Commission for Orders in Education.

Nine religious congregations have aligned with the Safeguarding Commission in the Diocese of Lancaster and there are two representatives from the religious on the commission: Fr Liam Finnerty ODC and Sr Anne Stewart SHCJ. Mrs Eileen Campling who works for the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service supporting religious congregations nationally, also advises the Lancaster Safeguarding Commission on all matters relating to the religious. The religious communities

themselves meet three or four times a year at Tabor House in Preston, to discuss safeguarding matters both locally and nationally and to look at their particular training and support needs. As is the case for the people and clergy of the Diocese, the religious are supported by Jane Robinson, our Safeguarding Coordinator, assisted by Deacon Chris Barwise.



Sr. Anne Stewart
Safeguarding Representative
Society of the Holy Child Jesus



Miss Battle Retires

After thirty six years of service, Christina Mary Battle (Tina) retired from St Bede's School in Carlisle. Tina, a Lancashire Lass, joined St Bede's in 1978 and in the early days of her career formed the Tuesday Club that promoted many activities including music, sports and games. Trips to the Isle of Man enabled some less fortunate children to have a holiday.

Tina taught all ages in the school, the children always came first and their welfare was always a priority. The school was an oasis of calm in some troubled lives and safeguarding was the norm before it became the buzz word of recent years.

The main celebration for Tina's farewell was a Mass concelebrated by thirteen priests most of whom had served in the parishes of St Bede's and St Edmonds, along with Canon Ruscillo, Head of the Diocesan Education Service. Tina, normally the one to organise everything, had to take a front seat with some close family members. At the end of Mass a Papal Blessing was presented to Tina by Fr Jim Allen. The reading was from Ecclesiastes, 'A time for everything'. We wish her many happy years in retirement.

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Building Hope

Prisons Week: 16-24 November

Prisons Week was instituted to pray for and raise awareness of the needs of prisoners and their families, victims of crime and their families, prison staff and all those who care. Please pray each day during Prisons Week, but also ask yourself whether there is one thing that you as an individual or as a church can do to assist.

Families

The families of prisoners and victims often find themselves caught up in the turmoil and desperation of a nightmare situation which is not of their making. They have to come to terms with either the horror of

one of their family being abused or exploited, or the equal but quite different horror of dealing with the knowledge that one of their own family has been responsible for the hurt caused. In both situations family members need support.

It is often said that families of prisoners serve the "silent sentence", for they are immediately affected by the imprisonment of a loved one even though they were usually not involved in the crime. There are obvious practical issues such as suddenly becoming a single parent, and families are often isolated from their community, people may look the other

way, and their children can sometimes face unkind reactions from other children. The support and care of a friend, neighbour or work colleague can mean so much in the same way that Jesus showed care to those who were ostracised in their community. God alone holds the power and the answers to how these difficult situations can be overcome or contained and the journey continued.

"Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Should my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy

and my burden light." – Matthew 11.28

Let us pray

Loving God, your Son knew the love of an earthly family. We pray for the families of prisoners and their victims as they, each in their different ways, come to terms with what has happened and walk alongside those whom they love and care for. Give to them the full riches of your grace and the strength they will need as they continue on their journey. Pour upon them the power of your Spirit that they may know wholeness and peace and in that peace, hope once again for good things.

Jenny Philips



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The paper will be in circulation on 29th November 2014.

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