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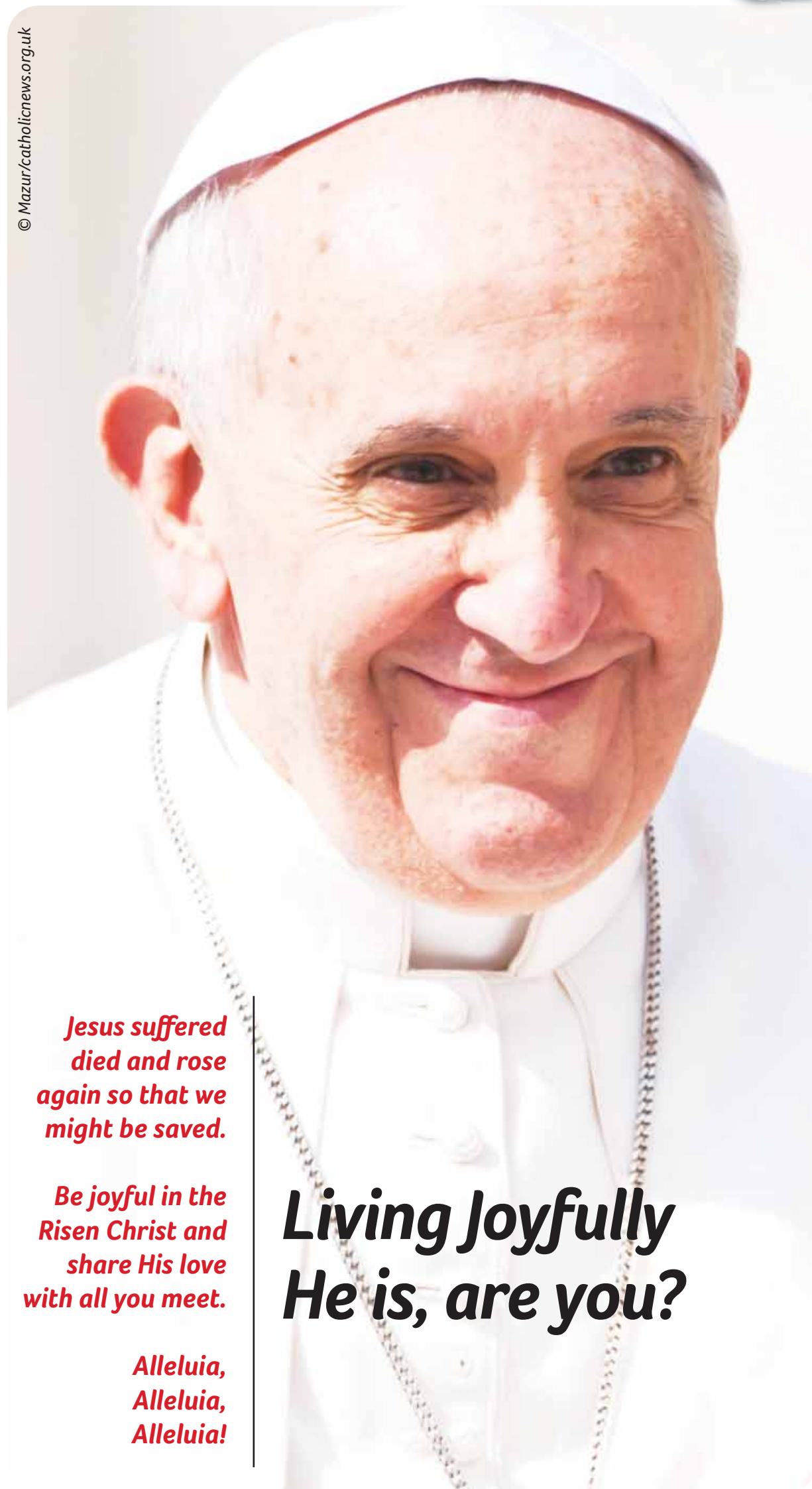
The Catholic VOICE *of Lancaster*

The Official Newspaper to
the Diocese of Lancaster
Issue 268 + April 2015

INSIDE: p05 A Year in a Monastery
p10 FRACKING – Can we
take a Catholic View?



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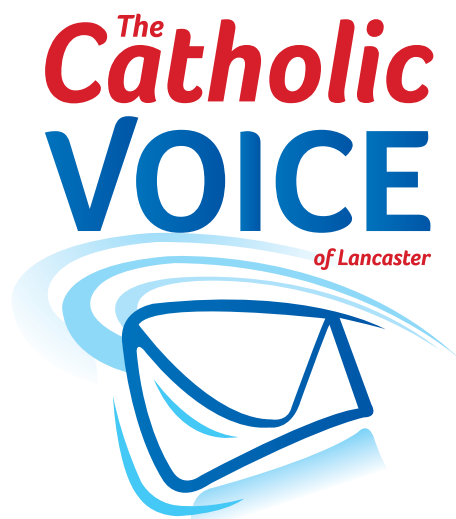
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EDITORIAL

Ever since his election, Pope Francis has spoken in a profound and powerful manner about the need for human solidarity; a care for the poor and those on the peripheries of life. He also speaks again and again – but this is not always reported in the secular press – about the need to protect and support the family. In fact, both themes are intrinsically linked within the rich tradition of the Church.

It was Vatican II which described the family as “the first and vital cell of society.” It stressed, too, that “the well-being of the individual person and of both human and Christian society is closely bound up with the healthy state of conjugal and family life.”

From Pope Leo XIII to Pope Benedict XVI covering more than 100 years our popes have written many social encyclicals with the family featuring as an intrinsic element in the social teaching of the Church. This is because the **habits we learn and live in the family are those habits and practices we bring to the public square and finally to the world arena.**

The Catholic Voice observes that nothing is more valuable nor demanding, and nothing takes more care and self-sacrifice, than love as expressed within the family. Love towards “humanity” as a theory of words is easy. Actions matter even more. And nowhere

is that truer than within a family – which we did not necessarily choose but have been given to us by the Lord, the Giver of Life.

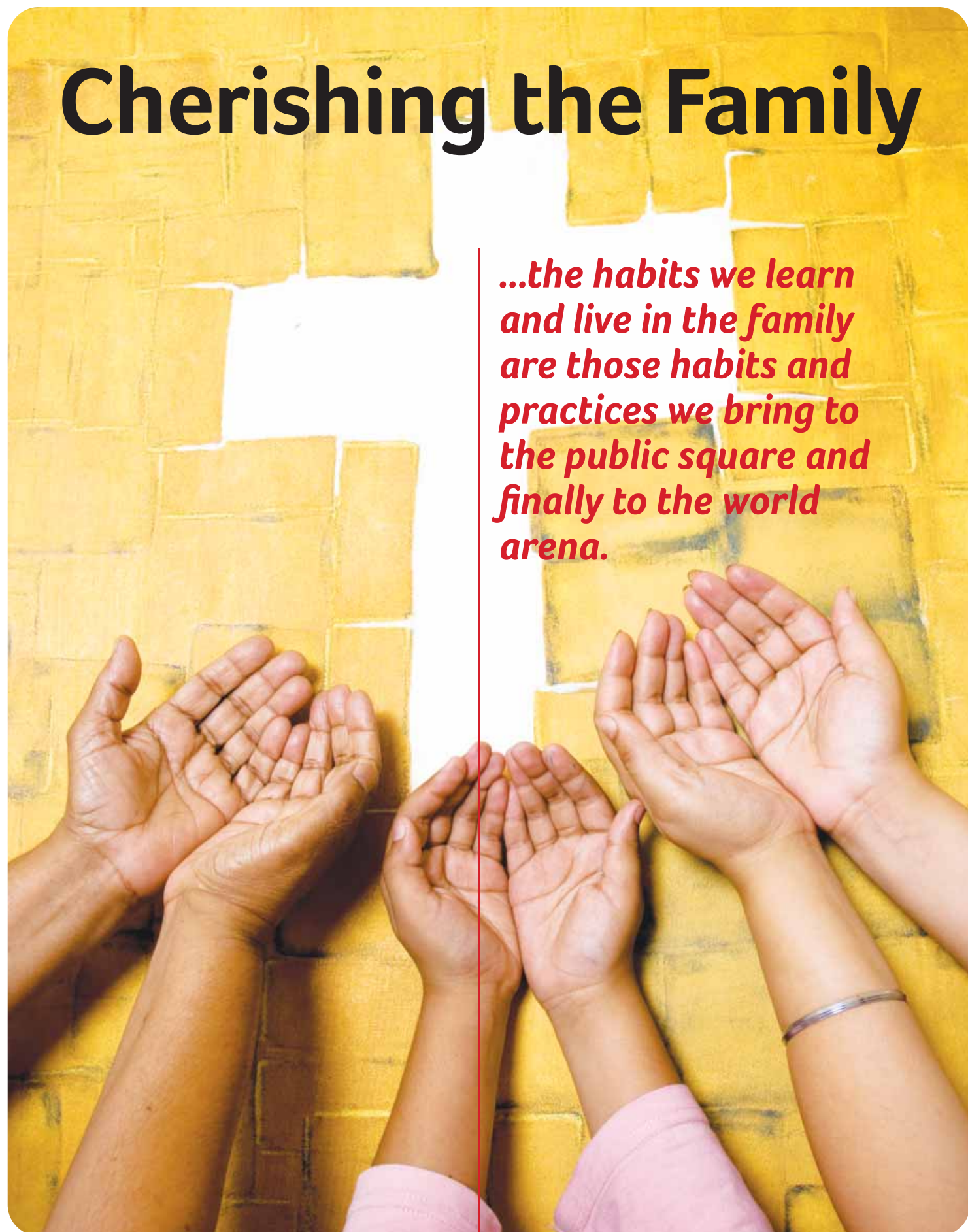
The Letter Familiaris Consortio (“On the Role of the Family in the Modern World”), written by John Paul II in 1981 as a fruit of the 1980 Ordinary Synod on the family, reminds us that “it is from the family that citizens come to birth, and within the family that they find the first school of the social virtues that are the animating principle of the existence and development of society itself.” What are those virtues? Justice, charity and a love for freedom and truth.

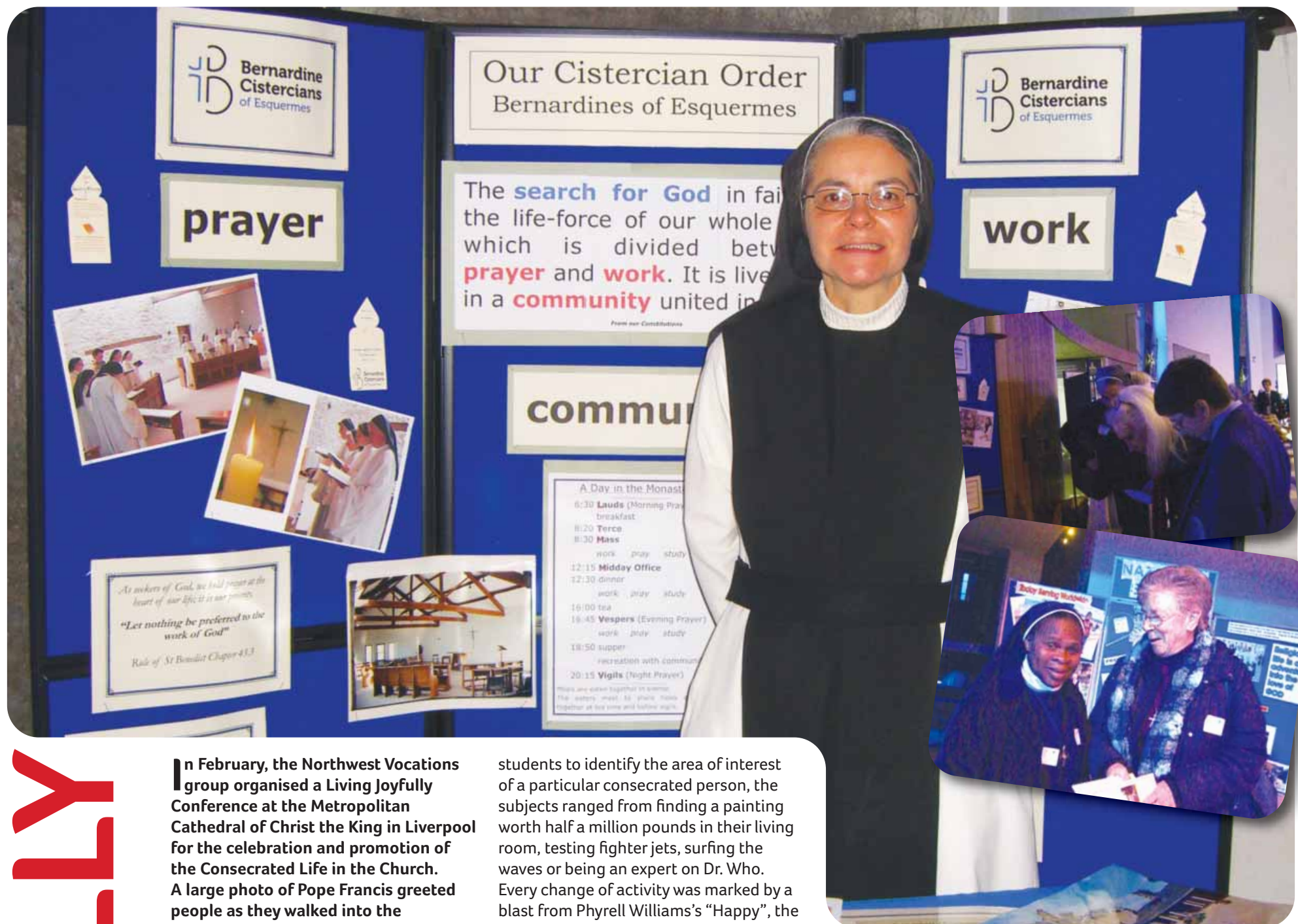
Prefiguring the words of Pope Francis by more than thirty years, Familiaris Consortio goes on to encourage families to become involved in all forms of social service, especially those which help the poor.

The Catholic Voice believes that the most important first step families can take in building a world of justice, mercy and charity is to pray often and together. We can’t just stop there, but we do need to begin there. If we do that, and plant that reality into our daily routines, we’ll begin to really “see” the people in need all around us, and to live what we say we believe.

Cherishing the Family

...the habits we learn and live in the family are those habits and practices we bring to the public square and finally to the world arena.





LIVING JOYFULLY

In February, the Northwest Vocations group organised a Living Joyfully Conference at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King in Liverpool for the celebration and promotion of the Consecrated Life in the Church. A large photo of Pope Francis greeted people as they walked into the Cathedral asking: He's living joyfully. Are you? For the many priests and religious who gathered together for these days the answer was a resounding yes.

Around the Cathedral were approximately 40 stands belonging to different orders, congregations and new movements in the Church. The National Vocation Office was represented by Sr. Cathy Jones and by Fr. Christopher Jamison, OSB. These stands were manned to give young people, parishioners and interested tourists an opportunity to see the diversity and vitality of the many different charisms in the Church today. It was also an opportunity for those representing the various different movements, an opportunity to meet up, catch up and share each other's joy in the living out of their own vocation.

The focus of one day was meeting the young people from various schools in the Archdiocese of Liverpool and several of the schools in Diocese of Lancaster were represented also. After the introduction to the theme of Living Joyfully, several religious introduced the range of ways of living out the consecrated life in the Church, from the monastic tradition (represented by the Bernardine Cistercians from Hyning) to the apostolic sisters, from the vocation to be a religious brother to living out consecration in the world with the Chemin Neuf movement.

To show that religious were normal people, 7 'volunteers' with an unusual interest or an unusual past, took part in an 'identity parade'. The idea was for the

students to identify the area of interest of a particular consecrated person, the subjects ranged from finding a painting worth half a million pounds in their living room, testing fighter jets, surfing the waves or being an expert on Dr. Who. Every change of activity was marked by a blast from Phyllis Williams's "Happy", the chosen theme tune of the day, made more relevant by the presence of two Nazareth House sisters on the big screen acting out the words!

After a keynote conversation between Fr. Christopher and Sr. Lynne, FCJ about their respective vocations journeys, the students were invited to attend workshops on different topics. These included: the Joy of the Gospel, Prayer, Vows, Peace and Justice to name just a few. There was also an opportunity to visit the stalls and meet individual sisters, priests and brothers.

There was also an opportunity to ask a panel of representatives from different institutes of consecrated life their views on any relevant issues. This was concluded with a short liturgy and a blessing from the Archbishop of Liverpool, the Right Reverend Malcolm McMahon.

The final day followed a similar format with forty young people from the North West taking part and similar activities were on offer. There was a constant stream of people walking round the stands and meeting those on duty. The highlight of the evening was the celebration of Mass at 6:30pm in the cathedral with the Archbishop, with Bishop Ralph Heskett CSsR, the priests, religious, consecrated persons and young people as well as the regular parishioners!

It was a truly wonderful experience to see so many consecrated people sharing their life joyfully and faithfully with the people we met. To go back to the question asked earlier: Are you living joyfully? We are! Why not give it a go? *Sr Michaela Toulmin*

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Being a Young Catholic Today

Jonny, 23, Preston
with comedian
Ross Noble

God's Plan

Young people today face many challenges, not least in the way other people in society perceive them.

Upon leaving education, it is becoming harder and harder for young people to find jobs which are fulfilling. My mum has always said: "if you truly do believe that every experience in life is part of God's plan then why worry, even through the bad times. Having a strong faith helps to keep you going when times get tough. No matter what, there is always hope".

At the moment I am doing some contract work for a defence company and in my spare time I am working on a sitcom. Whilst at university I wrote and starred in a three-part television programme which was subsequently nominated for a Royal Television Society award. Off the back of that, I want to continue to use those talents and stretch myself to use some of the skills that I have and see if I could combine my appreciation for comedy with themes from the heart – friendship, belonging, family, for example. A lot of comedy these days is needlessly crass, but I want to try and bring it back to the 'Only Fools and Horses' type sitcoms of the 1980s. With the very nature of any arts-based work and trying to pursue your dream, you get a lot of setbacks but I think you just have to have the belief that if it is meant to be then it will be, and not to be disheartened when things don't go your way.



Celebrating – the Call –



A workshop, led by the Chaplains and members of religious communities from the Diocese of Lancaster, was held at St Mary's Catholic Academy on the 4th February.

The main portion of the morning was the religious priests, sisters and brothers telling of their different callings to God. Visitors were from the Carmelites, Society of the Holy Child Jesus, Jesuits, Bernardines, Ursuline Sisters of Jesus, Fr Carden (*Diocesan Director of Vocations*) and a student from Leeds Trinity. They then answered questions as a whole panel from the gathered Yr 13 group. The aim of the morning was not only to give an insight into Consecrated Life, but also to get the young people to evaluate where they were in what will undoubtedly be the most important year of their lives so far. Stress was placed on the universal calling from God (*or vocation*) to be the best person you can be.

Dave Gibson, chaplaincy team St Mary's

Plodging with the Saints

'Plodging' is a Geordie word, roughly translated as 'paddling'

During the half term break, the team at Castlerigg went plodging – and even swimming – in the North Sea. We were following in the footsteps of the great northern saints. To understand them more and to make space for ourselves to experience what they experienced, we took the radical decision to leave behind all our mobile phones, tablets, music, TV, our whole world, so that we could truly enter into the great silence. Radical, or what!?

Who were these northern Saints? Back in the seventh century, St Aidan was sent from Iona to Lindisfarne (*Holy Island*) which in turn became a beacon of missionary hope, spreading the Gospel across St Oswald's kingdom. What Aidan began, St Cuthbert developed, and in turn other monasteries were established across the north-east, some of which became international centres of learning. Today, for instance, we are indebted to St

Bede of Jarrow who subdivided time into BC/AD and gave to us his History, the first written history of Britain, helping Britons to forge an identity of themselves.

Without our phones, facebook, twitter, and everything else, life calmed down and we discovered how to live in the present moment and how liberating it can be not to be a slave to the media, 24/7.

In fact, life opened up, deep conversations were had, prayer was more profound, joy filled the house, and laughter erupted spontaneously. Whether walking amidst the sand dunes of Holy Island or looking out to the Farne Islands from Bamburgh Castle, or admiring with awe the beauty of Durham cathedral, or sharing a quiet moment of prayer in the seventh-century crypt of St Wilfrid in Hexham, all of us felt much refreshed from plodging with the saints.



Spending a year in a monastery is not a very conventional Year Abroad. Most students who study languages at University spend their year teaching. However, when the time came to decide how I would make the most of a year in France, I was sure that I wanted to do something extraordinary. The Community of St John was founded in 1975 and now has priories on every continent. The Brothers and Sisters and Oblates of the Community seek to give their hearts to Christ through John the beloved disciple who, at the Last Supper, rested his head on Jesus' heart and remained close to Christ through Mary throughout his life.

I first met the Community four years ago when some Contemplative Sisters visited Castlerigg Manor. They spent just two days with us, but had a huge impact on my faith at the time. Their beauty, joy and simplicity really struck me, and I kept them in my prayers ever since. When the opportunity arose to spend a whole year with their community in France, I jumped at the chance!

Each year, around 10 young people from all over the world spend nine months

living with the Brothers of St John as part of the 'School of Life' programme. The principle is very simple - spend a year following Christ through prayer, manual work, study, evangelisation and community life. Our days were rhythmised by prayer, beginning with 'oraison' (silent meditation) bright and early at 6:15 each morning, Mass at noon and then Adoration each evening. No matter how busy things became, time was always made for silence and reflection. Outside of the chapel, however, life was anything but silent! There was never a dull moment in the house: each day would present new adventures and challenges - from chopping down trees and driving tractors in the garden in the morning, to an afternoon giving catechesis classes in the local school, and finishing the day with a delicious pile of crêpes!

The simplicity of life in the priory taught me to seek God everywhere, in everyone, and in everything. As a community, we would begin and end each new task with a prayer so that even simple chores were offered to the Lord. Community life presented many challenges. The language barrier was often frustrating, and cultural differences led to some very comical

misunderstandings! It was also difficult to live stripped of technology.

As the months passed and homesickness set in, I found myself desperate to spend time on Facebook, or to catch up with my friends over the phone. I realised how caught up we can get in social media, and how reliant we are upon it to keep in touch with people close to us. Through these difficulties, God taught me to live and to love in the present. Mother Theresa said that "each moment is what we need, not more". Each encounter over the year taught me to love, make sacrifices and find God in the other person, and through that find a joy that no amount of time on Facebook can give!

When the disciples

first met the Lord, they asked him a simple question - "Master, where do you live?" And what followed was the biggest adventure of their lives. This year taught me that saying 'yes' to Christ demands much sacrifice, but that whatever we give to Him is given back in abundance. The most ordinary of situations are, through Christ, made extraordinary!

Becky, 23, Bispham



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The focus in Early Years was Noah's Ark. The children read the story and made animal masks. They also explored the story through drama and music.

In Year 1 the scripture focus was the story of creation. They went on a creation walk and used Ipads to take photographs of God's creation. They also decorated special crosses as part of their celebrations. Year 1 created a piece of movement to the Louis Armstrong song 'Wonderful World' and thought about praising the Lord for all he created.

The story of Zacchaeus was the scripture for children in Year 2. They listened to the story and retold it both through writing and drama. They made their own special love hearts, to show how Jesus lives in our hearts and they used them to decorate their class tree.

The focus in Year 3 was Communion and their scripture reading was 'I am the vine, you are the branches'. The children took part in their own Last Supper and reflected on the meaning of the story. They created an emotional dance to the Ed Sheeran song 'Even My Dad Does Sometimes'. They thought carefully about the words and how it related to their week's work. We thought about how it reminds us to hold on to our faith even when Jesus is not around.

Year 4 learned all about The Beatitudes. They listened to the scripture reading and thought carefully about the meaning of the words using drama to help them to do this.

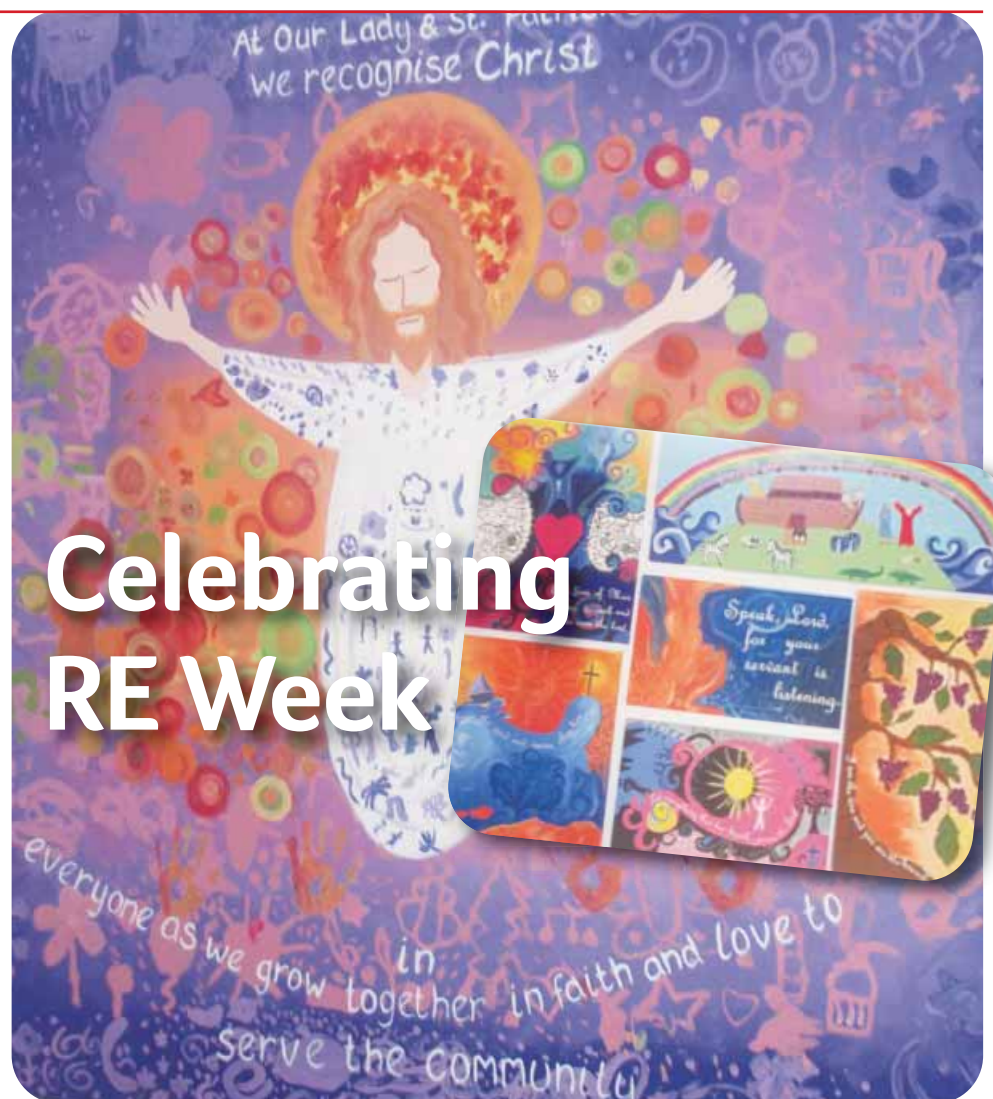
Year 4 also worked with local artist Helen Pateman to create a canvas for our school entrance. They linked the canvas to our school mission statement: 'At Our Lady & St Patrick's we recognise Christ in everyone as we grow together in faith and love to serve the community'. The canvas shows Christ in the centre as he is at the centre of all that we do in our school. The children then thought about how our behaviour in school reflects our mission statement and in turn shows that we are living out the Beatitudes.

Year 5 focused on 'The Lord Calls Samuel'. They made up their own song and dance based on the scripture they were studying as well as taking part in a personal reflection on the scripture.

The focus for Year 6 was 'The Storm on the Lake' which they explored through drama, art and music. They looked at pictures depicting this including Rembrandt's painting 'Christ In The Storm'. They used the scripture along with some drama and a dramatic piece of music to create a powerful performance.

Every class also created a class canvas that linked to their piece of scripture. These now make a beautiful display in the school hall.

Laura McAllister (RE Subject Leader)

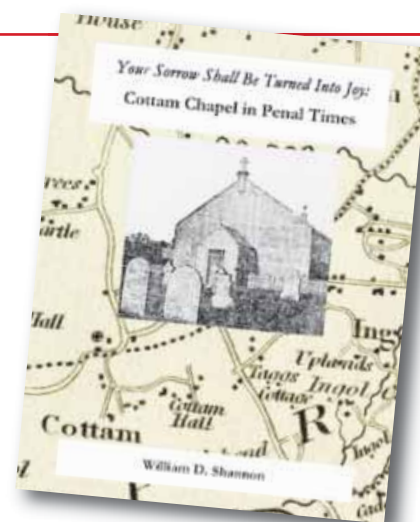


Celebrating RE Week

BOOK REVIEW

Your Sorrow Shall Be Turned Into Joy: Cottam Chapel in Penal Times

By William D Shannon



The church of St Andrew and Blessed George Haydock in Cottam, near Preston, is that very rare thing: a Catholic church whose origins date back to before Catholic Emancipation, back to the days when it was illegal to be a Catholic, and when the law imposed draconian penalties on those who refused to attend services in the Church of England.

It is of particular relevance this year, as 2015 sees the 300th anniversary of the Jacobite Rising, when parishioners of St Andrew's and Catholics throughout Lancashire, were caught up in the events of 1715, resulting in the defeat and surrender at Preston of those who wanted to replace the new Hanoverian King George I with the Stuart claimant, James III. The book traces the events leading up to the battle, and its aftermath, when more than forty prisoners were executed in Lancashire, including twelve upon Gallows Hill in Preston, where English Martyrs church now stands.

The main purpose of the book, though is to celebrate all those people who, between the Reformation and the passing of the Catholic Emancipation Act in 1829, kept the faith alive in Cottam. In particular it commemorates the Haydock family

whose motto provides the title for the work. Many Haydocks became priests over the years, and two died for the faith, William, a Cistercian monk at Whalley who was executed for his part in the Pilgrimage of Grace in 1537 during Henry VIII's reign: and Blessed George, who trained abroad as a priest, and who was imprisoned and executed under Elizabeth in 1584. Without this family, there never would have been a chapel at Cottam, but the book also tells the story of its first priests, from Fr Baines who began his mission at Cottam around 1703 having studied at the English College in Rome, to Fr Lund who in 1793 built the building which now stands on the spot. It also aims to correct some of the myths which have appeared in print over the years: the account of Cottam Chapel and the Haydocks is remarkable enough without the need for additional embellishment.

Copies of this book are available from William D. Shannon, 12A Carleton Avenue, Fulwood, Preston PR2 6YA. Phone 01772 709817 or email bill_shannon@msn.com Price £5.00 plus £1.50 for p&xp. All proceeds will go towards repairing and decorating the church. Copies can also be obtained on-line via Amazon or ABE Books. ISBN 978-1-326-04065-9

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Dear Editor

Going into Hospital?

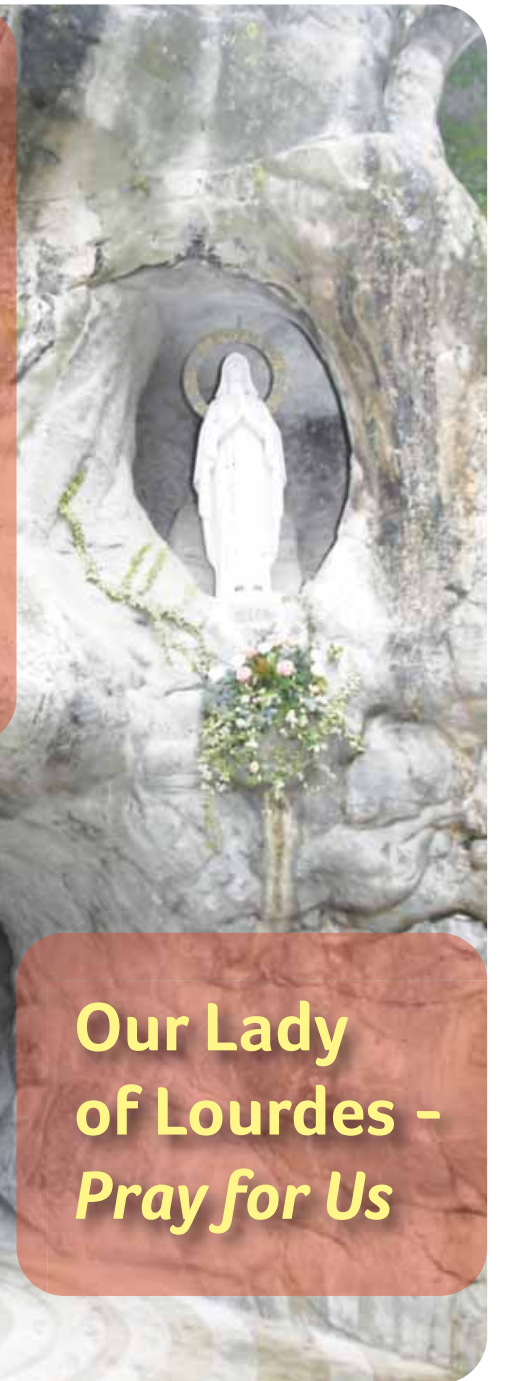
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John Baldwin, Wesham

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- Sunday April 5th at 6.00 pm
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- Sunday April 19th at 6.00 pm
Second Sunday after Easter - Our Lady & St Joseph, Carlisle
- Sunday April 26th at 3.00 pm
Third Sunday after Easter - St Peter's Cathedral, Lancaster
- Sunday April 26th at 6.00 pm
Third Sunday after Easter - Our Lady & St Joseph, Carlisle
- Shrine Church of St Walburge, Preston
Mondays - Fridays: 12 noon, Low Mass (except First Friday 7.00 pm)
Saturdays: 10.30 am, Low Mass
Sundays: 10.30 am, Sung Mass

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*Oh give thanks
to the Lord, for
he is good; for
his steadfast love
endures forever!
(Ps 118)*

Missionary Sisters of Christ the King

Sr Krystyna Wojtarowicz is a Missionary Sister of Christ the King. She explains some of the challenges and blessings of finding her vocation.

What is your congregation's charism?

Our special charism is to help Polish people throughout the world who are living outside their homeland, to remain faithful to God and to their cherished Polish tradition. We try to create a spiritual home for those who live and work in a new culture and society and at the same time to help them to integrate fully into their host country and local Church.

What has been the greatest blessing of religious life?

It is hard to say which of God's blessings is the greatest. The Lord comes many times and in many ways with His blessings. I would like to mention the day that I made my final vows. It was emotional, joyful and a very happy day. It was even more special that it took place in my parish church in front of the icon dedicated to Transfiguration. I had prayed before Jesus in this icon for as long as I remember. This church was where I was, as a baby, baptised, and then as a 9 years old child made my first Holy Communion and was later confirmed. It was there as a teenager that I belonged to the organisations dedicated to young people. Years later in the front of that same icon on the day of my final vows I consecrated my life to Him.

What has been challenging?

A challenge for me was making the decision with God's help whether or not to enter religious life. Because I needed help to make sure that the vocation to the religious life was what God wanted for me I first of all prayed. I spoke as well to my

Parish Priest but he suggested that whatever I did I would be serving God. But that didn't bring me calm and peace. I needed more guidance so I wrote to several congregations for their help. At the same time, I tried to discover which congregation to enter. While the process was going on I prayed intensely to Jesus. I met the Missionary Sisters of Christ the King and in the depths of my heart I knew this was the congregation the Lord wanted me to enter. He wanted me to be a missionary Sister of Christ the King! Now many years later I feel even more sure that the decision I made was what the Lord was calling me to do.

What do you most enjoy about the life?

I enjoy being able to support children, families, the vulnerable with their various problems and joys. It is a great joy to share our Polish culture particularly with the children/teenagers and to bring them through our sacramental programmes to the knowledge and love of Our Lord in First Confession, Holy Communion and Confirmation. I like to climb mountains. I relax doing maths.

What did you do before you became a nun?

I was a nurse before I became a nun. When I left school I trained at medical school to become a nurse. This took 5 years. I liked the job very much; helping the sick but during my last year when I worked on the wards I began to realise that there was something else in my life I wanted much more; something that grew in my heart like a seed – my vocation to the religious life.

The Missionary Sisters of Christ the King were welcomed to the Diocese of Lancaster by Bishop Campbell in November 2009. They are based in Morecambe.



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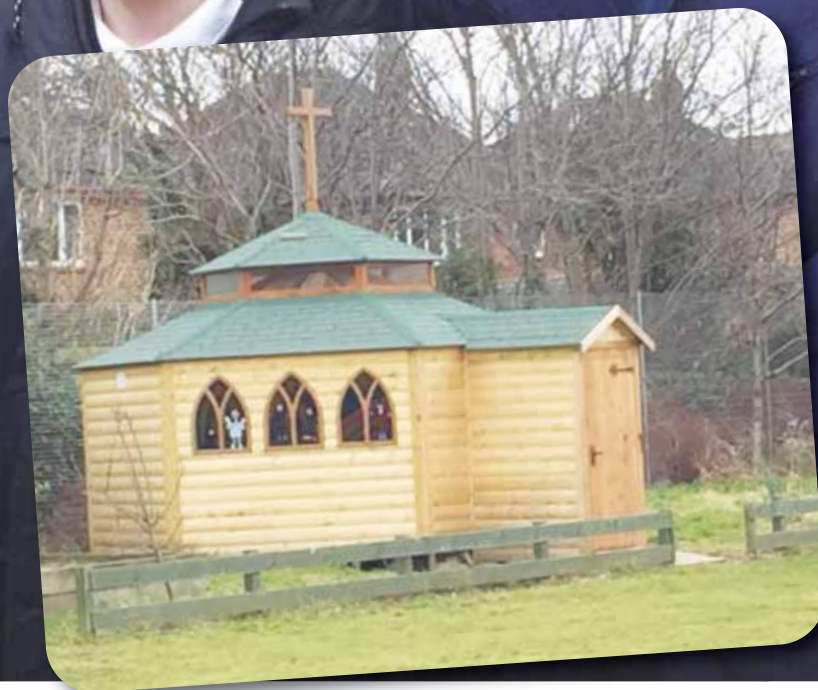
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Just before half-term, Our Lady Star of the Sea Primary School, St Annes, welcomed Bishop Campbell into their school community.

Bishop Michael shared a reflective assembly with all the children and Year 5 and led us in prayer to think about our lives of service. We were all challenged to reflect on the sacrifice Our Lord made; the true 'Servant King'.

continued below...

New School Chapel



The children shared the true values of our mission statement with the leader of our Diocese. Following assembly, the children had the opportunity to ask Bishop Michael questions - my word, what thought provoking ones they came up with! The Bishop responded by sharing his own thoughts and insights with great compassion and humility.

Finally, our new outside chapel was blessed in a short service, which brought together pupils past and present, to accompany the Bishop.

When asked about the part he'd played in the planning of the chapel, Frankie, now in Year 7 at St Bede's, responded by saying "Our school is holy and prayer is such an important part of life. We wanted a space where we could spend time with God and therefore the Chapel was the answer."

It is always so inspiring to hear young people who have understood the importance of faith and prayer. To our great pleasure, we'd had alongside us at the blessing of the chapel, Wayne Swarbrick, who built it with such care and love; he talked about how he had breathed life into the vision of others.

As he left, Bishop Michael spoke of how impressed he had been with all the children and their engagement in prayer. *Miss Jan Hornby, Headteacher*



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FRACKING

Can we take a Catholic View?

The Environment Group of the Diocesan Faith and Justice Commission has been looking at some of the issues in the 'fracking' debate. Our starting point has been Jesus' two great commandments: love God and love others.

We believe that loving God includes loving all he has created and hence we need to respect the environment and minimise our impact on the earth. Loving our neighbour includes making sure that all our brothers and sisters have the opportunity to share in the earth's abundance – not just for our generation, but for future generations too.

Supporters of fracking talk of investment, jobs and prosperity. Opponents talk of plunder and environmental damage. Where does the truth lie? Without accurate information that the public can understand, we cannot come to an informed view.

The deeper we have dug to try and find hard evidence, the more it has become clear that there is no proper debate, but a war of soundbites. The public "case" for fracking is based on claims that "play up" the benefits and "play down" the environmental risks. It was stated that the shale gas found on the Fylde coast could meet UK demand for over 50 years. That may have been factually accurate, but the company omitted to mention that only a small proportion of it would be economically recoverable.

A report prepared for Cuadrilla by the Institute of Directors envisaged drilling at 100 sites, each with 40 wells. To frack all these wells would require over 50 million tonnes of water and produce over 16 million tonnes of wastewater – which contains sufficient heavy metals to be

classified as hazardous waste. Some figures are given per well, others per site so it can be very difficult for a busy layman to find out what, precisely will be involved at each site.

Opponents of fracking have been accused of scaremongering, using ill-informed and misleading information. An Anglican vicar recently received national publicity when he demanded the withdrawal of a 'Friends of the Earth' leaflet. There is significant media stereotyping. Supporters are being portrayed in business suits whilst opponents are shown outside drilling sites with a heavy police presence and described as protestors.

We cannot form a view as Catholics in the absence of evidence. We have therefore sent all parishes information to help us ask the right questions. Please take the time to consider them. **Stephen Garsed**

Ann Higginson who arranged 'Fracking' - As Christians should we have a view? meeting at Our Lady Star of the Sea St Annes said:

"It seemed to me that before I could form an opinion about the rights and wrongs of 'fracking', I needed to gather some information! So for 3 years I've attended information evenings, anti-fracking protests & gatherings, Q & A sessions run by various community groups and exhibitions put on by shale gas companies. Inevitably, the same people would be there time and time again, frequently saying much the same stuff as I'd been hearing throughout the 3 years. Nothing ever really convinced or moved me.

That is until I went to a well advertised gathering in St John's Minster, Preston last year. It was there that I first heard someone speak about having a Christian viewpoint. Despite Pope Frances' many comments

about stewardship of our earth, it seemed to me that no "church" viewpoint on this controversial subject had been developed. What Stephen Garsed said that night challenged me – and made me decide to take some personal action resulting in an inter-church event in my home parish.



Stephen Garsed excelled himself, digging deep for proper evidence, reliable certainty – not using a single, emotional exaggeration or one commercial "bluff". Just plain truths! Astonishing facts about 'fracking'.



Then **Paul Kelly** put the whole thing into context with his moving and challenging session demonstrating Christ's teaching,

the Church's message, succinct Bible quotes, and marvellous, compelling and inspiring words from, not only our present Holy Father, but from Benedict XVI, John Paul II and others. We went away from our little "summit" with much food for thought.

This special event was supported by the Diocesan Faith & Justice Commission for which I thank them – I could die happy knowing that the "Church" has not lost its drive, its leadership and its commitment to matters concerning the real world.

This was not just about 'fracking' ... but about so many issues for which Christians need to be talking together, learning from each other, sharing current beliefs and considering action.

I vow not to wait 3 years next time before asking myself: "As a Christian, should I have a view?"

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL

*Being a disciple in
the 21st Century*



Last November Fr Philip Conner, Chaplain to the Diocesan Youth Service, led a day of reflection and prayer for the Women Together in the Diocese of Lancaster. The theme for the day, held at the St Jeanne Jugan residence in Preston, was *The Joy of the Gospel with the emphasis on discipleship*. Over 80 women attended from as far away as Glossop! For some it was their first experience of attending a Women Together in the Diocese of Lancaster day.

Fr Philip explored the Call to Discipleship. He spoke about how his experiences as a pilgrim on the famous Camino journey had awakened him to a fresh awareness of the richness of life that is in reality a kind of pilgrimage; how we need to rediscover ourselves as disciples because we are living in such challenging times, as challenging as the first disciples of Jesus experienced. To show this he described some of the current negative features of our Catholic parishes, including the false assumption that being baptised, belonging to a Catholic family and going to a Catholic school creates a fully-fledged Catholic. We are all too familiar with our disappearing youth but we also know there are so many people who do not belong to any faith community yet who

are searching for meaning. He posed this question: If your local parish closed, what difference would it make to the wider community? No wonder Pope Francis calls on the faithful to be missionary disciples!

Fr Philip then went on to describe Jesus' relationship with his first disciples in the light of the relationship of rabbi and disciple that was customary in those days. Jesus chose them and we must have this same conviction: we have been chosen by Jesus. We said our 'yes' through baptism as infants, but as adults we need to make another decision to follow Jesus in an ever deeper, personal relationship day by day. Baptism was only a beginning. Moreover this is for everyone: there is no two-tier Christianity. Discipleship demands of us a response of love in total commitment.

Probably Fr Philip became most challenging when he spoke of the difficulties in being a disciple, of the forces at work to attack and undermine our faith commitment. He described the -isms we need to beware: sentimentalism, relativism, false humanism, narcissism, progressivism and hedonism. We are called not to be anti-world, but counter-world; not anti-culture, but counter-culture. The call to discipleship is a call to be

transformed not conformed; to be a light, a city on a hill!

Later Fr Philip drew on his experiences in working with young people. Recalling the rich young man in the gospel who went away sad after his encounter with Jesus he spoke of young people's sadness and pain in their lack of hope, their deep dissatisfaction with what the world offers and the pressures they struggle with – appearances, exams, family breakdown and how this even leads to self-harm. But he also spoke about the transforming power of the gospel in their lives. He described this in the many different ways they can experience it: through the ministry at Castlerigg, residential retreats, missions, World Youth day, Lourdes, and other significant occasions which offer them friendship and an awareness of belonging to the faith community. He encouraged us all to take up the call to be missionary disciples since faith grows where people are willing to take a risk and rely on the Holy Spirit.

A Memorial Mass was celebrated for Canon Nicholas McArdle, former chaplain to Women Together, who died last September who, all agreed, was a true disciple of the Lord.

Philomena Grimley SHCJ

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Over the 'Church' Garden Wall

As I put my muddy gardening boots on I ponder a moment and look outside. The sky is grey with shafts of golden light trying their best to filter through the heavy clouds. We are now in spring, and the days alternate between being breezy and relatively balmy to wet, windy and cold again.

I try to decide whether I can make it across the lawn before the rain starts, to collect two medium sized pots to take the church garden for the purpose of planting up Lily bulbs. As I make my way across the lawn, I become aware of the springy cushioned feeling beneath me and notice swathes of bright green moss carpeting parts of the lawn, caused by a long wet winter. Seeing the green moss takes me back to Easter time at St. Josephs Primary School, Wesham where, in preparation for Easter Sunday, we would gather moss to make an Easter miniature garden. The moss would be made into a green hill, with a cave under the hill representing a tomb, with a stone rolled away, representing the risen Christ. We would put three crosses in the moss and dot the hill with tiny spring flowers. To our delight, our miniature gardens would be displayed in church on Easter Sunday.

Laden with pots and gardening tools I make my way into the Church Garden and something immediately catches my eye. It is an owl swooping over the church

garden. The owl swoops skillfully to the ground then disappears into a high recess at the back of the Church and devours the prey it has just caught. As I down my pots and tools, I notice that dandelions and white clover have already started to grow, so there will be plenty of work to do in the next few weeks. Although Dandelion and white clover are often classed as a nuisance as they spread quickly, they do have a place in a garden as they are great pollinators for insects and bees, so it helps the environment to leave a few in the garden, if you can. But I know that I will need as much space as possible for the annuals such as Delphiniums, Larkspur, Dahlias, Cosmos and foliage plants that I have already sown, so I remove them. There will be plenty more!

And as I start to plant the lily pots up, I feel cheered as I envision their long white trumpets and their hypnotic scent. The dim sound of children laughing and singing in the playground next door also adds to my cheeriness. But suddenly a profundity descends as historically the Madonna Lily is a symbol of the Virgin Mary, and my thoughts turn to Lent and to the Virgin Mary and her Son's journey to the Cross.

But, as if sensing my sadness, a gentle wind blows across the garden which sets the golden daffodils dancing and I take in their fresh scent and brightness. My

jubilant at being in the garden returns and I start to think of the lovely colourful Spring and Summer months ahead, and start to mentally plan my tasks for April, both at home and in the church garden, as April is one of the most intensive months in the garden.

And I have one last task to do before I go home, check that I have nearly enough Daffodils for the Easter Sunday services! Here's hoping and praying.....

So what else has been going on in St Josephs Church garden? >>>

St Josephs Primary School children will be returning to the allotment in the Church Garden soon and their main aim will be to start planting and producing vegetables and fruit for harvesting during term time.

The children have also registered to take part in the Lancashire Summer Planter Competition organised by Barton Grange, Preston.

Wishing you all a very happy Easter from the Church Garden!

Susan Wood



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How do I figure it out?

For further information with regard to vocations to the priesthood contact one of the team:

Vocations Director

Fr. Darren Carden
Email: priest@lancastervocations.org
Tel: 01772719604
Mobile: 07552795060

Assistant Vocations Director

Fr. John Millar
Email: jwmillar1@gmail.com
Tel: 01228521509
Facebook: Lancaster Vocations
Twitter: @LancVoc

It is not unusual for men young and old alike to feel attracted to both priesthood and married life, so how do you figure it out?

First and foremost is to know that God has a plan for each and every one of us, God desires us all to serve him in some special way. Secondly we need to respond to God. Our response to God, our joyful embrace of God's providential plan for us, is the very meaning of our lives. Thirdly the way that we figure it out is through discernment. Discernment helps us discover God's will for us, it helps us discover our vocation.

There are many men in our Diocese who will be thinking about priesthood, but

have some fears, some of these fears maybe:

- My friends would laugh out loud if they heard I was thinking about the priesthood.
- I'm not ready.
- I'm not good enough, smart enough, holy enough, etc.
- My parents would be shocked.
- I could never sacrifice that much.
- I'll be lonely.
- Seminary may be too hard for me.

These fears are very common, even for men who are already in seminary. But literally thousands of men have had the same concerns and then went on to become holy and effective priests. Saint John Paul II reminded us so often throughout his pontificate: Be not afraid! Don't let fear paralyse you. Instead, contact one of the vocations team who will be able to help you with any concerns. Remain faithful to daily prayer, trust in God, and your heart will be at peace, no matter what your vocation.

In addition to spending time in prayer, a wonderful way to explore and discern a calling to the priesthood is to attend one of our discovery weekends. The weekends

begin on Friday evening; we spend time praying and socialising as a group, whilst also exploring different topics that help to discern God's call. The weekend concludes with lunch on Sunday.

These weekends provide a great opportunity to meet with, and talk to, other men discerning their call in the church.

The next vocation weekend is on Friday 8th till Sunday 10th May at Our Lady & St Joseph's in Carlisle. Transport can be provided if required.

For more information or to book a place on this discovery weekend, please contact one of the vocations team.



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The Great Little Way

An article by Ruth Burrows in *"The Tablet"* (19th April '14) mentioned St. Therese of Lisieux. It spoke of her being: *"intent on garnering every detail of her life as a sacrificial offering."* Therese knew that just as nothing is too big to do for God, so nothing is too small. She asserted that from the age of three she never refused God anything.

As a little child returning one day hot and thirsty after a walk with her father, she rushed into the house saying how badly she needed a drink of water. Her big sister, Pauline, invited her to delay sipping the water just for a minute as a little act of love for Jesus. Therese who had a great big heart of love gladly agreed. Her course was set; from then on she sought out tiny ways of pleasing Jesus. Celine, a sister slightly older than Therese and her great friend, joined her in the "Acts Race". Someone made them each a little string of beads which they kept in their pocket and when they had "Made an Act" they would pull a bead along surreptitiously for they were aware that the Acts were performed for Jesus and for his eyes alone.

What training for youngsters and even for the not so young! At the end of the Summer Term I had the joy of working on a Retreat for junior children about to leave their Primary School. We were on a walk in a Carmelite Monastery and came across a statue of St. Therese. I took advantage of this to tell them something of her life and of her habit of making "Acts" for love of Jesus. I asked them for some suggestions as to how they could do the same. One was to leave the best cake for someone else; offering to tidy up was another and going to bed without arguing was also suggested. The children grasped the idea and I hope they will pursue it. Such "Acts" done for love of Jesus starts the habit of looking for ways to please him. We know that the Lord does not need us to delay drinking water or deny ourselves a gooey cake but little acts of self-denial can strengthen will-power and build up character. In the article already quoted, Ruth Burrows points out that: *"unspectacular denying of self is of untold value in God's eyes."* The motive is the point; the young Therese performed her "Acts" solely out of love for God.

Therese continued this practice throughout her life. When she was a Carmelite Novice washing clothes at the communal tub, instead of complaining or moving out of range of the dirty water being splashed on her by the zealous

Novice opposite, she used the opportunity to make an "Act" a secret offering of love for Jesus. When she noticed choir-cloaks left around, she gathered them and put them away as an act of love. The Sister near her in Choir with the irritating habit of grinding her teeth provided another opportunity for making an act. The rattling rosary of another nun could have caused annoyance and distraction but Therese was intent on making use of every possible opportunity to make acts of love so she transformed the nuisance into an opportunity.

Therese became such an expert in making "Acts" that a particularly disagreeable nun in the community confessed to being totally amazed that the young Sr. Therese of the Child Jesus should show her such affection! She did not realise that Therese was loving her, in and for the Lord and not from any natural attraction. It is to be hoped that the said nun was no longer in this world when Therese's autobiography: *"The Story of a Soul"* was published!

Therese entered Carmel at the exceptionally young age of fifteen years. Her older Sisters, Pauline and Marie, each had a period as Prioress during her nine years of Religious life. It is thanks to their insight that their little sister was obliged, under obedience, to write down her Little Way of Spiritual Childhood. We would never have known about the secret acts of love had not Sr. Therese obeyed her Superior and recorded all in humility and simplicity. It has to be remembered too that this was done while she was dying from Tuberculosis and enduring the painful treatment prescribed for T.B. in those days.

Our Lord invited us to become as little children in order to enter the kingdom of heaven. Therese has shown us her way. For some it may seem childish, for others it may smack of sentimentality, for those who have tried it, it may seem too difficult but that it is a sure way is beyond question. One Pope pronounced Therese universal patron of the Missions, another declared her the greatest saint of modern times. But the most prestigious accolade of all is surely that this twenty four year old with minimum education whose Community members wondered what could possibly be written in the obituary of Sr. Therese has been declared a Doctor of the universal Church! Perhaps her "Little Way" is not so little after all.

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Attendees at National Rural Catholics Conference

Garstang, Lancs, 9-11 February



Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia - Happy Christmas

Earlier this year the Polish Community invited the members of St Maria Goretti and The Blessed Sacrament parishes to a lunch to celebrate the end of the Christmas Season which they would traditionally celebrate on the 2nd February.

The tables were beautifully laid and we were treated to mushroom soup, a goulash and home-made Polish cakes.

The Polish choir sang for us and we all sang carols in Polish and in English. Fr Pawel Szatlewski said Grace in Polish and in English and at the end there was a raffle. We all left having really enjoyed the occasion and it was a triumph to have been able to celebrate with the three communities. We are very grateful to Fr Pawel and to the Polish Community for their generous invitation. We feel very grateful to Bishop Campbell, the Polish

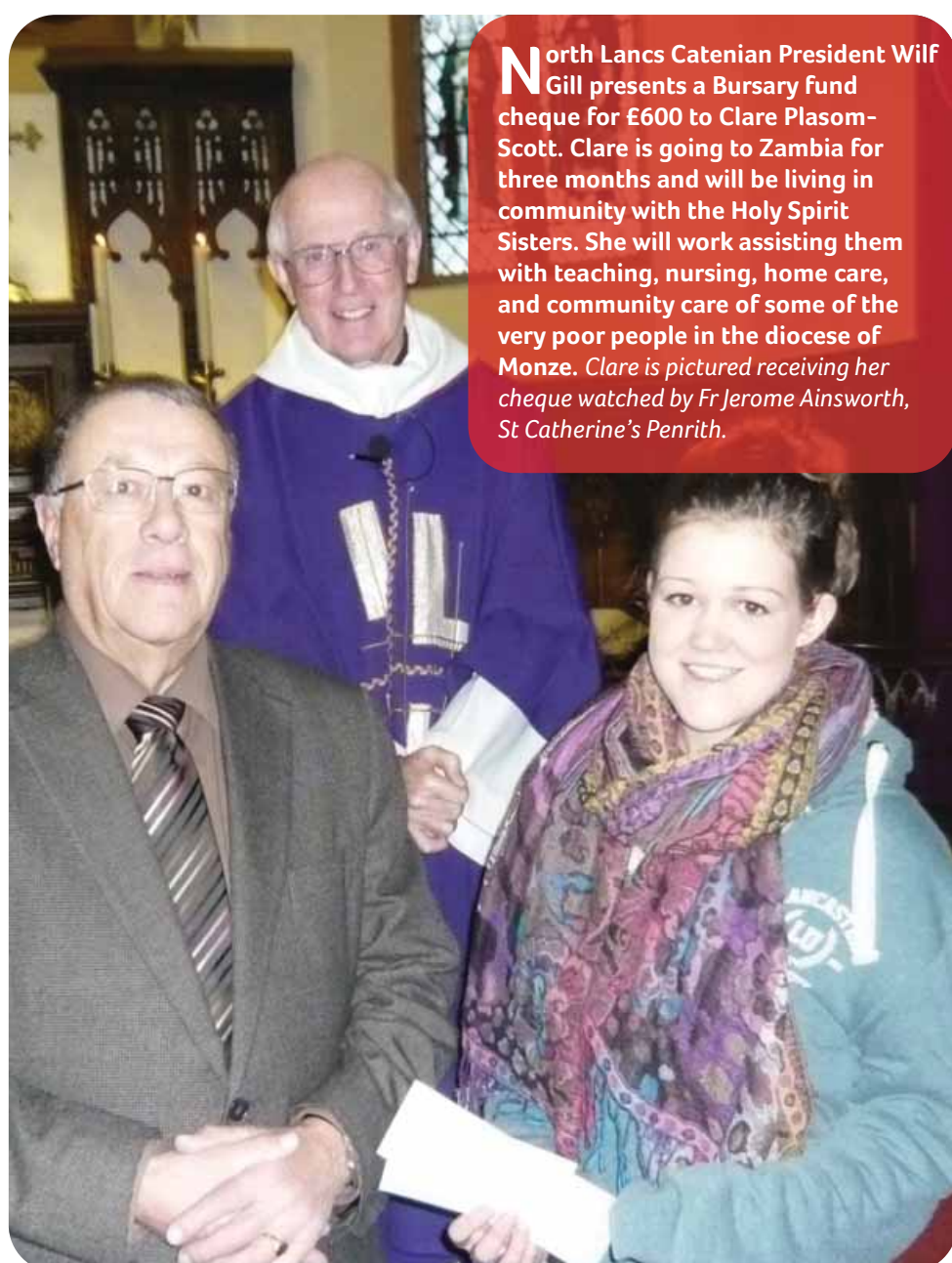
Bishop and God for agreeing to supply us with such an excellent series of Polish priests over the last 6 years. As for the Polish priests I am not sure what they have thought about their experiences here, but we have loved them. *Mrs G Conner*



The conference was attended by the Rt Rev Seamus Cunningham, Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle, who has responsibility within the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales for rural affairs, and by the Rt Rev Michael Campbell OSA, Bishop of Lancaster.

The 2016 Conference takes place at Malton, Yorkshire, 15-17 February.

For further information, please contact Father Robert Miller, CBCEW National Rural Officer, Email: tisburyparish@cliftondiocese.com or see our website: <http://ruralcatholics.org.uk/>



North Lincs Catenian President Wilf Gill presents a Bursary fund cheque for £600 to Clare Plasom-Scott. Clare is going to Zambia for three months and will be living in community with the Holy Spirit Sisters. She will work assisting them with teaching, nursing, home care, and community care of some of the very poor people in the diocese of Monze. Clare is pictured receiving her cheque watched by Fr Jerome Ainsworth, St Catherine's Penrith.

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SUNDAY 12th APRIL 2015
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
St John the Evangelist Church
Breck Road, Poulton-Le-Fylde
 2.00pm Confessions during the Holy Hour
 Veneration of the relic of St Faustina
 Divine Mercy Chaplet
 Benediction followed by Mass
 All Welcome. Refreshments after service

Thursday 9th April 2015
 Holy Mass: 12:10pm and 7:00pm
Talks on Divine Mercy

Our Lady and St Joseph's RC Church,
 Warwick Square, Warwick Road,
 Carlisle, Cumbria CA1 1LB

Fr Christopher Poswiata CSMA
 proclaiming and explaining
 The Divine Mercy




We are privileged to have the opportunity to have Fr Christopher Poswiata from the Congregation of St Michael the Archangel in England once again to give talks on the Divine Mercy. Following his second talk there will be an individual blessing with the first class relic of St Faustina.

By God's providence from 1993 – 1996 Fr Peter Prusakiewicz, CSMA served as chaplain to the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Warsaw where Saint Faustina started her religious life. He learnt much from the sisters who new St Faustina. For over 14 years he has travelled to many countries in the world proclaiming and explaining The Divine Mercy the holy angels and the Knighthood of St Michael the archangel.

Both Fr Peter Prusakiewicz and Fr Krzysztof Poswiata are from the CSMA.

As usual St. Bede's Church Wigton Road, Carlisle will be celebrating Divine Mercy
 Sunday on 12th April beginning at 2:30pm, 3pm prayer and Holy Mass at 3:15pm.
 Further details from Denise (01228) 319735

Divine Mercy Sunday
 2pm Sunday 12th April 2015
Lancaster Cathedral



Veneration of the image
 Divine Mercy Homily
 3 o'clock prayer
 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 Individual Confessions
 4.00pm Rosary
 4.40pm Vespers
 6.30pm Parish Mass

Light Refreshments from 4pm onwards in the Cloister Cafe

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Easter Mass Times

Ansdell - St Joseph
Maundy Thursday
 7.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by watching until 10.00pm
Good Friday
 3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion.
Holy Saturday
 8.00pm The Easter Vigil Mass
Easter Sunday
 9.00am Family Mass
 5.05pm Mass

Blackpool - St Bernadette
Maundy Thursday
 7.00pm Mass of the Lords Supper
 Watching before the altar of Respose concluding with Night Prayer at 9.50pm
Good Friday
 10.30am Stations of the Cross
 3.00pm Solemn Liturgy
Holy Saturday
 7.00pm Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday
 Masses. 9.30am

St Peter's, Lytham
Maundy Thursday
 7.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by watching until 10.00pm
Good Friday
 3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday
 8.00pm Easter Vigil Mass
Easter Sunday
 10.30am Mass

Penrith & Alston
Palm Sunday
 Alston: Saturday 6.00pm,
 Penrith: Sunday 8.30am
 10.25am in Haydock Centre followed by Mass in Church.
Wednesday 1st:
 Penrith: Confessions 6-8pm
Holy Thursday:
 Penrith, Mass of Last Supper 7pm with Watching till 11pm
Good Friday:
 Penrith: 10.00am Stations of the Cross.
 3.00pm Penrith & Alston, Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday:
 Penrith, 8.30pm Easter Vigil Mass
Easter Sunday:
 Penrith, Masses 8.30am & 10.30am & Alston 4.30pm

Preston - Our Lady & St Michael
Holy Thursday
 7.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by watching until 9.00pm
Good Friday
 11.00am Stations of the Cross
 3.00pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday
 8.00pm Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday
 8.30am Mass
 10.30am Mass

St. Annes on Sea
Our Lady Star of the Sea
Easter Vigil (Saturday)
 8.00pm
Easter Sunday
 9.30am Family Mass
 11.00am & 6.30pm Mass
Easter Monday
 Mass at 10.00am

Whitehaven - St Begh
Holy Thursday
 7.00pm Mass of the Lords supper.
 Followed by watching till 10.00pm.
 (Compline/Night Prayer 9.45pm.)
Good Friday
 9.30am Ecumenical Procession.
 Trinity Gardens to St Nicholas Church
 12.00noon Stations - St. Begh's
 3.00pm Service - St. Begh's.
 (children's Liturgy for 3 -11 years.)
Holy Saturday
 (No morning Mass)
 11am-12.00pm Confessions
 Quay St Chapel
 8.00pm Easter Vigil Mass - St Begh's
Easter Sunday
 8.00am Mass Quay St,
 10.00am Mass St. Begh's.
 6.00pm Mass St Begh's

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