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Thank you! **Bishop Michael Campbell OSA**



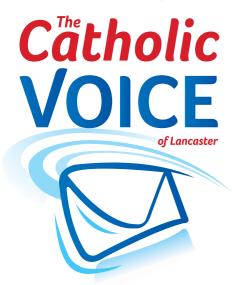
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EDITORIAL

Back in the early 60's when Canon Anthony Walsh was just a little choirboy at St Wulstan's in Fleetwood, Latin was very much part of the normal Mass. He well remembers singing in both English and Latin every Sunday. But it is the Easter Gradual that springs to his mind at the moment and for good reason. Taken from Psalm 117 the words in English will be very familiar to the faithful. *"This day was made by the Lord, we rejoice and are glad in it Alleluia".* In those days Canon Walsh sang his little heart out in Latin *"Haec dies quam fecit Dominus exultemus et laetemur in ea Alleluia".*

20 years later our Bishop –Elect Paul Swarbrick was ordained to the priesthood at SS Mary & Michael Garstang on 10th July 1982 and a fortnight later Canon Walsh was ordained to the priesthood at St Wulstan's. The latter well remembers ending his few words of thanks to all who had played a part in his journey to the priesthood with the words *"This day was made by the Lord, we rejoice and are glad in it"* Bishop-Elect Paul Swarbrick would have given thanks in a similar fashion following his own ordination. Who would have imagined 36years later that the Holy Spirit would be calling Fr Paul Swarbrick to the Episcopacy!

Bishop-Elect Paul will be ordained as Bishop on 9th April 2018 on the Solemnity of the Anunnciation of the Lord. What a way to celebrate Easter! Our very own Bishop from our very own Diocese!

As we rejoice with hearts full of hope and love it is only right that we recognise the work that has been done for our diocese

by Bishop-Elect Paul's six predecessors and, in particular, the pastoral care given to us for the past ten years by Bishop Michael Campbell OSA. The **Catholic Voice** this month carries a final interview with Bishop Campbell on Pages 10 & 11.

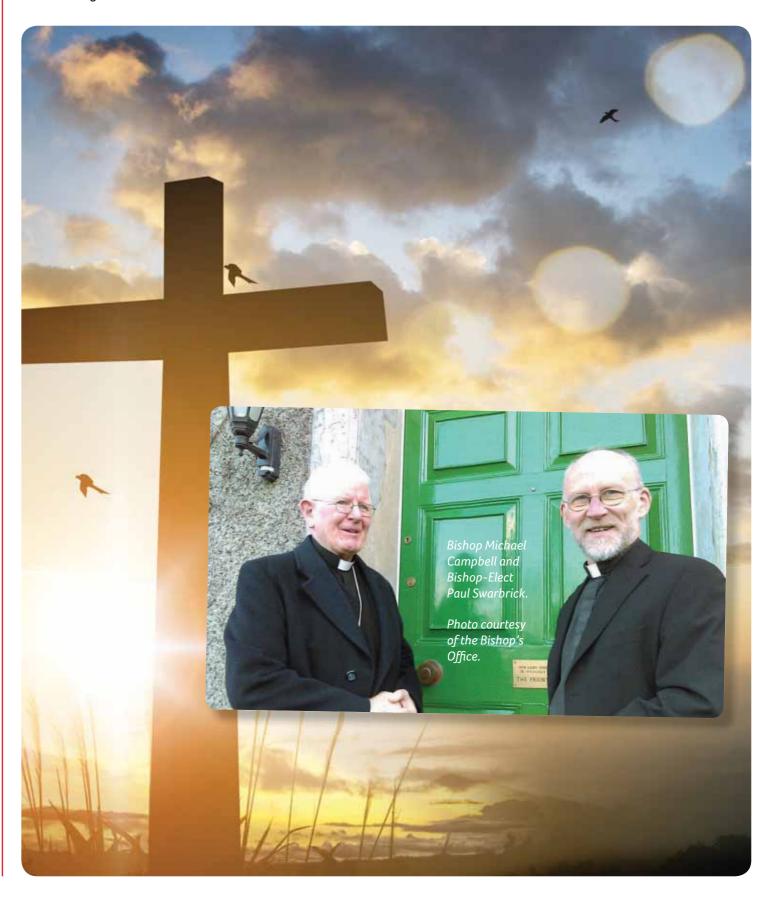
The *Catholic Voice* wishes Bishop Michael a long and restful retirement and thanks him very sincerely for his devoted service. Our genuine thanks and prayers go with him.

By now Bishop-Elect Paul will have recognised something of the enormity and difficulty of the task ahead of him. The *Catholic Voice* on behalf of all the diocese assures him of all our prayers, cooperation, support and loyalty.

With the events of the Triduum still to be celebrated and the Alleluias of Easter still to ring in our ears, we rejoice as we wait to bathe ourselves in the light of paschal tide. Suffering, dying and rising is at the heart of the Christian rhythm. We understand this rhythm in our daily lives, as we are called to die to self and rise to the loving service of others. Trying to follow closely in the footsteps of Christ is the universal vocation of the Christian and the Holy Spirit can often call us to places we could never have guessed.

In all of this, the **Catholic Voice** acclaims with full voice: Haec dies quam fecit Dominus exultemus et laetemur in ea, Alleluia

This day was made by the Lord we rejoice and are glad in it, Alleluia





73 years a Catenian!

Catenian Garstang Circle commemorates the 94th birthday of Bill Sharples who is the longest serving member in the Catenian Association.

William Sharples, known to his friends as Bill, holds the distinction of being the longest serving member in the Catenian Association, having joined the Association on 27th March, 1945, when he was enrolled into Preston 14 Circle.

Bill was born at Preston on 6th February, 1924. He was educated by the Jesuits at Stonyhurst College and then went on to take a course at Liverpool University, specialising in the teaching of disadvantaged and handicapped children.

In 1942 Bill enlisted in the Royal Artillery, serving in the 20 Anti-Tank Regiment, attaining the Rank of Lieutenant in due course. He was actively involved in the Normandy Landings and was shot in his right leg, losing the leg above the knee, and his left leg and right shoulder were penetrated by shrapnel. While still in the Army and during the process of recuperation in several hospitals Bill was enrolled into Preston 14 Circle on 27th March, 1945, where his father was a member.

After recuperation and being fitted with an artificial right leg, Bill was released from the Army in 1946. Following his release from the Army he purchased a Corn Mill at Garstang which required considerable renovation. When this was completed he ran the Corn Mill for a number of years before selling it in 1961. Following this he owned and ran a local Post Office for 3 years; this was followed by working as a Representative for a Blackburn Brewery for several years.

On the 29th April, 1965, Bill and his father, also called William, transferred from Preston 14 Circle to Garstang Circle when it was inaugurated on that date. His father was the first President of the Circle and Bill was his Vice President, succeeding his father as President in 1966.

In 1971 Bill returned to the teaching profession, teaching patients who had mental problems at the Royal Albert Hospital in Lancaster, and he remained there until his retirement in 1987. Sadly, 12 months before he retired his wife Eleanor died. They had seven children.

Bill was an active member of Garstang Circle until his health started to deteriorate and as a consequence he left his home in Garstang to reside at the British Limbless Ex Servicemen's Home in Blackpool. While a resident there, in September 2015, he, like other members of the British Armed forces who were involved in the Normandy Landings, was awarded the *'Legion of Honour'* which is a French bravery award established by Napoleon Bonaparte on19th May, 1802.

When the home in Blackpool closed a few years ago Bill moved to the Cornmill Nursing Home in Garstang, where he is still a resident and which, coincidentally, Bill used to own when it was a Corn Mill and was converted into a Nursing Home some years ago. Steve Masterman, Bill, and Gerard Power.



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Despite his ongoing health issues, Bill has always remained stoical, often reiterating his philosophy for life, which is *"I am just grateful for the things I can do, I don't complain about the things I can't do"*. Well done Bill and congratulations from all the members of Garstang Circle! *Tom Rigby*



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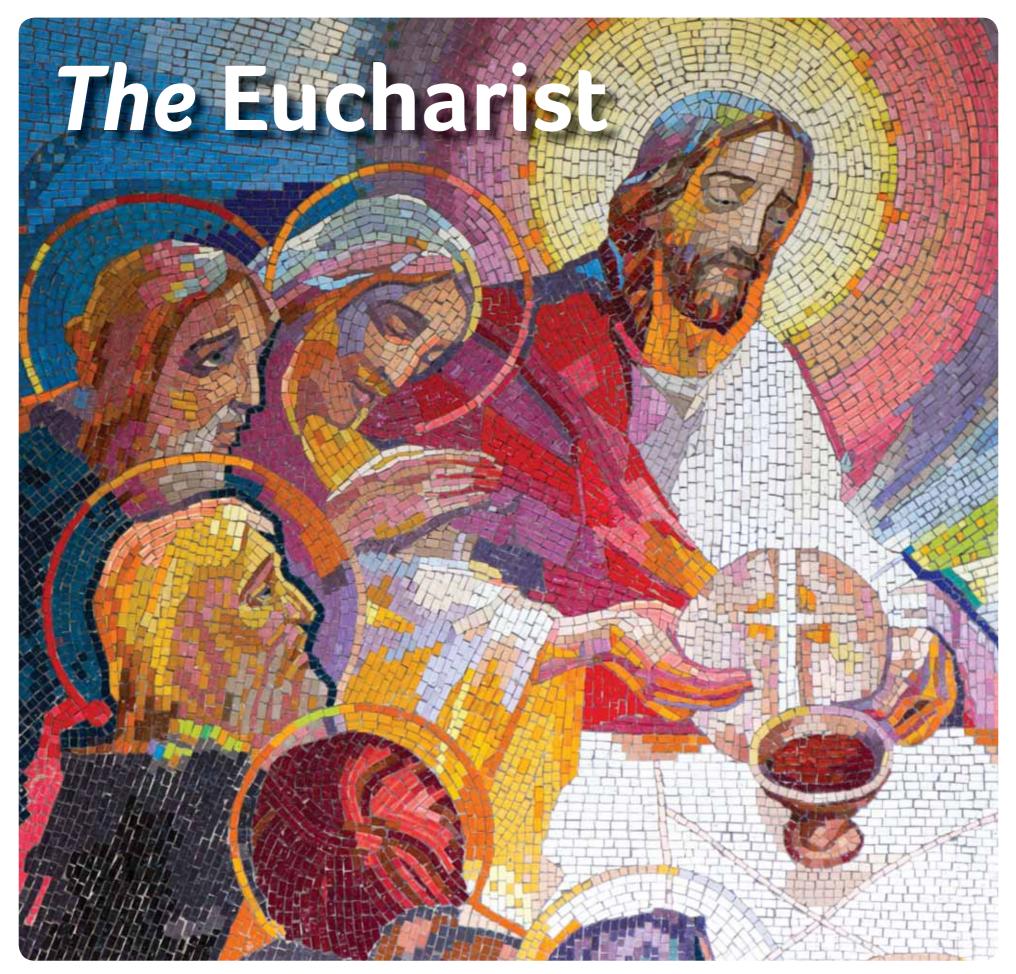
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"The Blessed Sacrament which is in the tabernacle is the living heart of each of our churches. And it is our very sweet duty to honour and adore in the blessed Host which our eyes see, the Incarnate Word whom they cannot see, and who, without leaving heaven, is made present before us."

These words of Blessed Pope Paul VI are particularly poignant as we lead up to the Eucharistic Congress which will take place in Liverpool in September.

The Second Vatican Council refers to the

are developed through the Eucharist; and they are preserved by the Eucharist. All of this is true because the Eucharist is Jesus Christ, dwelling amongst us, working through the faithful whom He calls to share in the great mystery of salvation. Venerable Fulton Sheen said *"The greatest love story of all time is contained in a tiny white Host."* That is precisely what our relationship with God is, a love story. that He has been waiting for you for twenty centuries". Our Lord dwells patiently in all the tabernacles of the world, despite all the offences, sacrilegious communions, all the outrages committed against Him, yet, Our Lord still waits for those who would come and kneel before Him in adoration, because He desires to give us all we need for salvation because He loves us.

half-hearted nod of the head or even just walk past. Take the time to genuflect, remember that it is not just a tiny piece of bread contained in the tabernacle or exposed on the altar. It is Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, Universal King, Sovereign Priest, Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world. It is Jesus truly present, if we saw Him as man would we just walk past as if it were any ordinary person on the street? Or would we fall to our knees as so many did in the Gospels asking forgiveness for our sins or healing for our ailments. We can still do all these things, because it is truly Jesus Christ present in the Blessed Sacrament. St Maximilian Kolbe highlights the great gift we have been given and why we should never take for granted this most marvellous gift "If angels could be jealous of men, they would be for one reason: Holy Communion." Stuart Chapple, Seminarian

Eucharist as "the source and summit of the Christian life", in which is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church which is Jesus Christ. Paul VI desired a greater devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, the Word become flesh and now dwells amongst us in all the tabernacles of the world.

Many vocations have come from time spent praying in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, kneeling in the presence of Our Lord contained in a tiny white Host, its appearance humble but its reality and its effects marvellous. Vocations begin with the Eucharist; they Much is asked of us in this relationship, but much more is given when we but listen to the still small voice of the Lord who calls us closer to Him. We can respond in many ways but spending time in adoration allows us both the peace and the time to lay ourselves humbly before the Lord in adoring Him who gave His life for our salvation. St Josemaria Escriva encourages us with these words "When you approach the tabernacle remember Bishop Mark Davies (Shrewsbury) recently offered this insight "take time to genuflect, going down to our knees in adoration. Let us not forget to pause for this moment of joy and recognition that Jesus Christ is truly with us in the Sacrament of his love. If our knees no longer allow us to kneel, then let us do the same in our hearts!"

Many times, we can walk into a Church or in walking past the tabernacle give a

CAFOD Livesimply Award for Our Lady & St Edwards Preston

Our Lady & St Edward's in Preston is celebrating becoming a 'Livesimply' parish. It is the 32nd such award in the country, but only the second in the Diocese of Lancaster, (St Joseph's Ansdell being the first 5 years ago).

Stephen Garsed of the parish's CAFOD Group explained why they felt it was so important: "First and foremost, it is a commitment to justice. Both the Old and the New Testaments make explicit our obligations to the poor. More recently, Pope Francis has made crystal clear in *'Laudato Si'* the duty of Catholics, and indeed the whole of humanity, to care for the earth 'our common home'.

He says that if we are to leave a world that is fit for our children and grandchildren, we must undergo what he calls an 'ecological conversion' - living in such a way as to protect the environment itself and to care for the poor who are the most at risk from environmental degradation." Sheila Green of the Group continued: "Living simply helps us to see more clearly what is really important - it gives us a greater sensitivity to our brothers and sisters and to the beauty of our world. We press the 'reset' button on our humanity, freeing ourselves from the obsessions of the modern world and concentrating on the things that really matter such as healthy relationships, concern for justice, spiritual well-being, contentment and peace. We are enriched rather than impoverished."

So how did the parish go about it?

CAFOD Group member Mike O'Callaghan explains: "Firstly, we looked at what we were already doing or had done. Things such as an energy audit of the parish buildings and a programme to reduce energy consumption; the fundraising for projects to support the poor and our campaigning for justice. Then, under each of the three '*Livesimply*' headings ('simply', 'sustainably' and 'in solidarity with the poor'), we committed ourselves to three more actions - one spiritual, one practical and one educational. For instance, the Sunday newsletter contains practical tips for 'green' living and quotes from *Laudato Si*. The various parish groups contributed to an advent calendar reflecting the principles of *Livesimply*. We held an environmental Quiz night and a series of *Laudato Si* study evenings. In doing this, we have been blessed by the continuing support and encouragement our Canon Bob Horn."

So where do we go now?

The Group is clear that, whilst the award is recognition of the progress made, it is just a milestone, not an end in itself. "We are brimming with ideas to build on the progress we have already made, but we are under no illusion about the challenges we face in promoting the values of justice and care for our common home in our present world. We hope that this award will be an inspiration to other parishes to embark on their own '*Live* simply' journey and would be delighted to help them on that journey".

Stephen Garsed

What is the Livesimply award

The Livesimply award is made to communities who can show how they have been living simply, sustainably with creation and in solidarity with people in poverty. It is an opportunity for Catholic communities to respond to Pope Francis' invitation in Laudato Si' to "work with generosity and tenderness in protecting this world which God has entrusted to us". For further info visit the CAFOD website: cafod.org.uk/livesimply

or contact Patrick Gardner at the CAFOD office on **01772 733310**.







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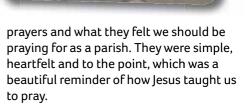
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Young
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Way

N ational Youth Sunday is a day when the Church remembers young people in a special way. Pope Francis said, "Every young person has something to say...something to say to priests, sisters, bishops and even the Pope." To really live this out, St Mary and Michael's Garstang Youth Group were invited to 'say something', and indeed participate in helping to lead the liturgy for the Mass of Christ the King last November.

The young people asked if they could choose and lead the music for the Mass. They were guided by their leaders on what the theme of the Mass was so they could choose music relating to this. It may go without saying that our young people chose joyful, uplifting hymns as they found it important to worship God joyfully.





When we looked through the readings of the Mass, in preparation, they thought of producing a drama to bring the Gospel of the Sheep and Goats to life. They thought hard about how they could present this respectfully and in a way which may help the whole congregation to understand it better. One parishioner afterwards came to the group and said how beneficial they found it, to be able to see the Gospel, after it had been proclaimed in Word. Pupils also reflected on the bidding The older members of the parish were incredibly supportive of their young people and shared their affirmations and praise whilst joining the youth group members for tea and cake afterwards.

As we wait for the Synod on Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment, we want to ensure we are listening to our young people, so we can become better at accompanying them and letting them know that the Church is here for them. We are very proud of our youth's participation and look forward to them continuing to help us on our faith journey as we try to help them. Fr Tom Butler



Here is what the youth of the parish had to say about their experience:

"I liked participating in Mass because it made me feel more involved in my faith. I would like to go to the parish more often if we had more chance to be creative"

"I read the Psalm in Mass. I also wrote some of the bidding prayers. I enjoyed this opportunity"

"I liked acting as it brought the Gospel story to life for us"

"I loved the music at Mass because it was really fun. It was really great when Fr Tom decided to join us in the actions!"



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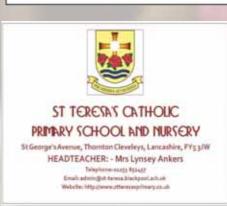


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Serving God through Serving Others

Serving is one of the themes of a retreat at Castlerigg and working on those retreats has helped me to know how great it is to serve God through serving his people.

Often people don't understand the motive for volunteering, they cannot think beyond bringing food to the table and making money to better their lives. Volunteering for the sake of humanity might be seen as a foolish move, but this is so wrong – it is done out of love. Volunteering brings great opportunities that we don't otherwise have in our consumer world.

The Youth Service relies on the support of volunteers and I have been privileged to work as a volunteer at Castlerigg Manor this year. This hasn't always been easy, and I must confess that volunteering can be discouraging and challenging at times, but being a volunteer has helped me to serve God through his people. Whether you are a student who has free time over the weekend or a parent looking to spice up your time with your children, I would highly recommend volunteering. It will not only create an opportunity for you to meet new people, but also to grow closer to those around you; it is an opportunity to learn more about yourself in different situations; it will broaden your world view. I can say it is never too early or too late to get involved in volunteer work.

If your consider your faith to be strong and people know you as a good Christian who serves God with all your heart and wealth but you don't serve your neighbours who were created in God's image you must rethink before it is too late for you. "Those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen." 1 John 4:20. So start right where you are and with what you have. Mother Teresa said" If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one"



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> Closing date for applications is 12.00 noon on 26 March 2018. Short listed candidates will be contacted by telephone.

In many parts of the world humanitarian volunteers continue to face big challenges. There are still hostile societies that have not only failed to appreciate the role of volunteers, but have also attacked and killed them. We have seen cases where volunteers and UN peace-keepers have been abducted, tortured or killed by hostile communities. Recently, six volunteers were killed in Central African Republic, five were killed in an explosion in Mogadishu.

The list of people who need you is endless please go for it. *Cleophas Tukamarwa*

The Youth Service is recruiting for next year's gap-year team. If you will be 18 or older this summer and are interested in growing in faith and sharing it with others please get in touch: team@castleriggmanor.co.uk

Being a ^{***} YOUNG CATHOLIC today

have been a practising Catholic since I was eight years old. When I started to go to St Cuthbert's in Blackpool I felt so welcomed into the parish community. The priest and the deacon taught me so much about my faith and really inspired me to get involved in the parish. I became an altar server and began reading at Mass, something which I never thought I would be brave enough to do. Catholicism is really important in my life and it defines me as a person and it helps me to strive to follow the teachings of Jesus and become a better person.

I think that, in today's society, being a young catholic is really exciting. There is so much to get involved in; some really fun and inspiring events. I have had the honour of attending pilgrimages to Lourdes on three occasions with the Diocese of Lancaster. These trips were a privilege as well as enjoyable. Originally, even the idea of going to Lourdes terrified me. My parish deacon originally persuaded me to go, but it was with a sense of trepidation because I was worried that I wouldn't know anybody.

But in Lourdes I met some amazing people who will be my friends for life.

In Lourdes the youth team assist the less able pilgrims, also known as the VIPs, to have a relaxing and fulfilling time on pilgrimage. It is great to get to know these people and to hear the stories they have to tell. I also found it really moving to see a large community of Catholics, both young and old, from all over the world.

I felt a great sense of unity while I was there, knowing that the thousands of other people there were so passionate about their beliefs and we all shared this enthusiasm for our faith.

I am currently taking a year out from study to give a year volunteering at Castlerigg. In this role, I hope to inspire more young people to discover their faith and to be open about what they believe in. I think that it is easy for young people to be embarrassed by their faith and I even find myself holding back sometimes because I don't know what other people will think. But I would encourage any young person to embrace their beliefs and to get involved.

In the book of Deuteronomy, it says;

'Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid and terrified because the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you or forsake you.'

This scripture shows that in everything that we do, God will be with us, so we shouldn't worry about being judged by others.

Katie (18), Castlerigg







Easter Retreat (29th March – 1st June)

Take time to get away from it all and spend time with Jesus as we journey through the Last Supper, Good Friday, and on to Easter Sunday. Explore what Easter is really about, and meet new friends over a long weekend at Castlerigg. Open to young people in year nine and above.

Family Weekend (25th - 27th May)

Our annual Family Weekend is back again. Open to all families, parents and children have the opportunity to spend time together exploring our faith and enjoying the beautiful surroundings of Keswick. Open to all families.



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Sponsored Walk (28th May)

Preparations are under way for our sponsored walk – 15 miles and 12 fells. If you are interested in walking, or can help us with fundraising, please do get in touch.

Lourdes (19th – 28th July)

This is an amazing opportunity for young people (aged 15+) to spend a week on pilgrimage, meet other young Catholics, explore their faith and help others.

More information at www.castleriggmanor.co.uk

available for Parish Groups and Family Gatherings year round.

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Farewell Interview with Bishop Michael

Photos courtesy of the Bishop's Office.

The *Catholic Voice* caught up with Bishop Michael as he began to make arrangements for his retirement in April:

With just a month to go before you are released from the pastoral responsibility for the Diocese of Lancaster the Catholic Voice is interested to know what your retirement plans are? should I say joys and challenges? Please can you share one or two examples with us?

It has been a privilege to visit parishes and confer Confirmations on so many young people. Despite outward appearances, the

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The Augustinian Order has been generous in their offer of hospitality and have offered me a home in any of the houses in England and Scotland. I shall take up that offer. I hope to continue my translation work with the International Commission for English in the Liturgy. I also look forward to a less demanding pace of life, but still keeping my hand in as bishop and priest. Also, pursuing some leisure activities, such as concerts and reading.

It is almost 10 years since you were ordained as Bishop of Lancaster and during that time you will, no doubt, have experienced many ups and downs or level of faith one has met is reassuring. Although few enough in number, the ordination of new priests is always a joy for a bishop, as well as a source of hope for the future. Other joyful and satisfying moments have been the annual Lourdes, Ladyewell and Cleator pilgrimages.

I have been pleased to ensure a future for the three lovely Preston churches – St. Walburge's, English Martyrs, and the former St. Ignatius, now the cathedral for the Syro-Malabar Eparchy. I thank God that I have been able to address the serious issues that the Diocese faced with these historic buildings and brought them to a satisfactory pastoral conclusion.

A real challenge has been that of finding priests for our outlying parishes, and how to alleviate the workload on our ageing clergy.

April 2018 + The Catholic Voice of Lancaster + **11**



the Diocese over the past 10 years? The warm welcome from priests and people both in parishes Adoremus Assembly in Liverpool ought to give added impetus to Eucharistic adoration and processions. This treasure of our faith is urgently waiting to be rediscovered.

What thoughts would you like to leave with both

Letters

Wray Brothers are long established monumental masons

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and in schools and their respect for the office of bishop.

Pilgrimage has been a constant theme of your Episcopate, how might you encourage more people to participate in Eucharistic and Marian pilgrimages?

We advertise widely the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes each year, as well as other pilgrimages within the diocese, and for a small diocese we do quite well with our numbers in Lourdes. There are also individually led pilgrimages to the various shrines which go unremarked, but there are so many counter-attractions in our day in terms of travel and holidays which our people, especially the young, have to juggle with. After a long lapse, Eucharistic pilgrimages are making something of a comeback, especially in parishes and deaneries around the feast of Corpus Christi. The coming Eucharistic

clergy and people of the Diocese of Lancaster?

Primarily thoughts of gratitude for the way they have received me as their Bishop and Shepherd, being both a member of a Religious Order and an outsider!

The rich legacy of both the Lancashire and Cumbrian martyrs should remain an inspiration in what appear to be lean times in terms of the practice and spread of the faith.

The new Orders of men and women who have come to the diocese are a gift from Christ to his Lancaster church, and remind us of the wonderful catholicity of the Church. The appointment of Bishop-Elect Canon Swarbrick is a further sign of Christ's care for Lancaster diocese. There is a great deal to be hopeful about!

M. Á. Edwards, G. Edwards 51a Layton Road, Layton, Blackpool FY3 8EB Tel/Fax: 01253 392620





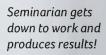
"She who accepts the common life possesses God" **St Augustine**

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In the event of a successful application an offer of employment may be made to you which is conditional upon receipt of satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service Check

"We few, we happy few, we band of brothers"

These words from Shakespeare's Henry V can give an idea of what it is like to be a seminarian in the Church at this time. We are few yes, but we are happy and we are brothers. With lower numbers than previous generations we now more than ever need to have that really brotherly affection, both as seminarians and as priests. That is why our placements in parishes and around the diocese are so important. We get the opportunity to live, to pray and to work with priests around the diocese and get that practical experience which will be so vital for the future.

Many ask us what practical experience we get of parish life and how much time we spend in the diocese. Every January we have some time away from the seminary to do a placement in a parish in the diocese. This time gives us the opportunity of getting to know different parts of the diocese, priests and faithful. It is a real encouragement for us in our studies, it places us in the reality of everyday parish life, as Pope Francis says, to "smell of the sheep". It is a real privilege to be welcomed, so warmly by the priests and people of the parish during this time, but also then to visit the sick, be involved in schools in the parish and to serve at Holy Mass each day.

update the parish census. This involved us going door to door with the purpose principally of updating the records but also with the hope that these visits might be a support to the faithful and to remind those who don't go to Mass that the Church is still there and still cares for them. Every evening we would have a period of adoration, a reflection by one of the seminarians and then Benediction.

This time of prayer was important both for us as seminarians but also for the parishoners who would so faithfully join us. The placement also gave us the chance not only of living in a presbytery together but also cooking for each other, eating together and socialising, this fraternity we share as brothers is what is so vital for us in the future as priests of the Diocese of Lancaster *"We few, we* happy few, we band of brothers."

Last summer, we were sent to the Parish of St John XXIII in Preston. The parish had under its care at that time two churches in what was previously five parishes, five primary schools, a secondary school and a sixth form college. Our time there was spent visiting and assisting in three of the primary schools and house visits.



We as seminarians have been very fortunate in this Diocese of Lancaster that over the last few years we have also done a smaller two-week placement in the summer with a specific mission attached to it. Two years ago, the four of us seminarians were asked to go to Our Lady and St Patricks, Maryport in order to But different to other parish experiences we quite literally got our hands dirty, helping with a huge clean-up operation at English Martyr's Church, Preston. Over the course of two weeks we managed to fill seven skips of rubbish that had amassed over a number of years in the numerous back rooms, hand polish the beautiful parquet floors in the corridors and sacristies and begin to clear away much of the debris from ceilings and roofs that had collapsed. This experience was invaluable for us, whilst our studies are vital, it is also important when

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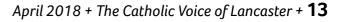
occasions arise to roll up our sleeves and get our hands dirty.

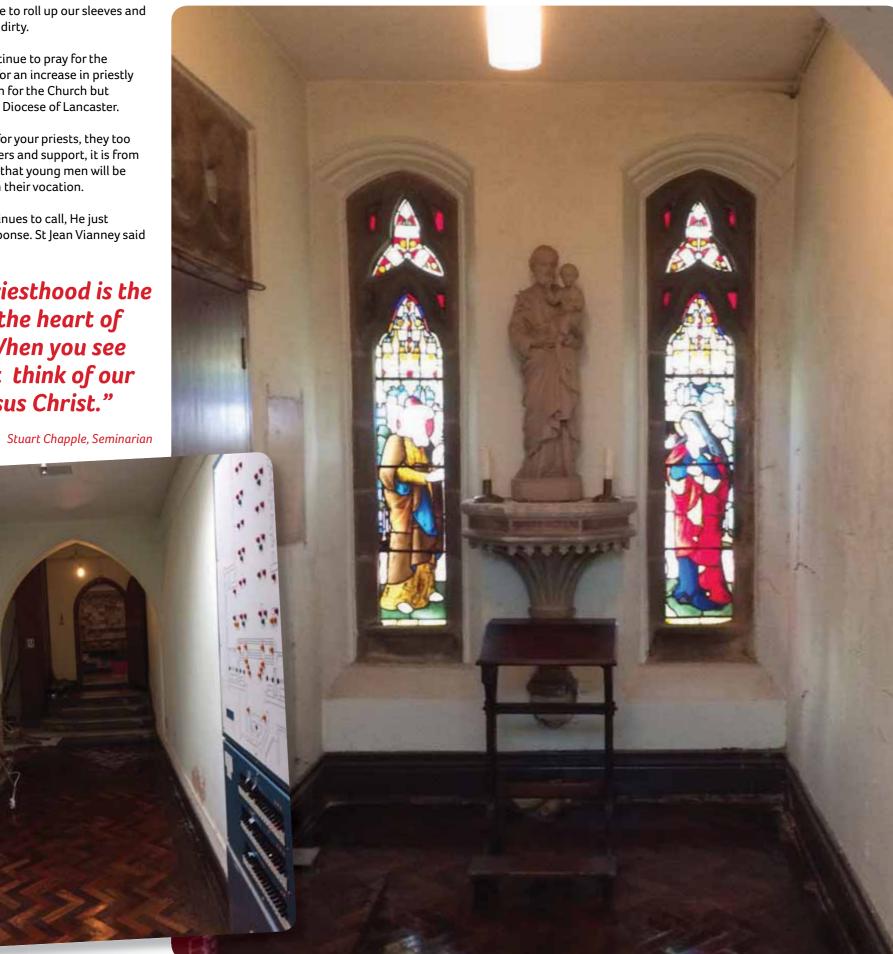
Please do continue to pray for the seminarians, for an increase in priestly vocations both for the Church but especially this Diocese of Lancaster.

But pray also for your priests, they too need our prayers and support, it is from their example that young men will be encouraged in their vocation.

The Lord continues to call, He just requires a response. St Jean Vianney said this:

"The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus. When you see a priest think of our Lord Jesus Christ."







Sola Scriptura or



We now offer short-term projects in Africa from two weeks to three Months.



O ne of the dividing lines of the Reformation was Luther's teaching of 'Sola Scriptura' – namely that authoritative teaching lies solely in the Bible. The Catholic Church by contrast holds to the authority of Scripture, and the Tradition, as interpreted by the Magisterium - the college of Bishops in communion with the successors of St Peter.

What is the foundation of Truth?

We are all seeking answers to the difficult questions and moral dilemmas of our lives. What is the right way to walk? What is the pillar and foundation of the Truth that we can rely on?

The 'pillar and foundation of the truth' St Paul tells us in Timothy 1 3:15 is the 'Church of the living God'. In other words the Bible itself teaches that it is the Church which has been given the authority to interpret the Bible.

Because of the difficulties of knowing how to interpret individual passages most church groups of any denomination tend to develop a consensus on interpretation, - in other words a sort of authority is vested in that ecclesial grouping, its tradition and elders. However because this is a more informal type of situation that arises among Protestant denominations rather than a belief in and exercise of authority of the Church to interpret, technically the interpretation remains a matter for the individual believer, which can lead to division and breaking away, when there is a disagreement about interpretation.

and the scriptural interpretation of the Early Catholic Church Fathers (such as St Augustine and St Jerome) is appreciated by scholars across denominations.

My words will never pass away

In asserting the interpretative authority of the Magisterium, the Church is not downplaying Scripture, but seeking to safeguard this treasure. The Magisterium is guardian and servant of Scripture. She is not free to depart from one word of Scripture (1 Cor. 15:3).

Take by way of example some of the most difficult teachings concerning the Christian life – Christ's teaching on remarriage (*Lk.* 16:18); fasting (*Mt.* 9:15); property (*Mt.* 19:21); celibacy for the sake of the Kingdom (*Mt.* 9:12); not killing – taken to include the unborn (*Ex.* 20:13); Christ's real presence in the Eucharist (*Jn.* 6:53-55), the troubling reality of hell and the devil (*passim*) – on all of these you will find the Catholic Church holding out on the literal meaning of the words of Christ, words that cannot be re-negotiated or reframed for a modern generation.

BE INSPIRED AND HELP CHANGE THE LIVES OF OTHERS

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No experience required for short-term projects. Apply online today or contact our Liverpool office www.VMMinternational.org / 0151 291 3438 / shortterm@vmminternational.org The Catholic Church has a great wisdom in bringing out the depth, meaning and symbolism of the Holy Scriptures, especially the spiritual sense of the Word, In summary, the Catholic Church does not teach 'sola Scriptura' (Scripture alone), but she does hold to what I would like to call 'semper Scriptura' (always Scripture). This is because the teaching body of the Church is not free to dispense with or override one word of Scriptural teaching. As St Paul says of the deposit of faith 'what I received I also handed on to you'.

Selection of the Biblical Canon When we refer to the Early Church we are referring to the Catholic Church - the only Church in existence in that initial period - and including those who later became the Eastern Orthodox. The term

emper Scriptura?

Catholic was first used by Ignatius of Antioch in 107 AD, and there is no breach or rupture between this Early Church established by Christ, and the Church we know as Catholic today. It was the Early Catholics who wrote the letters and books of the New Testament, after an initial period of oral transmission and tradition. It was the Catholic Church which prayerfully discerned which books would comprise the canon, deciding the matter based on apostolic authority.

Did the Church oppose translating the Bible into the vernacular

Because the Bible was most widely available in Latin for many centuries (Latin being the language that most people who were literate could understand) this is often misunderstood as indicating that the Church was hostile to the Bible being translated into the vernacular. In reality the Church supported certain initiatives to make the Bible accessible to people of other tongues - for instance Saints Cyril and Methodius had full Church backing to translate the Bible into Slavonic as early as 885 AD. St Jerome translated many books into vernacular languages before producing the Latin Vulgate. Versions of the whole or parts of the Bible in the language of the ordinary people first appeared in Germany in the eighth century, in France and Hungary in the twelfth, and Italy, Spain, Holland, Poland and Bohemia in the thirteenth century.

It would however be fair to acknowledge that the Church was slow to embark on mass free translation because she was cautious about some of the theology underpinning these translations of the Bible, and cautious about how the laity might interpret some teachings taken out of context, or without proper formation.

Such concerns were not ill-founded. It is not that the Bible was unimportant that the Church was cautious, but because the Bible was so important. But to the extent that some Catholics came to view Bible reading as a 'Protestant thing' we really deprived ourselves of a treasure and exercised a mindset that is not really authentically Catholic. For St Jerome said that 'ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ'.

Mahatma Gandhi is purported to have said 'You Christians look after a document containing enough dynamite to blow all civilisation to pieces ... But you treat it as though it is nothing more than a piece of literature.' Catholics can learn from our Evangelical brothers and sisters in their devotion to daily quiet time with their Bible. This is very beautiful and is something which unites us in our common Christianity. If we ponder the daily mass readings, and still more so if we read the Divine Office, we are receiving a very rich Scriptural diet. Let us each resolve to take up the Bible, ponder it, and cherish it. Let us read a book through from beginning to end. The Bible is not an optional devotional extra for Catholics, but is the very bedrock and underpinning of our Catholic Christianity, a Christianity which we share in its Christological essentials with our Protestant and Anglican brothers and sisters. Katherine Daniels



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"It is a really comfortable, clean and well-designed facility."

"The premises are five star which is matched by the care and staff being extremely proactive in ensuring the residents want for nothing."

The Hamptons

Main Drive, Off Heyhouses Lane

In the 1500's in Italy, there were more than 40 vernacular editions of the Bible. France had 18 vernacular editions before 1547, and Spain began publishing editions in 1478, with full approval of the Church. In all, 198 editions of the Bible were in the language of the laity, before the Reformation, and all having the full approval of the Church. Lytham St Annes FY8 3FF For further information, please contact Dawn Collett on 01253 720052 or email enquiries@newcarehomes.com. www.newcarehomes.com



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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The annual Day for Religious, which is always on or near Candlemass, was celebrated at Boarbank Hall on 3rd February. Until this year, it was held at the Little Sisters of the Poor in Preston.

It was a very enjoyable gathering, with those new to the Diocese having a chance to get to know those who have been here for many years. It was also a thoroughly international gathering, with at least five continents and a dozen languages represented. The range of different activities the religious Brothers and Sisters are involved in is impressive and encouraging.

Bishop Campbell presided at Mass and gave a talk on prayer and the psalms. Canon Christofoli of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest presided at Vespers and Benediction.

The Boarbank Sisters felt very honoured to be asked to host the gathering and grateful to Mgr Slattery and Fr Cousens for their support, and to all the participants. Sr. Margaret Atkins



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Adoremus

Eucharistic Congress Liverpool 2018

Join us for our Diocesan Preparation Talks

26 April 7.00pm St Mary's Parish Room, Cleator *Fr Paul Johnstone:* **Eucharist, Reverence or Intimacy**

5 May 10.00am Our Lady of Furness Parish Centre (opp St Mary's) Barrow Fr Manny Gribben: Ecclesia de Eucharistia

26 June 7.00pm University Chaplaincy, Lancaster Fr Philip Conner: Eucharist - the new heavens and the new earth

3 July 7.30pm St Clare's Hall, Preston Fr Andrew Allman: Sacrament of Charity

Tea/coffee and biscuits will be available at all these events.









'Speak Lord, your servant is listening' 1 Samuel 3:9

A ltar Servers from all parts of the diocese came together at Castlerigg Manor for their Lenten residential retreat organised by the Guild of St Stephen.

Servers of all ages participated in team building activities, sharing stories, playing football, exploring the grounds and spending time in prayer.

It was encouraging that servers who

have served twenty years or more or even forty years shared their serving journey and stories with the young servers. The candlelit Holy Hour was a favourite, being in the presence of Jesus and bringing to him those people in need, along with many requests, reflecting on the parts of our lives we are working on and those things we wanted to say thank you for.

Listening to Jesus speak to us is very important and one way we do this is from

scripture; You did not choose me, I chose you (John 15:16) Yes, God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life (John 3:16) Do not let your hearts be troubled, trust in me (John 14:1) Come to me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest (Matthew 11:28). There was the opportunity at Holy Mass to renew our Servers act of commitment. A gracefilled time for all involved. Paul Briers



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Sunday 15th April at 3.00 pm Second Sunday after Easter St Mary's, Hornby

Mass is also celebrated every Sunday at 8.30 am at 51 Mary Magdalene, Leyland Road, Perwortham and 11.30 am at SI Catherine Labourë, Stanfileid Lane, Leyland. Local Representatives: Bob & Jane Lain Telephone: 01524 A12987 Email: LancasterIms@gmail.com Website: Latinmasslancaster biogspot.com

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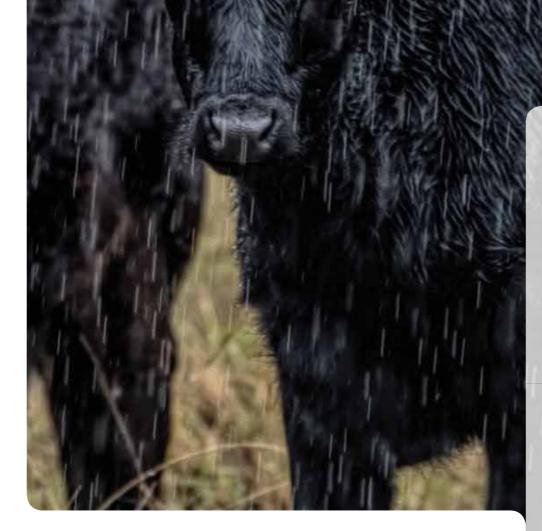
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Throwing the towel in! by Julia Beacroft

n my last article I referenced the weather, in particular the fact that 'March is traditionally a month which experiences high winds and gusty conditions due to meteorological reasons.' And so I continue the theme, as I muse over the weather anomalies of April...

Wet and Bedraggled

Many years ago my husband and I took our little son, aged about three, on holiday to a Welsh farmhouse, and you've probably already guessed that the time of the year was April. It rained relentlessly for most of our week's holiday and during one particularly formidable downpour, I happened to be looking at the rather wet and bedraggled herd of cows which I could see from the kitchen window. 'Oh, look at the poor cows!' I said to my three year old. 'They're getting all wet!'

However, I was totally unprepared for the fact that he immediately rushed upstairs and then reappeared with a bath sheet which he had fetched from the bathroom, 'to dry the poor cows with', he said. Despite our laughter and explanation that cows don't really need to be towel-dried, I have never forgotten my little boy's compassion and care for these animals.

Co-operation

And so it is with our Father in Heaven. Every day we bear witness to his compassion and love for his people, and interestingly when our Lord Jesus Christ choose bread and wine to become his Body and Blood in Holy Communion, this was by no means a random choice. Bread and wine were readily available then – as now – and are produced as the result of mankind's co-operation with God. We labour to produce the crops, but are only able to do so by God's bounty, which provides the earth, the wind, rain, sun and breeze to enable them to grow.

As United Kingdom residents, we have a reputation for discussing the vagaries of the British weather and rarely being satisfied with it! And yet every day our lives are blessed and filled with the richness and the love of God although sometimes these blessings are inadvertently taken for granted. Nature, which is all around us, our seasons and the animals which inhabit our earth, name but a few of these. Yes, and even the weather!

Eternal Compassion

The cows in the field didn't need to be dried as their hide provides adequate protection against the elements. We, on the other hand, can become damaged and hurt by life's experiences and need to rely upon the eternal compassion and love of the Lord. This is always given to us unconditionally and we know that He will never throw the towel in.

Julia Beacroft is an author, editor, workshop leader and presenter in Catholic faith formation. Her book 'Sanctifying the Spirit' is available to buy from AMAZON, **www.waterstones.com** or Book Depository. Please visit **www.sanciobooks.com** for more information.

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"Open my eyes, that I may see wonderful things." - Psalm 119:18



Davis is living his childhood in darkness. Will you help a child see the wonder of God's creation?

Dear Lancaster Voice reader,

As a fellow Christian, I wanted to share with you how incredibly powerful it is to witness a child seeing for the first time, after eye surgery.

As we carry out our work with Christian Blind Mission, we are constantly moved by the astonishment and wonder on the faces of children when the bandages are removed and they get their first clear look at their smiling loved ones.

8-year-old Davis has cataracts. He has been barely able to see. But we know that a simple 45-minute procedure could restore his sight.

Just think, in under an hour his entire life could be transformed. Instead of living with darkness, frustration and exclusion he could

have light, colour and a future filled with opportunity. He could do well at school and find a way out of poverty.

The cataract removal surgery costs £95, but his family can barely afford even basic necessities, so I am turning to you in the hope that you can help.

If you could send a gift of £95 today, you could pay for a child like Davis' surgery. You could open his eyes to the beauty of God's creation. And we'll send you an update on how Davis' surgery goes.

God bless you,

Andrea Brandt von Lindau Programme Manager for Inclusive Eye Health



Davis' cataracts means he's been living in darkness



He can hardly see objects in front of him



Your gift could help a child see and transform a life

Christian Blind Mission is a huge inspiration to me. It works in more than 60 countries, including some of the world's poorest communities, to restore sight, mobility and independence to people living with disability. It's putting Christ's love into action for the most marginalised people. Will you join Christian Blind Mission by supporting this amazing work?



Diane Louise Jordan, Friend of CBM

I will give: £95	b make a blind child see the wonder My choice amount of: I order/CAF voucher made out to CBM or stercard/Maestro Card/CAF Card	of God's creation.
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EASTER MASS TIMES

St Joseph's, Ansdell St Joseph's Woodlands Road FY8 4EP **Palm Sunday** 6pm Saturday Vigil Mass 9:15am Family Mass and 5:05pm Holy Thursday 7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by watching until 10pm **Good Friday** 9:30am United Service outside St Paul's Shop Woodlands Road 3pm Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion **Holy Saturday** 8pm Easter Vigil **Easter Sunday** 10am Family Mass and 5:05pm Easter Monday - Easter Friday (2-6 April) 10am Mass

St. Bernadette's, Bispham

Maundy Thursday 7pm Mass of the Lords Supper. 9.50pm Night prayer **Good Friday** 10am Stations of the Cross 3pm Solemn Celebration of the Passion of Our Lord **Holy Saturday** 7pm Vigil and Service of Light **Easter Sunday** 10am Easter Sunday Mass

Holy Trinity and

St. George, Kendal **Maundy Thursday** 7.00 pm (Kendal) **Good Friday** 3.00 pm (Kendal) **Holy Saturday** 8.30pm (Kendal) - Easter Vigil **Easter Sunday** Morning 10.00 (Kendal) Easter Sunday 12.00 noon (Sedbergh St. Andrews C.of E. Church)

Holy Saturday 8.00pm Easter Vigil **Easter Sunday** 9.30am (Family Mass) 11.00am Mass 6.30pm Mass St Beah's Whitehaven Holy Thursday 7.00pm Mass of The Lord's Supper followed by watching at the Altar of Repose until 10pm **Good Friday** 12 noon Solemn Stations of The Cross 3.00pm Good Friday Service **Holy Saturday** 8.00 pm Easter Vigil Mass **Easter Sunday** 8.00am Quay Street Mass 10.00am St Begh's Mass

Our Lady Star of the Sea,

St Anne's on the Sea

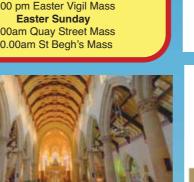


St Peter's Cathedral, Lancaster St Peter's, Balmoral Rd, Lancaster LA1 3BT

Palm Sunday Blessings of Palms at each mass 9.30am St Thomas More's Church Saturday 6.30pm Vigil St Peters Cathedral, Lancaste Palm Sunday 10.30am & 6.30pm mass

Holy Thursday 7.30pm Mass of The Lord's Supp ed by Prayer before The Altar of Repose until midnight Good Friday

nn Liturgy of The Lord's Passion Holy Saturday Easter Vigil and first Mass of Easter Easter Sunday 9.30am St Thomas More's Church 10.30 am mass, 6.30pm mass St Peters Cathedral



Divine Mercy Sunday 2pm Sunday 8th April 2018 Lancaster Cathedral

Veneration of the Image

Divine Mercy homily

Chaplet

3 o'clock prayer

Adoration of the Blessed

Sacrament

Individual Confessions

4.00 pm Rosary

4.40 pm Vespers

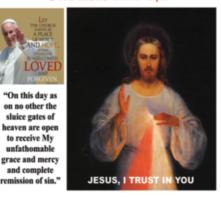
6.30 Parish Mass



"On this day the very depths of my tender mercy are open!"

Feast of Divine Mercy Sunday 8th April 2018 at St. Bede's Church, Wigton Road,

Carlisle From 2-15 pm.



Come celebrate 2:15 to 3pm Confession, 3 o'clock prayer, Sung Chaplet, Holy Mass at 3:15pm Blessing and veneration of the image veneration of the relics of St. Faustina and Pope St. John Paul II





All Welcome. Refreshments after service

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY St Peter's Church, Lytham 2.15pm Sunday 8th April 2018 Veneration of the Image & Relic **Divine Mercy Homily** Litany of Divine Mercy Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction Confessions available during Service. (Mass at St Peter's 10.30am - refreshments available after Mass and following DM Service.)

Frees

St. Peter's, Lytham Holy Thursday 7.00pm Mass. Watching until 10.00pm **Good Friday** 10.30am Stations of the Cross. 3.00pm Liturgy of the Passion Holy Saturday 9.00pm Easter Vigil Easter Sunday 10.30am Mass

St Wilfrid, Preston Holy Thursday No Masses during the day 11am-12 noon & 2.30pm-3.30pm Confessions 7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper - Watching at the Altar of Repose until Midnight **Good Friday** 10.30am Stations of the Cross. 10.30am-12 noon Confessions 3.00pm Service of the Lord's Passion **Holy Saturday** No Masses during the day

SAINT WALBURGE CATHOLIC CHURCH Christ the King Sovereign Priest

HOLY WEEK 2018

Maundy Thursday: 29th March 6pm: Solemn High Mass, Procession to the Altar of Repose, Adoration until Midnight

Good Friday: 30th March 3pm: Solemn High Liturgy

Holy Saturday: 31st March 7pm: Easter Vigil & Solemn High Mass

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11am-12 noon & 2.30pm-3.30pm Confessions Church closes at 4pm. 8.30pm Easter Vigil Easter Sunday 7.00am, 10.15am Mass (No evening Mass) Church closes at 5pm

St Clare's, Preston Holy Thursday 7.00pm Mass. Watching at the Altar of Repose until midnight **Good Friday** 3.00pm Liturgy of the Passion Holy Saturday 8.30pm Easter Vigil **Easter Sunday** 9.30am Mass. 6.00pm Mass

Easter Sunday: 1st April 10.30am: Solemn High Mass

> Tenebræ: 7pm on Wednesday, 9am Friday & Saturday

Confessions: 2-5pm on Thursday & Saturday

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