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photographs of

the Ordination

of Bishop Paul

Swarbrick on

Pages 8 & 9

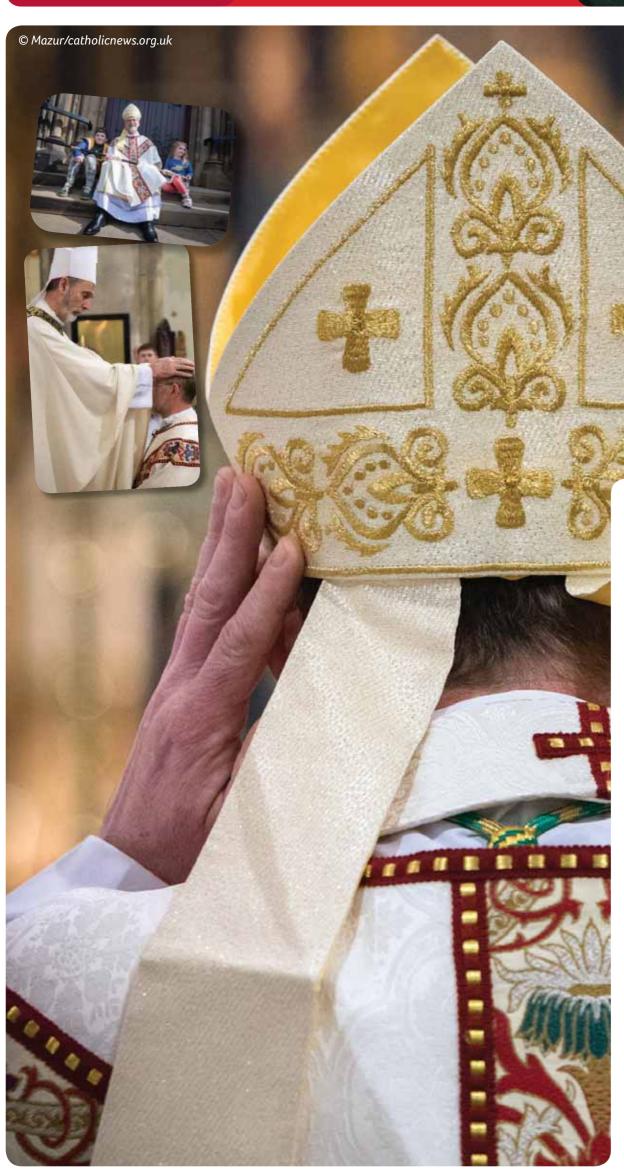
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The Official Newspaper to the Diocese of Lancaster

Issue 300 + June 2018

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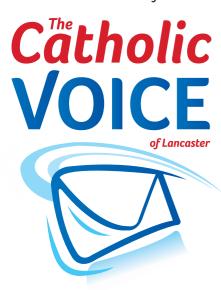
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EDITORIAL

n early April Pope Francis released an apostolic exhortation 'Gaudete et exsultate' – 'Rejoice and be glad'. In the same month Bishop Paul Swarbrick adopted as his Episcopal motto 'Sanctitas Praeter Pacem' - 'Holiness before Peace'.

The 44-page exhortation explains that holiness is the mission of every Christian, and gives practical advice for living out the call to holiness in ordinary, daily life, encouraging the practice of the Beatitudes and performing works of mercy.

Using the words of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Francis writes that "holiness is nothing other than charity lived to the full." As a result, the measure of our holiness stems not from our own achievement, but "from the stature that Christ achieves in us."

In his remarks at the end of his Ordination Mass Bishop Paul spoke of the continuity of the faith handed down from the saints and martyrs over time. Their examples of total love and service for the Lord and His people illustrate a true holiness which enabled them to live out their Baptism to the full.

Here, today in the Diocese of Lancaster we are not called to lay down our life for the faith. But we are called through our Baptism to a life of holiness. Pope Francis says "A Christian cannot think of his or her mission on earth without seeing it as a path of holiness," and explains that this path has its "fullest meaning in Christ, and can only be understood through him." And he writes "to walk the path of holiness requires prayer and contemplation alongside action; the two cannot be separated".

The *Catholic Voice* believes that the exhortation will help individuals, parishes, deaneries and the diocese along the road to holiness. Groups may wish to take the exhortation and reflect on the document more fully, it is rich in practical insights that are experienced in day to day modern life.

Sanctitas Praeter Pacem / Holiness before Peace

View 'Gaudete et exsultate' at:

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20180319_gaudete-et-exsultate.html





Students from the Parish of St John XXIII took part in a very reflective Lenten Service before the Easter Break. The evening was held at St Joseph's Church and opened with prayer led by Father John Millar.

The young people took parents, pupils and staff through a thoughtful and emotional journey of Holy Week with each Primary School and Christ the King Catholic High School leading dramatisations of key events during Christ's Passion. We opened with St Teresa's Catholic Primary School hailing a welcome as Jesus entered Jerusalem, the pupils had fashioned their own palms and proclaimed a loud welcome to the Messiah. This was followed by St Joseph's Catholic Primary School's beautiful interpretation of the Last Supper which they performed at the foot of the altar. Christ the King students gave us a brilliantly dramatic account of Judas' betrayal and Jesus' arrest. We witnessed Christ on trial as told by St Ignatius' Catholic Primary School and the service was concluded by St Augustine's Catholic Primary School who acted out the sombre scenes of the crucifixion.

Collective worship was witnessed in the singing of Lenten hymns, led by the staff from the various schools and in the blessing of the new Parish logo. This left us all feeling a strong sense of community as we prepared for the coming of Christ over Easter.

> The new Parish logo displaying the Papal Coat of Arms of St John XXIII which will be displayed in the Parish and its partner schools: Christ the King Catholic High School, St Augustine's Catholic Primary School, St Ignatius' Catholic Primary School, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, St Teresa's Catholic Primary School and English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School.



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Easter at Castlerigg

Wow - Incredible opportunity being here and I definitely want to live out my faith more and I want to be confirmed and will go speak to Fr Michael.

Lucy - Carlisle

It's my first retrect I expected. I really understand the E stage of the Tridu Jess - Fleetwood

Amazing experience, my heart is full of joy and has more realise I want to be baptised.

Amy - C

really didn't know what to expect from the Castlerigg Easter retreat. I was so excited for it but I had no idea what it would be like. I have wanted to go for a few years but other things have always come up and I haven't had the chance, but being part of the team at Castlerigg this year has given me the opportunity to get involved in such an important and inspiring retreat.

It was really great to meet young people who were so enthusiastic and so happy to be back at Castlerigg. On Thursday evening we celebrated Mass in the chapel, and took the Blessed Sacrament in procession to the altar of repose. Sister, Cleophas and I had spent the previous day transforming the conference room in to a Garden of Gethsemane, where we spent an hour watching and praying with Jesus, taking time to reflect on the sacrifice Jesus made for us and how we can use this as an example to sacrifice ourselves for others. I learnt that the cross is where the anger of people and the mercy of God meet and, because of the cross, we are saved from our sins. We venerate the cross in the Good Friday service to express the thankfulness we have for the sacrifice He made for us. I find it so difficult to even imagine the pain that Jesus went through to save us.

We followed the Stations of the Cross, reflecting on Mary's experience. This helped me to comprehend the sadness and the pain of Jesus and Mary on this day. And through a creative activity we had the chance to reflect upon the Passion of Jesus Christ and how we can relate in some way to each character. Holy Saturday helped me to understand about how we can empty ourselves of our sins and the things that get in the way of our relationship with God. In the evening we had a beautiful service in the parish church. The music led by both the team at Castlerigg and the music group at the parish was really lovely. It was a brilliant service and filled us all with so much happiness and hope. When we got back, we had a late night Easter egg hunt in the garden at 11pm! The day finished with an Easter vigil party, which was so much fun.

I had a wonderful time on the Easter Retreat. I am already planning on going next year! I met some of the most inspiring and lovely people and it was a real blessing having an opportunity to be part of it. I had so much fun but I also learnt so much as well. I always love going to the Easter services in my local parish but I often don't understand the importance of some aspects of the different services so it was really good to get a better insight in to the Easter triduum. If you are thinking about coming to the Easter Retreat next year, I would definitely recommend that you do because you will not regret it!

Katie, Castlerigg

Lourdes with HCPT

I cannot wait to go back to Lourdes one day because my adventure was truly fun and amazing as I had to reflect on my faith and also to help children. When Fr. John told me that I may have opportunity of travelling to Lourdes with HCPT Group 56 from Preston I couldn't believe at first because. I thought he was joking as Lourdes is one of the places I studied about during my high school and wished to visit. Being a non-European citizen, the journey to Lourdes wasn't easy at all as I had to apply for a French Visa, which wasn't straight forward, but I can't thank enough both my team at Castleriggand Richard of HCPT group 56 who provided me with necessary support.

Lourdes is well known to millions of religious pilgrims, but you don't have to be religious, to enjoy a trip to Lourdes as it has a lot of attractions that everyone must enjoy ranging from good weather to nice hotels. My aim in Lourdes was not to stay in Five-star hotel but to serve God through serving his people as HCPT takes vulnerable people, especially children, to Lourdes every year. I believe we need to focus on helping people as the best way of serving God. This year's HCPT pilgrimage theme was summarised in three words - "You Are Important." Indeed, through sermons from different preachers I came to know that everyone is important and that we all deserve the same. I can't explain enough my time in Lourdes but I will say it was an amazing way to spend Easter week. I met so many great people but treasure most visiting the place where Mary appeared to Bernadette, the little girl who became a source of faith to people both young and old in this world. There were many people in wheelchairs at all the processions and services, and the pilgrims waited patiently to take their turn in the baths near the grotto. Over 25,000 pilgrims gathered in Lourdes.

My favourite moments were having my face painted by our group members and carrying the group banner in the torchlight processions for which Lourdes is famous, a flickering ribbon of light held by pilgrims singing hymns of praise in a long line of men and women holding large banners aloft bearing the names of their cities and churches.

I can't finish my experience in Lourdes without talking about the Grotto, the most respected small place in this world because I considered it to be the heart of the sanctuary.

Cleophas Tukamarwa, Castlerigg

There may still be a few places left on the diocesan youth pilgrimage to Lourdes this summer. Check our website www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/events-whats-on



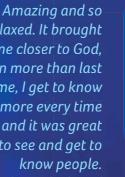
I enjoyed seeing so many young people, new and old. It has benefited us being together. Sharing the Easter Triduum has brought a different light into my life. Amy - Barrow

it at Castlerigg, totally different to what feel welcomed into a bigger family. I aster message and walking through each um made me understand so much more!

Great weekend! I learnt more about the Easter Vigil and how God did die and it was sad but brought Joy into the world. Dom - Workington

It's amazing to see so many people and get the chance to allow our Catholic family to grow. Very thought provoking in our reflection time and this Easter retreat has helped me understand how to pray to God. Ben - Bury

relaxed. It brought me closer to God, even more than last time, I get to know more every time and it was great to see and get to know people. Alex - Blackpool



It has been great! Helpful insights of prayer and brought me closer to God. Leon - Fleetwood

After being received into the church 4 years ago when I was on team here with Fr Phil and Trish, the triduum this year has sparked and reignited the light in my heart to continue on my journey in being a disciple of Christ. Tilly - Wrexham

It has helped me understand the pain and suffering of Our Lady when we meditated on the stations in the garden through her eyes with everyone on our Easter retreat. The pain Our Lady went through as a mother, understanding how our own mothers go through pain empathising with our pain. Jesus gives us his own mum to ensure no one is without a mother figure.

Lauren - Walney (near Barrow)

de me

arlisle

Being a Young Catholic Today We can be a Reflection of Jesus How often do you hear someone say "I'm only

human"? Perhaps you have said it yourself to excuse a mistake or a flaw. We forget that Jesus was human too. He was born human and he died human. He was made up of the same stuff we are. When we say we are only human I imagine Jesus is probably thinking. "What do you mean? So was I."

He died for our "human" mistakes to be forgiven. Yes, Jesus is the Son of God, buthe spoke with a human mouth, he touched with human hands and he loved with human heart. We might say that we will never be as good as Jesus but he came into this world as one of us to show us that being human is so much more than our excuses suggest.

And before you say "Is he saying anyone can be Jesus?" No. I'm saying that we have the pieces to be closer to God but we just have to trust him to show us how to put the pieces together.

Sponsored Walk

About the time you read this newspaper, Bishop Paul, Fr John, priests, school staff and parishioners from across the diocese and beyond will be taking part in our sponsored walk, covering fifteen miles, 12 of the Lake District Fells, and over 6,000 ft of climbing.

Lancaster Diocese Youth Service works with thousands of young people each year. Whether in school, on retreat at Castlerigg, or as part of one of our pilgrimages, the experience of spending time reflecting on their lives and coming to know the faith better can be transformative. And we want to make these opportunities available to as many young people as possible. We work hard to make the funds we have stretch as far as possible, and to keep the prices we charge young people low. Donations help us to achieve this and we are grateful to David, 15, Fleetwood everyone who supports us.

If you would like to sponsor us, or make a regular donation, please visit our website www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/donate

Loved every minute! As a non-Catholic it has certainly made me think more about how to deal with different areas of life and how Jesus can work through them. Jess - Blackpool

can live this out today.

Ellie - Fleetwood

I met so many new friends and will keep in

contact. Totally different experience, it has

helped me understand my faith through

understand the stories more and how we

the different activities and helped me

As a young person preparing for baptism with Fr Alf and Patricia at St Wulstans and St Edmunds in Fleetwood, coming on the Easter retreat has helped me understand more about faith and understand more about the reason why Jesus died for me! Phoebe - Fleetwood



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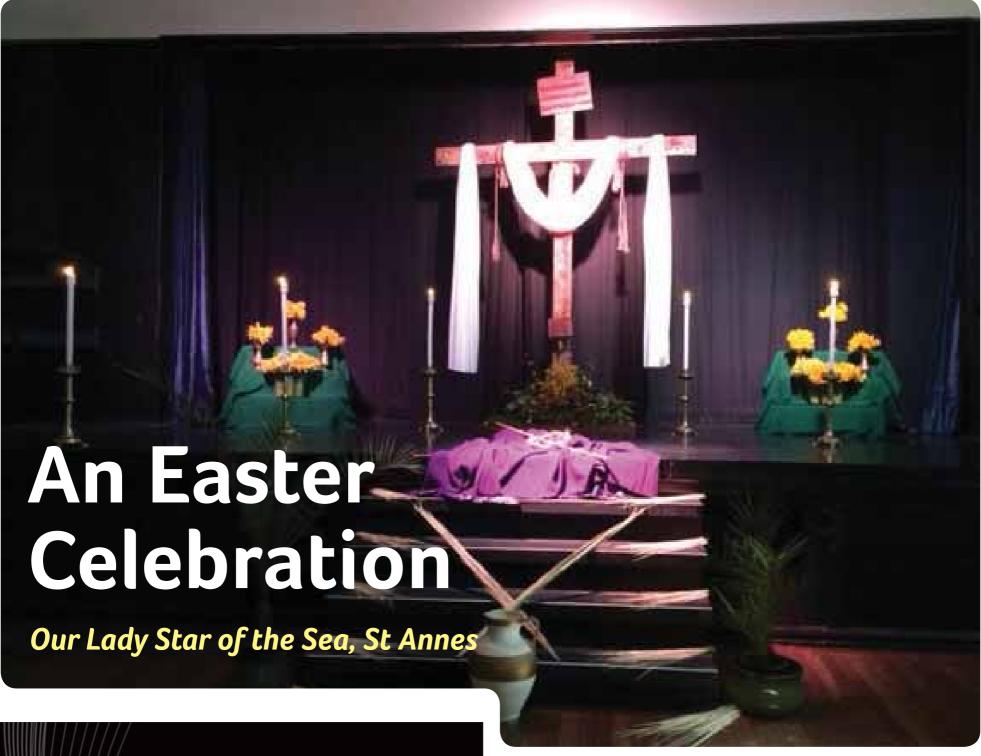
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aving survived the dark time of Holy week and the joyful time of Easter Sunday we celebrated the festival of Easter with good food, good wine, good music and above all good company.

Eighty people attended and we told the Easter story through the eyes of the children. They asked questions such as:

Did Jesus really exist? What is a Pharisee? Why does the temple have money changers?

Adults answered the questions and our newly formed youth council then gave short readings from the New Testament, never more than two verses, to consolidate what was said. This was interspersed with music, a little of it traditional church music such as Regina Coeli; much of it good hearty hymns to join in with, such as Follow Me. The children sang Walk in the Light, and our final hymn was Shine Jesus, Shine, with the children (and some grown-ups) ringing bells for all they were worth. At the end we remembered Jesus was a Jew, and that we are all part of the Abrahamic tradition as we sang Shalom my Friend.

We told the story up to and including the Resurrection and then had a very noisy and happy three course meal. The children hunted for Easter eggs, and then in the true spirit of family they took sweets around to all the adults – I think they had a few themselves! After the meal we tried to understand all that happened after the Resurrection and before the Ascension, from the view point of Mary, and the Apostles.

The evening had so many highlights; the way the children joined in, the singing, the food (and the wine!), the great feeling of being a parish family and welcoming friends to our celebrations. However the scene portrayed on our stage was arresting; a full size cross, constructed in exactly the way it would have been in Jesus' time with Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews written in Hebrew, Greek and Latin. Palms showed the way to the Cross, and also scattered was the purple cloak the soldiers dressed Jesus in, and the Crown of Thorns. The Resurrection was a little more difficult to achieve but we eventually decided on the joyful look of spring with over one hundred daffodils (which the children later gave out to the grown- ups). This theme was continued in the table decorations – spring flowers coming out of egg shells.

As ever, just as when we celebrate Passover or Advent, we start at 5pm, finishing about 8pm. Families with young children and people not wishing to be out late at night can go home, whilst everyone else can retire to the bar! A joyful night and one we shall repeat!

Jane Humphreys

Say I do to Fairtrade gold ... and commit to making a difference



hite, rose or yellow, flat or curved? These are some of the many choices which couples consider when deciding about the rings which will be exchanged as 'a sign of love and fidelity' between them. Other questions might be; where has the gold come from, what was the effect on the environment and were the miners fairly paid?

There are an estimated 16 million small scale gold miners working in one of the most dangerous industries in the world to provide gold that may end up on our high streets. Miners often work in very remote and harsh conditions with little or no health and safety measures in place, but few other options for making a living. There are serious health risks associated with the improper handling of toxic mercury and cyanide, which can be used in the extraction process. Small-scale miners are at the end of long and complex supply chains and for those working in remote locations, it can be difficult to sell their gold at a fair price.

Santiago Ramirez remembers how, back in the 80s and 90s, artisanal gold mining was the only way for people to make a living in the desert area of southern Peru. Over the last 20 years their lives have improved after they came together as an association and since 2015 as a company. Investments have been made in such things as buses to save the miners the four-hour walk from their village. Achieving Fairtrade Certification means that they are able to sell 100% of production to trustworthy buyers offering fair prices. The Fairtrade Premium of \$2,000 per kilo which they receive on top of the selling price is helping to put in place basic services such as healthcare and education, water, drainage and electrification projects.

The supply of Fairtrade gold to the UK market is at present greater than the demand. High street and local jewellers are not yet used to customers asking for it but many will be able to source products if asked.



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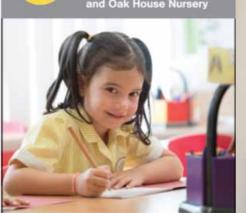
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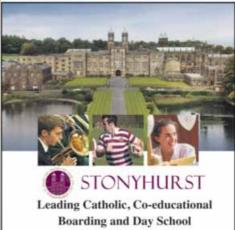






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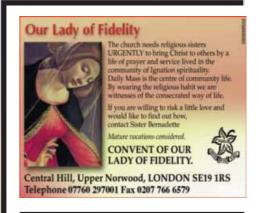
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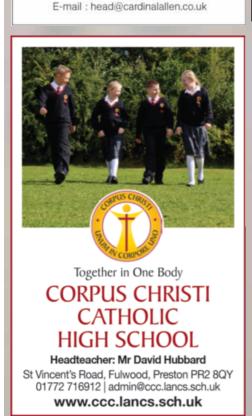
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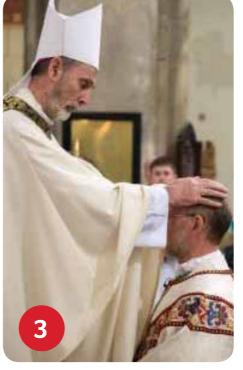


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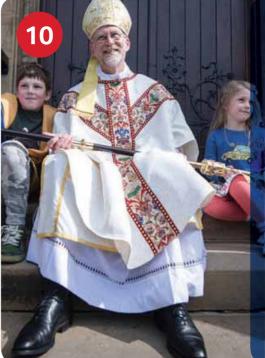


Photo 1 Flanked by his cousins Canon Bob Horn and Canon Adrian Towers he is presented for service as bishop. Photo 2 Prostrating himself before the altar as the litany of the saints is intoned by Fr Andrew Allman and responded to by the congregation. *Photo 3* Each Bishop in turn lays their hands on the head of Mgr Swarbrick. **Photo 4** The book of Gospels is held over his head. Photo 5 The Oil of Chrism is poured over his head in a solemn anointing. **Photo 6** The Book of Gospels is handed to him. Photo 7 & 8 Investiture with Ring, Mitre and Staff. Photo 9 Delivering his first Blessing as Bishop. Photo 10 A bit of relaxation after the event. Photos 1-8 & 10 -© Mazur/catholicnews.org.uk



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ast Autumn St Joseph's Lancaster was chosen to pioneer a new national initiative from the National Vocations Office. The aim of the week's event was to build up a momentum within the parish, helping everyone to realise that we all have vocations.

By emphasising the universal vocation to holiness, we were challenged to see how the ordinary everyday lives that we lead are in fact charged with the grandeur of God. By raising the sense of universal vocation within a particular parish, the National Vocations Office hope that the initiative will in turn encourage people to see their lives in terms of a vocation, something calling them beyond themselves. Surely it is in nurturing this desire to listen to what God is calling each one of us to that our communities will become seedbeds for vocations to the priesthood, religious life and marriage, and that we will all grow together in the call to holiness.

After much planning, St Joseph's organised a series of events each evening, beginning with Mass, sometimes in different

locations, followed by a time of hospitality and fellowship, and a short talk. Each of the talks reflected a different vocation. Besides a parish celebration on the feast of All Saints which focussed upon the universal call to holiness, one evening offered testimony from three marriages, exploring what it meant 'for better, for worse... till death do us part'. Another evening was held in the beautiful and serene setting of Hyning Monastery where Sr. Michaela spoke of life in the cloister and shared her life as a Bernardine Cistercian Sister and Frances Dawbarn spoke of her call to share something of their life as a lay oblate in the outside world. On the final night, three priests and a deacon spoke of their vocations to the Holy Orders and what lay behind the collar.

There were many laughs, and incredibly inspiring stories, but above all, we were all left feeling as if there was much to ponder. What surprised many was the idea that we all had vocations and the revelation of trying to understand our lives as a vocation. What surprised others was how similar many of the struggles were between being a priest, a married person and a nun, the



revelation that we were all poor human beings, struggling to hear the call of the Lord in everyday life. Called Beyond was a great parish event, bringing together many

people. The parish was so grateful to the organising committee who had spent time with the National Vocations Team, preparing for the occasion, putting together the programme, organising publicity and social media, displays and even a set of trump cards. The parish was also grateful to the choir and servers for helping us to raise our minds and hearts to God in celebration of Mass, and our youth group for preparing a play for the All Saints celebration, and to the many parishioners who prepared food and refreshments.

Vocation is often considered a long and boring topic to many cradle Catholics. We understand its importance but often feel helpless in being able to 'do' anything. Our special week and the subsequent work have enriched and developed our theme of vocation further. It has opened our hearts and deepened our faith. It has strengthened and built a sense of 'community' reaching further than just our families, friends and the parish. It has opened our eyes to consider vocations far wider. It has opened the door for married lay people to realise that they too may have a greater vocational life experience alongside that of the Priest, Deacon, Religious or Oblate. Together, we can all trust in the Lord and wholeheartedly pray for vocations.

An eight year old of the parish produced a poster in which was written a simple phrase...

God has the pencil, You have the highlighter, God draws the world, You make it brighter



Let us all go forward, knowing we are all valuable parts of the body- each with its own unique vocation. Let's all in our way make this world brighter. May God bless us and keep us.

Fr Philip Conner & Lisa Vallente-Osborne



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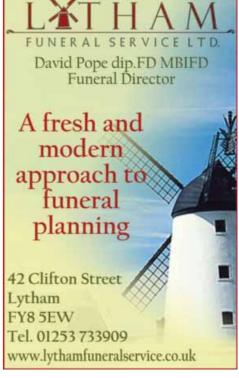
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July 02 to July 13 Monday - Friday

Liturgical Research Seminar- Rev Dr Daniel McCarthy OSB
Liturgy in the West: History and Context-Rev Drs Ephrem Carr OSB & Gregory Carey OSB
Theology of the Liturgy - Prof Joris Geldhof

Block 2: July 16 - July 27 Monday - Friday

Western Liturgical Books- Rev Dr Daniel McCarthy OSB Pastoral Liturgy-Rev Dr James Leachman OSB Liturgies of the Early Church-Rev Drs Ephrem Carr OSB

Block 1 & Block 2 Monday - Friday

Readings in Syriac -Rev Drs Ephrem Carr OSB

Block 3: August 13 - August 24

Research Seminar: Christian Initiation

Proficient Latin for Liturgists* (* same course)

Latin Summer School: August 13-24 Monday - Friday

Using the teaching method of Reginald Foster directly from his book **Ossa Latinitatis Sola**, we offer instruction in Latin in 3 levels for adults from the first lesson beginners to the advanced Master's level programme.

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Full details on the courses can be found on the website www.liturgyinstitute.org

email us at il@liturgyinstitute.org or call Tel: 020 8862 2156

& St. Edward's in Preston have had a close association with Sister Mary Lucie, a Presentation Sister who leads a mission in Kalomoin Zambia. When my father met her he was pleased to be able to tell her that he was educated by the Presentation Sisters in the 1930s at a school in Kodaikanal, a hill station in South India. He was delighted to learn that the sisters are still there and so too is his old school. We determined to go on the trip that I had long promised myself,namely,totrace my father's steps in India.

How did my father end up in India? Most people assume it was because his father was in the army but that was not the case. My grandfather, Duncan Robertson, was a cotton weaver from Blackburn. He survived the First World War and on his return was given the opportunity to take evening classes at the Harris College, Preston, to acquire some management skills. To become a manager in a cotton mill in Lancashire at that time you needed to be the son of a mill owner, hence his decision to take a job in India where he managed the weavers shed in Binney's Mill, Bangalore. My father, Gordon, was born in Bangalore in 1925.

Earlier this year my husband Frank and I travelled to Bangalore and, with the help of our driver and a local guide, located the site of Binney's Mill, long closed, but sadly demolished only recently. We also found the little Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception, located within

walking distance, that my father recalls walking to each Sunday. It has been replaced by a newer building and the old church, clearly visible, is incorporated into the adjoining primary school, St. Philomena's.

From there we journeyed south, eventually arriving at the hill station, Kodaikanal, home of dad's old school, Presentation Convent Kodaikanal, PCK as it is known locally. I had been in contact with Sister Arul Selvi, the Superior, and arranged a visit. As agreed we turned up at the school at 10am to be warmly greeted by Sister Arul Selvi and several of her colleagues. In my father's day all the sisters were Irish and wore the traditional black habit of the Order.

Today the sisters are all Indian and wear a simple sari. In my father's day and up until the 1970's PCK was predominantly a boarding school for fee paying children whose parents could afford the fees although they did, even then, run a primary school for local children, many of whom would not have been able to pay any fees. In the 1980's the sisters reviewed their mission and determined to focus entirely on educating the poor.

They now have 465 pupils, boys and girls, in the high school in addition to a large primary school. It is a day school but they do still take a small number of boarding pupils from the outlying villages, children who want to continue their education beyond the limited education provided at government schools. These pupils are



very poor, pay no fees and are provided with board as well as an education, at a cost of £32 a month.

The school building we visited was very much as it had been in my father's day, a large traditional building in a lovely location surrounded by trees and spacious grounds but it was clearly in need of serious renovation in parts and the gardens had been denuded of many trees which Sister told me they had sold in order to fund maintenance on the buildings. A large new block had been erected to house the high school pupils and a very large covered area which was used for sports as well as open air Masses. As well as preparing the children foracademic exams they also provide vocational training. What they are undertaking and achieving with very limited funding was humbling.

It was a joy to go around the school. The children were happy, friendly, very polite and respectful and extremely well behaved and hard working. All wore uniform which sister told us they often

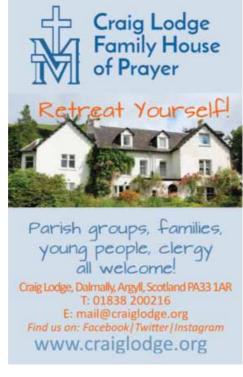
provide, at a cost of £4, as many of the families can't afford this. Standards are high and 60% of the high school pupils go on to university. They are the only Catholic school in Kodaikanal and while many of the pupils are not Catholic they all receive a Catholic education and attend Mass. Most of the teachers are lay people and they are clearly dedicated, though not very well paid. How does the school keep going? Some families can afford to pay minimal fees but they rely heavily on the support of the Presentation Order in the UK and

donations. The following morning at 7am, before we left Kodaikanal, we joined the Sisters for Mass, celebrated in a very small room, seated on cushions, gathered around a small table. What a prayerful, joyous occasion it was.

These Presentations Sister have very little materially but they are spiritually wealthyand they are transforming the lives of the poor in India. It is apparent that the church in India is strong and they may have something which we have lost.

Emma McGrath











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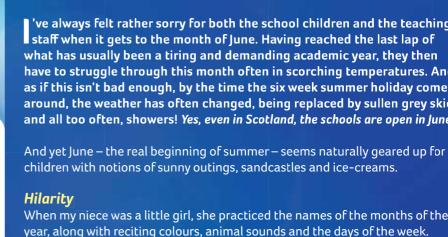
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When my niece was a little girl, she practiced the names of the months of the year, along with reciting colours, animal sounds and the days of the week. Although only small, her grasp of all of these was impressive, but strangely she was unable to say "June" under any circumstances. Despite our best efforts, to say nothing of repetition, she persisted in referring to the month as "John" instead of "June"! As she actually has an older brother called John, this caused confusion and much hilarity:

"John (June) will soon be here!" she cried, leaving us bemused, as we tried to work out whether she was referring to her brother or the month!

Ironically, on 24 June we celebrate the birth of John the Baptist, one of the greatest saints of all time and the forerunner of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Unlike my niece, John perfectly articulated the fact that he was not the Messiah, but was instrumental in preparing the Jews for his coming, to say nothing of baptizing them en masse. John's role was critical, but he had no hesitation in standing aside and pointing the way to Jesus.

Truly Wonderful

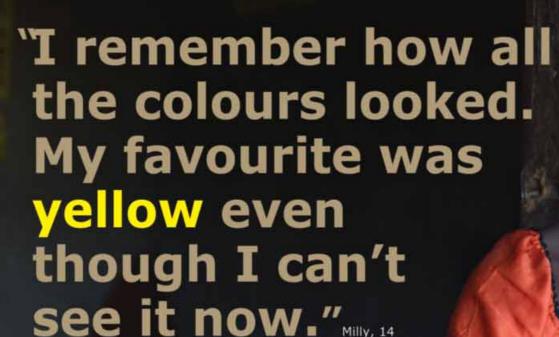
In the month of June there is much to celebrate – the advent of the summer with all its joy, the observance of the birth of St John the Baptist and most of all, God Almighty who created the world and the seasons and who gave us his only Son out of love for humankind. Schools may struggle a little in June. However, 'Spring being a tough act to follow, God created June'.

And so whether we refer to this wonderful month as June, John, Jane or any other misnomer, the fact remains that as always, God has given us something

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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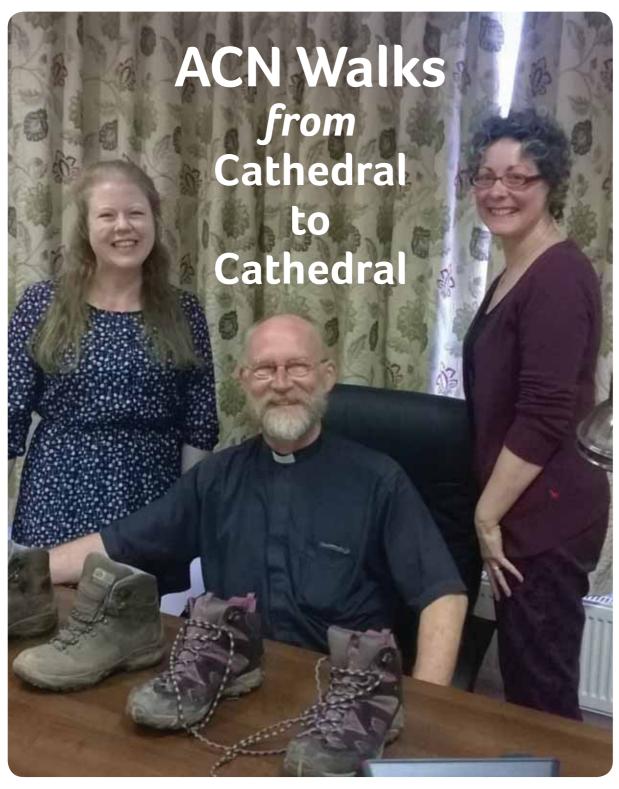
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ridget Huddleston and Caroline Hull are walking to five NW cathedrals to raise awareness and funding for Iraq's Christians as they return to the Nineveh Plain. The pair, who staff the North West Office of the Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), have been moved to take on this challenge to help rebuild houses, churches and schools in the towns and villages destroyed by Daesh (ISIS) between June 2014 and October 2017.

"I have visited Iraq (in Sept 2016) and the Christians I met told me they wanted to go home and restart their lives in the towns where their families have lived for generations," said Caroline, ACN's NW Manager. "They need our help and our prayers; they feel as if we have forgotten them."

ACN currently provides nearly half of all funding for emergency relief and rebuilding for internally displaced Christian families in Iraq. With ACN's help, the Church is offering financial aidalongside spiritual and emotional support as Iraq's Christian communities move beyond the past few years and look toward a brighter future.

The Walks for Iraq began at Lancaster Cathedral on the morning of 17 May. Caroline and Bridget received a blessing from Bishop Paul and their parish priest, Fr Stephen Pearson, the Cathedral Dean. The first leg of their journey included stops at the Catholic Chaplaincy at Lancaster University, St Mary and St Michael's (Garstang), St Clare's (Preston), St Mary's (Chorley) and St Ethelbert's (Bolton). Caroline and Bridget then headed to Wardley Hall, residence of the Bishop of Salford, to visit Bishop John Arnold before the final few miles to Salford Cathedral where they arrived on Monday 21 May.

The next walk, scheduled for mid-June, will go from Salford to Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral via All Saints in Golborne. Walks from Liverpool to Wrexham Cathedral and Wrexham to Shrewsbury Cathedral will follow in July and September respectively.

You can sponsor Bridget and Caroline through ACN's NW Office 01524 388739 or online www.justgiving.com/fundraising/walks4iraq

Caroline and Bridget ask for your prayers for our brothers and sisters in Iraq. "Please help Iraq's Christians by donating whatever you can. Christians have lived on the Nineveh Plain for nearly two thousand years. Together we can help them rebuild their homes and lives."



A visit to the Shrine at Medjugorje Departs 21st August 2018, returns 28th August 2018



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