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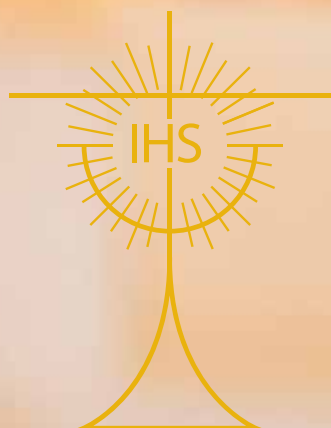
The Official Newspaper to  
the Diocese of Lancaster

Issue 302 + September '18

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Priesthood



Adoremus



LIVERPOOL 2018

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# The Catholic VOICE

of Lancaster



## CONTACT US:

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### EDITOR:

Edwina Gillett  
01253 736630 / 07969 967268  
edwinagillett@hotmail.co.uk  
www.catholicvoiceoflancaster.co.uk

### ADVERTISING:

Caroline Gonella / CathCom Ltd.  
01440 730399 / 07931 836926  
carolineg@cathcom.org  
www.cathcom.org

### DESIGN & LAYOUT:

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### Articles to:

voicenews@hotmail.co.uk

### Letters to:

voiceletters@hotmail.co.uk

### POSTAL ADDRESS:

FAO Edwina Gillett  
99 Commonside, Ansdell,  
Lytham St. Annes FY8 4DJ

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## EDITORIAL

**I**n early September the much heralded National Eucharistic Congress and Pilgrimage, 'Adoremus', will take place in Liverpool. Bishops, clergy and the faithful will gather together from 7 -9 September to reflect on and ponder the wonderful gift of the Blessed Eucharistic in our lives. It will also be a time for those attending the Congress to pray and worship before the Blessed Sacrament and bear witness as they walk in procession at the closing ceremony.

The Spirituality Committee of the Bishops Conference have produced a series of leaflets entitled 'Time before the Blessed Sacrament' in preparation for 'Adoremus' – these are available at [www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/Adoremus](http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/Adoremus)

Whilst produced to help focus minds on the Congress the leaflets are in fact timeless and offer clear and simple insights for engaging with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Parishes may wish to use the leaflets to provide catechesis on the Blessed Sacrament that will encourage greater devotion to Eucharistic adoration through Exposition, Holy Hours and Benediction.

Our faith recognises the simple host as the Body and Blood of Our Lord and Saviour and no matter what we bring before Him just being in his presence can bring many blessings. Maybe we have lots of burdens or are struggling with our faith and prayer life, maybe we are just out of sorts or angry or maybe we just want to say thank you – wherever we are we can be sure of the constancy of the Lord and that we can put all our trust in Him to deliver us safe to the Father.

Coming before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament in the silence of our hearts provides a calming breathing space in an otherwise busy and noisy world and whether our stay is short or long it can help to recharge our spiritual battery.

The **Catholic Voice** encourages everyone across the diocese to build on the momentum of 'Adoremus' and take every advantage to promote and participate in Eucharistic devotions in our parishes so that together we can grow in faith, hope and love, not just at this time of the Congress but as a regular part of our daily life.





# On Yer Bike with Bishop Paul

*"I am selling my bike and buying an electric one"!!!!*



**S**ome weeks ago Fr Peter Sayer at Thurnham was reading notices from the newsletter and he mentioned a cycle ride round the churches in the Lancaster Deanery. Knowing I did a bit of cycling he immediately looked at me, so talk about hinting like a bull in a china shop I thought "no way was I escaping this".

On getting home and reading about the ride it said it was about 55 miles so I thought no problem, I am capable of riding in excess of that distance. Little did I know!

On Saturday 23rd June 9 intrepid (*that's Latin for maniac*) cyclists gathered at St. Joseph's church in Skerton ready to set off at 9.0'clock, weather a bit breezy but the temperature was just right.

Going along the old railway line we first stopped at Canon Cooper's church on Matthias Street, Morecambe before heading along to promenade ending up in Bolton le Sands.

Leaving Bolton le Sands we went round Crag Bank through Warton and called in on the Bernardine community at Hyning Hall. Next stop was Yealand before the real fun started.

Crossing the A6 and through Burton we went over the Col du Dalton Lane to descend to Kirkby Lonsdale via Biggins. Dinner was taken in Kirkby Lonsdale (*without a cold pint*) then back down the main road to Hornby where we talked about how best to develop a housing estate on the back garden!!!!

Carrying on into Caton we took a left turn to ride

over Happy Valley. Why the road is called Happy Valley is beyond me because your legs are far from happy, nor is it in a valley!!!

Anyway with that out of the way we turned right at Harrisend cross roads to drop down to Scorton then on to Garstang where we were treated to refreshments (*Fr Tom Butler nearly split his sides laughing seeing me in my Lycra!!*). Leaving Garstang turning left into Dimples Lane we climbed up hill to Cloughton where again plenty of refreshments were available. Next a lovely descent back to Garstang through Scorton to turn left to pass Daisy Clough tea rooms (*brilliant*), over the A6 to turn left to go towards Forton Hall then on to the Cockerham road. Wallings have a bike magnet which draws cycles into the ice cream parlour GREAT! We were then back on the main road heading through Cockerham and turning right into Thurnham access road where again refreshments were to be had.

In Conder Green we took a right turn to go over Sellerley Farm where my legs started to feel the miles (*and my age*) but we made it onto the Lancaster University campus to call at the Chaplaincy centre before going on the cycle track calling at St. Bernadette's then the Cathedral (*no way could we miss that out*) before heading through Sainsbury's car park back to Skerton to finish off a very tiring but very enjoyable ride.

All in all, the ride which was advertised as being 55 miles (*not sure whether this was imperial, metric, or fantasy miles*) turned out to be over 80 miles!!!!

Thanks to all my fellow riders and hopefully next year more will take up the challenge. *Jim Gardner*

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# Youth



[www.castleriggmanor.co.uk](http://www.castleriggmanor.co.uk)

Over  50 Years Service to Youth

For the first weekend in June, the team from Castlerigg made their way to Capesthorpe Hall in Cheshire.

We were joined by friends from around the diocese, and maybe 15,000 others! Across several stages and two days we had a packed programme, celebrating our faith in music. From start to finish it was a brilliant weekend. Highlights included Matt Redman, Kari Jobe and the Housefires, but there were so many great acts and there isn't space to list them here; some on the main stage with an audience of thousands sharing an amazing experience, others on smaller more intimate stages.

We are already looking forward to next year, and maybe we'll see you there. It is a great event and very inclusive – everyone is welcome and everyone feels welcome.

# Big Church Day Out



## Thank you to our Volunteers

On the 2nd July Bishop Paul came to Castlerigg to celebrate Mass with the gap year team. It was an opportunity to thank them for their service over the year and wish them well as move on to new things. A couple of weeks later the team were joined by their families for a thanksgiving Mass at Castlerigg, reflecting on their year together.





# Why do a gap year as a volunteer at Castlerigg Manor?

**I** asked myself this question when I was deciding whether or not to apply just over a year ago. At the time, I came up with the answers *"It'll look good when I'm trying to get into uni,"* and *"It will help with my confidence and independence."* But since then, I've realised that it is so much more and now the list of reasons I have goes on forever!

Working at Castlerigg Manor is the most amazing experience and I'd encourage anybody to take advantage of the opportunity to take a year out of their life to be a part of our Youth Service. It's helped me gain invaluable skills and I will cherish for a lifetime the experiences I've had whilst working with the young people who visit us on retreat. I've grown so much in confidence, maturity and independence, whilst meeting some amazing like-minded young people and making memories and friends that will stay with me for a very long time.

Even more importantly, the impact this year has had on my faith is indescribable. I've always been a practising Catholic but it was never something that I got a lot of joy from or would consider a massive part of my life. In the time that I've been at Castlerigg I've learnt so much both about my faith and about myself. I now feel so much more comfortable with being my true self, the person God made me to be, rather than who society wants me to be. I've realised that there's more to life than the number of likes on a photo or grades in exams. These might benefit you temporarily, but it's not what makes you happy in the long run. What's important is making the most of your life, exploring this wonderful creation we've so undeservingly been given, and serving others by showing anyone we meet just a glimpse of the love that God has for each and every one of us. I can safely say that a year spent in the heart of the Lake District, living in community has allowed me to do this.

I came to Castlerigg on retreat with my school in year 10 and then kept returning for open retreats. I loved every minute of I spent at the centre. I was always so inspired by the team of volunteers and noticed what a positive role model they were to all of the young people they worked with, and especially to me. Young, relatable role models who are proud to be Catholic and live out their faith aren't all that common in our world today, so I think it's even more

critical that young people are able to engage with the volunteers at Castlerigg and hopefully see it's ok to love God, and for them to realise just how loved and valued they are.

At times admittedly, it's challenging. It's hard work and demanding, but this just means that the outcome is even more rewarding. Sometimes I think we need to humble ourselves and serve others to be able to appreciate all the blessings in our lives that we've maybe been too busy to notice at times. Living in community is also a brilliant experience as you get so close to people. You're living, working and praying with them - it's like they become family! You learn how to work as a team and for me, I think I've become more patient and understanding when working with others and I hope to take these qualities with me, as I'm sure they'll come in handy whatever I choose to do with my future. There's always someone there to support you and, because you're so close, you learn where each person's strengths and weaknesses lie and then can use this to do the best job possible, serving the young people we meet. I've found that the more you put into something, the more you get out of it.

It's a real privilege to be able to share my faith and help others understand and explore their own faith; a lot of the time they have this idea in their heads that religion is *'boring'* and *'uncool'*. They're always so shocked that they can have fun whilst doing something prayerful; that they can be reflective whilst being creative; that they can discuss and think about deep topics whilst spending time with their friends. It's really lovely to see how they grow even in just the few days that we work with them.

Even if I've only made a difference to the life of one young person whom I've worked with on a retreat, that would be amazing. What I've experienced this year and the impact it's had on my own life is something I'll be eternally grateful for.

*Hannah, Castlerigg*

Castlerigg are recruiting Gap-Year volunteers for the next year's team (starting August 2019). If you are interested in joining us or want to find out more please get in touch – [team@castleriggmanor.co.uk](mailto:team@castleriggmanor.co.uk) (Minimum age 18, must be able to commit to the year living and working at Castlerigg.)



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# Altar Servers

## Ladyewell Pilgrimage 2018

A glorious sunny day awaited the many altar servers, parents, families and friends and clergy from all parts of the diocese at Ladyewell Shrine. There was a tangible atmosphere of joy and anticipation, as this was the first time for many, of meeting with our new Bishop of Lancaster, Paul Swarbrick.

Processing along the lane, prayerfully reciting the Rosary, Singing hymns, the sweet smell of incense in the air, the soft sound of the bells resounding from the canopy, the rose petals falling before the Lord, truly present with us in the Blessed Sacrament.

Spending quality time together afterwards, sharing stories, meeting with friends we have not seen for some time, enjoying the BBQ.

We also welcomed the President of the Archconfraternity of St Stephen, Mr Michael O'Leary who travelled from London to be with us on our pilgrimage.

A wonderful day, enjoyed by all!

*Photographs courtesy of Mr Jonathan Day.*



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**Unable to attend our Open Evening?**

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# PRAY: WHY BOTHER?

**Q**uite often prayer is something we just do rather than with belief and expectation. Yet scripture tells us that Christ is open to being moved by our faith in what we ask of Him: (Luke 7:1-10) Matt 8:5-13).

The Centurion asking Jesus to heal his servant. He was asking with undeniable belief (*faith*) and expectation and because of this Jesus replies: "Go, let it be done as you believed."

Here, the centurions 'prayer' is a "living thing" asking Jesus moved a mountain but, without his faith and expectation it would have been merely words. Not to

expect from God can lead to ongoing empty 'rituals'. Expectation implies 'Hope' and this in itself is a movement toward belief and faith in God's power. It is right that prayer and faith in Christ should hold us in (great) 'expectation' of a positive outcome. However, all is bound up in the will of God. Even St Paul: 2 Corinthians 12 berates God to relieve him of some big issue or suffering he has. Three times he appeals for it to go. Paul does not get his prayer answered as he wished but is told "My grace in you is sufficient". Our prayer should always be a "living thing" with hope and great expectation in the love and mercy of God but tempered with Paul's experience that sometimes God:

- Wishes the situation to continue both as a means of us needing to turn to Him enabling us to get closer as we learn to offer up our "issues" for God's will.
- Has His own time for things and now may not be His time for us.

It is not arrogance to ask your Father for something in expectation. That's what dad's do.

It is with this hope and belief that the Centurion met God's living power in Christ in the moment and got a dad's loving reply.

*Joe Cunningham via email*



## Celebrating Our Schools Education Sunday 9th September 2018

Education Sunday is a day of Celebration for all those involved in Education. The following schools would like to take this opportunity to celebrate and give thanks to all the students, staff and parents who work so hard in and for their schools.

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**I**n a few weeks time we will be celebrating a national Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool entitled **Adoremus**. The aim is for us as a nation to rediscover the spiritual riches contained within the Blessed Eucharist, and especially to engender a love of Exposition, Benediction and Eucharistic Processions.

Some of our readers will be going to the Congress but really for it to bear fruit its impact must be felt in our parishes. This is something we can all engage with.

Many of our parishes offer Holy Hours and Benediction at various times during the week. We have to ask ourselves how well these are attended and whether love of the Blessed Sacrament has been handed down to the next generation. A question I have heard many times from young Catholics is: What is Benediction Father? It's not that our young people aren't attracted to Eucharistic Devotions they have never heard of them or experienced them – but when they do encounter them I have found they put us to shame in their enthusiasm.

The Second Vatican Council teaches us that in the Eucharist is contained the entire spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ Himself (*Presbyterorum*

*Ordinis* 5). There is no greater gift that God can possibly give us than the gift of His own Body and Blood. The Church has developed over the centuries ways of honouring the Blessed Sacrament as a thanksgiving for this great gift and of remaining close to her Saviour. *Adoremus* is here to reawaken Catholics across the land to an appreciation of this great gift by a new spring of devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.

My own experience is that when we grow in love for the Eucharistic Lord then present in the Tabernacle or exposed in the Monstrance then we grow in our love for the Mass, we grow in charity with our neighbour, we grow in openness to the Lord's will in our vocation and most of all we grow in faith, hope and charity. If we are looking for a revitalisation of the Church then it is to be found here, on our knees, in front of Jesus in the Eucharist.

So what can I do? Why not make an extra effort to attend a weekly holy hour and benediction in your parish? If you do that already why not ask a friend to come with you? Why not ask your priest for some spiritual reading on the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist? We can all do something, big or small, to begin the renewal of love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

*Fr. John Millar*





**Here are comments from people in parishes where Benediction has recently been reintroduced:**

*As a young practicing Catholic, I would like to see benediction more widely available and possible introduced to primary school children who have no experience or knowledge of this service.*

*Stuart*

*Benediction at 4pm each week concludes my Sunday worship, I am able to take time out and give silent personal prayer and thanks in the presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It's my respite before another busy week begins.*

*Denise*

*The reintroduction of Benediction at my parish of St. John Vianney & St. Monica has been of great benefit to myself and fellow parishioners - some of whom had never experienced Benediction.*

*It is something that I had only ever experienced in Convents and retreats. Not only is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament an extension of the Mass.*

*It has given parishioners an opportunity to further sanctify their Sundays and keep the day holy and do more than the minimum requirement.*

*Within Benediction we show Our Lord the utmost reverence - a reverence we must replicate when we receive him at Holy Mass. It is in adoration and reception of the most Blessed Sacrament that we can receive the many graces Our Lord wants to give us.*

*It is important that we return to the rich devotions of the Catholic Church and not let them slip away.*

*Nichola*

*Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament enables me to be with Our Lord Jesus Christ through the ministry of the Catholic Church. The Host being in the monstrance and then placed upon the altar is adored and glorified, after which I receive the blessing of Jesus Christ through the ministry of the priest.*

*Benediction was a very common rite and should be encouraged more in all parishes.*

*Arthur*



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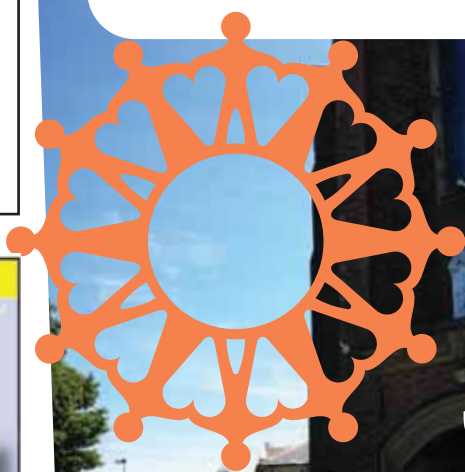
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# Share the Journey



**E**very year, many thousands of people flee their homes because of war, persecution, famine and poverty. Pope Francis has urged Catholics to stand up for the rights of these people, and in November 2017 he launched the "Share the Journey" campaign.

CAFOD began its Around the World challenge to champion the campaign, with the aim of adding up enough miles to stretch around the globe: 24,900 miles. Parishes, schools, local communities were invited to make a symbolic walk, to stand in solidarity with people on the move and to urge the UK government to step up and defend the human dignity of migrants and refugees. Parishes from all over Lancaster Diocese have organised events.

It was a lovely hot summer's day when over 50 parishioners from St Anthony's and Holy Family Preston set out to walk three miles in support of refugees and migrants. We started in prayer and reflected on stories of refugee journeys that CAFOD supports. The route took us along the Lancaster canal and through Haslam Park: very scenic. Young and old joined in, accompanied by three dogs. The atmosphere within the group was amazing: new friendships being forged and old ones being deepened. Others in our parish community were involved. The Cubs, Scouts, Brownies and Guides had already done their own walks, and the Primary School children had walked around the school field.

In September, Pope Francis is speaking to the United Nations. We hope that our small effort, combined with those of many others, will show the World's leaders that we support him in calling for action and compassion.

The people of Thornton and Cleveleys Deanery responded by symbolically sharing their journey with those who have been forced to flee their homes. Despite having to compete with England's match in the world cup semi final, 80 people from the parishes of Thornton/Cleveleys Deanery turned up at the Plaza, Cleveleys, and after starting with the 'journey prayer', began the 1.6mile walk along the promenade to Little Bispham and back. A sense of achievement was evident as people handed in their signed petition cards to mark the end of their walk. Additionally a number of our Deanery schools joined the campaign clocking up a remarkable 1197 miles.

St Mary and St Margaret's, Ulverston and Dalton walked between the two towns a total of about 6.25 miles. 16 parishioners and 2 dogs enjoyed each other's company and shared tea and cakes at the end. Nothing that could be

compared to the plight of those we walked in solidarity with. Our brief stops to reflect and share the refugee stories were very moving and people shared some of the stories of hardship in the history of their own families. A wonderful day in so many ways. Crossing mountains always seems to be one of the hardships refugees face, so at Holy Trinity and St George Kendal it was decided to go up and over Coniston Old Man. Coming from comfortable homes and going back to them means our journey is only symbolic. We knew that our experience could never match the fear and danger refugees face. So we set off one hot sunny Saturday morning and began by praying for refugees as we gathered in Coniston car park and looking at some of the refugees' stories Cafod had supplied.

We were a suitably mixed age group from 10-70, and from different countries too. One young guy fainted before we started, but as he gathered strength as the day went on, it must have been his failure to get up in time for breakfast that caused it. The early stages were easy but we then began to spread out as the incline sharpened and we had to pause to let everyone catch up. The sight of people going single-file over mountains can be seen in so many places in the world. Fortunately for us it was only a day out. Near the top the temptation of Low Tarn was too much for many and the younger ones (plus one parent) plunged in, much to the horror of the local newts. We reached the top and paused for photographs before the descent opposite to Dow Crag and the climbers and past Goats Water.

Some began to flag on the way down and there was an opportunity to look at the CAFOD cards again as we descended; finally arriving in Coniston for an ice-cream and prayer once more in the car park.

We were aware that for us it was a lovely day out in picturesque surroundings. But it still brought home to us that for many people in our world, often in beautiful countryside, life is precarious, and their future completely uncertain, often in the hands of people they fear to trust. Old and young suddenly uprooted, leaving everything they loved behind, often even family.

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Lytham St Annes were encouraged in their walk by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jan Barker and Member of Parliament, Mark Menzies who added their contribution to the cause too. Our Lady's also organised a fundraiser evening, where Mike and the Legends got everyone's foot tapping and singing along to the Sounds of the Sixties. The monies raised went towards the Share the Journey campaign.





More photos overleaf...

On a beautiful day, five parishioners from Our Lady of the Lakes, Keswick, walked around Derwent-water in solidarity with refugees around the world. Between them they completed 53 miles. The following Sunday, the 24th June, five more parishioners went for a shorter easily accessed walk along the lakeside completing 25 miles. 75 miles in total were completed towards the Cafods totaliser. Organisers, Mike and Cath Glover, besides using the case studies provided by Cafod, were able to share their recent experiences from their visit to Jordan in May earlier this year. As part of the charity, Parishes for Peace, funded by themselves, with Father Peter Sharrock as chaplain, they visited 75 Iraqi Christian refugees who had fled from Isis and who are currently being cared for by a Catholic Parish on the outskirts of Amman. After much fundraising in their respective parishes, Mike, Cath and Peter were able to distribute £7000 amongst the refugees to help them with their daily living costs. As United Nations Refugees they are unable to work and rely entirely on charity. During their time in Amman they walked a further 54 miles when visiting the refugees. *Do air miles count?*

55 parishioners from St Gregory's, Preston, of all ages and abilities, set off to walk two miles around Moor Park. We stopped en route to reflect on the journeys of Mohammed, Tahmina, David, Khodesa and Manuel and to pray for them and refugees all over the world. We carried with us a Lampedusa cross both as witness and a reminder of the fragility of the boats to which people entrust their lives.

It was also a great opportunity to share some of our own journeys and get to know each other better. *'Open our eyes to the God-given dignity of all your people. Move us to welcome our neighbours and so bear witness to your love.'*

On International Refugee Day over 60 people gathered together to join in with Share the Journey campaign launched by Pope Francis to show support to people on the move. *'Hope is the desire to share the journey of life, as the Caritas campaign reminds us. Brothers and sisters, do not be afraid to share the journey! Do not be afraid to share hope!'* said the Pope encouraging us all to take action.

That's exactly what we did! Not even the wind and the rain stopped the joined forces of St Mary's Academy Student Council, Christ the King Primary Academy and Holy Family Primary School, Blackpool and some determined local parishioners in completing a walk to show their solidarity and support for migrants and refugees. During our walk we laughed, sang, prayed but also heard five stories, four of refugee children CAFOD works with as well as heard a story of Lampedusa cross,

a cross made out of a ship wreck - real life proof that not all who leave get to safety.

We took some serious steps to play our part adding 213.5 miles (a distance from Blackpool to Bristol!) to CAFODS' goal of walking the distance around the Earth - 24,900 miles. Our commitment to walk the world will show world leaders meeting for crucial discussions in September how much it matters to all of us that refugees and migrants are treated with dignity and respect.

St Peter's and over 150 members from local schools and churches in Lytham came together on Lytham Club Day to walk in the parade in solidarity with refugees and migrants. They were campaigning to raise awareness of the plight of refugees and encourage Theresa May to stand up for human dignity at the UN negotiations on refugees later this year. Parish priest Fr David Burns, carried the Lampedusa cross through the parade, serving as an excellent symbol of the plight of refugees.

CAFOD Campaign Volunteer Coordinator and St Peter's parishioner, Emily McIndoe, said *"It was incredible to see how much support we received, both within the parish and the wider community of Lytham, we had some great discussions with members of the public about why it's so important to stand in solidarity with refugees. We were overwhelmed with the positive response the campaign received. A big thank you to Fr David, the churches of Lytham and the team of CAFOD parish volunteers - what a wonderful team effort!"*

At the Songs of Praise service at Lytham Hall the following day, Reverend Adrian Burden invited Emily to speak to the audience about the plight of refugees, the Share the Journey campaign and the symbolism of the Lampedusa Cross.

When asked about St Peter's involvement with the campaign, CAFOD supporter David Pope, said *"We thought it was an excellent opportunity for parishioners of all ages to be able to physically contribute to a CAFOD campaign, rather than simply donating money. Share the Journey has provided the opportunity to engage with the other churches in Lytham and work together to raise awareness of the plight of refugees"*.

#### \*\*\*STOP PRESS\*\*\*

CAFOD has announced that the target of 24,900 miles has been smashed. The current total at the printing of the paper is 99,790. The new goal is to head around the globe for a fourth time to stand alongside refugees, migrants and people on the move! Find out how to get involved in the campaign at [cafod.org.uk/sharethejourney](http://cafod.org.uk/sharethejourney)

  
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 Share the  
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**B**ishop Paul asks for your prayers during September as he makes two visits to Rome, the first to attend a Course for New Bishops and the second with other Bishops from England and Wales as they make their Ad Limini visit - this is a collective pilgrimage for the Bishops when they will meet Pope Francis and report on the state of their dioceses.

*God, eternal shepherd, you tend your Church in many ways and rule us with love. You have chosen your servant, Paul to be a shepherd of your flock. Give him a spirit of courage and right judgment, a spirit of knowledge and love. By governing with fidelity those entrusted to his care, may he build your Church as a sign of salvation for the world, Amen.*

## Creation Time begins on September 1st, the World Day of Prayer for Creation

**The Lancaster Diocese Environment Group of the Faith and Justice Commission reflect on the meaning of Creation Time and how to celebrate it.**

majority of people remains the biggest threat to the wellbeing of our earth, its creatures and its vulnerable communities.

In 2015 Pope Francis instituted September 1st to be a special day of prayer for creation. It marks the beginning of Creation Time that runs through to Oct 4th, the feast of St Francis of Assisi, patron of the environment. In *Laudato Si'*, his encyclical letter the same year, which he addressed to the whole world, Pope Francis says: "Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life" (para 207).

But he also challenges each one of us, saying: "Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience. All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation".

It has been a long-held Christian tradition to celebrate the harvest - our deep connections and dependence upon the bounty of nature. So what should Creation Time mean in our own lives and in our parishes? St Francis of Assisi said "Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if you have to". As Catholics we should set an example for the world on the need to care for creation and to share our common home justly with all our brothers and sisters.

Creation Time gives us a precious opportunity to pause in the midst of our day-to-day lives and reflect on our own ways of living when indifference, complacency and inaction by the

Maybe the parish could set aside a time for a reflective service perhaps combined with Exposition, to celebrate with joy the gift of creation and reflect on how we care for it, and how we wound it. There are numerous resources: CAFOD have prayers and service suggestions on their web site ([cafod.org.uk/News/Campaigning-news/World-Day-of-Prayer](http://cafod.org.uk/News/Campaigning-news/World-Day-of-Prayer)); so too the Columbans ([www.columbans.co.uk/justice-peace-jpic-2/creation-time](http://www.columbans.co.uk/justice-peace-jpic-2/creation-time)). [Seasonofcreation.org](http://Seasonofcreation.org) and [www.ecocongregationscotland.org/materials/creation-time](http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/materials/creation-time) are well worth a look, and we also have sample services at the Faith & Justice office in Lancaster.

To help us the Bishops of England and Wales have launched a powerful resource "Global Healing" to coincide with Creation Time to help us reflect on what we value as Christians and to find ways to take action to care for our common home. There are free film clips and materials to help individuals and groups reflect on the wonderful teaching in *Laudato Si'*. The Bishops suggest sharing a meal to allow time for relaxed discussion. You can find out more at [www.ourcommonhome.co.uk](http://www.ourcommonhome.co.uk)

As a start you are most welcome on Thursday Sept 27th to Faith and our Common Home - how do we heal the world? - an evening of prayer, reflection and sharing ideas 7.15pm - 8.30pm at St. Bernadette's church, Lancaster LA1 4HT.

It could form the start of a week of prayer for creation ending on the Feast of St. Francis. More details contact: [LFJC@talktalk.net](mailto:LFJC@talktalk.net) or 01524 383081.

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## CTS Birthday Comp Result

Last month we asked who founded the CTS – the answer: Herbert Vaughan Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster. The winner drawn by Fr David Burns, Ansdell is Peter Dilworth of Preston. The CTS will be in touch with Peter to award his prize.

Thank you to all who submitted entries.

# New Beginnings for Carlisle School

Staff, governors and students were delighted to welcome Bishop Paul Swarbrick, to Carlisle to bless the new site of Newman Catholic School and also plant a cherry blossom tree which will mark new beginnings for the school community.

John McAuley, Headteacher said "It is wonderful to be able to welcome the Bishop, Trustees and representatives of the Diocese of Lancaster, together with members of the local community who have supported the school. These people will work with us in the coming months as we build a new school where our young people will study and grow. It is fantastic news that we can now move on with our new campus, ensuring that Catholic secondary education continues and develops in Carlisle in a modern and well-resourced environment."

During his visit Bishop Paul took the opportunity to meet with the Knights of St Columba (KSC), who are working with the school to help raise funds for a new chapel at Newman.

Tony Parrini, Secretary of the Knights of St Columba, Council 60, Carlisle is thrilled

with the response so far to the chapel fundraising campaign:

"The focus has been to raise the money locally. Parishes have pledged to contribute, while Newman staff and students have held events, so far raising £3,000. In conjunction with the Knights of St Columba, a concert and a grand draw held at the Sands Centre in May raised approximately £6,000. To date, funds raised and banked are in the region of £15,000. There is still much to be done, but together with the school, the parishes and the pledges received so far, we are confident that the new school chapel will be fully funded to be the focal point of the new school."

Canon Peter Hart, on behalf of the Trustees welcomed the good news: "The Trustees of the Diocese of Lancaster are grateful for and fully supportive of the efforts of all concerned to raise the funds to provide a chapel, which will be a focal point in a school which will we hope become a beacon of Catholic secondary education in the city and beyond. We wish all the community well and will watch their progress with interest."

Mrs Roz Gammage, Newman Catholic Sch



Photos courtesy of Mike March of Pilgrim Photography

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**St John Vianney, Marton, Blackpool**  
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**Shrine Church of St Walbuge, Preston**  
Mondays – Fridays: 8.30 am Low Mass  
Sundays: 10.30 am, Sung Mass

**Shrine of the English Martyrs, Preston**  
Mondays – Fridays: 12 noon, Low Mass  
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Sundays: 9.00 am, Low Mass

**Friday 7th September at 7.00 pm**  
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**Sunday 23rd September at 3.00 pm**  
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Mass is also celebrated every Sunday at 8.30 am at St Mary Magdalene, Leyland Road, Penwortham and 11.30 am at St Catherine Labouré, Stanfield Lane, Leyland.  
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**B**ack in 2012 I wrote an article for *The Catholic Voice* speaking about how after the visit of the relics of St Therese of Lisieux to Lancaster Cathedral I had returned to the faith, and had consequently applied for the Priesthood. It is now six years later and I have just been ordained as a 'transitional' deacon.

It seems rather providential that as I write this article I am also preparing a meditation for the school children at St Joseph's Primary School in Preston around 'Jesus calming the storm'. My time in seminary has certainly had some stormy patches, but the one constant through all the trials has been the calming influence of our Lord Jesus Christ and his "peace that the world cannot give".

It seems like a distant memory, packing my bags, leaving home and embarking on a new life at the service of Our Lord, I didn't know what to expect from seminary, but I felt that this is what Jesus was calling me to, and so I was glad to go. Seminary life is very different from working life, having been involved in Information Technology for the previous twenty five years, I found the sudden switch to being a full time student studying philosophy and theology quite challenging. After a gap of a quarter of a century 'homework' was certainly something that I didn't relish having to do again. The setting at the college is beautiful and the aim of dedicating my life to serving Jesus was more than enough motivation to get me through the little inconveniences. There were many new challenges, working in schools, community centres and hospitals, each year's placement being gradually more difficult, these are designed to take you out of your comfort zone, making you question whether or not you are really called to the Priesthood and the challenges that the ministry will hold.

The last couple of years have been the most challenging but also the most rewarding. After receiving the ministry of Acolyte I am allowed to take out the Blessed Sacrament from the tabernacle for Adoration. This has become a real rock in my life, spending time in

adoration of Jesus on the altar every night really brings home why I am still on the journey to the priesthood. It has always been about the reality of Jesus here and now with us in the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Communion. My faith has certainly changed over the last five years but the one unchanging thing has always been that reality of Jesus here physically present with us in the tabernacle and with us during the Holy Mass, without that our faith would be empty and mere words.

Ordination day came very quickly, all the preparations were made, and my mum and family arrived the evening before. We had a meal together in the college and paid a quick visit to Our Lord in the smaller college chapel. I felt really blest having them all there with me to adore the Lord for a short period, before we all headed off to bed.

The actual ordination day seemed to pass in a moment! Mass started at 11am and the rest of my guests arrived during the morning, it was good to have some of the parishioners from my parish in Lancaster present for the big day. It was also good to have Fr Steve Pearson my parish priest and Fr Andrew Allman who was vocations director at the time of my application there for the ordination Mass.

As part of the ordination all the candidates lie prostrate on the floor whilst the litany of saints is sung, I felt a real sense of abandonment to Jesus, a real "Thy will be done" moment. After all, God is in control, all we have to do is abandon ourselves to His will.

Of course now, post ordination, the work really begins, I'm currently on placement at St Josephs in Preston and have already baptised three children, with more on the way!

This is really only the beginning of the journey, but as long as I remember to keep Jesus as the source and summit of everything I do then in the words of Julian of Norwich "All will be well". Please keep me, the other newly ordained deacons and my fellow seminarians in your prayers.

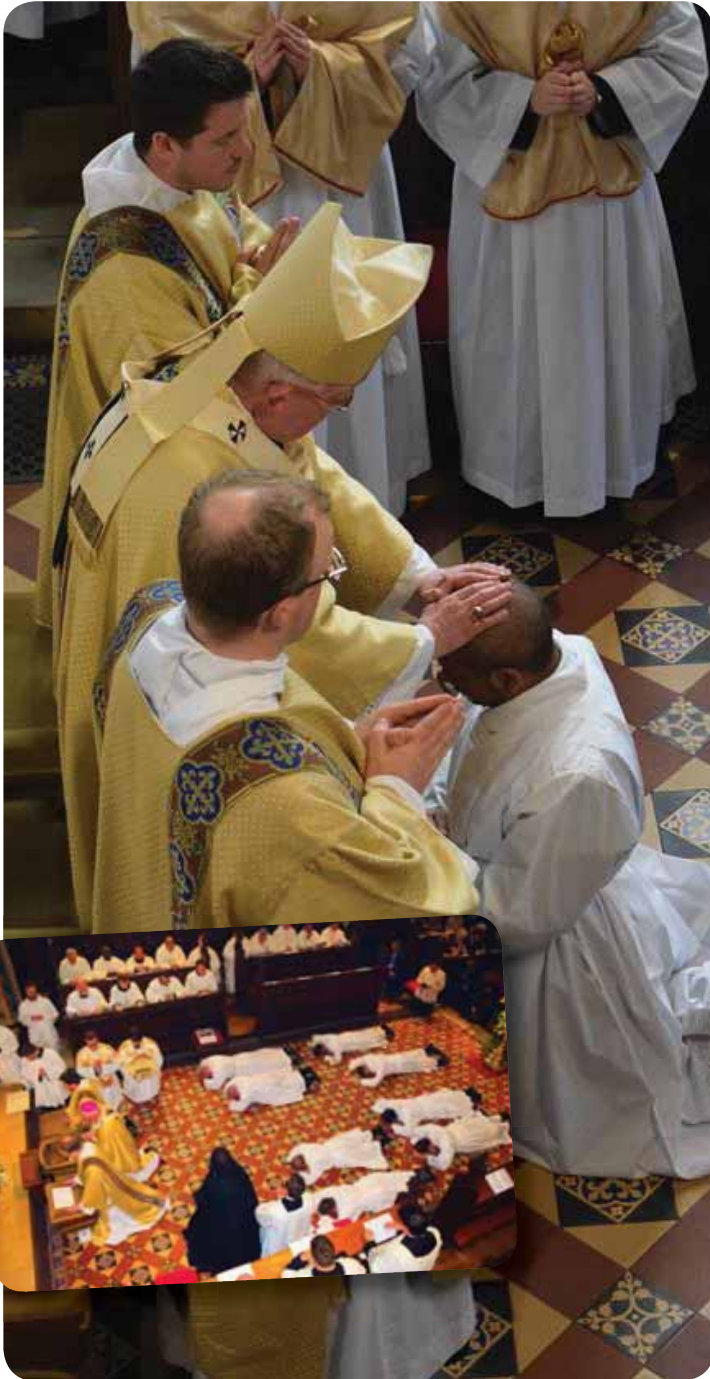
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# From Gangland to Promised Land

**M**ay was a special time of renewal for the parishioners of St Wulstan and Edmund, Fleetwood, and for many others who came to our Mission from other parishes in the Thornton and Blackpool Deaneries, as well as from the general public.

The Mission was given by John Pridmore, an ex gangster who used to work with the Mafia-style mob who ran London's Underworld. For 17 years of his life, from the age of ten when his parents divorced, John lived an extremely violent life as an enforcer, and did a lot of damage to a lot of people. At the age of 27 he accepted God into his life, and for the last 27 years has dedicated his life to spreading the gospel message of God's love, mercy and healing, especially to young people.

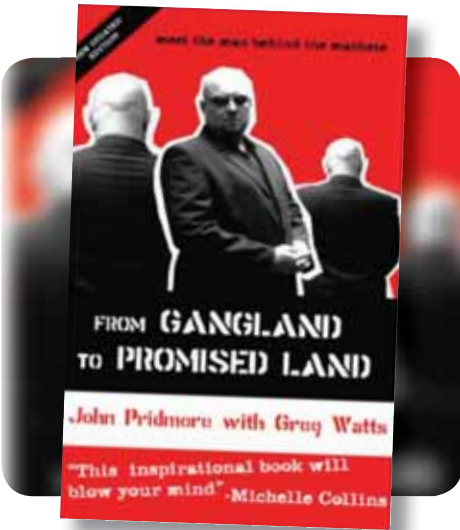
The three nights of the mission were packed, and a large number of people took the opportunity to go to confession, some after many, many years away. The healing service was particularly beautiful, the tears flowing as individuals were blessed with the sacred host.

The days were spent in school visits where John spoke to huge numbers of secondary pupils and smaller numbers of primary school pupils. We also spent time with the clients at our Food

Bank and with ex prisoners in a Rehab Centre, all of whom were inspired and encouraged by what John had to tell them about God's love and forgiveness.

It was particularly satisfying to see a good representation at the Mission by the Diocesan Youth Service Staff from Castlerigg, who do such good work with our young people.

All in all a rich and rewarding week for all those touched by John's story, which you can read in his first book, 'from Gangland to Promised Land'. *Canon Alf Hayes*





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**C**hristina Wilde, a parishioner of Our Lady of the Assumption, Blackpool, recently celebrated her 90th Birthday. At a Family Mass Fr Jim Burns presented her with a Papal Blessing to mark her special day.

**T**he City of Preston held its annual Blessed Sacrament Procession on the Feast of Corpus Christi The procession began at St. Walburge's Church, pausing at three external Altars on route.

This year the procession route was greatly extended onto more of the City's streets and people paused to watch the passing of Our Lord. Among the congregation were many First Holy Communicants strewing petals, school children, Cub Scouts and members of the Polish & Syro Malabar communities. *Ian Mulholland*



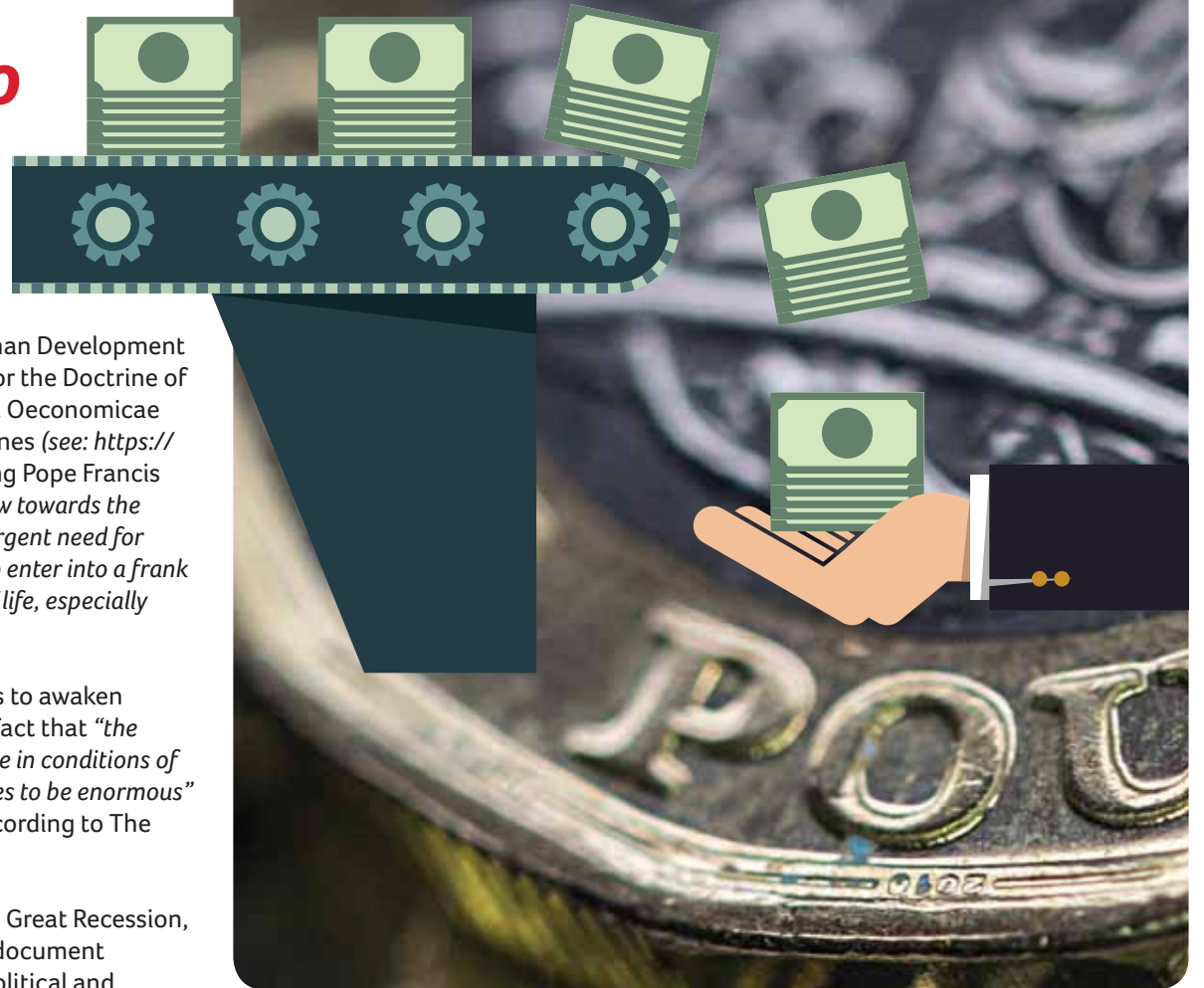
**F**ollowing a very successful President's Charity Evening earlier this year in aid of St. John's Hospice, Lancaster Steve Masterman, presented a cheque for £1,000 on behalf of the Catenians to Mr Chris Pilkington of the Hospice.

St. John's Hospice, which was established in 1986 and provides palliative care for a wide range of life shortening conditions for patients in North Lancashire and South Lakes. *Tom Rigby*



# Making a Difference

## Vatican challenges us to transform our greedy financial system



### Why are people poor?

It's not because there aren't enough resources to go around. For one thing, the world produces enough food to adequately feed every single person.

### Well then what are the reasons?

Among the major reasons poverty exists are unemployment, underemployment, lack of health care and education, hunger, homelessness, undocumented immigration status, climate change and war.

But a strong case can be made that the tremendous income and wealth inequality that exists between the haves and the have-nots is the most serious reason poverty exists. It has such a powerful negative influence that it also greatly fuels all the other causes of poverty.

Just last year alone, four out of every five dollars of wealth generated globally flowed into the wallets of the richest one percent, while the poorest half of humanity received nothing.

Oxfam's Executive Director Winnie Byanyima said, "It reveals how our economies are rewarding wealth rather than the hard work of millions of people."

... The few at the top get richer and richer and the millions at the bottom are trapped in poverty wages" (see: <https://ti.me/2DoaHEV> and <https://bit.ly/2zXLTWw>).

And in the U.S. wealth inequality is at near record levels (see: <https://bit.ly/1tDx2te>).

"Servant of God" and co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement, Dorothy Day, said "We need to overthrow this rotten, decadent, putrid industrial capitalist system."

While not putting it as bluntly as Day, a new authoritative Vatican ethics in economics document, nonetheless, strongly challenges the grave moral injustices of the dominant global economic system that is increasingly putting profit before people. It states: "No profit is in fact legitimate when it falls short of the objective of the integral promotion of the human person, the universal destination of goods, and the preferential option for the poor."

Produced by the Holy See's Dicastery for

Promoting Integral Human Development and the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the document *Oeconomicae et pecuniariae quaestiones* (see: <https://bit.ly/2IO7Dbi>), in quoting Pope Francis states, "Today, with a view towards the common good, there is urgent need for politics and economics to enter into a frank dialogue in the service of life, especially human life."

The document attempts to awaken consciences to the sad fact that "the number of people who live in conditions of extreme poverty continues to be enormous" – 767 million people according to The World Bank.

Reflecting on the recent Great Recession, the Vatican economics document laments the failure of political and economic leaders to develop a new economy based on people-centered ethical principles, joined to an "appropriate regulation of the dynamics of the markets." For it is clear that financial markets "are not capable of governing themselves."

Quoting Pope Francis, "Money must serve, not rule!"

But when money rules, it devalues the dignity of the human person, the common good and human work, and pushes people even below the inhumane status of society's exploited and oppressed, to no longer even being the underside of society, but now the outcasts of society – the "leftovers."

In opposition to this sinfully heartless situation the Vatican's document on ethical economics urges us to "construct a society that is a hospitable and inclusive dwelling place with room for the weakest, and where wealth is used for the benefit of all – places where it is beautiful for human beings to live and easy for them to have hope."

### Let's get to it!

Tony Magliano is an internationally syndicated social justice and peace columnist. He is available to speak at diocesan or parish gatherings. Tony can be reached at [tmag@zoominternet.net](mailto:tmag@zoominternet.net).



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## Cream of the Crop

### by Julia Beacroft

**A**s a young child my reading, writing and verbal language skills were good. However, I had an unfortunate habit of mispronouncing some words and quite often these were names. My family hooted with laughter when I tried to say the name 'MacLeod' pronouncing it phonetically (*Mac-lee-od*), instead of saying Mac-Cloud, and of course the same occurred with the name 'Cholmondeley', (*how on earth could this be Chumley, I wondered?*) And it wasn't always just a case of a simple verbal blunder either. It was not unknown for me to also misinterpret the sense of a sentence...

#### Harvest Home

As summer ends and autumn appears on the horizon, I am reminded of the beautiful Christian harvest hymn 'Come ye thankful people come', which I used to sing at primary school each harvest-time. But you probably won't be surprised to hear that although I loved this hymn, I was always puzzled by the second line of the first verse: 'Raise the song of harvest home'. What, I used to wonder, is a harvest-home? What sorts of people live in one and what does it look like?! And of course, this phrase is also repeated throughout the hymn. It was quite a few years later before I realised that the line, of course, refers to the safe gathering in of the harvest from the land.

When the rest of these lovely verses are read, it quickly becomes apparent that there is so much more to be garnered than the harvested crops, important though this is. We too are gathered in to the Lord as we are nurtured and as we grow both in our life and our faith journeys. And incredibly this is only the beginning, as ultimately our time of harvested maturity will come at the end of our earthly lives, and we will be gathered in by the Lord to be in his own wonderful presence.

#### Plentiful

Jesus was, of course, fond of using analogies which referred to the land, food and wine in his parables, to enable his disciples and followers to more clearly understand his teaching and preaching, and in so doing he frequently referenced the harvest. In St. Luke's Gospel, Jesus sends out his disciples in pairs and 'he told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."' We too are invited to share in the rich and plentiful harvest of God and also to labour to ensure that others are aware of the Lord's call.

And so this autumn, may we raise the song of harvest home with no fear of misinterpretation or mispronunciation as we acclaim 'Jesus is Lord!'

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](http://www.waterstones.com) or Book Depository. Please visit [www.sanciobooks.com](http://www.sanciobooks.com) for more information.

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God bless you,

*Rebecca*

Rebecca Molyneux  
Programme Manager for West and Central Africa

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# Music, Music, Music!



In June Our Lady Star of the Sea, Lytham St Anne's, hosted a group of people from different parts of the diocese for a musical day, organised by Frank Harrington and Leo Appleton, Frank being the composer and Leo the lyricist. Both Frank and Leo have been composing music and lyrics together for well over ten years, most of which is already played in their own parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea.

The group learned music for the new Liturgy (approved by the Bishops of England and Wales) which included the St Anne's Gloria, a celebration Alleluia, Sanctus, three acclamations and the Great Amen. As well as these pieces the group also covered some new hymns written by Frank and Leo for the Advent and Christmas season. Although a learning day it was done with great spirit and humour and those there practising the new pieces felt uplifted and inspired.

If you wish to hear some of these pieces they are available on YouTube via their Facebook site FL Music. If you are interested in acquiring any of the music please contact Leo on 07713238597.

Elizabeth Alty



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