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*The Official Newspaper to
the Diocese of Lancaster*

Issue 305 + December '18

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to Walsingham
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Children come to the Children's King



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The Catholic VOICE

of Lancaster



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EDITORIAL

Christmas is for children or so we are told. It would seem that the magic of the celebration diminishes if there are no children on the scene, completely entranced by all the lights, glitter, decorations, presents and chocolate money, not to mention the joy of unwrapping and playing with the new toys. Adults get as much joy from seeing children happy as anything else in the world. And why not? Today's children are the future.

But in all things the Catholic Voice believes a balance needs to be struck. It is only right and proper that we should celebrate the birth of our Saviour in splendid fashion, but we should not let the materialism of the occasion overshadow the deeper meaning of God coming into our midst as a baby. We owe it to our children to feed them on the Word of God just as much as we spoil them with all the material extras. Without a solid grounding in the faith learnt within the family unit, school and at church, children can grow up to only seek what the world has to offer rather than focusing on what will bring them lasting happiness. Growing in the faith requires love of God and neighbour but it also requires us to be tolerant and patient with our young people, to spend time with them, listen to them and be prepared to enter into a dialogue of searching for the truth.

Pope Francis will, next Spring publish an Apostolic Exhortation on Youth, the culmination of consultation with young people and the Synod of Bishops this last October considering Youth, Faith and Discernment. The Pope at the Mass for the closing of the Synod said:

"I would like to say to the young people, in the name of all of us adults: forgive us if often we have not listened to you, if, instead of opening our hearts, we have filled your ears. As Christ's Church, we want to listen to you with love."

In this last edition of 2018 there are a lot of reports on what our young people have been up to recently and on Page 10 we hear from two young people who have been inspired in their faith by a recently deceased priest who was there for them, listening, encouraging and by example showing how the Mass can bring us closer to the Lord.

**The Catholic Voice wishes you all
a Happy and Holy Christmas!**



Unwrapping Christmas



God became human to make humans divine - that is the clear message of early Christian writers. The scriptural basis is John 17 funneled into 2 Peter 1,4 which speaks of our becoming 'partakers of God's nature'. Perhaps the most eloquent interpreter is Maximus the Confessor (6th century): "The whole of the human being is interpenetrated by the whole of God and becomes all that God is, excluding identity of essence". That means we are not children of God as Jesus is Son but, by adoption, share the relationship of Jesus to his Father. This is the reality of our every day existence here on earth; only in heaven, away from the senses, shall we become fully aware of our dignity. Why, then, are we not all saints? Take your radio, when you raise the volume the power remains the same - you are lowering the resistance. The saint is one who always says 'Yes' to God.

We are sharing now the life of God. The life of God is love and that love becomes our life. The sacrament of this divine indwelling is the Eucharist when we accept the condition of sharing God's life, the law of the new covenant: 'Love one another as I have loved you'. A further refinement is the sacrament of marriage when man and woman promise to love and to cherish 'till death do us part'. Sharing God's life they take this step by the power of God's love. They were designed for this. It is in the image of God that we were made male and female. This became clear only when it was revealed that God is a trinity in which the third person proceeds from the love

of the other two. The family is the sacramental incarnation of the Trinity. In his 'Theology of the Body' Pope John Paul II spoke of the body as "the image of God, incarnate in the visible and corporeal fact of the masculinity or femininity of the human person". He continues: "The body and it alone is capable of making visible what is invisible, the spiritual and the divine. It was created to transfer into the visible reality of the world the mystery hidden since time immemorial in God, and thus be a sign of it".

So, the significance of the child in the manger? Jesus was not parachuted to earth to effect a rescue by accepting to be imprisoned in a degraded shell. At the dawn of creation God saw all that he had made and found it very good. The birth of Jesus is God's stamp on the goodness in particular, of his design for humanity. Jesus being born into a family reinforces the special standing in the world of the man-woman relationship as potentially the supreme sign of the nature of God.

At a time when sex has been degraded to the level of a sport it is for the Christian to counter the prevailing culture by a strong assertion of the poise and dignity which should mark the intimacies of marriage. Remember the quote from Maximus the Confessor: 'The whole of the human being is interpenetrated by the whole of God and becomes all that God is'. If we are receptive, marriage is imbued by the love that grace has shaped - God sharing his life of love. Instinctively the birth of Jesus has become a feast of the family.

Canon Thomas Dakin



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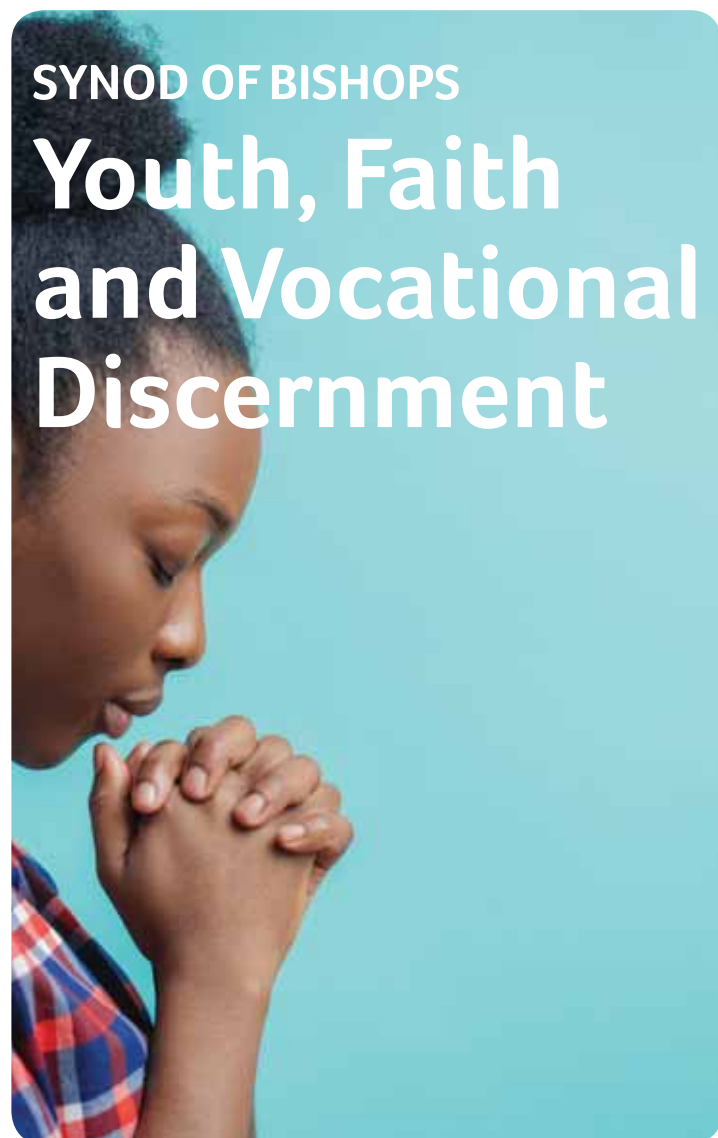
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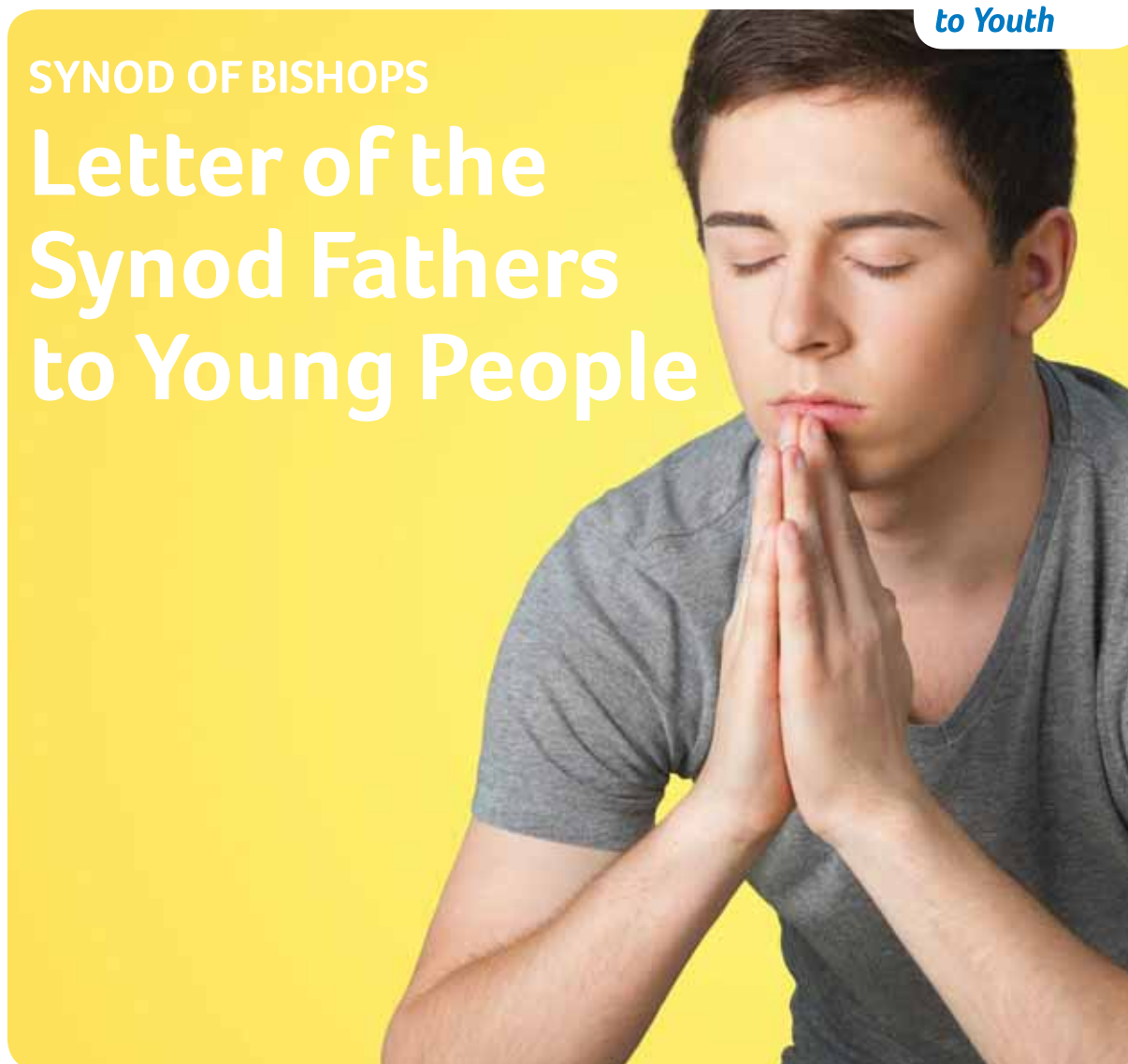
SYNOD OF BISHOPS

Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment



SYNOD OF BISHOPS

Letter of the Synod Fathers to Young People



Next spring, we expect Pope Francis to publish what I believe will be the first ever church document on youth. It will be the culmination of a process begun a couple of years ago when the Pope asked the Synod of Bishops, meeting in October 2018, to consider Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment. The Pope's Apostolic Exhortation will be his conclusions drawn from the meeting of bishops.

Preparations for the Synod, a meeting of bishops from around the world, began with a process of consultation. Pope Francis wanted the bishops, the Synod Fathers, to consider the experiences of young people from around the world today and address how the church accompanies them in their lives. Many young people in our schools and colleges took part in surveys preparing for the Synod, and we were represented at national gatherings of young people, which in turn fed into gatherings in Rome of young people from around the world.

The breadth and depth of consultation echoes a theme that seems certain to be central to Pope Francis' exhortation – Listening. In his homily for Mass at the closing of the Synod, Pope Francis said:

“

I would like to say to the young people, in the name of all of us adults: forgive us if often we have not listened to you, if, instead of opening our hearts, we have filled your ears. As Christ's Church, we want to listen to you with love.

”

We the Synod Fathers now address you, young people of the world, with a word of hope, trust and consolation. In these days, we have gathered together to hear the voice of Jesus, “the eternally young Christ”, and to recognize in Him your many voices, your shouts of exultation, your cries, and your moments of silence.

We are familiar with your inner searching, the joys and hopes, the pain and anguish that make up your longings. Now we want you to hear a word from us: we wish to be sharers in your joy, so that your expectations may come to life. We are certain that with your enthusiasm for life, you will be ready to get involved so that your dreams may be realized and take shape in your history. Our weaknesses should not deter you; our frailties and sins must not be an obstacle for your trust. The Church is your mother; she does not abandon you; she is ready to accompany you on new roads, on higher paths where the winds of the Spirit blow stronger – sweeping away the mists of indifference, superficiality and discouragement.

When the world that God so loved, that he gave us his only Son, Jesus, is focused on material things, on short-term successes, on pleasures, and when the world crushes the weakest, you must help it to rise up again and to turn its gaze towards love, beauty, truth and justice once more. For a month, we have walked together with some of you and with many others who have been united to us through prayer and affection. We wish to continue the journey now in every part of the earth where the Lord Jesus sends us as missionary disciples. The Church and the world urgently need your enthusiasm. Be sure to make the most fragile people, the poor and those wounded by life your traveling companions.



You are the present; be a brighter future.

You are the present; be a brighter future.



The Youth Service Connection is a new group that has been founded to both reconnect people to the Youth Service and Castlerigg Manor, and also to keep people connected once they have had that 'Castlerigg experience'.

Over the years the youth service has had hundreds of volunteers and staff, and thousands of young people have passed through the doors of Castlerigg or joined the youth service on pilgrimages to Lourdes, World Youth Day and many more. All in, Castlerigg Manor and the Youth Service have had an impact on an untold number of lives.

The Youth Service Connection aims to keep people in touch and enable them to be involved in the work of the Youth Service. Whether this be through helping us fund raise, joining us on volunteer days, speaking passionately in your parish or simply joining us for a reunion; we want you to be connected.

Bridget Teasdale, who was previously on the team as both a volunteer and a retreat leader, wants to stay connected. She said: *"I want to be connected because the Youth Service has been a huge part of my life. I really learned about my faith through pilgrimages to*

Lourdes, Rome and World Youth Day and I grew so much as a person whilst I was a volunteer on the Castlerigg team. Just because I don't work there any more doesn't mean I don't want to be involved. I love going back and visiting and always want to help where I can."

Tom Woods, from Fleetwood has joined the youth service on many pilgrimages to both Lourdes and to World Youth Day. Tom says he wants to stay connected because: *"I've met so many great friends by coming to Lourdes with the Youth Service and I even met my fiancé on the World Youth Day Pilgrimage to Krakow. Even though I can't attend everything the Youth Service does right now I still want to be connected because it has been a massive part of who I am today."*

The Youth Service Connection hopes to run volunteer days at Castlerigg, fundraise for the Youth Service, keep people up to date with plans and host reunions for everyone who has been involved over the years.

If you want to reconnect with the Youth Service and be involved in making our vision a reality in the future, then please let us know by contacting us at connection@castleriggmanor.co.uk

+++ DONATE +++ DONATE +++ DONATE +++ DONATE +++

Many of you will have been generous in your support for the Youth Service through the special collection on National Youth Sunday, the feast of Christ the King. We are very grateful for all the support we receive. If you would consider making a monthly gift, this would allow us to plan our finances better and reach out to more young people. Visit www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/donate for more information and to set up regular giving, or phone **017687 72711**.



7th-9th December – Advent Retreat

Our Advent Retreat is a great opportunity for young people (year 9+) to come away for the weekend and reflect on Christ's coming before all the busyness of Christmas. See our website for more info and bookings.

2nd March – Flame

The diocese will be taking groups from schools and parishes to this national gathering of 10,000 young Catholics at Wembley Arena. An amazing opportunity to experience our shared faith alongside so many others. Aimed at young people in year 10+.

25th July – 3rd August – Lourdes

We have just confirmed the details for our pilgrimage next summer. The Youth Section will travel over land to join the diocesan pilgrimage in Lourdes. Each year the service offered by young people makes it possible for others to make this pilgrimage, but it is also a moment of grace for the young people, spending time in this holy place. Open to young people in year 10+, £595. Bookings are also open for the main (adult) section of the pilgrimage, and we are looking for adults to work with the Youth Section.

For more information about all of the above, and for bookings, please see the What's On section of our website:

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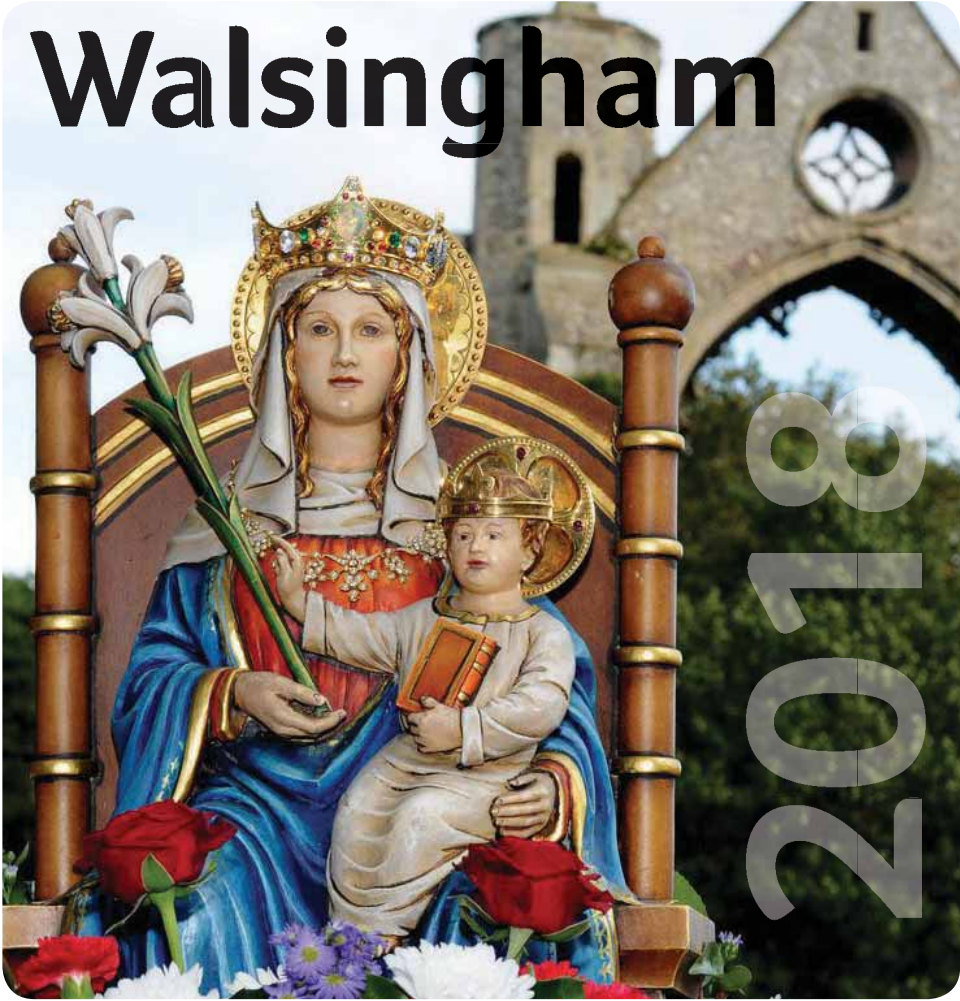


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On Pilgrimage to



Walsingham

2019

For nearly a thousand years, pilgrims have been making their way to a small village in Norfolk to the Marian Shrine of Walsingham, which is believed to be the oldest shrine to Our Lady in the World. The origins date back to 1061.

Almost nothing remains of the medieval pilgrimage site. There is a small chapel (Slipper Chapel) and a single stone arch of what had been the priory, all else was destroyed at the time of the Reformation. It was a particularly special moment on our pilgrimage when Bishop Paul met with the Franciscan friars who have returned in community to Walsingham for the first time in 480 years. They hear confessions, say Mass, assist at the shrine daily and in the village. Deo Gratias.


As with all Marian Shrines they start with an Apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Walsingham is no different. Our Lady appeared to a noblewoman Richeldis de Faverches in a series of visions, during which Richeldis was shown the house of

Nazareth where the Archangel Gabriel announced the news of Christ's birth. Our Lady requested that a replica of the house be built in Walsingham, which would come to be known as the Holy House. Up to 1538 Walsingham was one of the great shrines in Christendom. The Rector Mgr Armitage said; 'If you go to Nazareth and you stand in front of the Holy House in Nazareth, if you look up, you'll see different images of the shrines to Our Lady around the world and the first one that is displayed there, is the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham.'


Walsingham is a place of pilgrimage, an expression of the incarnation. Here, in a particular moment in history something of God happened.

Join the Diocese, led by Bishop Paul Swarbrick, on Pilgrimage to Walsingham in 2019. Monday 23rd September to Friday 27th September. Details will be in parishes in the New Year. Limited places are available, so book early to avoid disappointment.

Paul Briers




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Welcome

Bishop Paul Swarbrick with Canon Adrian Towers and Canon Peter Heart welcomes Sisters of the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Assa Zacharias and Gishamole Joseph from India to the Diocese.

They are here to start the Eucharistic Adoration at St. Mary's Church, Lea Town.

We extend a very warm welcome to the Sisters and pray for their special ministry in our midst.

St. Joseph's, Cockermouth and Our Lady's in Keswick came together with visitors and partners to celebrate Creation Time by undertaking a pilgrimage to St. Bega's Church on the shores of Bassenthwaite Lake.

People walked, cycled and took the bus to share in an ecumenical service in which they praised God for the Earth, our common home; recognised our responsibility for all creation, especially for those people most affected by global warming; and renewed their personal commitments to do more to reduce harmful impacts. Co-ordinated by the St. Joseph's Parish Live Simply Group the event, which included quiet prayer and enthusiastic unaccompanied singing, could become an annual event. Fr. Tom Singleton, who serves both Parishes, can be seen on the left of the

group standing outside St. Bega's.

Creation Time, runs from 1 September to the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi 4 October and is a time when Christians throughout the world reaffirm their personal commitment to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful world he has given us, to implore his help for the protection of creation and pardon for the sins committed against the Earth. St. Bega was an Irish princess who fled across the Irish Sea to Cumbria to avoid forced marriage to a Viking prince, coming ashore at St. Bees. The atmospheric pre-Norman Church is set in fields at the foot of Skiddaw. The peace and isolation show why this was a favoured spot for a holy hermitage. We are grateful to the Binsey Team of the Anglican Diocese for allowing us to use their church for this event. *P. Leonard*



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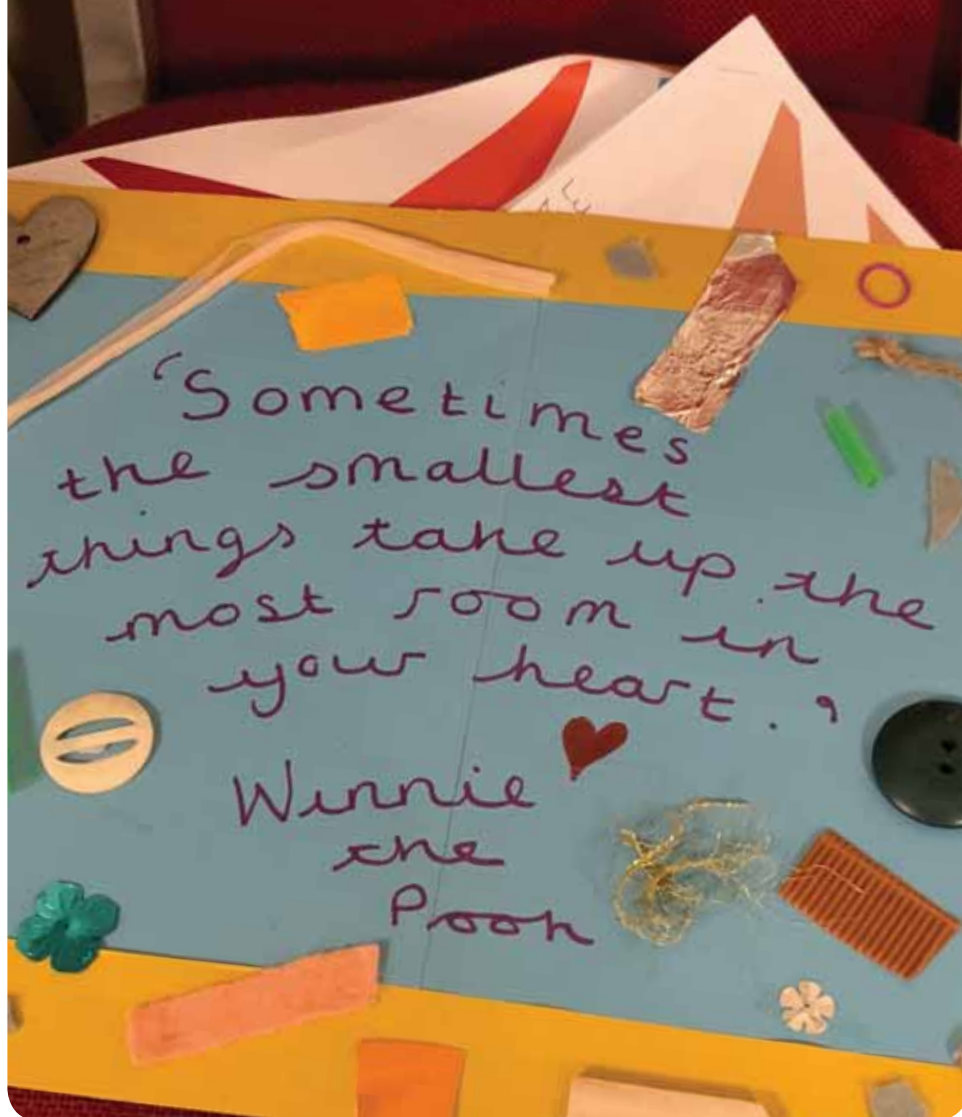
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IMPACT on Retreat at Castlerigg Manor



FRIDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2018

We were picked up from Our Lady's St Edward's, Preston and set off on our journey to Castlerigg, Keswick. On arrival at Keswick, at 7:15pm, we were given our room numbers and were told the emergency procedures and then we went and got settled into our rooms. We had a bit of spare time before we went in for a buffet meal at 7:45pm which Castlerigg had kindly made for us. It was lovely and once we had finished, we had some time to ourselves before we met in the Main Lounge. We discussed the theme for the weekend, 'Sharing Voices'. We heard about the Youth Achievement Award we could complete over the weekend. Afterwards, we had some social time where we could chat, play table tennis and chill. 11pm was reflection time in the chapel which was beautifully led by Lydia Pearson and Niamh McNulty. Their chosen theme was confusion as it was a relatable topic for the majority of people there and we could have our own thoughts and feelings about the topic. They included music, discussion and allowed time for our own private thoughts which was a great way to get us involved and think about our own lives. This was one of the best reflections I had been in so I'd like to say thank you to Lydia and Niamh for delivering that to us.

SATURDAY 20TH OCTOBER

Saturday soon arrived and we met in the Dining Hall for breakfast. Breakfast was a combination of toast, porridge and cereal and everyone seemed to be fairly awake which was quite surprising! We started our morning in the same way we ended it on Friday night, with a reflection. We discussed what happened on Friday night and what we were hoping for in the weekend ahead of us. We had got into small groups and made a list of five things that each group wanted to achieve or wanted to stick to over the weekend and of course the most important one was to have fun!

In the first workshop we started off by playing a game called 'the sun shines on' which was a great introduction as it woke people up a bit and got people ready for the rest of their workshop. The game went down really well. This was followed by going around the group and everyone introducing themselves with either a song or a film that described them. We learnt everyone's names and this was a good way to get to know people a bit better. The next part of their workshop, again, involved getting to know one another better. We each got handed a piece of paper and we had to write down 5 things that described our personality or the things we liked, without giving away

our physical appearance. These then all got muddled up and we got someone else's given back to us. Going around the circle, we read them out and we had to guess who we think it was about. Some of them we got right and some we didn't which meant we had learnt something new about someone in the group. To end their workshop, we had a debate. This debate was about whether education is really that important. People sat at different sides of the rooms and we had a debate about what was more important. This linked in really well with the theme of 'Sharing Voices' and was really brilliant to see everyone getting involved and voicing their opinions.

The first workshop was followed by social time for half an hour and then Bismah Ballout and Maisie Bamber led their workshop. The girls had the theme of 'mental health and wellbeing' which is something they feel strongly about and are involved in with Terry Mattinson. The name of their project is 'Thinking Out Loud' and they began by telling us what mental health is and how it links in with 'Sharing Voices'. They said that by raising awareness, it helps people to be heard and reach out to get help and support and it makes mental health to be easier to talk about. Together, they had put together a questionnaire about wellbeing and the support we get in/from school.

This was completely anonymous and 100% independent. This was fantastic as it gave us the chance to be honest, say what we really think and to have our own personal thoughts and feelings on the topic. This was then collected in and we got back into our groups we wrote down what wellbeing is, what we think of wellbeing and how we can raise awareness about it. We all came back together and Bismah recorded all the ideas we had to offer. To conclude, we watched a touching video about anti-bullying and suicide. We discussed the video and how we can be a life-saver by simply being kind to others. This was an absolutely wonderful workshop and I think that a lot of people really absorbed the information and have taken a lot away with them around the theme of mental health and wellbeing. I'd like to thank Bismah and Maisie for trying to make a difference and for allowing us to have our say in the support given from schools.

Lunch followed soon after the workshop ended. Castlerigg had prepared delicious chicken burgers for us. Soon after lunch, we all got our coats and some of us went on a walk before we all met up and visited Keswick. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it and came back buzzing with huge smiles and plenty of bags!



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Father Mark Connolly, Assistant National Chaplain for YCW/Impact groups, then came in to help us prepare some prayers for Mass. One group were given the theme of thanking God, another group were given the theme of saying sorry to God and the third group were given the theme of asking God. We had to write prayers underneath those themes and we would offer them up to God in the Chapel.

We then went into Mass celebrated by Father Mark. A thought provoking time. We were each given a small crucifix to walk up, one by one, and place next to the big crucifix in front of the altar. Our group prayers were offered up at different parts of the Mass and we had the chance to light a candle and place them around the crucifixes and we remembered someone close to us, whom we loved.

After Mass we had our evening meal of fish, chips and peas and then we had a little bit of free time. Free time didn't last too long as we had a fantastic Arts workshop lined up. There were loads of materials, accessories and of course, ideas, of what we could make. We gathered the materials we needed and set off to our own places around the room and made whatever creation we wanted to make. There were materials for everything! People had made joy jars, paintings, inspiration boards and so much more! Everybody had brought their creativity with them!! A great free thinking workshop which allowed us to be independent and not have to follow set instructions like we do most of the time.

Later we had a disco in the Games Room and social time (*or as Terry liked to call it, 'social tim'*) until 10:45. This was the point where people began to interact and become bonded with those who they didn't know before. Amidst all the partying and socialising there were also being undertaken. The interviews were recorded and involved most people, youth and youth leaders involved in the weekend. The recordings are going to be put over the top of a digital film that is going to be made about the weekend. Fingers crossed it turns out okay! Also, many thanks to all those who took part in this and answered the questions as honestly as possible.

11pm was reflection time again and this was being led by Niamh Holliday, Eden Turley, Marcus Kay, Tom Kay, Rebecca Helm, Ella Holliday and myself. Our main focus of the reflection was all the topics we had covered over the course of the weekend. We each said prayers to do with 'Sharing Voices' and mental health and we thought about the topic of refugees which we would be looking at the day after. Overall, it had been a lovely,

eye-opening day and we had all made relationships that would really last! Thank you to all those who led workshops and everyone who took part!

SUNDAY 21ST OCTOBER

Castlerigg made us a cooked breakfast of sausages, beans and potato waffles with cereal and porridge. Like Saturday, breakfast was followed by a reflection on the weekend we had had so far and the last few hours we had ahead of us. The first workshop concentrated on refugees.

We listened to an account of a refugee which was an eye-opener to the world around us and how we don't really know what is going on in other people's lives or their past. We then did a true or false game with facts about refugees.

Then, a 'would you rather' game as if we were refugees and this really showed us how hard it was for them and what sort of decisions they had to make. To conclude, we got into small groups and went on a pretend journey as a refugee. We had to decide on the 5 things we would take with us and along the way, we had to leave people behind as some died and for others, there was no room for them on the small boat. This tested our self-control as to what we took and what we didn't and we had to put others before ourselves.

We then had a break before another workshop which helped people to communicate to one another. We did team games where the whole team had to work together in order for there to be a good or the correct outcome. This linked in with 'Sharing Voices' because it meant that we all had to work together and share our voices for there to be a good or correct outcome.

We had a roast dinner for lunch followed by a bowl of ice cream. Then, we got our bags and loaded them onto the buses and off we went back home.

Over the weekend, we had learnt so, so much from each other and from ourselves. The weekend brought so much to each of us either as a group or as individuals. Our eyes have been opened to new things that we hadn't realised, seen or been aware of before.

I'd like to say thank you to everybody for making this weekend a truly special one and one that I will remember, thank you to all the new friends I made and a huge thank you to all the staff and leaders, especially to Terry Mattinson for making the whole thing possible!

Hallie Brady, Year 10.

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Faith & Light

Faith and Light is a Christian association that includes people with learning disabilities or learning difficulties, their families and friends.

Faith and Light is made up of local Faith and Light communities. These are groups that meet regularly, usually every month, for these three things:

- Friendship
- Worship
- Celebration

Most groups meet in churches. Faith and Light is ecumenical. Our communities are based in different churches - Anglican,

Catholic, Methodist, Church of Scotland and others.

On the feast of the Presentation of Our Lord on Saturday 2nd February 2019 at 2pm we will come together with Bishop Paul Swarbrick for Mass in Our Lady Star of the Sea, St Annes-On-Sea.

Faith and Light North West invites people with a learning disability, their friends and families to join us in the celebration of our Patronal feast of Candlemas. We also want to celebrate the gifts of people with disability to the Church.

Afterwards there will be tea and cake in

the Parish centre and the chance to find out a bit more about the stories of Faith & Light and L'Arche - inspired by Jean Vanier and Marie Helene Mathieu

Everyone is welcome. Please contact janepmrobinson@virginmedia.com if you plan to come- this way we make sure there is enough cake! *Jane Robinson*



Fr Gerry Dunn RIP



Fr Gerry Dunn was ordained to the priesthood on 13 July 1958 and died in October 2018 he was a greatly loved priest of our Diocese. The Catholic Voice breaks with the tradition of a formal obituary to allow some young voices to be heard as to how Fr Gerry inspired them in their faith.

Since starting Cardinal Allen High School Fleetwood in year 7, I can say with all certainty that everyone loved to see Fr. Gerry. We especially enjoyed the times when we would stop and talk in the corridors and have the odd conversation with him. He would always make us smile and it was always lovely to see him leading the morning Masses. He brought us so much joy.

After joining the chaplaincy team in year 11 after our Castlerigg Retreat

from school we got to know Fr Gerry a bit more. He was the sweetest person and always loved being involved with us young people and always wanted us to join in. He really helped us with our faith and he was never afraid of spreading the Catholic faith with anyone especially us the younger community.

Through my involvement in the chaplaincy I could see that being the Chaplain of the school meant a lot to him. After Fr Gerry got really unwell we went to see him in the care home with Canon Alf Hayes and Trisha from Castlerigg. It was really nice to visit him, we took him homemade cake and biscuits and he called us all his 'little treasures'. And it was really nice to find out later on that the visit meant a lot to him. Fr Gerry will be missed by many however he is now reunited with Our Father in heaven and will always be watching down on us. We know he is at peace.

Ellie St Wulstans and St Edmunds, former pupil of Cardinal Allen.

Fr Gerry. Wow, where do I begin. He was the heart and soul of the Faith in Cardinal Allen when I first joined in 2013. He always put so much effort into the morning Mass and go out of his way to make it enjoyable for all.

As this year went on, Fr Gerry clearly

struggled with his health. But, he'd still be ready to attend Mass if he possibly could! This showed the whole of Cardinal Allen, from teachers to pupils, no matter how hard something may be, faith will always be by your side.

Throughout his work with the school and by the time I and others got to the end of Year 10, beginning of Year 11 Fr Gerry inspired us to become Pupil Chaplain's.

During the rush of Year 11 and just before Exam Season, the Pupil Chaplain team decided to pay Fr Gerry a visit at his care home. We went with cake, cake and even more cake -because Fr Gerry was known for his love of cake! Fr Gerry was overwhelmed by our visit. We went into the tea room for cake and drinks and he was telling everyone along the corridor who we were and he said to one of the lovely carers... "These are my treasures". This small phrase will remain a big part in all of our hearts.

Rest in Peace Fr Gerry. And thank you for the help and memories of Cardinal Allen Catholic High School, Fleetwood.

Courtney, St Wulstans and St Edmunds parish, former pupil of Cardinal Allen

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



WDY Youth Group meets the 'Little Zoo'

Wicked Dynamic Youth learnt a little about creation at a special event at St Clare's, Preston. Gemma from 'Little Zoo To You' delivered a wonderful session all about animals. The session included facts and information about animals and how we can help them. Our young people had the pleasure of holding the creatures and getting a closer look at them!

The first animal to be introduced to the group was a cockroach. Cockroaches are one of the cleanest animals on earth but most people assume they are dirty because they are found in places where there is dirt and rubbish. Cockroaches can eat almost everything apart from a few metals that they don't have any eyes so cannot see. They have super-sensitive antennae and they are extremely fast - if they were the size of a human they would probably outrun us!

The next creature Millie the millipede. Millie, along with other millipedes, eats any fallen leaves from the trees and then the leaves come out when she gets rid of her waste materials as a fertiliser. This fertiliser helps the trees around her to grow which results in more leaves for Millie to eat and then the cycle repeats, a bit like a life cycle. Another interesting fact is that the millipede has over 100 legs and there is no other way to describe the feel of her legs apart from "peculiar" and "like a toothbrush"!

Next came Prince Charming the Tree Frog. Prince Charming's natural habitat is the rainforest and therefore, is adapted for hot climates. If Prince Charming was in the rainforest, (s)he would spend most of his time in a tree but (s)he has the ability to camouflage. The colours go from a dark, dark brown to a really bright green and as Prince Charming has no other way to defend him (her)self, this camouflage is the only protection for this little frog. The big secret about Prince Charming is that he was actually a she but this wasn't identified until she was around five years old and Little Zoo realised she didn't croak like a male would by that age. Deforestation has a big impact on Tree Frogs and therefore, they need looking after!

The fourth animal was an animal that runs like the wind and is so fast it could even beat a hare in a race! Gizmo is a Hermann's tortoise and like Prince Charming, she has the name of a boy but was only discovered to be a girl later

after she had been named Gizmo. This was determined by Gizmo's tail. If Gizmo was a male, her tail would be longer but her tail was shorter which meant she was female. Gizmo will grow up to only be around the size of a dinner plate so she won't be huge! Gizmo enjoys a bath and is given a bath to keep her hydrated and to make sure she is getting enough water to drink. Many people think that a tortoise can't feel you when you touch its shell but that is not the case. A tortoise can feel you when you touch its shell because that is part of its body and a tortoise's spine is attached to the other side of the shell.

Finally it was Freddy's turn. Freddy is a ferret who was actually brought along for his cuteness! Ferrets are carnivores which means they only eat meat. Male ferrets are known as hobs and female

ferrets are called jills. In the wild, hobs and jills mate around March or April and after 35 to 45 days, the jill will give birth to around six babies. These babies are called kits and they stay in their burrows for around 42 days and when the autumn comes, the ferrets can leave their mother. At around one year old, they become mature and independent enough to have their own litter. In captivity, ferrets can live for around 12 years.

Overall it was a wonderful evening and everyone said they would love to do it again! Many interesting and new facts were learnt.

The whole Youth Group want to say a huge thank you to 'Little Zoo' for coming to deliver a lovely session and informative session which hopefully will help us look after these magnificent creatures.



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Hill Chapel
Remembered
WW1
Lest We Forget

As part of the celebrations to mark the centenary of the WW1 Armistice, the parish of St Francis', Hill Chapel, Goosnargh held a commemorative exhibition in October.

Nine parishioners were killed fighting in the war; a very high number from this small rural parish. A number were employed as attendants at the nearby Whittingham Hospital, or Asylum as it was then known, but all worshiped at the church and some were baptised, attended the school and then married at The Hill. Eight of them are named on the war memorial which stands in the churchyard and has recently been repaired and renovated thanks to a grant of £1,500 from the War Memorials Trust.

Recent research was carried out to discover more about their lives and family backgrounds, where they fought and how they were killed. Prior to the war one man played semi-professional football for Preston North End, another was a clogger or shoe maker, a couple were professional soldiers, one a farmer and another a mosaic fixer.

Each soldier had a special themed display at the exhibition containing their biography, floral displays and artefacts

linked to their former occupations. A period Expeditionary Force Canteen (EFC) café served hot drinks and food and the history of the conflict, war poems and WW1 artefacts were on display. On Friday the school band gave a concert of WW1 tunes accompanied by the very enthusiastic choir. Other pupils had written poems and short pieces of drama illustrating the misery and pain of conflict on this scale.

Great War images, created by the congregation of Chester Cathedral, were brought together with the parish's own Stations of the Cross to recall the journey made by those who gave their lives for this country's freedom during the Great War.

Visitors were invited to 'spiritually' walk the way of the cross using The Hill's own Stations and the 12 WW1 photographs which were displayed under them on the church walls. The images brought to life the sacrifice and stories made by men and women a hundred years ago and help to identify with Christ's suffering in humanity at war today.

The exhibition helped to bring this lively vibrant parish community, church, school and village together as one caring family.

Mike Bryan



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Looking forward

Advent is a time of hope and expectation. As we look forward to celebrating once again the birth of Jesus, it is timely to reflect on the type of world and culture that our young people will inherit.

Many in the West now consider religion to be irrelevant because success has become the focus of life. Concepts of community and of service are off the radar of people brought up on the cult of individualism. At the same time our world faces unprecedented environmental threats. These twin challenges to our young people have a common cause - we have come to consider ourselves to be at the centre of everything. In doing so, we have come to think of things (*and sometimes people*) as commodities to be bought, sold or just got rid of without thought of the consequences.

Our political leaders even measure our nation's success by how much we spend rather than by our well-being! Success is measured in terms of wealth and status rather than being at peace with ourselves, our God and our neighbour. People in jobs associated with the exercise of power or the accruing of wealth are considered much more successful than those who give their lives in the service of others. It is a warped view, putting money before value.

This relentless search for material success is the underlying driver for the environmental crisis. We want more goods, more exotic holidays and more convenience, whilst companies source ever greater profits, irrespective of whether forests are destroyed; the sea polluted; the climate changed; the morals and mental health of our children

undermined; or the gap between rich and poor getting ever wider.

So what can be done? It is futile to expect the corporate world to willingly forsake short-term profit for the long-term good. Equally, governments are reluctant to change their economic strategies in the absence of public demand. But we belong to a world-wide church which is beholden not to governments or business, but to a Gospel that teaches justice for all. It is headed by a Pope who has set out in *Laudato Si* a searching analysis of the underlying problems and set a clear vision for a future rooted in love and joy and hope. Like him, we must lead by example.

For the sake of our young people we need a radical change in our thinking - an 'ecological conversion' as Pope Francis

puts it. Let us embrace the concept of joy in enough and commit, this Advent, to simplifying our lifestyles. When we put aside the noise and clamour of our ruthless and competitive world, we create the space and the quiet to hear the gentle whisper of Our Lord.

In the second week of December, world leaders will gather in Poland to discuss climate change. They will be deciding nothing less than the fate of the planet and hence the futures of our children. We will be there too, with CAFOD, to put the case for environmental and social justice founded on gospel values and to counter the deceptions of the rich and powerful interests who want business as usual. We will speak up for future generations. Please support us by your prayers and actions.

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All White Now

by Julia Beacroft

The month of December would surely not be complete without a Christmas anecdote so I'll try not to disappoint...

The weather in this country on Christmas Day can, however, be something of a disappointment. In my lifetime alone I have known so many grey, warm or rainy Christmas Days. It's a strange phenomenon, but at any other time during our winter season, we are relieved if the weather isn't too cold, frosty or snowy. But when it comes to the festive season, it seems that this is exactly what we most desire – but rarely get!

The bookmakers even lay odds on the probability of us having snow on Christmas Day – but of course they are rarely out of pocket!

Classic

The 1954 American musical and comedy film '*White Christmas*' seems to have set this particular turn of phrase as classic and timeless, with the title track achieving much the same. Even today we hear the question "*Do you think we'll have a white Christmas?*" asked. For most people the idea of snow and Christmas appear to be synonymous, (*as in the film*), even though it so rarely occurs in the United Kingdom.

Of course as practicing Christians, we have far more to think about at Christmas than whether or not it will be snowy! The birth of our Lord Jesus Christ is celebrated on Christmas Day and we rejoice that our Lord entered our world in the form of a helpless baby to save mankind. And the Good News is that Jesus made it crystal clear in his teaching that he had indeed come to save one and all – regardless of race, creed or colour.

A priest's alb (*worn under the chasuble*) is white, altar servers usually also wear a white alb and at baptism we are clothed in a white garment. It is no coincidence, of course, that the colour chosen is white, representing purity. Of course snow is also that self-same colour.

Pure

It seems to me that when we sing the famous words of Irving Berlin's film title track, '*I'm dreaming of a White Christmas*', we could so easily be referring to a lot more than the possibility of snow. Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ was born on Christmas Day and as the Son of God was completely pure and devoid of any sin. His mother Mary, who had been specially chosen by God to bear His Son, was without stain or spot of sin either. She was completely pure and a virgin.

So whether we have snow or not this Christmas, we know that it will, indeed, be a white one. White is the colour of purity and purity abounds on Christmas Day when we celebrate the Lord's birth to a virgin and handmaid of God. Therefore, in conclusion, may we all dream of a white Christmas this year. May your days be merry and bright and in the Lord's hands – may all your Christmases be white.

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. Follow Julia on Facebook & Twitter.

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Call 0800 567 7000 to make your donation today. THANK YOU.

Christmas Mass Times

Our Lady and St. Edward, Fulwood

Christmas Eve:

5.30pm: Carols & Vigil Mass
11.30pm: Carols, and Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

10.00am Christmas morning Mass

St. Mary, Newhouse

Christmas Eve:

6.00pm Vigil Mass

Christmas Day

10.00am Christmas morning Mass

Preston St Walburge's & English Martyrs Christmas Eve

6.00pm First Mass of Christmas (SW)
9.30pm Carol Service (EM)
followed by Christmas Mass at
10pm (EM)

Christmas Day

9.00am Mass of Christmas Day (EM)
10.30am Mass of Christmas
Day (SW)

St Annes-on-the-Sea Our Lady Star of the Sea

Christmas Eve:

6.30pm Family Vigil Mass
12.00 Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

9.30am Mass
11.00 Mass

Kendal & Sedbergh Holy Trinity and St. George

Christmas Eve:

6.00 pm and 12.00 midnight
(Carols 11.30pm) at Kendal
8.00 pm at St. Andrews Anglican
Church, Sedbergh

Christmas Day

10.00am (Kendal)
No evening Mass that day

Preston, St Clare's

Monday 24th December

6pm: First Mass of Christmas
11:30pm: Carols & Midnight Mass
Tuesday 25th December
The Nativity of the Lord
Mass at 10am

Wednesday 26th December

St Stephen Mass at 10am
(Mass for altar servers, with
presentation of guild medals)

Preston St Wilfrid

Christmas Eve

7.30pm Carols
8.00pm First Mass
of Christmas

Christmas Day

7.00am Mass
10.15 Mass
No 4.30pm Mass

Whitehaven St Begh

Christmas Eve

St Begh's Church
Carol Singing at 5:30pm
followed by the Vigil Mass of
Christmas at 6pm

Quay Street Chapel

'Midnight' Mass at 8:00pm

Christmas Day

8:00am Mass at Quay Street
10:00am at St Begh's

St Stephen's Day

10:00am Mass at Quay Street
11:00am Mass at St Begh's

Blackpool St Bernadette Christmas Eve

5.00pm Children's Christmas Mass
All children are asked to come dressed as a character from the Christmas
Story: Mary, Joseph, an Angel, a Shepherd, a King, or an Ox, Donkey, or
sheep, to create a 'living crib'.

7.30pm Carols and Readings
followed by
8.00pm Candlelit Sung
Christmas Mass

Christmas Day

10.00am Christmas
Morning Mass

Lytham St Peter

Christmas Eve:
Carols at 7.30pm
Mass at 8.00pm

Christmas Day:
Mass at 10.30am

New Years Day:
Mass at 10.00am

Andsell, St Joseph

Woodlands Road FY8 4EP



Christmas Eve/Christmas Day
11.30pm Carols and Reflections
12.00 Midnight Mass of the Nativity
10am Family Mass of Christmas

Parish Hall open to all from 11am until
2pm for Christmas Dinner for those on
their own or just in need of some
company

New Years Day
12 noon Mass - Solemnity of
Mary Mother of God

St Joseph's offers a warm welcome to all

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Mass Listings – December 2018 & January 2019

St Margaret Mary, Scalegate Road, Carlisle
First Sundays: 6.00 pm

St John Vianney, Marton, Blackpool
Mondays: 12.00 noon; Fridays: 6.30 pm

Shrine Church of St Walburge, Preston
Mondays – Fridays: 8.30 am Low Mass; Sundays: 10.30 am,
Sung Mass

Monday 24th December at 5.30 pm – Carols & Low Mass*
Tuesday 25th December at 10.30 am – Solemn High Mass
*To be confirmed – please contact before travelling

Shrine of the English Martyrs, Preston
Mondays – Fridays: 12 noon, Low Mass
Saturdays: 10.00 am, Low Mass; Sundays: 9.00 am, Low Mass

Monday 24th December at 9.30 pm - Carols & High Mass
Tuesday 25th December at 9.00 am - Low Mass

Saturday 8th December at 2.30 pm
Feast of the Immaculate Conception
High Mass & Procession, Ladywell Shrine
(Led by the Institute of Christ the King)

St Mary's, Hornby
Sunday 9th December at 3.00 pm
Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday 20th January at 3.00 pm
Second Sunday of Epiphany

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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Telephone: 01524 412987
Email: lancaster@lms.org.uk
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