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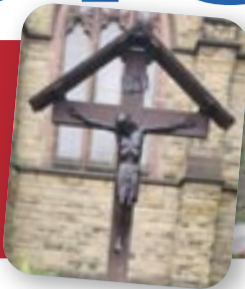


VOICE of Lancaster

The Official Newspaper to the Diocese of Lancaster

Issue 358 + April '24

INSIDE: pg8 Calvary installed at Ansdell



Alleluia,
He is
Risen!

Easter is the most important feast in our liturgical year so much so that the Church now enters a period of seven weeks of rejoicing before celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

As Pope Francis says below, the Risen Christ has come back into our lives and provides us with the opportunity to start again with renewed hope and confidence in Our Saviour Jesus Christ:

"Let us make Jesus, the Living One, rise again from all those tombs in which we have sealed him...Let us bring him into our everyday lives: through gestures of peace in these days marked by the horrors of war, through acts of reconciliation amid broken relationships, acts of compassion towards those in need, acts of justice amid situations of inequality and of truth in the midst of lies. And above all, through works of love and fraternity."

"Let us celebrate Easter with Christ! He is alive! Today, too, he walks in our midst, changes us and sets us free...For with Jesus, the Risen Lord, no night will last forever; and even in the darkest night, the morning star continues to shine."

“
Let us lift up our gaze,
remove the veil of sadness
and sorrow from our eyes,
and open our hearts to
the hope that God brings!
”

Pope Francis



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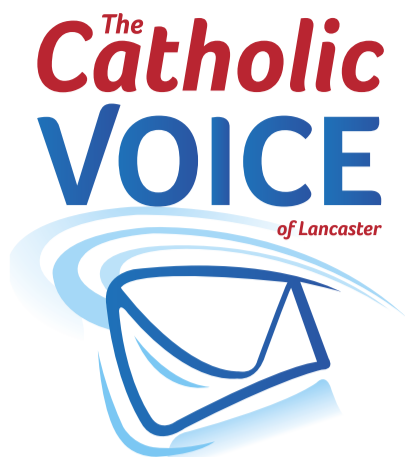
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Deacon Paul Wawsyczyk - looks back on a lifetime of service

Deacon Paul at his birthday party.



Deacon Paul assisting at Mass.



The Birthday cake.

I was ordained by Bishop Brewer in 1984 at St Thomas More's in Lancaster which is part of the Cathedral parish. My wife, Anne, has always shared in my ministry in a very prayerful and active way and we were asked, by Bishop Brewer, to move into the presbytery as a family with our three young children. The congregation were, at first, somewhat bemused by this married "deacon" but we were made very welcome. I was also head of RE at Our Lady's Catholic College so these were busy times but we were young, energetic and enthusiastic. We stayed in the presbytery for two years and continued to minister at the church for another two years until we moved to St Bernadette's parish Lancaster in 1988, as Anne had become increasingly unwell.

Diaconate has been a wonderful experience, so I felt some trepidation as I tendered my resignation to Bishop Paul on my 75th birthday. I asked him and Fr David Branford, my parish priest, if I could still be active but in a less strenuous way – both because of my wife's ongoing medical condition, my age and granddad duties!

Diakonia is a call to service – both to my family, to the parish, to our schools, to the Church and even to the world. It has been a great privilege to know, serve and love. I have received far more in return than I have given. St Bernadette's is such a lively, thriving and active community, of young and old and with people from diverse nations – from Africa, Asia and

the rest of Europe. We celebrate together the Good News of Jesus Christ in song and music!

St Bernadette's is a loving and caring parish. Over 20 years ago, when our daughter was seriously ill, parishioners organised a prayer service one Sunday afternoon which was packed. We regularly found meals left on our doorstep by them and the same happened when Anne and I were very ill with Covid – a meal train was organised so that we were provided with a hot meal every day for several months. Service goes two ways!

Diaconate is not always easy – there are times when the cross is heavy but is this not the case for all of us? And as we are called to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, we are given the strength of the Holy Spirit.

As we look to the future, I wonder whether deacons have a part to play as some of our parishes merge because deacons generally arise from the parish and have a stability of place. This can be important to a community who get to know you and are known in return. This is why I pray for an increase in diaconate vocations especially that we may see them in our own parish as I fade away!

A final thanks to Anne, our children and grandchildren, to the parish, to our ecumenical friends and all the priests I have worked with. Please continue to pray for myself, Anne and the family as I will do for you.

Deacon Paul on his ordination day.



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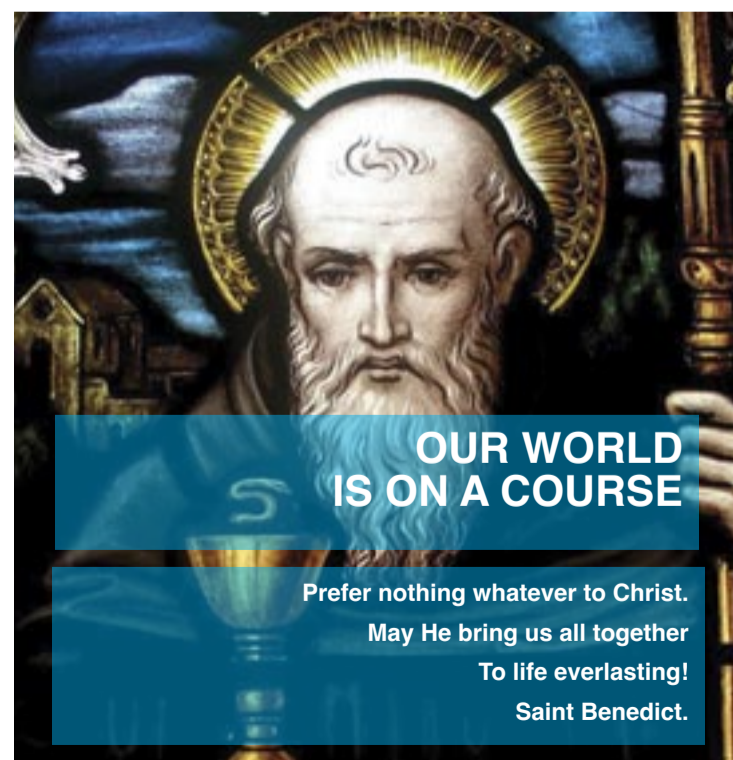
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OUR WORLD IS ON A COURSE

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To life everlasting!

Saint Benedict.



Faith & Modern Challenges – Guiding Youth in Today’s Complex World

In a rapidly changing and increasingly complex world, the role of the Church in addressing contemporary social and ethical issues with young people is more crucial than ever. Today’s youth are growing up in an era marked by significant societal shifts, technological advancements, and moral complexities. The Church can provide a guiding light in navigating these challenges, helping young people to understand and integrate their faith with the realities of the modern world.

One of the primary tasks is to address the apparent disconnect between what the Church teaches and contemporary societal norms. Issues such as climate change, social justice, human rights, and technological ethics are at the forefront of young people’s minds. They are looking for guidance on how to align their faith with their desire to engage with and improve the world they live in.





EASTER RETREAT

28-31.03.2024

To begin with, the Church must foster open and honest dialogues. Creating a safe space where young people can express their doubts, ask tough questions, and discuss controversial topics is essential. These discussions can be facilitated through youth groups, workshops, or forums. It's important that the Church doesn't shy away from difficult conversations, whether it's about sexuality, mental health, social media ethics, or interfaith relations.

Another key aspect is contextualising biblical teachings in the modern context. While the core tenets of the Catholic faith are timeless, understanding how they apply to contemporary issues is vital. For instance, what does the Bible say about environmental stewardship, and how can that inform a Christian approach to climate change? How do the teachings of Christ inspire action towards social justice and equality? Providing insights into these questions can help young people see the relevance of their faith in today's world.

In addition, the Church can play a proactive role in educating the youth about social and ethical issues from a faith-based perspective. This could involve incorporating modern issues into youth group sessions, offering educational programs, or providing resources that explore these topics through the lens of Catholic values. By doing so, the Church not only informs but also empowers young people to be informed, compassionate, and ethical participants in society.

Mentorship is also a powerful tool in this journey.

Pope Francis talks a lot about *'accompaniment'* and *'persons of reference.'* Having role models within the Church who actively engage with modern challenges can inspire young people. These mentors can share their experiences of living out their faith in their personal and professional lives, providing tangible examples of how faith can guide one's actions in a complex world.

Moreover, the Church should encourage and support the active involvement of youth in social causes. Whether it's through community service, environmental initiatives, or social justice projects, active engagement allows young people to put their faith into action. This not only helps in making a positive impact on society but also deepens their understanding and commitment to their faith.

Lastly, embracing technology and contemporary forms of communication is crucial in reaching out to today's youth. Using social media, podcasts, and other digital platforms to discuss faith in the context of modern challenges can make the Church's teachings more accessible and relatable to young people.

In conclusion, guiding youth through the challenges of the modern world requires the Church to be both a steadfast beacon of timeless wisdom and a dynamic, responsive voice in current conversations. By bridging faith and modern issues, the Church can equip young people with the moral and ethical compass they need to navigate their lives, making their faith a living, breathing part of their daily experience in the world.

David Pope dip FD MBIFD

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In the Parish of Christ the Good Shepherd, Workington, we are blessed to have 40 Altar Servers in the parish team across all age ranges.

There is a vocational character to the work we do. Serving becomes more than just turning up on a Sunday every week or once in a while and supporting the big parish occasions. It is a ministry to which each one has been called and each has had the courage to respond. The parish rises up by supporting and encouraging them.

Servers have an environment to grow in their awareness of why they have been personally called to serve the Lord at the Altar. Yes, it is important they look smart, pray before Mass to prepare themselves, attend training workshops and learn what, how and why they do what they do... but it's about nurturing a 'holy' curiosity.

It is wonderful to see those who have taken on other roles in the parish, or continued serving while at university or gone onto chaplaincy work. We have some who went on an Easter Triduum retreat to deepen their faith and make

new friends. We have those who joined the diocese in Lourdes this last year and met other servers along the way. Then it was World Youth Day in Lisbon and two servers went and shared their experiences with the parish.

There is a social dimension to this journey and having fun. Football matches after Mass most Sundays, Team building activities in the summer and away days like a day pilgrimage in the footsteps of St Bega starting out in St Bees Priory then for Ice cream, a cliff top walk finishing with a race on the secluded pebbled dashed beach of Fleswick bay with time for quiet reflection and prayer. We also plan to have a five-week course 'Altaration' The Mystery of the Mass revealed and so enter deeper into the mystery of the Mass.



The Archconfraternity of St Stephen, to which they are enrolled, plays its part in recognising their commitment and their promise to offer themselves, to do their best, to serve with reverence and understanding, all for the glory of God, the service of his Church and their own eternal salvation.
Paul Briers
St Stephen, Pray for us

St Stephen's Day




Three altar servers from the Parish of the Holy Cross (Kirkham and Wesham) were presented with medals and inducted into the Archconfraternity (Guild) on St Stephen's Day 2023. Dulcie Richardson, Connor Dobson and Gerard Boylan were presented with medals by Parish Priest, Fr Andrew Broster.

The Guild exists to encourage the highest standards of serving at the Church's liturgy, and so contribute to a more fruitful worship of God. It seeks to provide altar servers with a greater understanding of what they are doing, so that they may serve with increasing reverence and prayerfulness. Congratulations to all three of our servers on what was the first presentation since 2019. It truly was a happy and blessed day for all involved. *Christopher Massey*

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Following the closure of the Carmelite Monastery in Fulwood, Preston, after over 100 years of dedicated service to the Diocese, the Calvary that was a feature in the monastery grounds was gifted by the Carmelite Sisters to St Joseph's Ansdell.

The Carmelite Sisters spent nearly 106 years in Preston and the Calvary was more than just a feature in their grounds, it was a focal point of prayer to the crucified Christ and countless prayers and intercessions were offered there.

When it became clear that the Sisters could no longer sustain a presence at the monastery it was decided that the monastery and grounds should be sold and the Sisters gradually vacated the property at the end of 2023 moving to other monasteries in Liverpool, Birkenhead and Scotland.

At this time the Calvary was removed for

safekeeping and complete restoration at the instigation of Frank McGrath of Our Lady's and St Edward's in Preston. With the help of Martin Flowers and Lee Atkinson the structure was removed very carefully, piece by piece before the figure of Christ was lovingly restored by Geoff Beesley. The figure of Christ was sculptured from Bavarian wood over 100 years ago and had suffered from the ravages of time and weather.

The next task was to find a new home for the structure and St Joseph's were immensely pleased when Sr Josephine, the former Mother Prioress, of the Carmelite community agreed that it should be rehoused in Ansdell. The actual

site, on the side of the church looks out onto a busy main road, Fylde Rugby Club and a bus stop so has maximum exposure to the wider community and, although only in place for a few months to date, it has generated a lot of interest from the passing public.

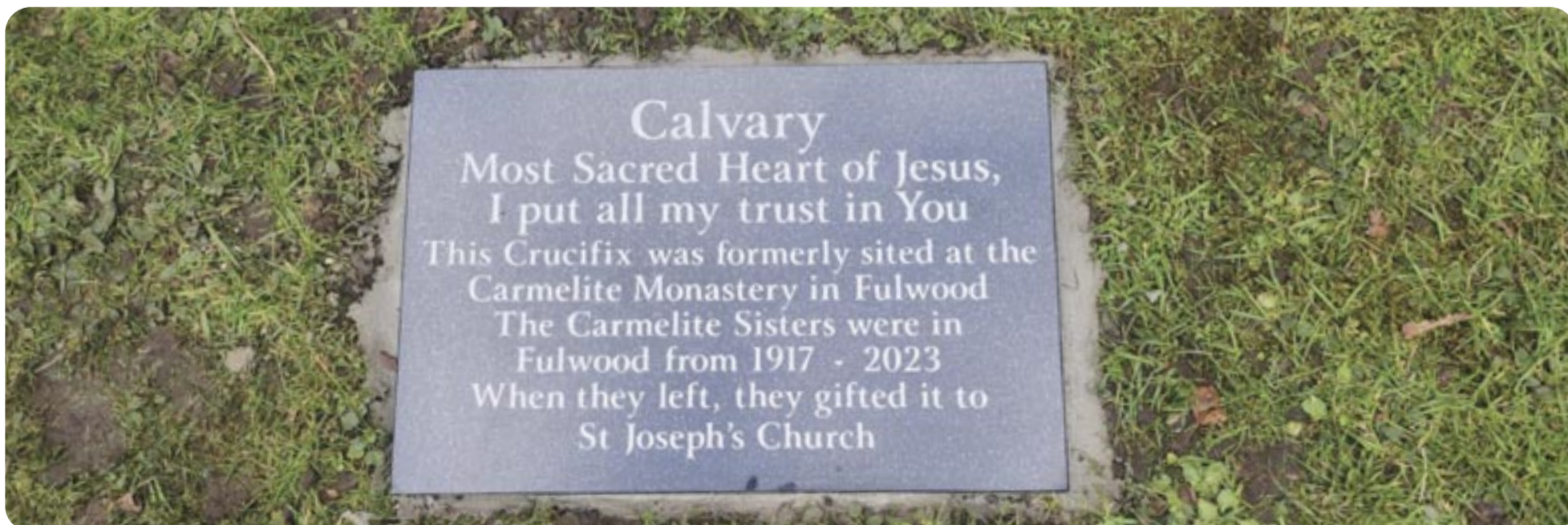
The rehousing and installation, (*funded by private donation*), was carried out by the aforementioned Martin and Lee over a series of very cold Saturday mornings before illumination was arranged to complete the job. In front of Calvary a plaque has been installed to reflect our gratitude to the Carmelite Sisters and it is fitting that the structure sits in a flowerbed which contains a Magnolia

that was planted by a parishioner in memory of those who died during the Covid pandemic.

Carols were sung in front of Calvary in Advent with Bishop Paul in attendance before it was formally blessed at a service of candlelit night prayer by Bishop Paul on the evening on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

In addition, the Carmelite Sisters also gifted a Crucifix to St Joseph's which is now sited in the Sacristy.

The photographs accompanying this piece chart the various stages of installation.




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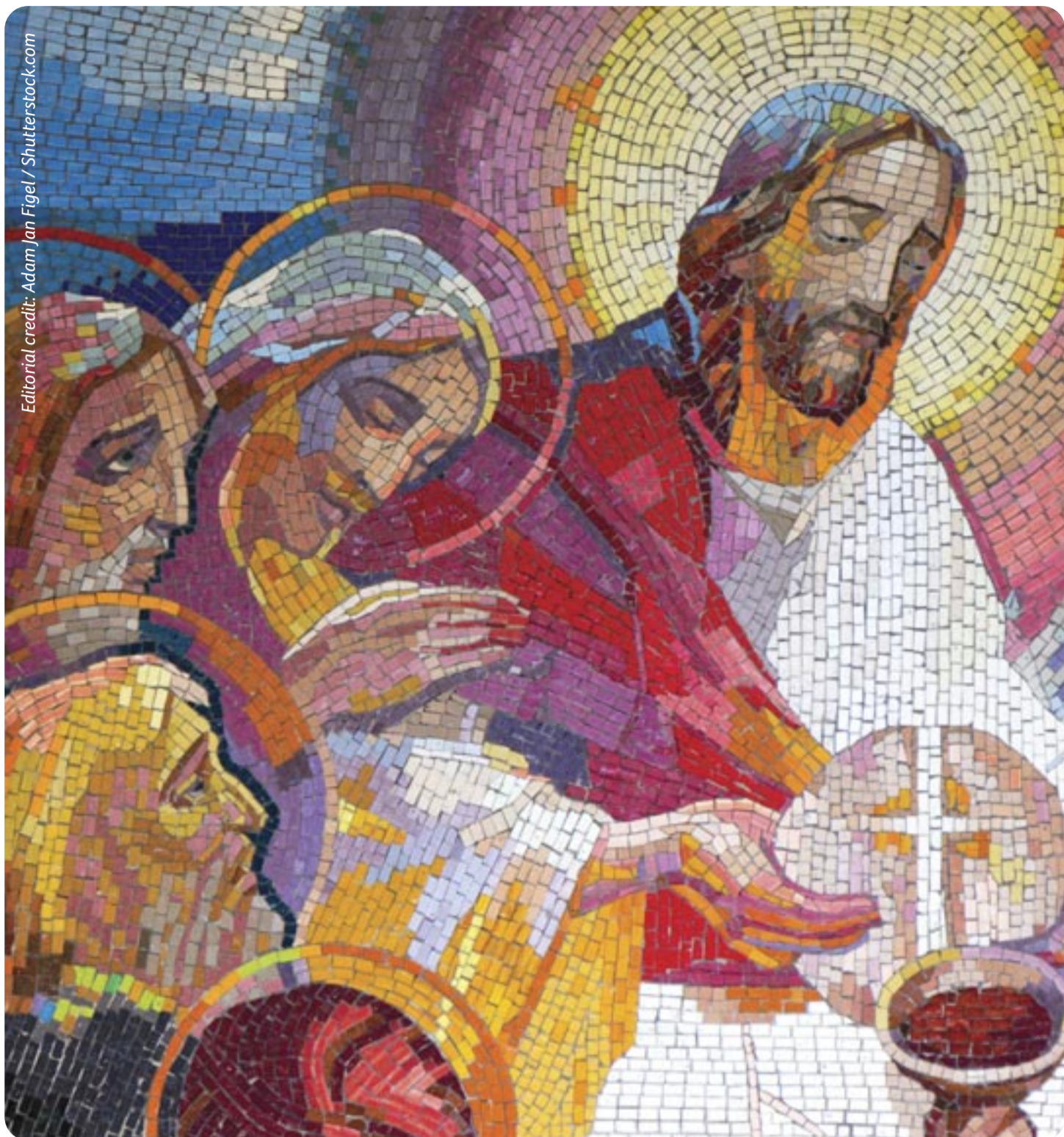


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Know Your Faith

What did we learn from the temptations of Jesus in the desert?

The temptations of Jesus in the desert recapitulate the temptation of Adam in Paradise and the temptations of Israel in the desert. Satan tempts Jesus in regard to his obedience to the mission given him by the Father. Christ, the new Adam, resists and his victory proclaims that of his passion which is the supreme obedience of his filial love. The Church unites herself to this mystery in a special way in the liturgical season of Lent.

Further reading: CCC 538-540, 566

Who is invited to come into the Kingdom of God proclaimed and brought about by Jesus?

All are invited by Jesus to enter the Kingdom of God. Even the worst of sinners is called to convert and to accept the boundless mercy of the Father. Already here on earth, the Kingdom belongs to those who accept it with a humble heart. To them the mysteries of the Kingdom are revealed.

Further reading: CCC 541-546, 567

Why did Jesus manifest the Kingdom by means of signs and miracles?

Jesus accompanied his words with signs and miracles to bear witness to the fact that the Kingdom is present in him, the Messiah. Although he healed some people, he did not come to abolish all evils here below but rather to free us especially from the slavery of sin. The driving out of demons proclaimed that his cross would be victorious over "the ruler of this world" (John 12:31).

Further reading: CCC 547-550, 567

In the Kingdom, what authority did Jesus bestow upon his Apostles?

Jesus chose the twelve, the future witnesses of his Resurrection, and made them sharers of his mission and of his authority to teach, to absolve from sins, and to build up and govern the Church. In his college, Peter received "the keys of the Kingdom" (Matthew 16:19) and assumed the first place with the mission to keep the faith in its integrity and to strengthen his brothers.

Further reading: CCC 551-553, 567



First Stella Maris Mass held in Diocese to pray for seafarers and fishers and for the charity that supports them

Bishop Paul Swarbrick celebrated the first Stella Maris Mass in the Diocese of Lancaster at St Peter's Cathedral on 10 February. More than 30 people attended this first Mass in the Diocese, organised by the Catholic maritime charity Stella Maris (formerly known as Apostleship of the Sea).

+++++

Stella Maris, (formerly known as Apostleship of the Sea), is a registered UK charity. It relies on voluntary donations to continue its work.

90% of world trade is transported by ship. However, the life of a seafarer can be dangerous and lonely. Seafarers may spend up to a year at a time away from home, separated from their families and loved ones, often working in harsh conditions.

Stella Maris' chaplains and ship visitors provide seafarers and fishers with pastoral and practical support, information and a listening ear.

+++++

Parishioners, supporters of the charity and employees came together to pray for seafarers, fishers and their families, and for the work of Stella Maris.

Bishop Swarbrick spoke of the vital spiritual, pastoral and practical support provided by Stella Maris' chaplains and volunteer ship visitors, in bringing the church to ports around the UK.

Tens of thousands of seafarers and fishers visit British ports each year, making brief stops after days or weeks at sea. Whilst they largely remain invisible to the rest of society, Stella Maris' chaplains and volunteer ship visitors go out to meet them.

They listen and chat, arrange Mass onboard ships, offer practical help in a crisis and bring free Wi-Fi onboard so seafarers can call home. These simple practical kindnesses make a great difference.

A reception was held after the Mass. During this, Tim Hill, Stella Maris CEO and national director gave a welcome address. He was followed by Anne McLaren, Stella Maris North of England Senior Area Port Chaplain, who gave an overview about the ministry of Stella Maris, and how the charity plans to set up more ship visiting teams in the Northwest of England.

Next came a moving testimony from Stella Maris' volunteer ship visitor, Hugh Ward, who with his wife Mary, volunteer for the charity in North Tees.

He explained how, following a routine ship visit, they assisted a seafarer whose wife had given birth to premature triplets in the Philippines. The babies needed urgent medical care, but the family were unable to access free healthcare, and this led to thousands of pounds being racked-up in hospital bills.

Hugh and Mary's intervention led to Stella Maris raising funds to pay off the family's outstanding debt. Their support made a tangible difference to their lives and the triplets are now healthy toddlers.

Stella Maris has a very special place in the hearts of the seafarer and his family and Hugh and Mary are in regular contact with them even till this day. "Every time we speak to them, they can't thank us and Stella Maris enough for being there in their time of desperate need," said Hugh and Mary.

Billy Barnett and his wife Jun Li, another Stella Maris volunteer ship visiting couple, also shared their experiences about being ship visitors with the charity. Together they have supported many seafarers arriving at Teesport.

To find out more about the work of Stella Maris, or about volunteering, please visit www.stellamaris.org.uk
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Calling All Young People



If you are aged between 15 and 21 a great opportunity awaits you. Please consider joining the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in July. Interested then please book your place, see the end of this article for details of how to reserve your place. You will not regret it!

Dear young people from all over the Diocese of Lancaster, you are invited to take part in this year's annual pilgrimage to Lourdes. You will travel overland leaving from pick up points in the Diocese on 22nd July 2024, arriving in Lourdes on 23rd July 2024 where you will join the main pilgrimage from the Diocese led by Bishop Paul Swarbrick.

Young people form an integral part of the Diocesan Pilgrimage, sharing their strengths and talents and the joys and blessings of Lourdes. You will join in with all aspects of the diocesan pilgrimage, coming together each day for prayer and the sacraments, as well as social times. You will work hard in Lourdes, assisting those who need help to get about; but

the spirit of Lourdes means that you will find this the most rewarding aspect of the pilgrimage.

In the months before the pilgrimage we meet up to get to know each other, learn about the story of Lourdes, practice some of the practicalities, e.g. pushing wheelchairs, and pray for a successful pilgrimage. For any of you who join the pilgrimage, Lourdes offers a special experience; faith is renewed and strengthened, and friendships are formed that last a lifetime.

This year we are very pleased that we are able to add to our itinerary an overnight stop with a day sightseeing in Paris. This will be a great opportunity for

you to experience the excitement and atmosphere of the centre of Paris as it welcomes the 2024 Olympics.

The Youth Pilgrimage departs by coach on Monday 22nd July 2024 and arrives back in the UK early hours of 2nd August 2024. The pilgrimage cost per youth is £795.

To book please go to <https://joewalstours.co.uk/tours/diocese-of-lancaster-youth-pilgrimage-2024/> or check out the Lancaster Lourdes Pilgrimage page at: www.lancasterlourdes.co.uk or e-mail Katie O Donnell, Director of Youth at: youth@lancasterlourdes.co.uk Places are also available on the flight

with the main pilgrimage group for those young people that cannot travel overland.

Worried about the cost then please consider fundraising in your parish or school (*car washes, sponsored walks, cake stalls etc are all good to raise money*). We look forward to meeting you all very soon.

And now a special plea to the wider community of the Diocese. Please consider supporting one of our young people as they endeavour to go to Lourdes. Some of our young people despite their best efforts struggle to raise the money they need to go to Lourdes. So please send any donations (*cheques*



should be made to Lancaster Diocesan Pilgrimage Trust) to Linda Wisdom, Director, Diocese of Lancaster Lourdes Pilgrimage, 22 Clifton Drive, Blackpool, FY4 1NX, Lancashire.

Want to do more then why not organise a fundraiser in your parish.

Date for your diary:

A pre-pilgrimage Mass is to be held at 12 noon on 6th July 2024 at St Peter's Cathedral, Balmoral Road, Lancaster followed with refreshments at the centre. This is a great opportunity to meet with other 2024 Lourdes pilgrims. Everyone welcome!

Linda Wisdom, Director, Diocese of Lancaster Lourdes Pilgrimage



Holy Week Mass Times

Wishing all our readers a Holy and Happy Easter from all at CathCom and the Diocese of Lancaster

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
7th April 2024 . 2.30pm - 4pm
St Clare's RC Church
Sharoe Green Lane
Fulwood, Preston PR2 9HH



Introduction and talk on The Divine Mercy.
Holy Hour before The Blessed Sacrament
Blessing of The Divine Mercy Image and relic of St Faustina
3 O'clock Divine Mercy Prayer Chaplet with meditations from the Diary of St Faustina
Benediction
Veneration of the Divine Mercy Image and relic of St Faustina

Afterwards refreshments and gathering in the parish hall.

The Easter Triduum at St. Joseph's and St. Peter's 2024 Ansdell and Lytham

Maundy Thursday 28th March
St. Peter's 7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper and watching until 10pm with Night Prayer of the Church at 9:50pm

Good Friday 29th March
Stations of the Cross
St. Peter's 10am
St. Joseph's 3pm and St. Peter's 3pm Solemn Celebration of the Passion of the Lord
Prayers around Calvary: Outside at St. Joseph's 6pm

Holy Saturday 30th March
St. Peter's 7pm Easter Vigil and Service of Light

Easter Sunday 31st March
St. Joseph's 9:15am Easter Sunday Morning Mass
St. Peter's 10:30am Easter Sunday Morning Mass



L - R Fr Richard Simons OSB, Sr Margaret Atkins, Sr Mary Helen Jackson, Chris Doyle, Mgr Frank Slattery.



Philomena Grimley SHCJ reports on this annual occasion for those in Consecrated life in the Diocese of Lancaster

Day for Consecrated Life 2024

All of us in Consecrated Life in our diocese were invited to share a special day on Saturday, February 3rd. This was held in Boarbank, the community home of the Canonesses of St Augustine. Their large convent, nursing home and guest house is set in the Cumbrian countryside overlooking Morecambe Bay. A large number came, as you will see from the group photograph. The community made us all very welcome with their warm and generous hospitality throughout the day.

The Bishop, also thanked on our behalf, Monsignor Frank Slattery, who was present with us, for his service as Vicar for many years in the northern part of the diocese.

In the morning Father John Farrell OP spoke to us, providing some theological background to Consecrated life and, in the afternoon he spoke to us about St Catherine of Sienna. But the emphasis of the day was to give us an opportunity to tell each other more about ourselves, and to begin to discuss and plan ahead.

The day began with celebration of Mass at which Bishop Paul Swarbrick presided. He formally introduced the newly appointed Vicar for Consecrated Life, Father Richard Simons OSB and the three women who will work with him as a team: Sister Mary Helen Jackson from Hying monastery, Sister Margaret Atkins from Boarbank and Chris Doyle, representing those in single Consecrated Life in the

Each congregation and those in single Consecrated life had prepared a short talk about their story, life and ministry and provided an illustrative photograph that was shown on a large screen whilst representatives spoke. It was truly impressive because it gave a rich overview of the lives and ministries of so many who are, day by day, serving in the diocese in so many ways.



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We can have all sorts of ideas about what a religious retreat involves; certainly it includes taking a step back from everyday life and having more time for personal prayer and reflection to deepen our relationship with God. But it doesn't mean spending all day on our knees and can be combined with various life-giving activities.

At Hyning Monastery, there are a number of interesting possibilities in the coming months.

A Prayer and Gardening Retreat will take place from 6th – 10th May 2024. The programme includes daily talks and meditations reflecting on the glory of God in nature, and participants work as a team in the beautiful landscaped garden of Hyning at this glorious time of the year when the azaleas and rhododendrons are in full flower.

For those who enjoy exploring their spirituality through the visual, how about an Icon Retreat? (5th- 9th August 2024) The ancient art of writing icons has always been honoured within the Church. Beginners learn the basic techniques and are guided through writing an icon from beginning to end. Those with more experience are given a freer rein. The icon writing takes place in a silent and

meditative atmosphere which helps each one to make of their work an offering to the Lord. See photo of icon workshop.

Finally, are there any flautists out there who would enjoy an Ecumenical Flute Retreat (1st – 5th October)? This includes conferences, time for personal and community prayer – with an opportunity to explore how music can be a path to God. There will be plenty of time to enjoy playing the flute both in a group, as a solo player and during the liturgy. It is particularly suitable for adult players (18+) of grade 4+ ability who use their flute within the liturgy or who would like to play their flute in a Christian context.

If none of these appeal to you, there are other residential and non-residential options on offer at Hyning – do look at our webpage for these or any further information about the retreats in this article. www.hyning.org



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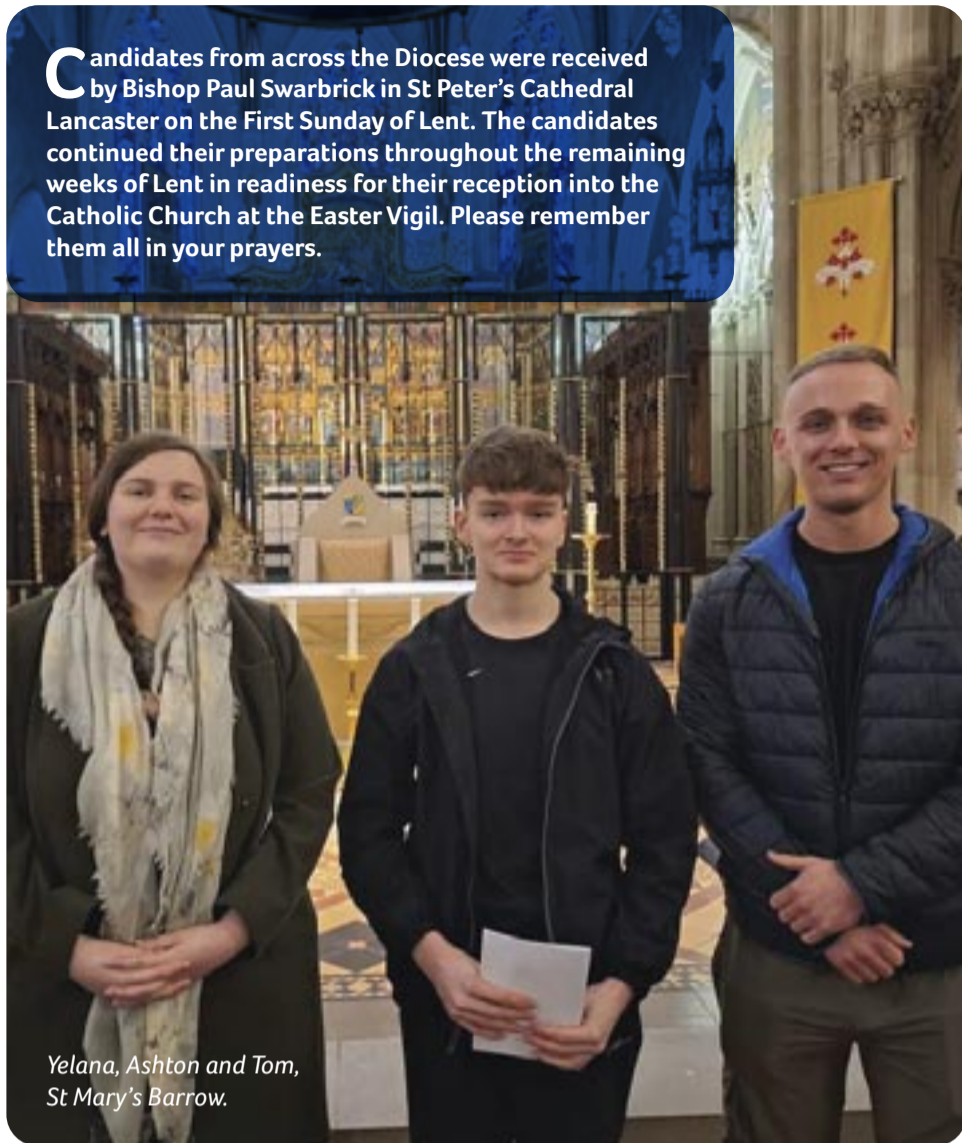
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Rite of Election 2024



Wren, Laura, Kelly and Isaac,
St Joseph's Ansdell and St Peter's Lytham.

Candidates from across the Diocese were received by Bishop Paul Swarbrick in St Peter's Cathedral Lancaster on the First Sunday of Lent. The candidates continued their preparations throughout the remaining weeks of Lent in readiness for their reception into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. Please remember them all in your prayers.



Yelana, Ashton and Tom,
St Mary's Barrow.

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