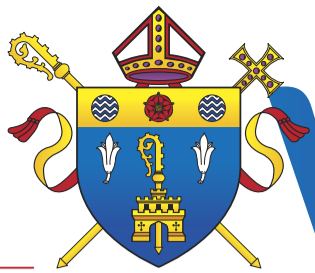


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VOICE

of Lancaster

The Official Newspaper to the Diocese of Lancaster

Issue 343 + October '22

INSIDE:



Fixing the Food System



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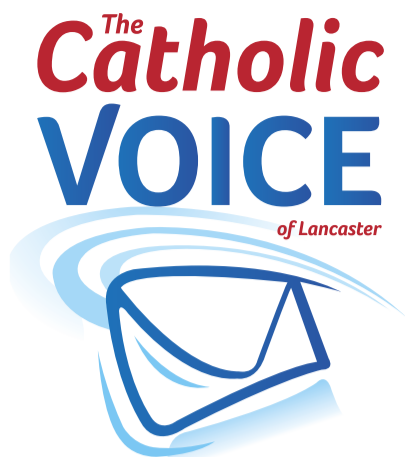
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The Catholic Voice of Lancaster is published on the last Sunday of the month previous to publication date.

The Catholic Voice of Lancaster is published by its owners. The Trustees of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lancaster, a registered charity, (No. 234331), and is wholly independent of and separate from any previous newspaper published by or on behalf of the diocese.

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PUBLISHED BY:

CathCom Ltd. N2 Blois Meadow
Business Centre, Blois Road, Steeple
Bumpstead, Haverhill, Suffolk CB9 7BN
020 7112 6710
www.cathcom.org

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Photos: CAFOD

In July, supporters of CAFOD held a special event in the lovely grounds of St Mary Newhouse, Barton to promote its "Fix the Food System" campaign. Against a backdrop of the sounds and smells of the adjacent farm, Catholics from the north of Preston learned about how the food system has created a situation where 800 million people go hungry every day in a world that produces more food than we actually need.

The event was set up as a series of seven "stations", each of which looked at a different aspect of the food system. Walking between them gave us a sense of pilgrimage. The visuals helped us to reflect on the way in which food gets from the field to our plates, including how food is produced, processed, transported, marketed, consumed and wasted. They helped us realise how much we take the food system for granted and how little many of us know about it, as the comments below reveal.

Liz: "The CAFOD event made me realise that much of what we eat is taken for granted. How many of us question the source of the food and how little the producer of the goods is rewarded with a fair wage? I will buy more fairtrade goods in the future. I now recognise the importance of small farmers using their own traditional natural organic fertilisers on their crops to feed their local communities rather than big businesses dominating their farms with little reward to the farmers".

Steve: "It is scary to think that just 1% of farmers own half the land and that 4 companies control over 60% of the world seeds market and can dictate to farmers what they grow - often luxury foods for

export to rich nations rather than to feed themselves. I was amazed to learn that these small farmers actually produce about twice as much food per acre than the big farms, yet the food system is set up against them in such a way that most live in poverty. I was appalled at the extent of 'land grabbing', particularly in areas such as the Amazon rainforest where unscrupulous companies make false claims to land. It was so encouraging to learn how CAFOD helps such people fight these spurious claims in court. That really is 'Solidarity with the poor'".

John: "I really am saddened as I learn more about the injustice of so many of those producing our food not having enough themselves".

Paddy: "I was shocked to learn about the massive imbalance of power between big business and small farmers. Food sovereignty is rooted in the right of people to healthy food and their right to decide their food systems, putting their cultural and nutritional needs first rather than the demands imposed by the market and big business. I was inspired to hear that CAFOD is challenging this imbalance of power and working with communities overseas who now produce food in a different way: a way that's good for them and good for the planet".

Emma: "I think one of the most significant things I learnt was that our food production is controlled by 3 or 4 large corporations who are motivated by profit and we are largely at their mercy.

Our efforts to make the system fairer and sustainable are limited but nevertheless worthwhile, buying local produce, not wasting food, eating less meat, especially

beef and buying Fairtrade goods. I was impressed by the stories of the farmers in Bangladesh producing food sustainably".

Anne picked up on the reference to Fairtrade. "It provides an alternative food system and gives farmers and their communities a just reward for their labour. I am impressed that CAFOD was one of the founder members of Traidcraft in 1979."

Several people responded to the success stories which show that local people and communities can actually do much better following traditional methods than the ways of big business:

Hilary: "At Station 4 the story of the 2 ladies, Alpona and Suchitra in Bangladesh is such a wonderful 'feel good' one which shows the ongoing good outcome for all concerned and gives us confidence in what we are helping to do. It also demonstrates how we too can grow crops or vegetables, as they do, without chemicals but using organic materials".

John: "It was encouraging to hear the hopeful stories about ways of producing food that are better for people and the planet - like those shared of the communities in Bangladesh and Zimbabwe".

Paddy: "I just hadn't realised how much ecological damage the agribusiness is causing around the world, planting vast areas of a single crop and then eliminating all weeds and pests with chemicals, completely destroying all the other insect and plant life and, incidentally, poisoning numerous farm workers. I was then shocked to learn that chemical companies still export to low-



the Food System

income countries thousands of tonnes of pesticides which are banned in the UK”.

Steve: “A theme that kept coming up in our discussions as we went round the stations was how inter-connected everything is - how the vulnerability of the poor is so intimately related to the vulnerability of the environment - a point that is made repeatedly in Pope Francis’ teaching. We learned for instance that the destruction of the Amazon rain forest is largely driven by the desire for meat. So virgin forest with all its ecological riches is cleared for cattle ranching or for growing soybeans to export as animal feed; that meat consumption accounts for 30% of carbon dioxide emissions and is a real driver of climate change; that intensive agriculture is rapidly degrading rich soil into mere ‘dirt’. The victims, besides the poor, include rare and beautiful species lost to burning, chemicals and the wilful destruction of habitats. Everything is indeed connected”.

One of the organisers, Stephen, said that the event was not about doom and gloom, but about informing people about the food system and inspiring them to make the right choices at a personal level and hopefully also work for food justice.

“At the end we gave visitors a sheet of practical actions to help them make the right choices”.

The final words are from John: “As well as being an important event for taking part in CAFOD’s campaign, it was also really good to see parishioners socialising over a picnic afterwards - the weather even cooperated!”

Stephen Garsed, Our Lady & St Edward, Preston and a CAFOD volunteer

Continued on Pages 6 and 7 ...



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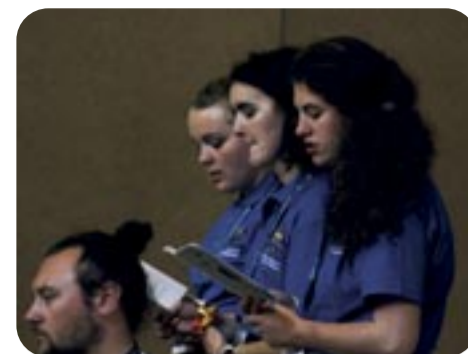
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August is an odd month in the Education/ Ministry world because not a lot happens. The world pretty much goes on holiday. Anything that does happen either happens a long way away or it's basically training and preparing for September. So, as you might expect there's not a huge amount to report but there is still a fair bit...

Time to say goodbye

We have said an emotional goodbye to Patricia, Alex, Beth, Ellie, Rachel, Megan and Mel. They are going on to different things after spending time with us and we wish them well. It's always sad when people move on, especially (as in *Trish's case*) after such a long time.

We had a nice party to end the year before Lourdes, and talking of which...

Lourdes 2022

Nine members of the Castlerigg team joined the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Paddie led the Youth Section and Alex, Megan, Mel, Rachel, Other Rachel, Ellie, Megan, and Joe were helpers. Mostly with the Youth Section.

It was lovely to be back in Lourdes after such a long break. Most of the team had been before but this was the first time for a few of them. They enjoyed the processions and the liturgies, but what they liked most was spending time with young people and pilgrims. Lourdes is

a special place where amazing things happen. There is always a beautiful atmosphere!

The Youth Section, though smaller than usual, proved extremely successful, even though transport was slightly tricky!!

The coach pick up on departure day was at 2am in the morning, so not much sleep was had that night, but the journey back was even more interesting!

The flight leaving Lourdes-Tarbes Airport carrying the Youth Section and others was meant to take off at 1pm, with the coach arriving back at Castlerigg in the early evening. Long story short, the coach

eventually rolled up at Castlerigg at 7am the next morning with some very tired people on board! That's Lourdes though – the unexpected problems don't, and can't, ruin the experience overall.

What else?

The last week in July and the first week in August saw the Keswick Convention Youth Team stay at Castlerigg. The Keswick Convention is a huge Christian festival run in Keswick each year and tracing its roots back to 1875!

Tens of thousands of people turn up and the youth leaders all stay at Castlerigg. They are great people to spend time with and talk to!

Baker's Dozen Questions ...

Get to know the Castlerigg team! This month, it's the turn of Jack.

1. What's your name? Jack Regan. I've got a lot of middle names, but there's a word limit so I'll spare you.

2. Where are you from and what's it like? I'm from all over the place ... Germany originally but spent my teen years in Derby, and then the place I've spent the most time in is the Sussex/ Surrey area. All lovely with some great memories.

3. Tell us about the first time you ever saw Castlerigg? It was March 2002 and I was interviewing for my first stint here. I was impressed with the building, and even more so with the Lakes.

4. What made you want to work here? I believe that if Youth Ministry is done well it can make a big impact on the lives of young people and a big impact on the Church. More people need to know that Jesus is Lord and that he has exciting, wonderful plans for their lives!

5. What were you doing before? Immediately before starting my current stint here I had my own training business, mainly working with adults who work with children and training in areas like First Aid, Mental Health, and Safeguarding. Covid basically killed the business, but I'd already got the job at Castlerigg by then, so it was only a flesh wound!

6. What are you planning on doing afterwards? Retiring, probably.

7. What's your favourite bit from the bible, and why? 1 John 3:1 "Think of the Love the Father has for us by letting us be called the Children of God, for that is what we are!" Such a cool passage – if our faith isn't based on the fact that God loves us, it's probably going to go a bit wobbly eventually.

8. Do you have a favourite saint? St Philip Howard probably. I spent years living in Sussex (*his old stomping ground*) and I was chaplain to a school that had one of his relics in the chapel altar, so I learned a lot about him and I was impressed with what I learned. He stepped up to lead in a horrendously difficult time and he refused to give up on his faith even though the Queen was waving some serious carrots and sticks at him.

9. If you had a super power what would it be? Flying would be awesome, wouldn't it? You'd save so much on transport costs, not to mention the awesome views. Plus, it would be a really cool way to treat your friends "come on... I'll cheer you up ... let's go for a fly!" Might be a bit cold and wet though. Some sort of big coat might be a plan.

10. If you ruled the world with absolute power what would be the first law that you passed? I would force the world to get serious about tackling climate change. We know what we need to do, we just need somebody to pull it all together.

11. If you were asked to redecorate Castlerigg, where would you start? Well, I basically have been! We've done a lot during the last few years. Carpets are probably the next thing. Actually, come to think of it the new upstairs small group rooms are the immediate priority!

12. What's your favourite place in Keswick? The Lakeside. My kids love it too. It's brilliant all year round.

13. Which character from fiction would you most like to be? Yoda. In my mind, the Castlerigg team already see me very much as a Yoda figure. (*Yeah, they don't*).



CROSSWORD

Across

- 2. The colour shirts worn by most of the Lancaster Pilgrims
- 6. How a lot of able UK pilgrims get to Lourdes
- 7. Town near Lourdes where the airport is
- 8. ___ Basilica – Did you know this is the largest Church in France by capacity?
- 11. The mountain range Lourdes is in
- 13. The procession held most nights

Down

- 1. You might be asked to push one of these if you go as a helper
- 3. French word originally meaning 'stretcher bearer' but widely applied to helpers
- 4. You'll be in one of these if you go to Lourdes
- 5. The young girl Mary appeared to
- 9. The country Lourdes is in
- 10. The French word for ice cream (*A vital bit of vocab!*)
- 12. Most shops in Lourdes sell these
- 14. The place where Mary appeared

David Pope dip FD MBIFD

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fix the
food
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What do we mean by “food system”?

The way in which food gets from the field to our plates, including how food is produced, processed, transported, marketed, consumed and wasted.



Photos: CAFOD

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What Can I do?

- Be informed for action
- Learn more about food production and distribution
- Support campaigns for a fairer food system
- Find out who is behind which brands (Google the brand name then “ownership”). You are likely to be very surprised!
- Learn more about Fairtrade (CAFOD was one of the co-founders)
- Subscribe to “Ethical Consumer” - the ethical “Which?”
- Involve children and others in discussions about food
- Eat better at home
- Plan before you shop - one of the most effective ways of avoiding waste!
- Reduce meat and dairy consumption - better for your health too
- Avoid exotic foods - they can be ecologically and socially damaging to poor communities
- Grow you own - you can have nice produce from even a small garden e.g. fruit bushes
- Buy foods in season
- Shop using “LOAF” principles (Locally produced, Organically-grown, Animal-friendly, Fairly Traded) - see Green Christian website



- OTHER ACTIONS:**
- Compost waste - nature is a circular economy!
 - Give away surplus produce if you have an allotment or big garden
 - Support food banks and food kitchens
 - Use an ethical bank - the big banks are an integral part of the unfair food system
 - Reduce car use - petrol and diesel now contain “biofuels” made from crops which could otherwise feed people



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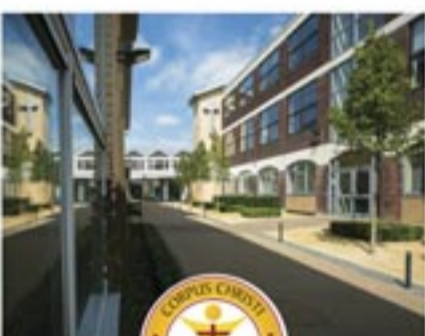
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A Mission of Mercy

Frances King has delivered healthcare to people from the world's poorest nations. But her achievements go further than this as, after conquering a fear of public speaking, she raised £76,000 delivering more than 270 talks about Mercy Ships.

The grandmother of five, who is married to Mike, lives in Wrea Green and has volunteered on board the Africa Mercy three times. A retired nurse, Frances worked in the NHS for nearly 50 years. She first came across Mercy Ships in the early 2000s from another speaker and was inspired to volunteer.

Mercy Ships is a faith-based international development organisation that deploys hospital ships to some of the poorest countries in the world, delivering vital, free healthcare to people in desperate

need. The charity brings hope and healing to those suffering from disability, disfigurement, and disease.

Frances says: "They perform life-changing surgery in low-income and lower-middle-income countries where nine out of ten people have no access to basic surgical care. Mercy Ships sail directly to these people to offer the medical care they need – for free."

Volunteers pay for their own travel (air fare) with many of the younger volunteers often receiving help and support from their local churches. Those wishing to help do not need any medical training as only 50% of volunteers are medics.

Frances says: "My first time was to Ghana in 2006. I was so moved by what I saw and the work being performed by all on board that I wanted to return again and I did. Next

time to Liberia in 2008 and finally to Togo in 2010, after which my nursing registration expired."

In 2007, Frances was asked to do a talk about her experience on board and found the prospect extremely daunting.

"I was so scared of talking in front of people. Having never spoken in public in my life, I dreaded the thought when my local Mothers' Union asked me to share my experiences. It was whilst we were in our caravan on holiday that Michael persuaded me to do it and he helped in putting a presentation together one evening. I thought I would only do it once."

But her talks had a significant effect, including encouraging donations to the charity. However, it was only after 10 talks that Frances felt more

comfortable with public speaking.

With so much experience, what is Frances's most powerful memory from volunteering for Mercy Ships?

"The joy and appreciation of those coming to be treated, whether on or off the ship. Many have been outcasts in their local community, often due their disfigurement.

"Working on and off the ship I was quite overcome when seeing hundreds waiting to be seen in the heat on their feet for hours, they would sing and smile, never complaining waiting to be seen – not like here in the UK. It was like being part of a large family."

Frances says that if anyone is considering volunteering on board the Africa



Mercy, then “it would be a life-changing experience that would remain with you for the rest of one’s life”.

Meanwhile, Mercy Ships UK chief executive officer Joanne Balaam says:

“We are so incredibly grateful for the astounding effort and impact Frances has had on fundraising and spreading the word of Mercy Ships from her first-hand experiences. Every talk that Frances has given has inspired remarkable donations as she travelled over eight counties to deliver them.

“Her talks have helped make a vital difference to countries in West and Central Africa through ensuring surgery to those who need it most and delivering ongoing training and expertise to local medics to guarantee a lasting legacy.”

Frances is retiring from the Mercy Ships network, but she has some advice for anyone who would like to support Mercy Ships.

“They could possibly bring it to the attention of family members, or friends who may wish to serve on the ship. There are many roles from doctors, nurses, technicians, teachers, people with computer expertise, hospitality etc.

“There is a network of speakers in place who would be willing to give a talk. I personally believe it helps if the speaker has served on the ship and is able to include in their talk their own experience and photos in addition to Mercy Ships information.”

They have attended the Church of St Annes at Westby for the past thirty-nine years. *Article courtesy of Catena*

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Celebratory Mass

Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of St Mary's Church in Cleator

On Thursday 23 June 2022 St Mary's Church in Cleator celebrated its 150th Anniversary. Around some nine months earlier, the Parish Priest of St Mary's, Fr G Paul Johnstone pulled together a small team of parishioners to start planning almost a year long event calendar in order for the Parish and wider community to come together to celebrate this unique occasion.

The celebrations got off to a great start when St Mary's was gifted a striking art work by Conrad Atkinson creator, conceptual artist and sculptor, who was born and bred on Cleator Moor. The work, entitled "Vincent's ear uncovered and Jesus euphonious wounds" is a tapestry, sewn in gold and crimson thread. The piece had recently been on display at the Royal Academy in London. It was previously exhibited in the Metropolitan Museum in New York and other galleries in the City. It is a very fine example of Conrad's work and is now on permanent display in our Parish Rooms. Conrad explained the concept of the art work saying, "the idea came to him when viewing two paintings in a gallery, one was a religious painting of Christ on the cross, with his bleeding wounds and next to it, was the self-portrait by Van Gogh with his bleeding missing left ear". The result is a magnificent tapestry.

Around the same time, local artists work were being put on display at St Mary's this time, during an Art Exhibition. Comprising a compilation of exhibits from 15 local and talented artists and children from our three catholic schools, St Patrick's and St Joseph's primary schools and St Benedict's High School. The venue for the exhibition was St Mary's Parish Rooms at Cleator, moving to St Joseph's Hall at Frizington. The majority of the exhibits were drawings and paintings and there were also a number of papier mache sculptures by the infant schools pupils. One professional local artist Craig Hamilton also exhibited some of his work. The exhibition over the two venues lasted a total of eight days and was attended by around 400 people.

In order to finance the many events which were planned for celebrations, it was decided that a quick and effective way of fundraising was to hold a series of sponsored walks. They were entitled "Sponsored Heritage trails" and they involved walking through the many cycle paths which criss-cross through and around our local town of Cleator Moor. The town has a fascinating history of mining and quarrying and the whole area was once the source of iron-ore

extraction which was used, in part, to supply the steel industry during the "Industrial Revolution". Two such sponsored Heritage trails were held, in Winter 2021 and Summer 2022 with a total of over £2,200 being raised.

Inspired by recent national initiatives to plant more trees, including the Queen's Green Canopy and the National Trust's "Blossom Together" it was decided to plant a memorial avenue of trees in the cemetery, not only to coincide with the 150th Anniversary celebrations, but also to mark two years since the first lock down. Influenced by the latter, it was to be a memorial to those who had died from Covid. However due to popular demand people were able to purchase more trees in memory of those who had died at other times. A total of 37 trees, all varieties of cherry blossom were planted by a small team of volunteers on two mornings in late March.

Meanwhile, our Church Historian, Patrick O'Kane was busy producing a book, entitled "A New History of St Mary's Church in Cleator". The history looks at the origins and foundation of the Parish and reflects on the tireless energy and dedication of its founder Fr William Gregory Holden OSB. It considers


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Mass Listings – October 2022

St. Margaret Mary, Sclegate Road, Carlisle
 Saturdays at 10.00 am
Sung Mass for Holy Souls:
 Saturday 1st October at 10.00 am

Shrine Church of St Walburge, Preston
 Mondays – Fridays: 8.30 am, Low Mass
Wednesday & Saturday: 12 noon, Low Mass*
 Sunday: 10.30 am, Sung Mass; 6.30 pm, Low Mass

Shrine of the English Martyrs, Preston
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 12 noon, Low Mass*
 Sundays: 9.00 am, Low Mass

***Please note changes**
 (Please check the website for Feast Days:
<https://licksp.org.uk/preston/>)

Our Lady & St Michael, Banklands, Workington
 Second Fridays at 7.00 pm
 (Please always check with Canon Watson before
 travelling: 01900 602114)

St Mary's, Main Street, Hornby
 Saturdays at 11.00 am
 (Please check with Fr Docherty before
 travelling: 015242 21246)

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Art Exhibition

the succession of Benedictine Parish Priests and Lancaster Diocesan Parish Priests and their contribution to the Parish. It highlights the Parishes proud record of vocations to the priesthood and professed nuns and more recently permanent deacons.

This brief snapshot of the Parish history highlights the dedication over the years of the various clergy who have served Cleator. It reflects the strength, faith and love shown by parishioners for the Church and its clergy (*copies available from St Mary's Church Parish Office priced £10 excluding postage and packing*).

To complement this history, an exhibition of photographs collected by Patrick over the years and of the Parish was put on display. The exhibition covered the birth of the Parish and its first Church dedicated to St Bega, it followed the development and expansion of the Parish and it also showed the the building of the present Church dedicated to Our Lady, the focus of our celebrations. The building of the Grotto and the changes to its appearance over the years, along with the building of "Calvary" and St Theresa's shrine were also illustrated, along with the development of the Parish schools, their staff members and pupils. It also



Fr Paul at Flower Festival


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Heritage Trail (Sponsored Walk)

looked at the activities that schools took part in, along with the various Parish organisations established throughout its history.

Simultaneously work was underway to create the Church's first ever flower festival, (previously featured in the July edition of *The Catholic Voice*).

Our Lent course this year was titled "*Belong and Believe, how our Celtic past can help us today*". It was part of the excellent Catholic Faith Exploration video courses and was our first Parish course since the lifting of the pandemic restrictions. Each session had a short film input followed by a discussion, refreshments and prayer. The topics covered were: building welcoming communities, growing in faith together, renewed in the Holy Spirit, caring for God's creation and evangelising with Love and Action.

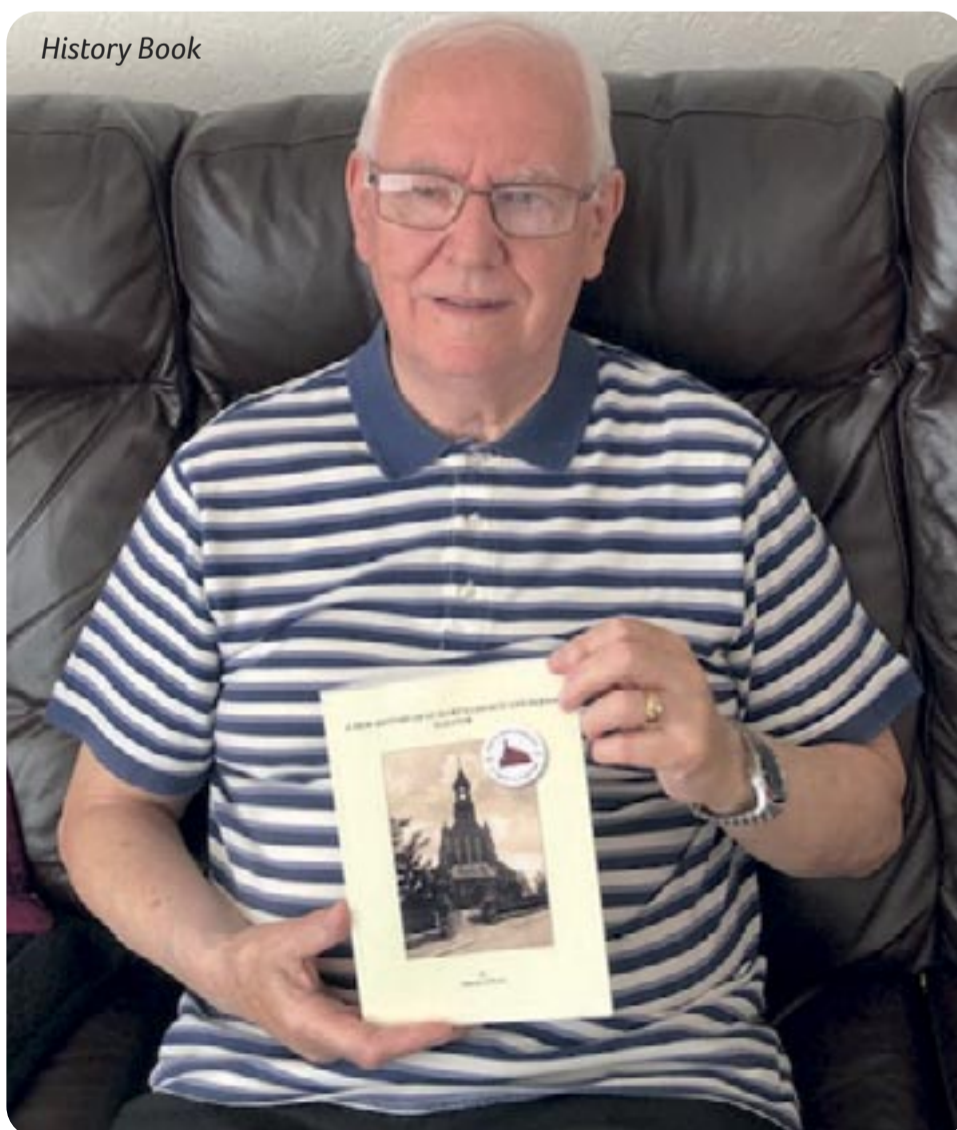
In May we had a Day of Recollection. The subject of the day was *Lectio Divina*. The day was led by Fr Leo Maidlow Davis OSB. Dom Leo is the author of the book "*Pathways to Lectio Divina*". *Lectio Divina* is an ancient practice - spending time, in silence and with gentle sharing, with words of scripture. It was important to us in this year celebrating the beginnings of St Mary's to explore spiritual things springing from the monastic tradition; to celebrate and honour the Benedictine monks who founded the Parish and built the Church.

The main celebration and the focus of all our events was the 150th anniversary Mass, held on Thursday 23 June 2022, 150 years to the day since St Mary's Church was opened. The Mass was attended by around 250 people and was concelebrated by the following priests with links to the Parish: Canon Tim Sullivan, Canon John Watson, Fr

Phillip Connor, Fr Brian Murphy, Rev Dom Richard Simmons OSB, Rev Dom Cenydd Marrison OSB, Fr Paul Dadson, Fr John Mark Augulefo and Fr Andrew Dawson.

Also joining us was Rev Deacon Kina Saunders from the Methodist Church and Rev Dr Duncan Jackson from St Mary and St Michael Anglican Church in Egremont. Bishop Paul had been invited to be the main celebrant and preacher but unfortunately he had to cancel as he had to be at the installation of the Archbishop of Minerva; Fr Paul stepped in as the main celebrant and Canon John Watson, a son of Cleator Moor, gave the homily. Mass was live streamed to allow those who live far and wide from Cleator to join us. Much of the music that was sung had been composed in the Parish, along with a new hymn "*Together In God's House*" which was written by John Thompson, a talented, local musician and song writer with music by Fr Paul. The choir sang "*In Locus Iste*" in plain chant as a remembrance of the Benedictine monks who opened the Parish and had the Church built. The offertory was done by two of our Confirmation candidates and the bidding prayers by our primary school pupils.

In his homily Fr John referred to the establishment of the Parish in Victorian times to serve the growing population of Irish miners with the first Church, dedicated to St Bega, opened in 1853, followed by the present, much larger Church in 1872. He talked of the generations of people and priests whose love, commitment and energy built the Parish over the decades, saying; "*I mention all of this because, they and the generations that followed, were what St Peter, in his first letter to the early Christians, called "living stones" that form the church. He writes, "You are like living stones being built into a spiritual house; a holy priesthood offering spiritual sacrifices*



History Book



Social Event



Conrad Atkinson Picture

to God". The physical stones of the church shelter the spiritual stones that form the Parish. You and I are part of that reality, the description fits us. Through Baptism we form the local Catholic community and this evening we are gathered together within the walls that our forbearers raised to make a spiritual house and home for God and for us". He finished his homily with this prayer:

"Lord, thank you for this Parish, for the beautiful Church raised here by your living stones. For that great cloud of parishioners and priests who have brought about this day! Send Your blessing on this Parish so that it may carry forward this torch of faith. Amen".

After the Mass priests and people were able to renew friendships and acquaintances, with refreshments offered afterwards in the Parish Rooms for invited guests.

A few days later, a concert was held with the Whitehaven Male Voice Choir and starring Joan Rodgers CBE, a Cleator Moor born international opera singer. Joan was accompanied by Julia Cobby and sang a selection of some of her favourite pieces. It was a very moving experience hearing Joan sing in the Church which she was so used to doing when she was a teenager, having sung at many peoples weddings in the early 1970's, with it being especially poignant for one of our parishioners Mr & Mrs Sean Close who were married in the Church in 1972 and celebrated their Golden Wedding at this time. Undoubtedly the highlight of the evening for the parishioners was when the choir along with Joan sang "And forevermore", words from a Celtic prayer, with music by our very own Fr Paul. The Whitehaven Male Voice Choir were outstanding with their eclectic selection of songs, from "There is nothing like a Dame" by

Rogers and Hammerstein, to "Bohemian Rhapsody", written by Freddie Mercury. The whole evening was a mesmerising experience, with the wonderful music. The acoustics provided by the vaulted ceiling of our beautiful E W Pugin designed Church made it even more special.

The celebrations were drawn to a short pause during the summer with an informal celebratory evening where the Parish and local community came together to celebrate with joy, the anniversary, informally this time, with good food, great music and dance and a joyous occasion was had by all.

As we reflect on the events thus far, it is apt to firstly think of the words from a homily spoken by a visiting missionary priest, who recently preached at Cleator, Rev Fr Mattheus Odaudu (*The Spiritans*).

In Fr Mattheus homily he said that "as Christians, as Catholics, we have to understand that we are labourers in the House of God he went and on to thank everyone for their faith in God". These words are so apt especially during this time of celebration, when we contemplate, as a Parish all the gifts that God has brought us, the skills and talents of others put to good use and who have so generously given their time for the love of God and this Church. We can, also, without doubt say that we have truly in word and in deed been "Together in God's house, all coming together to praise the Lord and his Light." So Fr Paul and John's hymn has never been more appropriate and has embodied all that is good as we mark this great occasion.

The celebratory year draws to a close with a Mass and specially created 2,000 candle labyrinth in November 2022.

Julia McClelland



Social Event

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Invitation to Pray

UK Prays is a lay-led initiative of public prayer, part of a worldwide movement to pray the Holy Rosary in public for our countries: for our people, our rulers and for the kingship of our Lord Jesus Christ. In our Diocese a group of faithful meets at Preston Flag Market every Sunday between 4:30 and 5pm to pray the Rosary for these intentions.

Please join us and help us fill the Flag Market with Catholics bearing witness to our Faith! If you live far from Preston, why not take part in your own town or village? To get started it only takes one person to commit to half an hour's public prayer each week. To find out more, contact info@ukprays.org or follow us on Telegram at t.me/UKPrays or Twitter at [@UK_Prays](https://twitter.com/UK_Prays).

Call to help feed hungry children with Mary's Meals

School feeding charity Mary's Meals is appealing for volunteers

Our Diocese can help to feed hungry children living in the world's poorest countries by becoming a Mary's Meals volunteer.

The charity, which feeds more than two million children every school day, is looking for volunteers to help raise awareness of its work in the local community. This could include giving talks in schools and churches; holding screening events for Mary's Meals' inspiring films; or helping to organise fundraising events.

Fran Lawson, Supporter Engagement Officer at Mary's Meals, said: "We simply couldn't feed two million children every school day without our wonderful volunteers. They are at the very heart of our work. We would love to welcome more volunteers from across the Lancaster diocese into our Mary's Meals family, so that we can keep reaching the little ones who rely on our life-changing meals. We have lots of exciting opportunities and provide training and support throughout. Volunteering with Mary's Meals is completely flexible and can fit around whatever free time you may have – even if you are only able to help out a couple of times a year, that would be a huge help! It's also a great way to meet new people and develop new skills!"

The charity is particularly keen to recruit volunteers to help with parish visits throughout the North of England region. Mary's Meals serves a daily meal to

children every school day in 20 of the world's poorest countries, including Ethiopia, Haiti, Malawi, Liberia, South Sudan, Zambia and Yemen. The promise of a nutritious meal attracts hungry children into the classroom, where they can gain an education and hope for a brighter future.

The charity's work is only possible because of many dedicated volunteers across the globe – from the people in the UK who raise awareness, to those who cook Mary's Meals for the children in their community.

Giving of your time to volunteer with Mary's Meals means you will be helping children such as Bertha, 11, who loves learning. The nutritious mug of porridge she receives at her school in Zambia allows her to concentrate in class and work towards her dream of becoming a teacher.

Bertha says: "I get to school at 9am and wait for the porridge. I love going to school because this is where I'm learning how to read and write."

"I admire my teachers so when I grow up and finish school, I would like to become a teacher."

For more information about volunteering with Mary's Meals, please visit marysmeals.org.uk/volunteer or freephone 0800 698 1212. You can also email fran.lawson@marysmeals.org

About Mary's Meals:

- Mary's Meals started its school feeding programme in two schools in Malawi at the end of 2002, serving around 200 children with daily meals while they learned.
- Mary's Meals is a simple idea that works. The charity provides one daily meal in a place of learning in order to attract chronically poor children into the classroom, where they receive an education that can, in the future, be their ladder out of poverty.
- Mary's Meals feeds hungry children every school day in 20 countries including Yemen, Malawi, Liberia, Kenya, Zambia, Haiti, India, Syria, Lebanon, Ethiopia, Thailand, Myanmar, Uganda, South Sudan, Niger, Madagascar, Zimbabwe, Benin, Ecuador, and Romania.
- The average global cost to feed a child with Mary's Meals for a whole school year is just £15.90.
- Mary's Meals is committed to spending at least 93% of donations directly on its charitable activities. This is only possible because most of the charity's work is done by an army of dedicated volunteers – including more than 80,000 in Malawi alone.
- Please visit marysmeals.org.uk to find out more.

Bertha, 11, enjoys Mary's Meals at school in Zambia.



20th Anniversary of involvement in Interfaith

A celebration was held in Milnthorpe Presbytery to mark the 20th anniversary of Monsignor Francis Slattery's involvement in interfaith.

The then Bishop of Lancaster Rt Rev Patrick O'Donoghue invited BGKT Buddhist Group of Kendal (*Theravada*) to organize a day in Kendal for him to meet people from various faiths and organizations in Kendal in 2002. Monsignor Slattery was the link person. The 20th anniversary celebration included discussion of Mindfulness and Christian Spirituality: Making Space for God, by Tim Stead. (SPCK), 2016 ISBN 978-0-07486-0. It is possible that he is the oldest person (at 93) to run events in WIHW World Interfaith Harmony Week (first week in February) and Inter Faith Week (November). *Jacquetta Gomes*



The **Catholic VOICE** would like to hear from you!

If your parish or school has any news or if you would personally like to submit an article for publication please, please send us what you have. Contact details can be found on page 2.

My name is Eva Breau. Please allow me this personal and direct introduction as the recently appointed House Manager at St Winefride's House in Blackpool, which hopefully you recognise as the long standing happy place of residence for priests, mostly retired from parish responsibilities, albeit remaining very much engaged with their brotherhood community and parishioners throughout the diocese.

It is a great honour for me to write about our resident Fr John Walsh Ruby Anniversary. Celebrations took place in June with grateful and joyful Masses of Thanksgiving, followed by tea and cake to mark the occasion.



Silver Jubilee

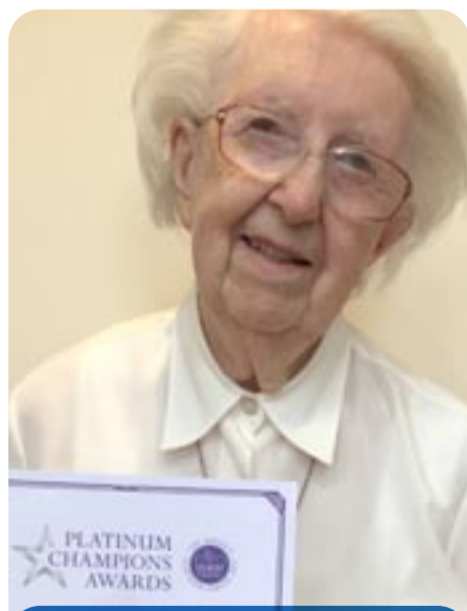
Mass was celebrated for the Silver Jubilee of Fr Andrew Broster, Parish Priest of the Holy Cross in Kirkham and Wesham. At the end of Mass there was a special presentation of a Papal Blessing and a social event in the Willows Club in Kirkham. *Chris Massey*

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Award for Volunteer Services

Sister Anne Goodman, Daughter of Wisdom aged 95, received the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Award for her volunteer services as an assistant to the Chaplain at the Royal Preston Hospital and for her faithful presence and work in St Clare's Church, Preston.

This follows her recent retirement when she was thanked and praised by staff, volunteers and chaplains for her outstanding dedication and service for the last 24 years at the hospital and in the parish. She is now living in the Daughters of Wisdom assisted living complex in Abbey House, Romsey. She continues to use her artistic talents in card making.

Sister Anne was born in the northeast. She was a speech and drama teacher at La Sagesse convent high school in Liverpool and then taught for three years in primary. On retirement she went to live in Preston and eventually found her feet as a volunteer assistant to the chaplain at Preston Royal where she was greatly appreciated. "I had no medical experience when I came to Royal Preston – I learned it all from scratch. I came here as a volunteer beginning at the bottom. I have worked with some wonderful people here and they are all so dedicated, and the staff on the wards are too." *Sr Marie Turner*



"I recognise Baptismal Commitment as a call to radical Christian discipleship and stewardship of all created reality."
Sister Anne Goodman



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Be Comfortable with Silence

I don't get moved by statues or statue scenes very often but whilst sat in church I couldn't help staring at the scene below. I have seen this depiction many times but I have not noticed the lily, a sign of martyrdom, before.

There are two other things that caught my attention. There is a rope that binds our Lord's hands together. The other end of the rope is held by a Roman soldier.

Jesus' hands are tied he cannot move them. He is forced into this situation but in a short space of time his hands will be free to do what he wants to do and that is save us.

How often do we find our hands tied by other people, they may have some sort of power over us and we are not free to do what we want. How often do we tie our own hands by what we say or do? We fear the accusation of hypocrite or turncoat or traitor more than doing something right.

Do we tie the hands of other people? Jesus, with his hands outstretched showed how much he loves us and set us free. What does it take for us to untie our hands or the hands of others?

The other thought is sound of silence. During his trial there were times when Jesus was silent. He wasn't being belligerent or awkward. His silence spoke volumes which Pilate could not cope with.

There are times when we need to be silent so that we can hear. Silence allows us to think, contemplate or reflect. Our silence may be taken the wrong way. We may feel uncomfortable with it. We may think that God is being silent, especially when we have prayed. It's not God who is silent it is our noise that drowns him out.

Be comfortable with silence especially with loved ones and God.

Deacon Chris Barwise



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