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The Catholic VOICE of Lancaster



The Official Newspaper to the Diocese of Lancaster

Issue 311 + July '19

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p10 Wyre has a new Mayor



A Momentous Day in the Life of Our Diocese



On Saturday 6 July Rev Deacon Stephen Talbutt will be ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Paul Swarbrick.

He will be the only ordination to the priesthood in our Diocese this year and the first since ordination to the priesthood since 2017. Please pray for him and for all our priests. And pray too that more young men will discern a vocation to serve in the Lord's vineyard.

Lord of the Harvest,
Bless young people with the gift of courage to respond to your call. Open their hearts to great ideals, to great things.

Inspire all of your disciples to mutual love and giving — for vocations blossom in the good soil of faithful people.

Instil those in religious life, parish ministries, and families with the confidence and grace to invite others to embrace the bold and noble path of a life consecrated to you.

Unite us to Jesus through prayer and sacrament, so that we may cooperate with you in building your reign of mercy and truth, of justice and peace. Amen.
— Pope Francis



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of Lancaster



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EDITORIAL

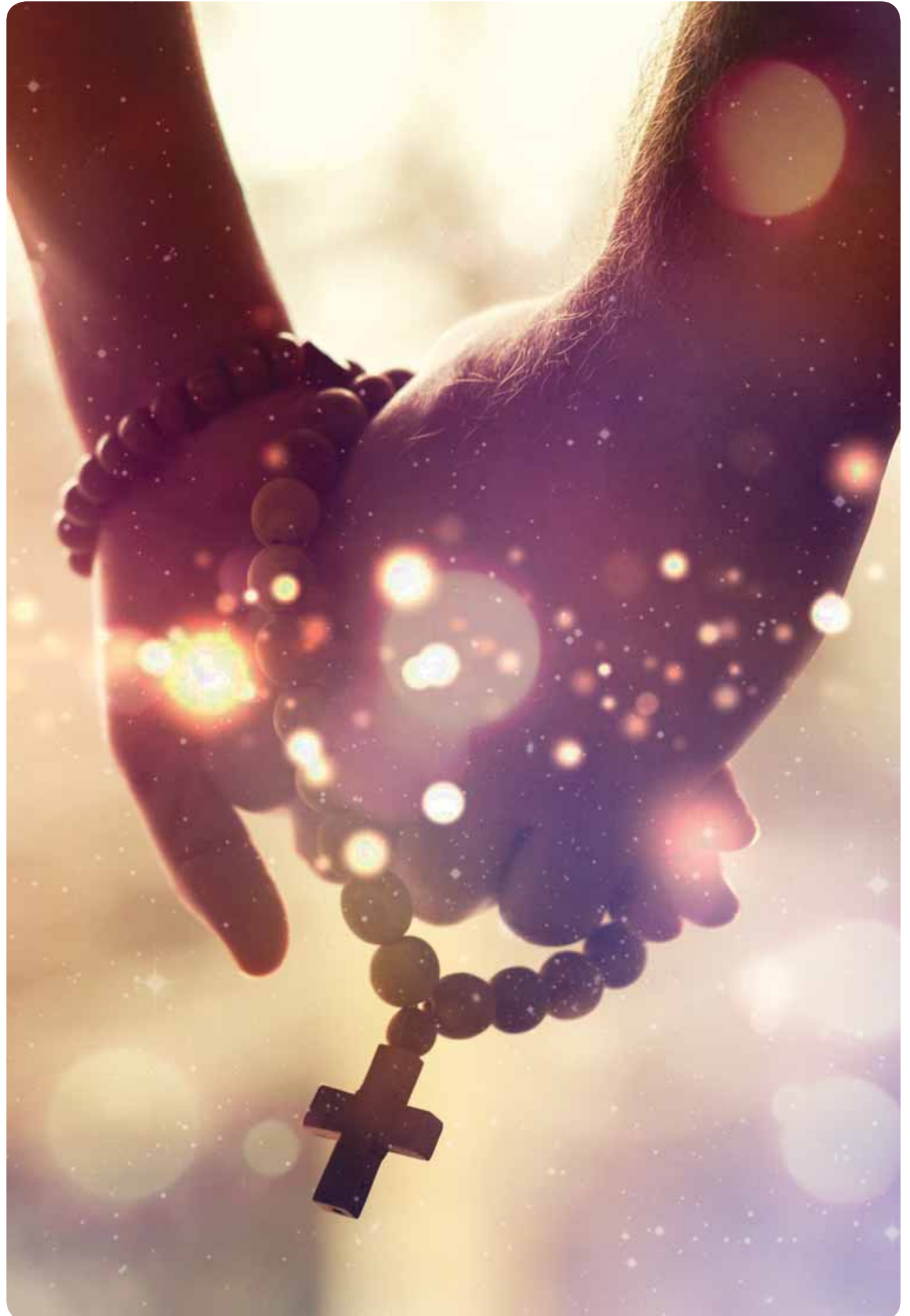
All over the world Christianity is coming under threat. People are being persecuted and even killed for their faith. Thank God that we do not face such mental and physical atrocities in our own country but we do face a creeping secularisation that is pushing Christianity into the margins of our society.

The Good News is that Jesus promised to be with us 'to the end of time', and He will always be here for His Church. The first apostles learnt this lesson when they panicked in the waves whilst out in their fishing boat. Jesus did not leave them - He got them back on course to go out and preach the Good News. The lesson here for us is stay close to Jesus. Without Him in our lives we are in danger of panicking and making wrong decisions or thinking that we know best. There is only one way to reverse

the current trend of Christianity bashing and that is to respond as Jesus would, through love and patience. Our whole existence should be an example of these virtues so that others may come to know the love of God in their lives.

As we enjoy, hopefully, the long warm summer days which offer a period of rest and refreshment the **Catholic Voice** encourages you to find some time to read the Gospels and deepen your knowledge of Jesus so that we can become the 21st century witnesses to our needy world.

The **Catholic Voice** also asks for your prayers for Rev Deacon Stephen Talbutt who will be ordained priest for our diocese by Bishop Paul Swarbrick on 6 July in the Cathedral at Lancaster. A momentous day and one that we should all rejoice in.





May Procession



Young people took part in a May Procession at St. Wulstan's, Fleetwood, in honour of Our Lady. Mrs Annie Benson one of the children's liturgy leaders thought it would be a good idea to take some photographs.

"From my position in the choir I was pleased to be able to observe the event, so I happily obliged and am therefore sending these pictures to you which show how proud we are of our young people and how lovely they looked on Sunday 19th May 2019."

Mrs. Sarah Wade

Bring Flowers of the Rarest Hymn Refrain

**O Mary we crown thee
with blossoms today!
Queen of the Angels
and Queen of the May.
O Mary we crown thee
with blossoms today,
Queen of the Angels
and Queen of the May.**

**Bring flowers of the rarest
bring blossoms the fairest,
from garden and woodland
and hillside and dale;
our full hearts are swelling,
our glad voices telling
the praise of the loveliest flower
of the vale!**

Refrain

**Their lady they name thee,
Their mistress proclaim thee,
Ah, grant that thy children on
earth be as true
as long as the bowers
are radiant with flowers,
as long as the azure shall keep
its bright hue**

Refrain

**Sing gaily in chorus;
the bright angels o'er us
re-echo the strains
we begin upon earth;
their harps are repeating
the notes of our greeting,
for Mary herself is the cause
of our mirth**

Refrain



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Face to Face Meaning and Purpose for this Generation Heart to Heart

Youth at the Manor

www.castleriggmanor.co.uk

Over 50 Years Service to Youth

Family Weekend

Over the bank holiday weekend at the end of May Castlerigg opened its doors to a wider range of guests than usual. Our annual family weekend saw half a dozen families gather to share a very varied weekend and get to know each other.

As we gathered on the Friday evening we took time to get to know each other – some had been before but there were many new faces too. We shared a meal together, chased around for a photo scavenger hunt and then calmed down again with night prayer in the Chapel.

Saturday provided opportunities for the families to spend time together, and other times for everyone to break off into adult and young people's sections. The adults enjoyed the chance of sharing their thoughts over a cup of tea whilst the younger participants engaged in a question and answer session with the gap-year team.

Sunday, as always, was all about the Mass. We took time to prepare for Mass together, reflecting on the readings and learning new songs before gathering in the chapel one last time to celebrate together.

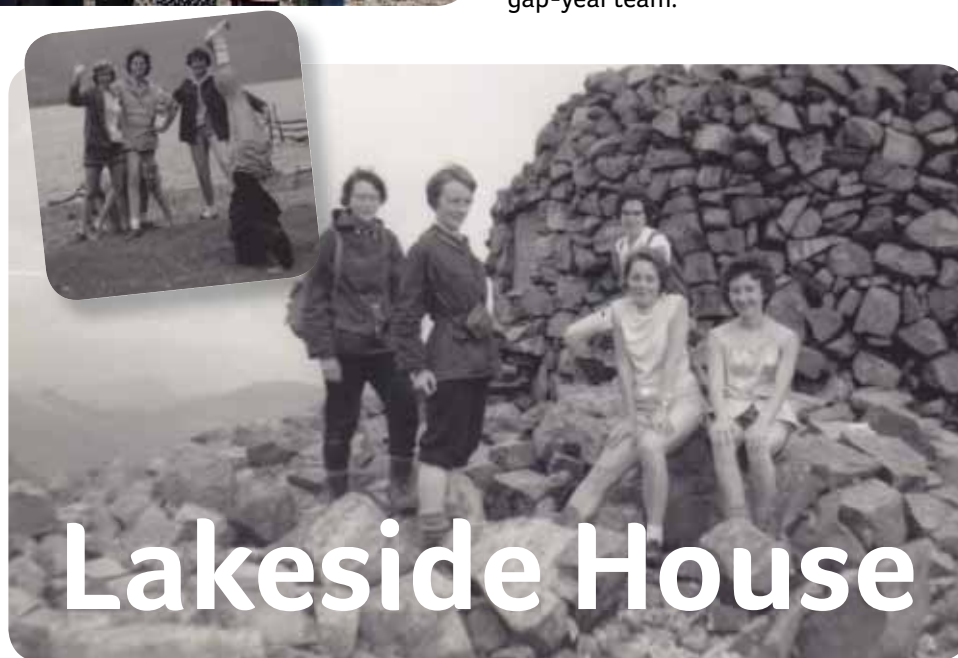
The weekend was a great experience for all, with families spending time away together and young and old making new friends. We will all be back next year, and look forward to welcoming others to join us.



In 1958 my friends and I stayed at Lakeside House. We all attended Holt Hill Convent F.C.J. Birkenhead, no longer standing.

We had just finished our O levels and we're feeling very light hearted. In those days there was a raft on Derwent Water which we could swim out to and we were taken on several walks, one of which was to climb Scafell. I was the only one to reach the top as my friends got cold feet half way up. We kept in touch with friends we had met but as we left school and made our way in the world the friendships didn't last, I even lost touch with my school friends but will always remember our holiday at Lakeside.

Jan O'Neill (nee Robertson)



Castlerigg is a big building with a lot of character, and there always seems to be something that needs doing to the building.

Recently we have refitted one of the bedrooms, improving the insulation and the electrics. On a bigger scale, we have refurbished our conference room – this was added on to the Manor in 1979 and, although it stood the test of time well, the time has come for a face-lift. A new ceiling, carpet and lights, and a redecoration have made it a much brighter space for meetings and gatherings, and the room is available to hire for business, local and church groups.



Dates for the Diary

7th July – Barbeque

To celebrate our fiftieth anniversary Bishop Paul is joining us for a barbeque at Castlerigg Manor on Sunday 7th July. We hope that as many people as possible will join us, whether you are a keen supporter, have memories of a retreat here, last year or fifty years ago, or maybe are still looking forward to coming. Everyone is welcome and, although donations would be appreciated, there is no charge – we just ask that you let us know you are coming: email team@castleriggmanor.co.uk or phone **017687 72711**.

25th July – 3rd August – Lourdes

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+, £585. Bookings are also open for the main (adult) section of the pilgrimage, and we are looking for adults to work with the Youth Section.

22nd-25th August – Youth 2000

Walsingham Festival by Diocesan Coach

The team are going to Youth 2000's summer festival. Last year we had a great time, and this year we've booked a coach so that you can come with us. We'll pick-up (and drop-off) at a few locations in the diocese. Under 16s must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. 16-17 year olds require parental consent.

6th-8th September - The Big Walk

Every year, young people come together at Castlerigg and we walk across the Lake District to join the diocesan pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady at Cleator. As well as spectacular views and wild landscapes, the event is a great opportunity to make new friends and to triumph over a physical challenge. The walk is about 10 miles each day. Age 16+.

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

www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/new-events/

Holy Family Crusaders Youth Club at the Manor

In August 1990 my late Mother and I took 10 young people for a long weekend to Castlerigg Manor from Barrow in Furness.

We spent a relaxed weekend in Keswick, enjoying the tennis and mini-golf in the park, pencil factory museum, car museum and relaxing at the manor. We celebrated Mass on the Sunday, and later we went sailing on Derwent Water. All in all we had a very enjoyable time. The children that went were getting

ready for St Bernard's Senior School.

A couple of years later (May 1992) we came back with nine children for a Diocesan Day of celebration.

There were many activities including football, face painting, glass engraving, mask making, a treasure hunt, and our boys got the semi-final in the 5-a side football. The day ended with open air Mass.

Ms Barbara M Grisdale (Former Youth Leader)



Fifty Years at Castlerigg

2019 is the 50th anniversary of the Youth Service moving to Castlerigg Manor, and for the rest of the year we hope to include in this page your memories and pictures of Castlerigg (or its predecessor, Lakeside House). More will be posted on our website: www.castleriggmanor.co.uk

If you came to Castlerigg as a young person whether in 1969, 2019 or any of the intervening years, we'd be delighted to hear from you. What do you remember of the experience and how has it touched your life? Please get in touch at team@castleriggmanor.co.uk

Support our Work

Please help us to continue the work of the Youth Service. If you feel you might be able to help in any way please get in touch. If you are able to make a donation this would be greatly appreciated: www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/donate And most importantly, please keep us in your prayers.



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CAFOD Step into the Gap Volunteer visits Diocesan schools

Sharon Weerasuriya, who is 20 and based at Castlerigg Manor, has been touring infant, primary and secondary schools across the Diocese, including West Cumbria and Lancaster, and holding educational workshops to teach young people about refugees and the challenges they face.

Sharon visited the Holy Land in early 2019, where she met with young volunteers – supported by CAFOD partners – who were uniting to break down stereotypes between the Jewish and Palestinian communities in Israel who are influenced by civil inequalities and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. While there, she noticed similarities between their lives and realised that, even though their situations were very different, the young people she met had similar motivations which led them to volunteering. Like her, they wanted to have a positive impact on society and help other young people to realise their potential.

After her overseas visit, Sharon was left feeling inspired by the power young people can have. She said: *“Seeing how CAFOD’s support can make a change in these young people’s lives has inspired me. The experience has taught me that despite the challenges we face from society or any other restrictions, if young people have the will, commitment and positive mind-set social change through partnership can be brought about.”*

“This is why I’ve enjoyed travelling around the Diocese of Lancaster and empowering young people by teaching them about global issues.”

Deacon Stephen Scott, Chair of

Governors at St Beghs Catholic Junior School who helped support CAFOD in organising the visits, added: *“This was an excellent opportunity for Sharon from CAFOD to share her experiences with our young people and how CAFOD are collaborating with schools in the work that it does.”*

Sharon will be taking a week to away from her work at Castlerigg, Keswick, at the beginning of June to visit more schools throughout the diocese.

Step into the Gap

CAFOD believes in equipping and inspiring young adult leaders to be able to contribute to a more just and peaceful world.

In partnership with our UK placements we offer opportunities for 18-30 year olds to gain experience, develop leadership skills and spend a year in the service of others. This allows them to inspire a generation of people to act for the poorest and most marginalised.


Apply for 2019


Why not do your Catholic Gap year with CAFOD? Applications for September 2019 are now open. By being in a retreat centre, university chaplaincy or school chaplaincy you can volunteer as part of a programme which works alongside the Catholic community and others to bring about a more just world. This programme includes a visit to CAFOD partners and the communities we work with overseas.

Applications are now open for CAFOD’s funded gap year programme, which includes a trip to see the agency’s overseas work. Find out more by visiting: cafod.org.uk/gapyear

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Pope Francis gives support to Day for Life June 2019

The Catholic bishops of England and Wales, Ireland and Scotland agreed that the theme for Day for Life on 16 June 2019 would tackle the shocking reality of domestic abuse.

One in four women and about one in six men suffer from domestic abuse in their lifetime. Two women are killed every week in England by a partner or ex-partner.

Bishop John Sherrington, the bishop responsible for Day for Life in England and Wales, said:

'These shocking statistics call us to fight against the scourge of domestic abuse. For those who are experiencing domestic

abuse, the home is far from being a place of security and self-fulfilment. Too often it is a place of suffering, fear, degradation and isolation. Domestic abuse is often a hidden problem, and our aim is for anyone experiencing domestic abuse to feel able to have confidence to seek help within the Church setting. We want to raise awareness in our churches which would be a step towards addressing this serious moral and social problem.'

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness Pope Francis sent the following message of support: *'His Holiness Pope Francis sends his cordial best wishes to all those celebrating the 2019 Day for Life being held in England and Wales, Scotland and*

Ireland. As they consider the theme of the Scourge of Domestic Abuse, and in particular the shameful ill-treatment to which women are sometimes subjected (cf Amoris Laetitia, 54), His Holiness prays that their efforts to support the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters will bear much fruit and contribute to a growing commitment to fight against all form of exploitation.'

The responsibility to share the good news that every human life is beautiful and sacred is a noble calling, and the Holy Father offers his encouragement to all who strive to promote a culture of life, gladly imparting his Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of strength and peace in the Lord.'

The good work carried out by the National Board of Catholic Women and other groups is of vital importance.

Day for Life is celebrated yearly by the Catholic Church in Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales. It is a day dedicated to raising awareness about the meaning and value of human life at every stage and in every condition.

More information about Day for Life can be found by visiting:

www.dayforlife.org

Alexander DesForges, Director of News - Bishops' Conference Press secretary to Cardinal Vincent Nichols



We would like to thank these schools for always supporting the paper.

If your school would like to do the same please contact Charlotte on 07932 248225 or 01440 730399 or email charlotter@cathcom.org to book your advert

Education Sunday will take place on Sunday 8th September 2019. It is a day of Celebration for all those involved in Education. It is an opportunity for Schools and Parishes to come together to celebrate and give thanks for all the students, staff and parents who work so hard in and for Catholic Schools. With this in mind we will be celebrating Education Sunday in the Schools section of the September edition of the paper.



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Traversing the Holy Land

with Lisa Vallente-Osborne

Bethlehem

An opportunity to put your hands in the hand of the Man from Galilee, what a fantastic feeling! If waking up in Bethlehem isn't awesome enough we begin our tour bleary eyed. It's time to face the dawn, and the two hour time difference and get going.

Just as John the Baptist announced the arrival of Christ, so he does again, in our time, at the start of our pilgrimage. As we battled the first set of unruly pilgrims (from other countries) the Canticle of Zechariah shone out in its wonder; "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, he has visited His people and redeemed them!" Leaving John's birthplace we walk for a short while up an ancient hillside, surrounded by terraces of olive groves.

Here lies the Church of the Visitation where a newly pregnant Mary and heavily pregnant Elizabeth meet on the hilltop, witnessed by the sheep and shepherds below. Elizabeth filled with the spirit gives us those words so common to our tongue 'Blessed art thou amongst women'. The response is cried out from every inch of this church; the great 'Magnificat'. My soul glorifies the Lord, and this church glorifies creation; her arches, embracing all who enter in that unconditional motherly love, celebrating the bringing forth of new life and the wonder of creation. As it did for John the Baptist, this church also provides sanctuary. Nestled within the lower chapel lies the stone which hid John the Baptist from Herod's deathly decree. This stone worn by the millions of hands transmits the vibrations from every foot that has crossed this threshold.

Next up was the Church of the Nativity and birth place of Christ. Getting to grips with crowds and multinational pilgrims was a constant task of these long tiring days! As we each move forward for the same purpose, conversations began in the queue. Different nationalities held together by the love of Our Lord. In the chaos that is thousands of pilgrims, the place held grace and peace; overseen eagerly by a zealous Orthodox Monk! Descending into the crypt we see the twelve pronged star, to touch and be in the place where Our Lord came into this world! We were each swept up by sheer disbelief that we are here. The awesomeness of this moment was overwhelming as we entered where our God became incarnate and palpable. The wonder and disbelief became real; how did our Creator put so much trust in us (His creation) to give us himself as this tiny helpless babe?

Dinner was spent in the Shepherd's Field. As a group we sat and discussed the day. Many were overwhelmed by their experiences. As we ate, we wondered what the shepherds of these fields 2000 years ago would have eaten. We discussed how far they would be travelling, with their best lambs to arrive at Jerusalem's temple ready for the Passover. Thousands of lambs would have been slaughtered that day. Imagine that! The temple would look less like a temple of our time, and more like a butchers shop! Our table discussions held the same threads of wonder and honour and privilege. This faith we believe is real! It comes alive in physical form in front of

us. Us, mere mortals, being given the opportunity to touch the place of God!

Jerusalem

A new morning brings us to the Wailing Wall at Pesach (Passover) and Sabbath. Here we share a special peaceful moment with the tormented chosen race. Whilst this wall is only the retaining wall of the temple that would have dominated Jerusalem 2000 years ago, it stands tall with stone bricks so large they drown us humans, difficult to climb or to besiege; and steeped with so much history.

For the Jews, this wall is beyond sacred. They believe this wall gives them direct access to God and so will come from all over the world to visit this wall. The wall is treated as a temple and before we approach we are separated into male and female, and given the relevant headwear.

The atmosphere is quiet, prayerful, friendly, inclusive and relaxed. We edge forward and get to stand alongside our fellow sisters holding and praying at the wall. The wall tells the history of its pain. Over 2000 years later and this wall is still weeping!!!! It weeps for all it has witnessed; the rise and fall of its people, their holocausts and suffering, their rejection. It also weeps for the troubled land on which it stands. The wall also tells of hope. Into the tiniest of crevices there are papers, prayers of those who have visited. There is a presence far larger than humanity here and as swifts dance with joy above our heads we leave feeling different and elated. This ancient temple isn't just a holy site for the Jews, but for us Christians too. Here Christ was presented to as a baby; here He got lost and was found teaching and arguing with the priests, here He was condemned.

From the Mount of Olives overlooking the city, we stopped at Pater Noster - the place where Jesus Christ taught the disciples the Our Father before descending down the Palm Sunday and Passion Route. Along this hillside we take in Dominus Fleuit. Here we're told by the Gospels that Jesus wept for Jerusalem; but I'm sure he wept for us all. The view of the city dominated the horizon, the Kidron valley, the city of David. The view reminds us of the endurance of the passion and the lengths Christ went to to free us. Mass was celebrated outside in the garden overlooking the Jerusalem. People passed us, some stopped to sing. Mass outside is always moving and something very special. Jesus wasn't the only one who wept there!

Towards the foot of the mount, as the sounds and smells of the city begin to fill our senses; we arrived at the Garden of Gethsemane. The stillness of this garden echos the peace Jesus sought before he faced his passion ahead. As a child when we feel frightened or low, we turned to our parents for refuge. As adults we turn to those around us whom we love and trust. Here Jesus took his friends, his brothers and sisters in faith to a place of refuge. As we touch the stone where Jesus knelt, where in his anguish he sweated blood, we feel the place where Jesus sought the love and guidance of his father. The All Nations Church was breathtaking! Grace and peace filled the expanse. Here mass was being celebrated in Chinese reminding us



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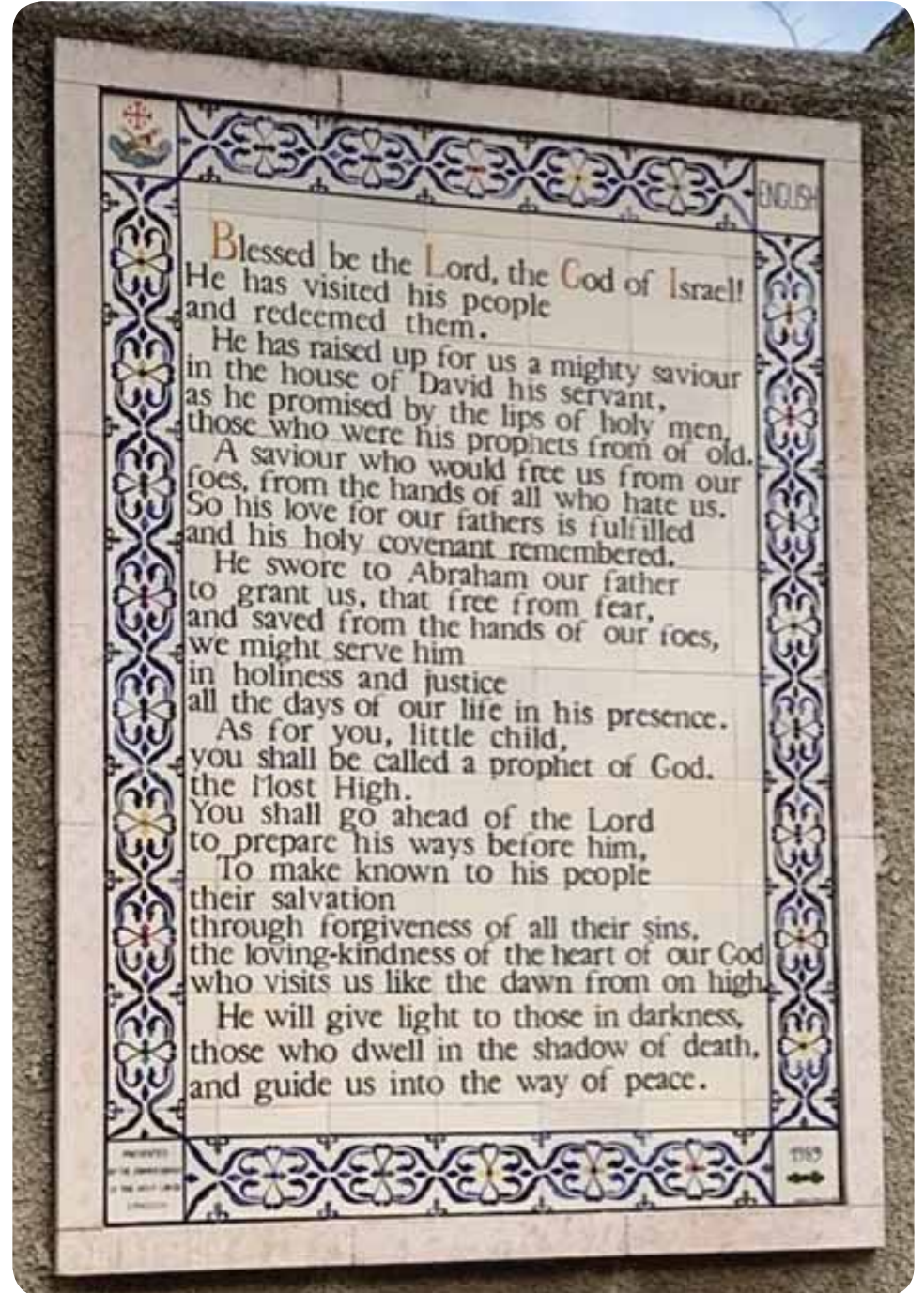
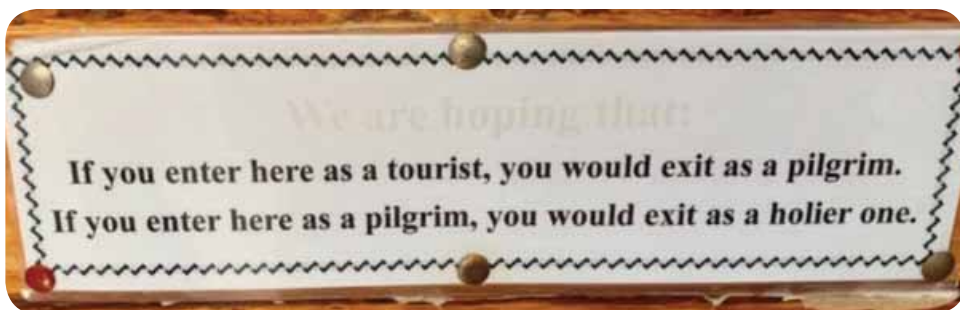
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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



of the multiple faces of Catholicism. Both the church and the garden filled each of us with overwhelming sadness. Here Jesus witnessed the diminishing hope in humanity. Here He lessened himself so God can do more. Here He began his surrender; giving everything over to the Father out of love for us all.

Church of St Peter Gallicantu marks the place of Peter's denial. It is also the site of Caiaphas palace, where Jesus was lowered down through a narrow opening into a stone pit before being lifted out to be beaten. The stone cell was oppressive. Sitting in the corner you could imagine the eeriness of the darkness, the chaos of the mind and pain of the body, exhausted; not knowing when next you are going to be dragged out to be beaten again. Here too was a place commonly used for flogging. Ropes mark the places where arms would have been held, the smooth shiny stone below speaks of hundreds of knees dragging as men were flogged, wiped down with salt water and vinegar, before being flogged again.

We know that Christ received over 120 lashes by the time he was nailed to the cross, bearing more than any human could dare. From this point of exhaustion and dehydration he began his passion walk. His torture was present till the very last breath at the ninth hour. Before his last breath, Jesus endured a walk of shame with his cross through the narrow streets of Jerusalem. He experienced over eighteen hours of vicious torture to save humanity. Sometimes I wonder

if humanity is really worth saving. We followed the Via Dolorosa, ending our stations of the cross at the Holy Sepulchre. This church houses Calvary and the burial place of Christ. Naturally this is the busiest place in the whole of Jerusalem. The jostle to the tomb was hard as not everyone was willing to wait their turn. The Devil certainly was at work here sending people in to jump the queues and push, to make pilgrimages angry. What better way to become disillusioned by Christianity than to see fellow brothers and sister misbehaving in the name of Christ? What better way to try to get us to turn away from the most blessed place of Christianity, the foundation block of our faith. After hours of waiting we were given permission to enter the inner sanctum. Like many other holy places the doorway was tiny. It forces us all to our knees to walk humbly in front of the Lord. Once in the tomb, kneeling in front of it wasn't really an option. Overwhelmed with emotion and elation, you simply fall to you knees. Here is the birth place of Christianity! Us mortals are here in this immortal place of God!

Like all the sites in Jerusalem it was hard to find some space to pray and peace, everywhere was bustling and crowded.

But watching the sheer numbers of pilgrims visiting is a prayer in itself. This is a Holy Land and pilgrims will flock from all four corners of the globe to be here! Editor's note: We will continue this pilgrimage journey in our September edition. *Lisa Vallente-Osborne*



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The Lady Mayor
 & Chief Executive
 Garry Payne.

Wyre has a new Mayor!

The Lady Mayor.

On 10 June Wyre Council welcomed their new Mayor, the first citizen of Wyre, for 2019/20, Councillor Ann Turner. Ann is a parishioner at English Martyrs church in Poulton.

Speaking shortly after her inauguration Ann said:
"I feel it is a great honour and privilege to be given the role of Mayor and will do my utmost alongside my Lady Mayoress, Andrea Kay, and deputies to be active ambassadors for the Borough at every possible opportunity."

Involvement in local government runs through the family veins as both her great grandfather and father were local councillors. Ann has helped with election campaigns for many years and won her seat on the Council in 2007 which she has successfully defended. Ann decided to become a Councillor when she retired as she had more free time and wanted to use it to help local people utilising the skills set that she had honed throughout her career. Whilst a Councillor she has sat on many committees including Planning, Licensing, Councillor

Development and chaired, for several years, Employment and Appeals and vice chaired the Audit committee. Ann enjoys becoming involved and trying to resolve local issues, meeting different community groups and promoting Wyre Borough.

For her year as Mayor Ann has nominated two charities which she will endeavour to raise funds for. These are the Air Ambulance and RSPCA Longview Animal Centre. Ann said that "the Air Ambulance is a service which anyone of us can call upon and its service can literally mean the difference between life and death I have always felt passionately about animal welfare and monies raised will help towards supporting local animal welfare in the community.

Ann was born locally in Wyre and she attended Layton Hill Preparatory School and then Layton Hill Convent. She gained a degree in geography from Leeds University and then taught in an inner city high School in Leeds where she retired from as Assistant Head in 2006. Her family all live in the borough and



The Lady Mayor with friends & family.



The Lady Mayor with her Deputies & Chief Executive.

she has a great support network including a brother-in-law and sister who are her Deputies. She also has four nephews and nieces and three great nephews and nieces.

Ann is really looking forward to her service as Mayor, meeting people from all walks of life, promoting the numerous volunteers involved in the many organisations in Wyre and promoting the opportunities in Wyre Borough for the socially isolated.

Ann said "as Mayor I hope to experience firsthand and participate in the activities of communities experience the community spirit and see the impact Wyre has on the lives of diverse groups of people and the environment. I see the Mayoral role as a great opportunity to promote Wyre Borough as a wonderful place to live." A catholic from birth Ann's faith has always been important to her. She said "I am highly principled with a strongly developed sense of justice and fairness. I believe that with rights comes responsibility and I have felt extraordinarily fortunate and grateful

for the upbringing my parents gave me and for the family I have. My family are a constant source of support and encouragement. But I am well aware that there are vast numbers of people who are socially isolated or victims of circumstance because of their colour, faith or some other form of diversity. I believe strongly in an all inclusive society and will work tirelessly to ensure everyone I come into contact with feels valued as indeed they should. The unique opportunity I have now as First Citizen of the Borough will give me a platform me to do this in a more obvious way."

A Civic Mass was celebrated at English Martyrs by Fr John Walsh. The Mass was very well attended with parishioners, friends, fellow councillors, aldermen and visiting mayors attending. Away from the Council Ann's interests include spending time with the family, especially the youngsters, world travel, especially to less well known places, and continuing her interest in education by sitting on the Lancashire and Blackpool Appeals Panels and serving as a Governor at Cardinal Allen High School, Fleetwood, as well as supporting animal welfare.


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Photos : 'Courtesy of Bishop's Blog'



VOCATION SPOTLIGHT

Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest

"And he said to them: The harvest indeed is great, but the labourers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he send labourers into his harvest" (Saint Luke 10:2).

Since 2014, first at the invitation of Bishop Campbell, and now under the spiritual fatherhood of Bishop Swarbrick, the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest has had the grace to exercise its ministry in the Diocese of Lancaster. We now provide the Mass and Sacraments at the Church of St Walburge and English Martyrs' in Preston and have also established a small convent of sisters, St. Augustine's.

Certainly, the most striking feature of our spiritual life is the use of the "Extraordinary Form" of the Roman Liturgy, or Latin Mass. While some might be tempted to think this liturgy would only appeal to those who remember it from before the Council, it has in fact proved a wonderful tool of evangelisation for the youth as well. In these times marked by continuous noise and the frenetic pursuit of all that is new, the liturgy opens a window for people of all ages on to that which is timeless, as well as the possibility of finding God through silence and beauty.

Our vocation is no less marked by our emphasis on community life and on the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales, known as the Doctor of Charity. This spirituality, presented especially in St. Francis' Introduction to the Devout Life, seeks to make the practice of the love of God and neighbour accessible to all people in all states of life. Not everyone is called to travel the world preaching the Gospel or to perform miracles, but each and every one of us has a cross to bear in life and work to accomplish for the Kingdom of God.

Thanks be to God, we are receiving new labourers for the reign of Jesus Christ: our international seminary in Florence, Italy

is filled by some 80 young men and our sisters continue to receive several new postulants each year. Certainly, this is the result of God's grace and continual prayer.

In each of our apostolates throughout the world, we attempt to live this vocation to prayer while maintaining an active ministry. This is why, for example, we keep our churches in Preston open everyday in order that the house of God may be a "house of prayer" (St. Matthew 21:13). Likewise, in addition to the Mass, we sing publicly the offices of Lauds, Vespers, and Compline (*the morning and evening prayers*). These offices extend the graces of Holy Mass to all hours and sanctify them through the recitation of the Psalms and Spiritual Canticles of the Bible. We are fortunate to have our Sister Adorers there to add their voices to the Divine Worship and, hopefully, if the saying is true, by singing well they pray twice! Finally, but no less importantly, we generally provide an hour of eucharistic adoration and confessions each day.

During the divine praises after benediction of the Blessed Sacrament we close with the urgent petition "O Lord, send us many holy priests and religious vocations!" In our UK province, God has already begun to answer this prayer.

Four young men have already entered the seminary from the UK and we have three more in residence who will be entering soon. Since 2017, the Presbytery of St. Walburge's has also served as a house of discernment for those who are considering entering the seminary.

Enquiries into vocations with the Institute can be made by email preston@icrsp.org
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Servers Annual Mass

Lancaster Cathedral was the location for the Diocesan Altar Servers Mass on the 11th May 2019. About 80 servers from all the different parts of the Diocese met for the Mass, ranging from those who had only served for a few months, up to recipients of the Gold Medal for serving over 50 years.

The Servers are members of the Archconfraternity (Guild) of St Stephen,

which exists to encourage the highest standards of serving at the Church's liturgy, and so contribute to a more fruitful worship of God. The Guild seeks to provide altar servers with a greater understanding of what they are doing, so that they may serve with increasing reverence and prayerfulness.

On a more practical note, the Guild strives to unite servers of different

parishes for their mutual support and encouragement. We were fortunate to have senior members of the Guild up from London, including Michael O'Leary, the Guild President.

Bishop Paul was the Principal Celebrant at the Concelebrated Mass, and preached the Homily encouraging all servers to carry on serving, even when it was difficult to do so. He also asked the young

men present to consider if they had a future vocation to the priesthood. The music was provided by the Cathedral choir, and complemented the liturgy. Both were of a very high standard. A special commendation and thanks should go to Fr John Millar as Guild Diocesan Director, our Lay Representative Paul Briers, and Ian Mulholland who was the servers' MC for the Mass.

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- Shrine Church of St Walburge, Preston**
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Saturdays: 10.30 am Low Mass
Sundays: 10.30 am, Sung Mass
- Shrine of the English Martyrs, Preston**
Mondays – Fridays: 12 noon, Low Mass
Saturdays: 10.00 am, Low Mass
Sundays: 9.00 am, Low Mass
- Sunday 7th July at 3.00 pm**
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
St Mary's Hornby

Please note that there will not be a Mass at Hornby in August

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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How one Catholic charity in Lancaster needs people with different skills and talents to take on different roles in their organisation.

Catholic charity the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) is well known for providing friendship through visiting people in need. But there is also friendship to be found between members of an SVP Conference itself. For those people wanting to join the Society who do not have time to visit parishioners in their homes, there is also the option of joining the charity as an officer - a secretary, president or treasurer for example, using your skills and talents to help your Conference. It's a great way to meet people and be a friend.

Being a Non-Visiting member is less demanding in terms of time commitment but Non-Visiting members are very much needed to support our work. Secretary, Treasurer and other positions are key roles in which it is possible make a valuable contribution. All expenses are paid and training is also provided. You would also have the support of SVP National Office and the resources on our website: svp.org.uk. These non-visiting roles are often just as vital as visiting members are to the local community and it is where we find a real need whether in the local community or on a wider diocesan level. A keen example of this is that within the Central Council the roles of Secretary and Treasurer are being held by the same person, if you feel that you could fill any of these supporting roles whether visiting or non-please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Central Council President, Bill Rogerson on



billr@svp.org.uk. If your parish does not have an SVP presence while also a local need for charity and combatting isolation then please do get in touch for more information as to how we can support you in getting something started. Jon Cornwall the Head of Membership is keen to respond to any and all questions that members and potential members may have and is ready to send any materials and support which you may need to help you to grow local groups. Please feel free to contact him through jonc@svp.org.uk or use his mobile number 07703 321689

CatholicVoices

invite you to apply for the 8th National Speakers Training, London, September 2019

Catholic Voices, originally created for the 2010 papal visit to the UK, is now a major project present in nearly 25 countries worldwide. Its model, training 'ordinary' Catholics to tell the Church's story, has created a whole new generation of confident media and public speakers.

It has also transformed the way Catholics are perceived in the media, winning the backing of bishops and broadcasters alike. Fired by the UK example, the project has spread abroad, with CV groups trained by the coordinators in Spain, Mexico, Ireland, Poland, Lithuania, Chile, USA, Australia and Venezuela. In the UK since 2010, our trainings have meant that over 100 Catholic Voices speakers have made over 1,200 appearances on TV and radio programmes, commenting and debating the Church's positions on a large range of topics. More recently since the official launch in 2017 of our 'Public Speakers' Programme' we have delivered nearly 600 workshops or talks speaking to over 100,000 people in a variety of contexts including parishes, schools and universities.

The vision of CV is expanding in the UK, the heart of the project remains our ambition to create a growing number of trained Catholic Voices (CVs). The difference in recent years is this training is geared towards creating the next generation of Catholic Public Speakers who, together with the existing teams, make themselves available to speak in parishes, schools, chaplaincies and deliver workshops (*some of whom may then go on to appear in the media*). The 'Public Speakers' Programme' aims to give world class training to ordinary Catholics so they have the skills to become public speakers (*to find our more*

information about Catholic Voice visit our website: www.catholicvoices.org.uk).

Some Key points:

- This year, as in previous years, is focusing exclusively on training people to give talks and presentations as well as workshops on how to more effectively tell the Church's story.
- The training is free of charge, but participants coming from outside London are expected to pay for their travel and accommodation costs if they are able (if not, subsidies are available).
- Applications from practising, thoughtful, engaging, committed Catholics of all ages and states of life (married, single, lay, religious, etc.) who are willing to learn how to put the Church's case in compelling ways are welcomed.
- A detailed 'Notes for Applicants' sheet will be emailed to you. There is an application and interview process.
- Bear in mind that, if this is for you, that an up-front commitment to the MAJORITY of the training programme is required, which means being available at the very minimum on both the Saturday training days, as well as at least five of the seven Thursday evenings. You will also need to be available for one of the interview dates.
- Interviews (held in central London): 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th September
- If you think you might like to be a CV, email info@catholicvoices.org.uk for an application form and the 'Notes for Applicants' sheet.
- Applications close 31 August 2019.

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Feeling rather sheepish

by Julia Beacroft

TV ad's are so much a part of our daily lives that we hardly notice them most of the time. But just occasionally there is one that tickles the fancy, so to speak...

Personally, I quite like a recent advert that promotes a well-known brand of anti-insomnia tablets. The distraught man in the advertisement is surrounded by advisers who tell him that his time to sleep is rapidly running out – only four hours and fifty-something minutes left to go... So as a last resort, they cry "Release the sheep!" And with this we are back on familiar territory – the notion of counting sheep as they jump over a fence as a remedy for said sleeplessness, the idea being that you eventually drift off into oblivion through sheer boredom! But I must admit that although this therapy doesn't work for me, the ad' just makes me smile.

Counting Your Blessings

Bing Crosby, in the 1954 iconic film 'White Christmas' took the idea a stage further when he suggested that as we lay awake hoping for sleep, we count our blessings instead of sheep. 'And you'll fall asleep counting your blessings', he advised. I really like this concept as it combines another tool to combat wakefulness, but more importantly touches upon an area in our lives which is sometimes sadly overlooked. Most of us have much to be thankful for – even our lives themselves – and as such it is good to celebrate this and give thanks to the Lord for it. Because after all, everything comes from God: our gifts and talents, our personalities, personal appearances and our life circumstances. All is pure gift and in our busy, frenetic lives we are sometimes in danger of forgetting this simple fact.


Conversely, if you do prefer the age-old idea of counting sheep at night, this initiative also resonates for Christians. The Gospels are full of references of Jesus being the Good Shepherd and we, his sheep. Contrary to the once-held opinion that sheep have a tiny brain and are extremely stupid, it had now been proved that actually the reverse holds true. So we, as the children of God, created in the image and likeness of Him, are intelligent creatures who are nurtured by the loving Lord. And Jesus knows his sheep and his own know him, we are further informed.

Beyond All Doubt

Moreover, in St John's Gospel, it is written that the Good Shepherd lays down his life for his sheep. If we needed any further proof of how much we are loved by the Lord, surely this statement illustrates this beyond all doubt. Additionally, we know too that even if we go astray, the Lord seeks to bring us back into the fold: 'Then Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep'.' (Luke 15:1-7). So, not a single one of us is ever lost.


And so whether we count our blessings or count our sheep, we can always be assured of the one constant in our lives which we can truly count on – the Lord.


Julia Beacroft is an author, editor, workshop leader and presenter in Catholic faith formation. Her book 'Sanctifying the Spirit' is available to buy from AMAZON, www.waterstones.com or Book Depository. Please visit www.sanciobooks.com for more information. Follow Julia on Facebook & Twitter. Copyright ©2019 Julia Beacroft. All rights reserved.




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On 20th July 1969 Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first men to walk on the moon. A little known fact is the very first form of food and drink to be consumed on the surface was a consecrated Communion Host and Communion Wine.

Shortly after landing and 250,000 miles from home, Buzz Aldrin gave thanks to Almighty God for the safe passage of the two young astronauts to The Sea of Tranquility. He then opened sealed packages, took the Host and poured the Wine, watching it slowly curl gracefully up the side of the cup due to the minimum gravity conditions. After

consuming the Blessed Sacrament, he read a verse from the Gospel of St John, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whosoever abides in me will bring forth much fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing".

A truly wonderful and inspiring moment as we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing.

'Sun and moon, bless the Lord; Stars of heaven, bless the Lord. Praise and exalt him above all forever'- Excerpt from a canticle from Daniel.

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