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The Official Newspaper to the Diocese of Lancaster

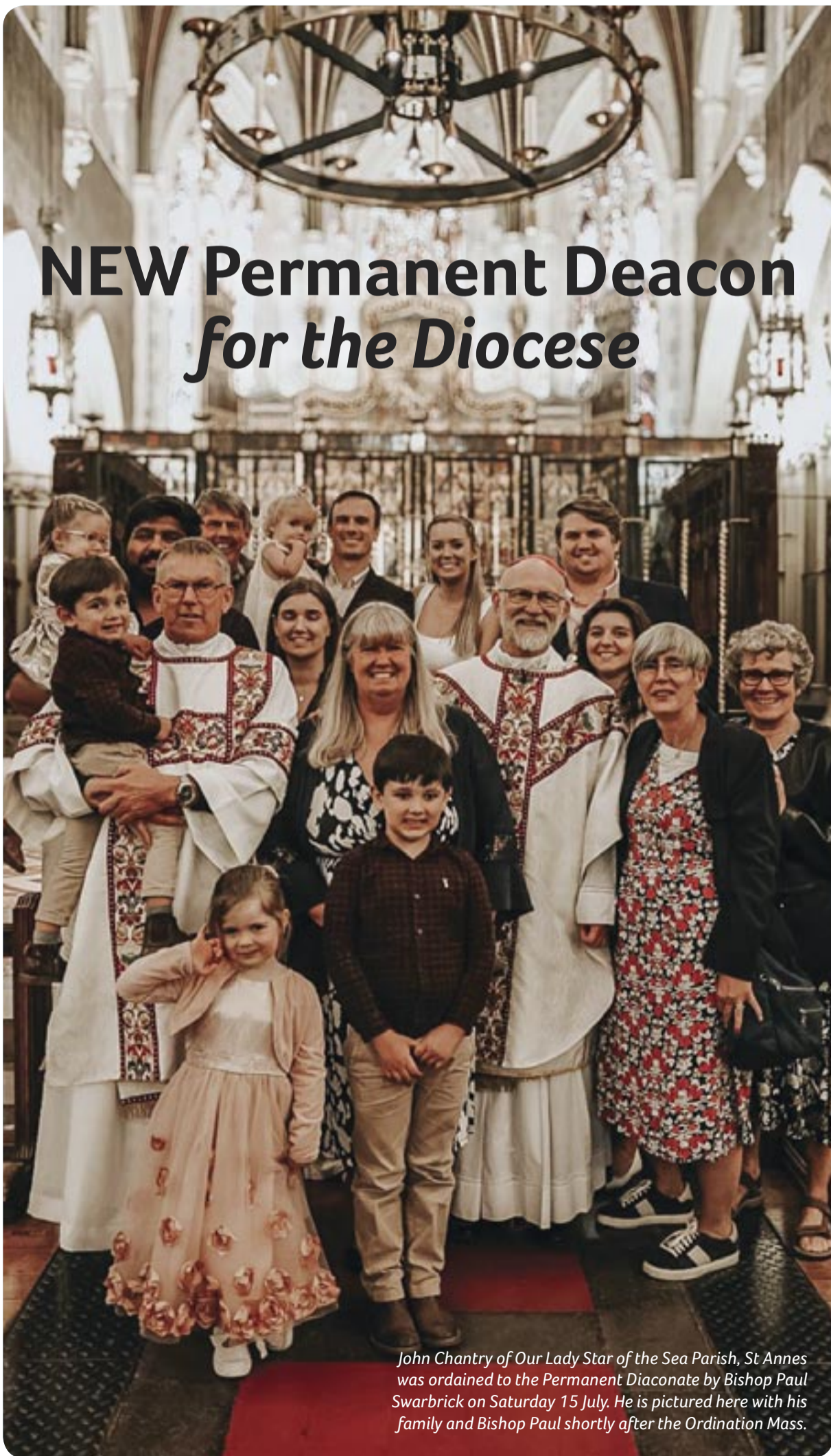
Issue 362 + September '24

INSIDE:

pg08 A Lakeland Celebration at Our Lady of Windermere and St Herbert in Cumbria



NEW Permanent Deacon for the Diocese



John Chantry of Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, St Annes was ordained to the Permanent Diaconate by Bishop Paul Swarbrick on Saturday 15 July. He is pictured here with his family and Bishop Paul shortly after the Ordination Mass.

Deacon John said:

"My formation journey has been a roller coaster of emotions with an overriding realisation throughout of how little I knew about my Catholic Faith. The learning was immense and rewarding as was my personal development that continually deepened my knowledge and a faithful understanding with sense of purpose in many aspects of both the Church and life in general. Despite frequent challenges to understanding assignment questions there continued an invaluable learning about the richness of scripture and other Theological sources with respect to everyday life.

My spirituality too developed exponentially through prayer and guidance, learning to find God in all things and be open to the gifts of the Spirit. This increasingly led to a feeling more responsive to others' needs rather than approaching everything and everyone with ready-made ideas, being attentive to Parishioners' lives and treat others as I would want to be treated: "Loving my neighbour as I would love myself".

You can read Deacon John's reflection on his discernment and path to ordination on Page 9 >>

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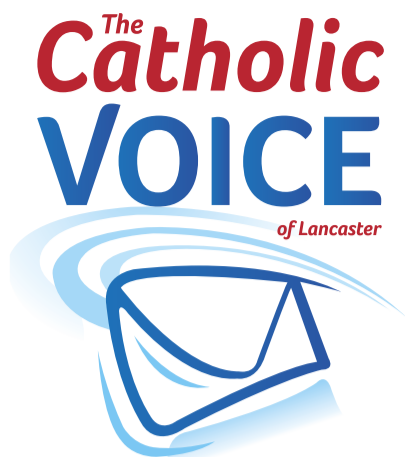
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Two Wings and Some Prayers - Boarbank Hall



Our annual birdwatching retreat, Two Wings and Some Prayers, took place at Boarbank Hall in Cumbria in May, led by Sr Margaret Atkins and Dr Margaret Phillips.

Participants joined the resident Community for Mass and sung Daily Office, and enjoyed birdwatching trips to the nearby Leighton Moss, especially for waterbirds, and Hay Bridge for woodland birds and ospreys, and to Hodbarrow on the west coast, for coastal and scrubland species. Highlights included nesting spoonbills, fine views of lesser whitethroat and pied flycatcher, and a white-winged black tern spotted by a sharp-eyed transatlantic member of the party, who had no idea they were so rare in this country! We also made the most of Boarbank's varied grounds, with a dawn chorus walk and a check on our nestboxes.

Indoors events included a talk on learning birdsong (*with a quiz at the end of the week to check on progress*), a presentation by the poet Samantha Rhydderch intertwining birds and bird poetry with her own faith journey, and a slide show on the birds in medieval art, especially the Sherborne Missal. The Sisters joined us for a bird-themed (*and very entertaining*) social evening on the last night. Other events coming up include a week on Care for Creation (*5th-12th October*) and our Advent Hope in Health weekend (*6th-8th December*). All our events combine talks, prayer, time outdoors and social time. For more information, see www.boarbankhall.org.uk/whats-on/ or email Sr Margaret Atkins on margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk

Next year's Two Wings and Some Prayers is scheduled for 12th-17th May 2025.

Sr Margaret Atkins

Congratulations to Fr John Winstanley, Penrith, who recently celebrated his 25th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood.



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l-r: Christopher Sumner, Fr John Millar, Deacon Simon Marley and Stephen Bamber.



Our Beda College Seminarians

Over the past academic year, our three Diocese of Lancaster seminarians at the Beda College (*Simon Marley 4th year, Stephen Bamber 2nd year, and Christopher Sumner 1st year*) have ventured out into Rome for monthly for a meal and a chance to catch up and provide fraternal companionship and a listening ear.

In a society where well-being and mental health are increasingly more prominent than perhaps they once were our monthly get togethers form part of our human formation which is one of the four dimensions of formation set out by the Church for the training of priests. Fraternity and hospitality have continued back in the Diocese where our three seminarians met at Lancaster on the feast of St Oliver Plunket, and served at the 12.15pm Mass at the Cathedral, at the kind invitation of Fr John Millar, Dean of the Cathedral.

The Diocese of Lancaster was well-represented at the end of term Diaconate ordinations which took place

in the Basilica of St Paul's Outside the Walls, with Stephen Bamber serving as Master of Ceremonies, and Christopher Sumner as organist.

Back in the Diocese for the summer Deacon Simon Marley is on placement at the Cathedral and awaits his ordination in October. Stephen Bamber will be spending his placement at St Beuno's Spirituality centre in North Wales and will be making the Ignatian Thirty-day Retreat. Christopher Sumner will be on placement in the parish of Christ the Good Shepherd, Workington, before being joined by Simon for the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Towards the end of September, Stephen and Christopher will return to the Beda College, to begin their next year of study. Stephen begins his 3rd year at the Beda College which will include applying for Candidacy for Holy Orders, and Christopher begins his 2nd year, and will be petitioning for the Ministry of Acolyte.



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YOUTH MATTERS



Jack Regan writes, we are at the very end of July. The last school group left us about ten days ago and we are currently looking after the youth team from the Keswick Convention – a huge Christian festival that’s been running each summer in Keswick since Victorian times!

Our team are in the process of leaving us for the summer. Some will return next year along with a new crop, while others move on to pastures new.

The academic year 2023-24 has been a really successful one. 3415 young people and their leaders have stayed at the manor and out on the road, we’ve visited 19 different schools and parishes in the diocese and beyond.

We’re really excited about 2024-25 too. It’s looking as though we will be working

with more schools than we have ever worked with and even at this stage, there aren’t that many spaces left in the programme! So, *what else?*

Open Day // 15 September //

The day starts at midday, 12pm and ends with Mass at 3pm, celebrated by Bishop Paul. We’ve got a great day planned for you with fun for all the family. Your chance to visit Castlerigg, see what we do, and meet the new team. September 15th. Castlerigg Manor. 12pm Start. Mass at 3. Get it in your diaries!

Open Weekends & Quiet Weekends // A New Venture //

In 2024-25 we will be starting an exciting new initiative aimed at adults and families. Whenever we have a free weekend, we will open it up as either a ‘quiet weekend’ or a ‘family weekend.’ Quiet weekends are there for individual

adults who want to have a reflective, peaceful weekend in the Lakes. A single room and all meals are provided as well as Mass on site.

Open weekends are similar, but not as quiet! They’re also open to families and if we get enough people, we’ll put on a quiz in the evening too! These weekends open up at about 6 weeks notice to keep an eye on our website and social media.

Would You Like to Join the Team?

Don’t forget that, we are always looking for young Christians (*usually aged 18-22*) to join our Youth Ministry Internship Scheme. It’s a great chance to get some brilliant training, qualifications, and experiences.

We now operate a rolling recruitment system for interns (*formerly called Gap Year volunteers*) which means that

suitable people can start at various different points in the year.

For more information contact jack@castleriggmanor.co.uk or check out our website – castleriggmanor.com - or our Instagram channels [@castleriggmanor](https://www.instagram.com/castleriggmanor) and [@team_castlerigg](https://www.instagram.com/team_castlerigg)

What’s Coming Up?

Catholic Students Retreat // Nov 15-17

// After the success of our first students retreat last year, we are holding another one this autumn. Once again, there will be a discounted rate for students and this year there will be a theme holding the weekend together. Bookings will open in the summer.

Advent Retreat // Dec 13-15 //

The next open retreat after the summer retreat will be the Advent Retreat in mid-December. Bookings open in September.

Understanding Generations Z & Alpha: A Guide to the Future

In the dynamic landscape of societal change, understanding different generations is crucial for grasping the shifting contours of culture, technology, and values. Generation theory, a framework that categorises people into distinct groups based on their birth years and shared life experiences, offers insights into these generational shifts. The last two are Generation Z and Generation Alpha.

Generation Theory: A Brief Overview

Generation theory suggests to us that people born within a certain period share certain characteristics, influenced by the historical, technological, and cultural contexts they grow up in. These generational labels help in understanding societal changes and predicting future trends. Obviously, these characteristics are generalizations and don't hold true for every individual within a generation, but as a rough yardstick, they can be very useful. You're probably familiar with terms like 'boomers', 'Generation X', or 'Millennials,' but even the latter are now well into adulthood, with new cohorts taking their place:

Generation Z: The Digital Natives

Born between the turn of the millennium and the early 2010s, Generation Z, also known as Gen Z or iGen, is the first generation to grow up with the internet and social media as integral parts of their lives. This upbringing has significantly shaped their characteristics and outlook.

- 1. Technologically Savvy:** Gen Zers are true digital natives. They are adept at using smartphones, social media, and digital platforms, often using them as their primary sources of information, communication, and entertainment.
- 2. Diversity and Inclusivity:** Growing up in a more globalized world, Gen Z is typically more accepting of diverse cultures, identities, and lifestyles. They value inclusivity and are often vocal advocates for social justice, equality, and environmental issues.
- 3. Entrepreneurial and Pragmatic:** Many Gen Zers are entrepreneurial, having lived through the economic turmoil of the 2010s and, in the UK, the 'austerity' years in the decade after. They tend to be pragmatic, valuing security and practicality in their career choices.
- 4. Mental Health Awareness:** This generation shows a greater awareness of mental health issues. They are more open about discussing these topics and advocating for better mental health support and education.
- 5. Visual and Creative:** With platforms like Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube, Gen Z has a penchant for visual communication. They value creativity and self-expression, often using digital media to showcase their talents and views.

Generation Alpha: The Upcoming Force

Generation Alpha, the latest generation, started to be born in the late 2010s and are now just turning into teenagers. While it's early to define their characteristics fully, certain trends are noticeable.

- 1. Hyper-Connected World:** Alphas are growing up in an even more technologically interconnected environment than Gen Z. They are expected to be the most technologically immersed generation,



with AI, machine learning, and augmented reality being routine aspects of their lives. Unlike Millennials and Gen Zs, the majority of Alphas will probably never learn to drive manual cars, and to them, SMS messages and Facebook seem massively outdated!

- 2. Education and Learning:** With rapid technological advancements, the education system for Gen Alpha is likely to be more adaptive, personalized, and tech-driven. They may experience more blended and online learning environments.

- 3. Global Citizens:** Generation Alpha is anticipated to have an even more global outlook. Increased connectivity and technological advancements will likely make them more aware of and involved in global issues from a younger age.

- 4. Health and Well-being:** Growing up in the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic, health and well-being could be significant concerns for Gen Alpha. This experience might shape their attitudes towards health, hygiene, and well-being.

- 5. Environmental Consciousness:** Born into an era of climate change awareness, Gen Alpha is likely to be highly conscious of environmental issues. This generation will almost certainly witness significant strides in sustainable living and green technologies, but will probably also witness severe effects of climate change in their early adult years.

Conclusion

Generations Z and Alpha are at the forefront of societal change. Understanding their characteristics, preferences, and values is crucial for businesses, educators, policymakers, and society at large. As digital technology continues to evolve and global issues like climate change and pandemics shape our world, these generations are poised to redefine the way we live, work, and interact. Their influence is just beginning to be felt, and it's certain to grow as they step into adulthood and take their place as leaders and innovators in a rapidly changing world.

Of course, Christ and his Church are both ever ancient and ever new. Every generation is as loved as the last and the heart of each individual – as Augustine said in the fourth century – will only ever be restless until it rests in God. The way in which this truth is communicated though, is changing rapidly and those of us in youth ministry need to constantly adapt.

David Pope dip FD MBIFD

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- Please keep your letters concise (*max 300 words*)
- Include your full name and address
- Letters should not include any personal criticism or attacks
- The editor reserves the right to:
 - Amend or shorten letters or to refuse to publish them (no correspondence to discuss decisions taken will be entered into)
 - Publish a response if deemed appropriate

Dear Editor

Re the article Guiding Youth in Today's Complex World in the June edition of the *Catholic Voice of Lancaster*. It states a primary task is to address the disconnect between what the Church teaches and contemporary societal norms.

Given the signs of the times, including the high level of apathy displayed by the laity when it comes to faith matters (know when the Church and the world become as one it is the end) the Church is only reaping what it sowed given its low expectations of them over the years, Lord David Alton once described Catholics as the Gethsemane people asleep. That is why anything that is put on outside of the Sunday service like the Stations of the Cross is poorly attended, as their faith is at the bottom of the list.

Our faith is never put into the context of a spiritual war where daily prayer of the rosary, some fasting etc is needed to counter the demonic agenda, where each has a part to play & doing the least is not best.

There are parishes, dioceses and people like the Tennessee governor (www.tldm.org) who has signed a bill calling for 30 days of prayer/fasting in July who recognise these times and are prepared to take more radical action. This is what our church as a whole should be doing, the spiritual fruits from this approach would then follow.

Yours Sincerely John Deegan, Manchester



Our Lady's Catholic High School

St Anthony's Drive, Fulwood, Preston, Lancashire PR2 3SQ

Headteacher: Mr R Charnock

Telephone: 01772 326900

Email: admin@olchs.lancs.sch.uk

Website www.olchs.lancs.sch.uk

OPEN EVENING

Thursday 3 October 2024 at 6pm until 8.30pm

Come and visit our school to find out what it means to be

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CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

School Volunteers Needed

Across the diocese, CAFOD's team of amazing school volunteers visit primary and secondary schools to deliver assemblies and workshops. They encourage young people to take action, fundraise and pray with Cafod. Here are some reflections from Diane about her experience – do you think you could join her?

Retiring from teaching I knew that I would need something in my life to help me feel needed. For years I had harboured a desire to volunteer for Cafod and I contacted Cafod after I had had the obligatory term time holiday in September 2022.

Training was thorough and interesting. I learned a great deal about Cafod in this time. After safety checks and safeguarding training and a shadowing session I was ready for my first school visit in January 2023.

My schools are mainly Fylde and Blackpool based but with the shortage of volunteers I have ventured as far north as Windermere.

Cafod volunteers offer assemblies explaining the work of Cafod and explaining how this fits with their work on Catholic Social Teaching. We also offer

Catholic Social Teaching workshops for all age groups in primary and secondary.

Lesson plans and presentations are prepared by the Education team and refresher sessions are offered each term. The photographs on the presentations are fantastic quality and really capture the attention of the young people. Some of the volunteers are retired teachers but many of our volunteers do not have a teaching background and as long as you are happy to stand up in front of children and talk, you will soon be very confident in delivering the materials.

Cafod policy is that you are not left on your own, so you always have help on hand if needed. If you can spare a little time, please consider joining our lovely group of volunteers. We really do need you to make a huge difference to our global neighbours but it will also be greatly enjoyable and rewarding for you too.

If you are interested in finding out more, please visit Cafod website and sign up: Schools volunteers (cafod.org.uk) Or please contact Anna Letizia, Cafod Community Participation Coordinator (*Education Focus*), Diocese of Lancaster Mobile: **077100944449** or email: aletizia@cafod.org.uk

St Benedict's School Delighted with Inspection Results

Emma Jackson, head teacher at St Benedict's Catholic High School, Whitehaven has recently announced her delight at their latest inspection.

The Section 48 inspection was carried out a few weeks ago by the Catholic Schools Inspectorate. A Section 48 inspection is a process carried out in Catholic schools to evaluate their Catholic life, quality of Religious Education, and collective worship.



Inspectors found St Benedict's to be a 'good' school, with some 'outstanding' features. They judged the life and mission of the school as 'outstanding' along with some elements of collective worship. The school are particularly proud of some of the strengths they found. These included:

- Leadership of our Catholic School
- Excellent behaviour
- Pastoral care which puts the most vulnerable at the heart of the school's work
- The care of staff for all the students in their charge and for each other


Mrs Jackson commented: "We are delighted with our latest inspection report. We have already considered the recommendations made in the report and will continue to work to the highest standards. I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff, parents and governors. All of whom made a positive contribution to the inspection. My biggest thanks go to our students who were incredible and did us all proud."




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

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Website: www.st-pat-margerit.cumbria.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs J Hampton
Assistant Head: Mrs H Long
*At Our Lady & St. Patrick's we recognise Christ as emperor
as we grow together in faith and love to serve the community.*

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Sixth Form Open Evening
10th October 2024 - 17:30 to 19:30
St. Walburga's Road, Blackpool, FY3 7EQ
www.st-mary.blackpool.sch.uk instagram.com/sixthformsma



St. Mary's Catholic Academy
Junior Open Evening
23rd September 2024 - 17:15 to 19:45
St. Walburga's Road, Blackpool, FY3 7EQ
www.st-mary.blackpool.sch.uk instagram.com/smcabpool



A Lakeland Celebration



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Follow us

On the 14th of June 2024 our parish, Our Lady of Windermere and St Herbert, celebrated the 60th anniversary of the dedication of our church.

The Church was to replace the original one, built in 1887 and known as St Herberts. The old church building had become unsafe, and because of the cost to repair it, it was decided to demolish and build a larger church to give more space to accommodate the growing number of visitors to Windermere.

The foundation stone for the new church came from one of the Islands in Lake Windermere, known as Ladyholme. This was a link with history, as there had been a chantry on the island, last recorded in 1354.

The stone was rowed over, and some of the men from the parish carried it on a hand-held bier the uphill mile to the site. The congregation formed a procession behind and it was estimated that by the time the procession reached the site, 100 people had joined in.

The official stone laying ceremony took place on Sunday 9th of September 1962 led by Bishop Foley and attended by nearly 500 people.

So fast forward to 2024 and the amazing celebration of our church's 60th jubilee. The celebration Mass was led by Bishop Paul Swarbrick and concelebrated by 10 priests including or PP Fr Ajish and past PPs Mgr. Slattery and Fr Carden. There was some wonderful music led by the Cathedral organist and Choir and the children from our primary school of St Cuthberts played their part, by reading the bidding prayers and taking part in the offertory procession. It was a truly memorable evening, rounded off by a great social in the church hall.

As usual, at times like this, the ladies of the parish got together to provide a great spread, this took the form of a "jacobs join" with the parishioners contributing to the buffet food.

When the food was laid out it was a sight to behold! and appeared to be set for the 5,000. However, the assembled company managed to do it justice.

The atmosphere in the hall was so happy and relaxed, parishioners having the chance to chat with Bishop Paul and the former parish priests, and catch up with old friends.

Altogether a very special occasion, and I was proud to be part of it. *Bertha Birkett*

Deacon John Chantry's Reflection on his Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate

(continued from page 1)

I was privileged to be ordained to the Permanent Diaconate on 13th July by the Right Reverend Paul Swarbrick, Bishop of Lancaster, at St Peter's Cathedral. It was a wonderful family celebration and spiritual service for me and the many Parishioners who attended from Our Lady Star of The Sea Parish, St Annes, where I will be a Deacon. I was also grateful for the support of the many Priests, Deacons and members of Lancaster Diocese on this special occasion celebrated with great music from the Cathedral Choir to enhance the atmosphere.

Originally from West London I moved to Lancashire at the age of 18 to start my engineering career in Military Aviation with an apprenticeship at BAE Warton and then joining the RAF as an Engineering Officer in 1982. About this time, I met Debra, from St Annes, and we were married in 1984 at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church before embarking on many adventures including living in Italy and America. Family life was very nomadic, and we were blessed with 3 wonderful children all born in different countries! Wherever we were in the world, my faith and the church were a source of comfort and community, helping whenever I could as a Eucharistic Minister and Reader.

After many moves, we settled in St Annes and eventually I retired after 31 years in the RAF and set up my own management consultancy business working part time for a short while until I had paid for my daughters' weddings in South Africa and Italy. This also allowed me to become more involved with Our Lady Star of The Sea Parish as well as pursue my many interests including walking, travel, flying and motorbiking. I am the secretary of a flying club based at Blackpool Airport and have been a Blood Biker for over 10 years, a charity transporting blood for the NHS.

My involvement with Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish increased as did my thoughts about the Permanent Diaconate. Initially I was not sure how my aeronautical engineering mind might adapt to Theology although they do both involve a wing and a prayer! Many discussions with friends and invaluable support from my Parish Priest, Canon Peter Hart, led to enquiring about the Diaconate. Thankfully after some inevitable paperwork and consideration, the bishop and his team were equally as supportive to me starting the Northern Diaconal Formation Partnership (NDFP) in 2020 and so my new journey began.

The NDFP is a partnership of dioceses in the North of England providing theological study, spiritual, human and pastoral development in a four-year part time formation programme for candidates for ordination to the permanent Diaconate. The reading,

studies and assignments are geared towards the needs of a deacon in his preaching, catechesis, and his role in Christian service. New to me was the emphasis on reflective learning, thinking, and writing.

The early part of my formation included an 18-month online module to provide up to date knowledge, skills, and education for pastoral ministry. Anyone with an interest in an overview of the Old and the New Testament, history of Church in Britain, Vatican II, growing in faith, Parish communities and Catholic Social Teaching would find it very interesting as did I. The journey towards ordination as a Deacon in 2024 also continued with additional studies and learning about the sacraments including supporting my Parish Priest at baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Overall, it has not been an easy journey but incredibly rewarding through development in so many ways, reflecting on what can be done especially in faith and the church community. I have had many new experiences including going on retreat, something I would strongly recommend. A wonderful spiritual opportunity to withdraw from day to day matters to focus totally on God. Life experience matters too in formation and ministry where sometimes the increasing demands of "Study" and practice can feel overpowering.

Prayer is important for guidance on a journey where only God knows the plan. This plan, unbeknown to me, included a wonderful expansion of my family over the past 4 years with 4 more beautiful grandchildren. What a blessing, reminding me that it is important to serve humbly and pray for a balance between family life and my many interests; keep those things that make me who I am and hopefully God wants me to be. Family first as Bishop Paul said in his homily at my ordination while reminding Debra that she is still my line manager! Our family was also central to my first Service on the Sunday after my Ordination when I baptised my youngest grandchild, Florence, what an honour indeed and a perfect finish to an amazing weekend celebrating my vocation.

Above all, the support of my family and Parish has been most important so I would like to offer my sincere and prayerful thanks to all family, friends, parishioners, clergy and Religious for joining me at my Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate. Their prayers and support over these years have been greatly appreciated. Special thanks must go to my family, in particular my wife, Debra, and my children and grandchildren for their patience and love during those times when I have been locked in my room studying or away from home – God bless you.



Newly ordained Deacon John baptizing his youngest grandchild Florence.



CARDINAL ALLEN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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Thursday 19th September 2024
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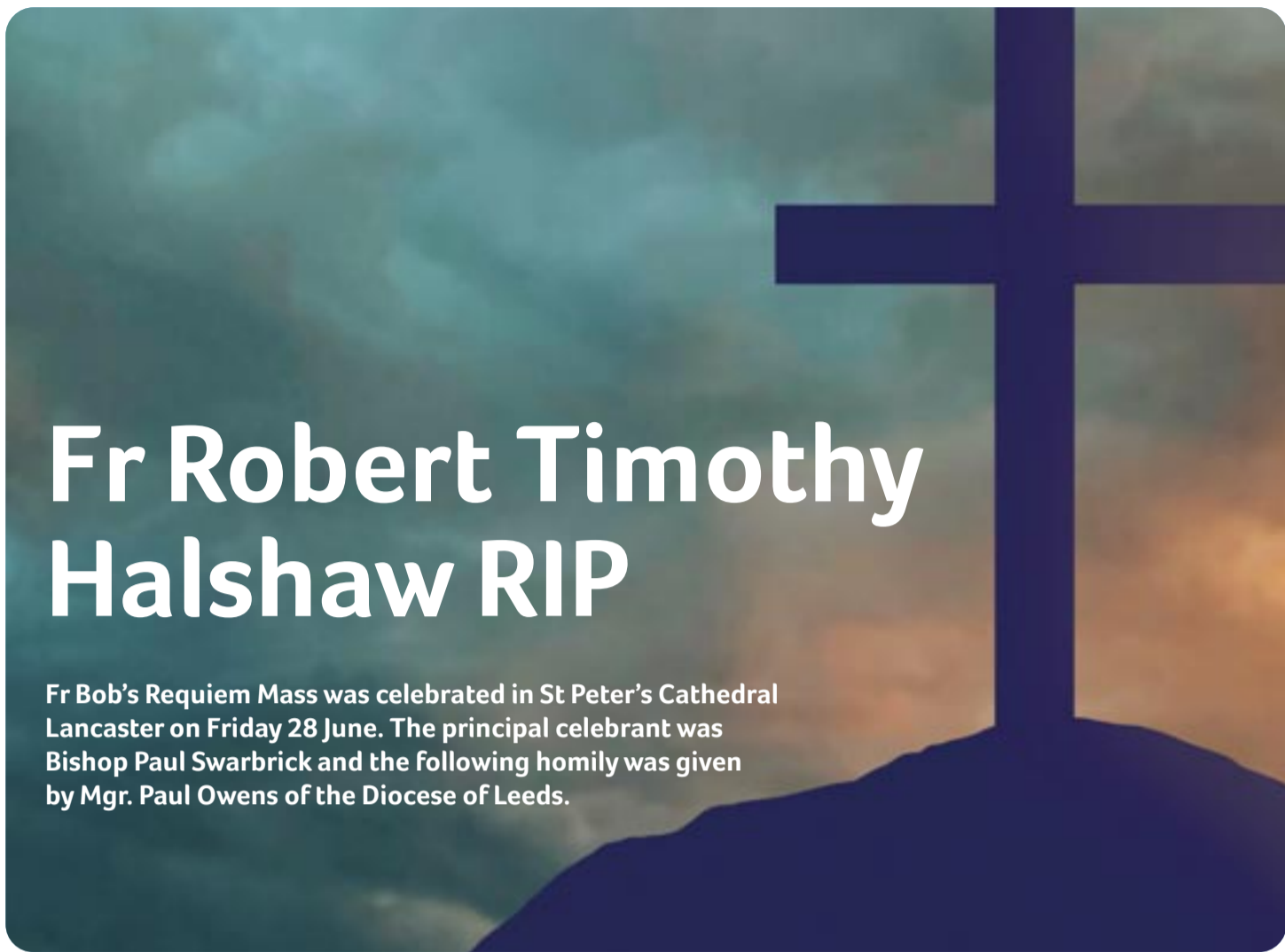
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Fr Robert Timothy Halshaw RIP

Fr Bob's Requiem Mass was celebrated in St Peter's Cathedral Lancaster on Friday 28 June. The principal celebrant was Bishop Paul Swarbrick and the following homily was given by Mgr. Paul Owens of the Diocese of Leeds.

I am rarely short of words, but when I heard the news of Bob's sudden death I was speechless and even the words I could muster challenged my vocabulary. I am sure I was not alone in that; most of you here will have felt equally bereft. Unexpected death hits all of us, with appalling suddenness. Even with the reality of today's event, we can scarcely believe it has happened.

Robert Timothy John Halshaw was born on 25 August 1962; second son to John and Monica Halshaw and younger brother to Tony. Robert, or "Bob" to most of us here, was truly loved by his family and it was in that 'domestic church' that his love of the faith was nurtured and ultimately his vocation nourished and supported.

Having been supported in the security and love of his family, in September 1974, he left home to pursue of his vocation to priestly life. He went first to Underley Hall in Kirkby Lonsdale and then went on to Upholland College where he studied until he was 18 years of age. In September 1980, Bob arrived in Ushaw College Durham. Like all seminarians Bob did several pastoral placements, in schools, in Durham Prison and in St Mary's Cathedral in Newcastle; he made friends some of whom he was still in regular contact with.

Bob was ordained to the Sacred Priesthood, on this very Sanctuary, by Bishop Brewer, on Saturday 30 August 1986, five days after his 23rd birthday.

Bob's first priestly appointment was to in 1986 to St Maria Goretti's Parish in Preston and he stayed in Preston until 1989 when he was appointed to Castlerigg where, apart from a short sojourn to Dundee, he stayed until 1999

or 2000 – firstly, as second in command, and then as head honcho.

Bob flourished at Castlerigg; he was so suited to Pastoral work with the young and, also, working closely and collaboratively with young adults on the staff. He loved the work and was good at it; remarkably he had great patience with young people. The Holy Spirit truly worked in and through him during that phase of his ministry. He maintained close friendship with many from those days; two of his former staff became priests, and it was with one of his former colleagues, his friend Sarah, where he was recuperating before his sudden death.

The next 10 years of his life were spent as a Chaplain in the Royal Air Force. He fitted in well and his first appointment after 'basic training' was at RAF College Cranwell – to go from Cadet one day to member of staff the next must have been a difficult position in which to find himself – but Bob pulled it off, with aplomb.

During his time in the RAF, Bob served in Cranwell, Cyprus, Waddington and latterly Kinloss. Wherever, he served he threw himself into Station life and no more so than during his time in Cyprus; visiting the Holy Land several times among many other activities.

Having returned from Cyprus to attend the Episcopal Ordination and Installation of Bishop Campbell as Bishop of Lancaster, Bob was unfortunately, prematurely recalled to the Diocese; something Bob always regretted and resulted in the RAF losing a valued and very gifted Chaplain.

After some months, Bob was appointed to St Joseph's Wesham, and then to Our

Lady and St James in Millom. It was in Millom that Bob had his reintroduction to working in the Prison Service at HMP Haverigg, (*incidentally a former wartime RAF Station*) which was in the boundaries of his new Parish. After 8 years as Parish Priest of Millom, Bob entered the Prison Service full time as Chaplain at Haverigg in 2019. Once again, Bob was in his element and became a respected chaplain, and colleague until he experienced his last illness.

Whenever we spoke to each other we eventually hit on the subject of our ailments and medications. I remember having a serious conversation with him about the problems of living alone; we both said our greatest fear, was to die alone! In the end, I am immensely grateful that during his last illness he was staying with Sarah, a friend of many years, and, although it was a truly traumatic experience for her personally, that she was there with him at his final moment; and more importantly prayed for him and with him at the moment of his death. I hope I speak for all of Bob's friends and acquaintances, in our profound thanks for the friendship, care and affection in which she held Bob, through his whole life but most of all in his final days.

"Grant, O God that while we lament the departure of this your servant, we may always remember that we are most certainly to follow him. Give us grace to prepare for that hour by a good life, that we may not be surprised by a sudden and unprovided death, but be ever watching that when you call and may enter into eternal glory."

This prayer gives us consolation and hope in the love of God, and certainly Bob was



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mindful of this and was more that aware of the power of prayer and the love of God in his life.

Today's Gospel of John comes immediately after Jesus foretells the betrayal of Peter; the Apostles were saddened by the prophecy of Jesus and He cheers their spirits by telling them He is going to prepare a place for them in heaven; the heaven they will all aspire to, despite their failures and shortcomings; however, they still failed to understand- Jesus says 'you know the way to the place I am going' - the way is, in the words of my prayer, to prepare by a Good life!

Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life
 He is the way through what he teaches; He is the way because he reveals to us the Father, with whom He has one from the very beginning. As the Prologue of St John tells us "full of Grace and Truth..." St Josemaria Escriva in his book 'Friends of

God' said "Jesus is the way; behind Him on this earth of ours He has left the clear outlines of His footprints. They are indelible signs which neither the erosion of time, nor the treachery of evil have been able to erase."

Bob was well aware of this. For Bob Jesus was the Way, the Truth and the Life; despite Bob's inevitable shortcomings, he believed in the compassionate love of God and in the ultimate power of prayer. In my experience if Bob said he would pray for you, you would be prayed for - from his place now we hope he will continue to prayer for us. Ultimately Bob was a man of prayer.

He was an Oblate of Pluscarden Abbey in Scotland and today they are with us in prayer for the repose of his soul; as too are the community of St Lawrence at Ampleforth Abbey in Yorkshire. Archbishop Wilson, Grand Prior of

the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, is celebrating Holy Mass for the repose of his soul. It is so lovely to see so many Members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre present with us here today; grateful too they chose not to exercise their right to ride their horses through the Cathedral door - otherwise the Dean would have had a busy afternoon with a shovel.

Bob was loved for who he was not what he had or had not achieved and our main purpose at this Funeral Mass is to prayer for Bob. He was not perfect; like all of us here today, he was a fallen frail human being, with faults and failings.

Despite all his sins and shortcomings, Bob truly believed in the love and the mercy of God; he had a firm relationship with Christ in prayer and as a priest, fulfilled his pastoral duties with the sincere hope that the love of God

was working in him a through him, in persona Christi.

We pray for Bob, that he may be reunited with his beloved parents, with Jo and all his relatives who has gone before us marked with the sign of faith; and that Christ will welcome him kindly and that Bob may truly experience the consolation of Christ's love for him because scripture tells us; ... "that I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Eternal Rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him may he rest in peace. Amen.

Goodbye, good friend, and may flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.

Editors note: Space has not allowed the full homily to be published, if you would like a copy of the full text please contact me, details on page 2.



Congratulations to Sr Harriet of the Congregation of the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus who is celebrating her Silver Jubilee of Profession. The parish of Christ the King and St Kentigern, Blackpool thank her for the support she gives to the parish and for the years of service to God and his Church. She is pictured centre right of Fr Philip Wrigley with members of her Community.



Canon Timothy J. Sullivan RIP



Funeral Homily

We have come together in this church today to pray for the soul of Father Tim Sullivan, at this, his funeral Mass. We gather with closeness to dear Marianne, and with Father Tim's many relatives and friends, his brother-priests, some of whom have shared a parish ministry and home together with Father Tim as well as with his former parishioners. All of us are indebted to Almighty God for Father Tim's 65 years of dedicated priestly ministry and for his faithful witness to Christ, in this Diocese, whilst serving as a priest for the people at:

St Augustine's, St Joseph's St Maria Goretti and English Martyrs Preston; Christ the King Carlisle; St Mary's Cleator and St Mary's Newhouse, Holy Family Blackpool and finally his last appointment at St John Vianney and St Monica's and St Cuthbert's, Blackpool We also acknowledge his fidei donum missionary ministry to the people of

the Parish of Holy Cross, Maamba in the Diocese of Monze, (Zambia), as well as his service to the Church nationally, in London, where he served as secretary to the National Liturgical Office and Commission. It is helpful, too, to recall his expertise in administration and on property matters, noted in his contribution as a Lancaster Diocesan Trustee several times over, and as Chair of the onetime Trustees' Sites and Buildings Committee.

Today, "every tongue shall praise God," for the treasured bonds of affection and deep friendship that have bound each of us to Father Tim over many years. It is true that the life and death of each of us has its influence on others and so Father Tim's sudden passing does indeed hit us hard as we gently come to terms with the sense of loss we are experiencing.

Despite our hope in the Lord Jesus, "the resurrection and the life", the 'old enemy

of death' remains for us both painful and mysterious when it comes 'like a thief in the night.' In some sense, this is what can only be expected given Father Tim's genuine care and interest in people – sometimes in people very different from himself. He loved to encounter new people, unfamiliar places, and recent books and unexpected learning, (he was always a great reader, and mastered the Tonga language, whilst in Zambia). This was important to Father Tim, helping him to build a strong relationship with the people there, learning how to respect their culture and traditions, their proverbs, pace, food, and humour.

This is no surprise given that Father Tim had an immense respect and patience for and a deep sense of loyalty to those who were entrusted to his care. With a quiet charm, sensitivity, and a good sense of humour, he was a champion of encouragement to the young.

We know that Father Tim dedicated his entire life in the service of the Gospel. At his 60th anniversary celebrations in Blackpool, looking back on his service as a priest - he chose the words: "Do this in memory of me" – as a summary of the core of his priestly ministry. He frequently discussed the Church, even debated about the Church, but in the depths of his priestly ministry he always loved the Church. Although quite laid back, his faithful devotion to praying his office, more often than not on his latest iPad, the diligence in his preparation of his daily homilies, and his daily celebration of the Eucharist was his 'food for the journey' and helped nourish his joyful visits to the sick and housebound, as an integral part

of his pastoral care for God's people. Mindful, with Saint Paul that, if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead, all of us, along with Father Tim, belong to the Lord – yes, through "the living water" of our Baptism, we all belong together.

Hence, in our mourning – yes, but also our vibrant and common hope – is the Lord's promise of eternal life – the gift of Christ Himself.

Upon my final visit to Father Tim as St Winefride's in Bispham just a few months ago, and in his several visits to Walsingham, I sensed in him a man whose lamp was burning more brightly than ever. Here was a man of encouragement, of prayer, and of 'deep roots.' He was a living history of the Gospel in our Diocese and beyond, joyfully ready to hand on his legacy to a younger generation of priests – and all with no hint of cynicism nor any sense of impending threat.

Brothers and sisters: Approaching now before the judgement seat of God, we pray that the Father of Mercies grant Father Tim forgiveness for any sins of this life and to "raise him up on the last day," just as we commend his gentle soul into the hands of God who is always merciful and forgiving and offers him, and us, eternal life.

We pray in this Mass for his eternal rest but also offer an enormous buiochas le dia – that is, a thanks be to God - for all that Father Tim was and remains for us who mourn his passing. Amen

Fr. Robert Billing

Fr Tim Sullivan RIP

From county Tipperary to Tyrone in Ireland, from the missions in Zambia to his beloved Diocese of Lancaster Fr Tim touched the lives of many with his reassuring confidence and perpetual calm that has its origins in a deep faith.

For those of you who had the privilege to meet Fr Tim's mother, Hannah you will understand that "the apple, indeed does not fall far from the tree."

Family was very important to Fr Tim and he was pivotal to our family events and celebrations. From weddings to baptisms and funerals he was the anchor, whose strength we all relied upon. The most recent of these, in April of this year, Fr

Tim presided over the funeral of his cousin, my dad. Little did I know then as he helped me with my father's eulogy that only a few weeks later I'd be writing this one for him.

He was central to all of the happy and sad moments in our family and yet it was never about him - he was a master at switching the focus from himself to the people, he believed, really mattered - you. With Fr Tim it was all about you. I'm sure many of you here have experienced the same. Fr Tim knew that that beauty of serving others is that it doesn't require grand gestures or erudite speeches. Just love - unconditional love ...continued on page 13 >

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CAFOD's Family Fast Day Appeal

Carving a Better Future

This Harvest season, we will mark CAFOD's Family Fast Day on Friday, 4th October, the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi. We have a special opportunity to follow the example of St Francis and reach out with love to our sisters and brothers.

One example of the impact our collective generosity makes is the life-changing work in Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Thanks to your support, CAFOD is helping young people overcome poverty and build better futures.

In Goma, young people face big challenges due to ongoing conflict, poor infrastructure and few job opportunities. Many families cannot afford food or education for their children. Thanks to generous donations from the Catholic community in England and Wales, CAFOD partners with local organisations like CAJED (Concerted Action for Disadvantaged Young People and Children) in the DRC. CAJED operates a vocational training centre in Goma, teaching young people skills to earn a living.

"If God helps and this work expands, I can do greater things," says Daniel, a young man from Goma. His story shows the impact of vocational training. Despite his parents' hard work, Daniel's family often went hungry, and there was no money for school. As soon as he could, Daniel took on labouring jobs to support his family. Reflecting on his childhood, Daniel said, *"I never want anyone to go through the life I had when I was younger."*

Determined to change his life, Daniel enrolled in an eight-month carpentry course at the CAJED centre. With the guidance of local experts like Simon, Daniel learned to make furniture like doors, chairs and cabinets. Simon saw Daniel's potential, saying, *"I saw that Daniel understands things quickly. I am*

proud when I see the young people I trained becoming independent."

Today, Daniel runs his own workshop, making furniture for customers in Goma. He earns a stable income and is supporting his family. Daniel's work is a sign of hope to others striving for better futures.

The training centre needs ongoing support to provide tools, equipment, and teaching materials. Funds raised by our parishes make a significant impact. For example, £998.40 can fully fund a carpenter from training to independent work, including tools and materials. Simon told us: *"I would love for people in the UK to keep helping these young people so those on the streets can find occupations and have better lives."*

How You Can Help

This Family Fast Day, join CAFOD in making a difference. By supporting CAFOD, you contribute to vital projects worldwide addressing poverty, conflict, and climate change. Your generosity and your prayers enable more people like Daniel to carve out better futures for themselves and their families.

You can donate during parish collections for CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal this Harvest season. Remember to pick up your Family Fast Day envelope and Gift Aid your donation if you can. You can also give online at cafod.org.uk/envelope

Thank you for your generous support and prayers this Harvest Family Fast Day, and for being part of our mission, in working towards a world that reflects the Kingdom of God. *Patrick Gardner*

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- A Family Tribute

...continued from page 12 >

- and he had plenty of that. Fr Tim came to Lancaster Diocese from a foreign land but believed that despite our differences, we share common aspirations and obstacles. He saw the potential for unity in our diversity and the strength that comes from togetherness. There were no outsiders for Fr Tim - everyone was welcome.

It was the people he served that enriched and invigorated Fr Tim. The people of Carlisle Preston, Harraby, Cleator Moor, Newhouse and Blackpool were always his priority. He was proud to be counted as one of your own. Fr Tim had one flaw, however, - it was his devotion to Arsenal

Football Club - that, I never understood. But that was Fr Tim, loyal to the core. As many of you here who knew Fr Tim well will appreciate when you were in with Tim you were in - he would never let you down.

On behalf of Fr Tim's sister Marianne (*another golden apple that landed by the Hannah tree*) and the rest of his family I like to end by thanking the people of the Diocese of Lancaster for embracing Fr Tim within your community and giving him the opportunity to serve you.

For Fr Tim it was always about you and Fr Tim would often say: *"All this and heaven too"* May he rest in peace. *Joe Sullivan*



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Fr Harry with his parents following his ordination.

Fr Henry (Harry) Holden RIP

Bishop Paul reflected at the start of Mass that Retirement can be a fruitful time, a time to prepare for the final stage of our journey to eternal life. Fr. Harry Holden often expressed his readiness to go to “him upstairs”. He was impatient to meet with his Lord.

As Jesus approached his death, St. John records his priestly prayer:

“Father, the hour has come: glorify your Son so that your Son may glorify you; and, through the power over all mankind that you have given him, let him give eternal life to all those you have entrusted to him.

And eternal life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”

Life, Death and resurrection belong to the very essence of Christian belief. We are created for life, for intimacy with God, through the death and resurrection of JC.

A priest has a particular role in leading the flock of Christ. A priest is described as teacher of the Word, minister of the Sacraments and leader of the Christian community entrusted to him. In doing that he brings his own character and gifts.

Fr. Harry served as a priest for more than 60 years and we give thanks to God for his many years of faithful service. *“A priest is called by God to act for men in their relations with God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins; and so, he can sympathise with those who are ignorant or uncertain because he too lives in the limitations of weakness.” (Letter to the Hebrews.)*

Fr Harry was born on 13th April 1935 in Lytham, to parents Henry and Madge, and had two sisters Wynn and Mary and a brother Ron. At the age of 11, Harry joined the seminary at Upholland, and soon showed his interest in football, playing for the clergy, and ‘doing his own thing’ which included escaping to go and watch his then favourite club, Preston North End. That streak of independence became a mark of his life.

He was ordained in April 1961 (18 months before the opening Session of the 2nd Vatican Council). At the same time, the Country was changing after the years of austerity following the 2nd World War, and the church too was to undergo significant changes, particularly noticeable in the liturgy. Fr. Harry was impatient - mainly with bishops - for positive changes to take place. He was described as a bit of a rebel or more politely, a “character”. He was an active member of the National Conference of Priests and for a while served on its steering Committee.

He was first posted to St Joseph’s Preston where he was 4th curate under the guidance of Mgr. B K O’Neill, and forming a great partnership with Fr. Michael Taylor and others. Soon after arriving he was not pleased to find the house-keeper’s cat sitting on his bed, and he helped it out of the window. The housekeeper panicked and ran outside relieved to find the cat outside, safe from harm.

From Preston Fr Harry moved on to Carlisle serving in the parishes of Christ the King and then St. Bede, before becoming Secretary to Bishop Pearson.

Although he only held this post for a short time it was enough to convince him that bishops weren’t that bad after all, though we are left wondering why he worked with Bishop Pearson for only one year.

After a spell in Sacred Heart, Barrow Fr. Harry returned to Carlisle as Parish priest of Our Lady & St Joseph. One of his great joys here was working with two permanent deacons, who he called and supported, and with whom he became strong personal friends. He valued their ministry and the responsibility they undertook. They were amongst the first permanent deacons in the diocese.

After 7 years he moved on to St Mary’s, Morecambe where he spent the longest time of his priesthood. For a while his heart remained in Carlisle and it took him a few months to unpack his bags. It was no reflection on Morecambe, more

a wrench away from the work he had begun in Carlisle. At Morecambe he opened up the Presbytery and frequently invited people in for meals. He enjoyed a very happy 17 years - a bonus was his closeness to his sister Wynn and her family.

His final appointment which lasted five years, was here at St Joseph’s, Ansdell, where he rapidly reached out to his new congregation, very close to his home town. Again, he pursued his love of cooking and watching his now favourite team Manchester United.

He was dedicated to evangelisation and again used to good effect both his cooking skills and interest in football.

He regularly provided meals in the presbytery, entertaining both the parents of children preparing for baptism or confirmation and also parents wishing to enter the church.

And whilst watching Manchester United on TV he regularly invited parishioners to join him - such that there could be ten or twelve enthusiastic parishioners enjoying the games in a very sociable presbytery.

The flow of wine became a key part of the mission to evangelise. Fr Harry was and still is revered for his love of the gospel and desire to live his life as would Jesus.

During his priestly service here at St Joseph’s he introduced the parish to the Bernadine Sisters which, while based at Carnforth were developing a new Mission in Burkina Faso, the 2nd poorest country in the world. As part of St Joseph’s centenary celebrations, the parish agreed to fund the construction of a new church at the heart of the Bernadine community in Burkina Faso. St Joseph’s has continued to support the Mission each year since.

His last few years at St Joseph’s were plagued with back problems but he hung on until his official retirement when he settled into a ground floor apartment in St Annes which he regarded as his Basilica.

In his retirement of some 14 years, he appeared fully contented, regularly saying Mass in his Basilica for his many visitors. He particularly enjoyed assisting Fr Peter Hart with his one-to-one visits to the sick and housebound of the Star of the Sea Parish.

A special thank you to Fr Peter Hart for allowing Fr Harry to become involved in these duties. He also made regular visits to his physio in Carlisle whilst visiting his many friends there.

In his last twelve months as Fr Harry became increasingly frail he was determined to continue living independently which resulted in many falls and visits to hospital.

We are extremely grateful to his neighbours, and friends for their support and patience during what was a difficult period. “Harry’s handmaids” kept him going with their faithful ministrations.

After a prolonged spell in hospital, he was persuaded to go into Stella Matutina Nursing Home where, despite his desire for independence, he settled quickly.

Unfortunately, infection took him back into Blackpool Vic but he was all ready for returning to his new home when he died on the morning of 3rd July.

Our grateful thanks go to the staff not only at Blackpool Victoria Hospital but especially to Stella Matutina for all the love and care extended to him.

We express our deepest sympathy to Fr Harry’s family.

We commend him to God’s loving mercy with the words of Jesus in the Gospel: *“The will of him who sent me is that I should lose nothing of all that he has given to me, and that I should raise it up on the last day. Yes, it is my Father’s will that whoever sees the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and that I shall raise him up on the last day.” May the ‘Late’ Fr Harry rest in peace, and come to know the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom he has sent.”*

Canon Peter Draper



DIOCESE OF LANCASTER Centenary Prayer

God our Father, we thank you for all the graces and blessings You have bestowed on our Diocese since its foundation one hundred years ago on ground made fertile by the blood of the martyrs.

Nourished by your Son, Jesus Christ, in Word and Sacraments, and led by your Holy Spirit, may we move forward with hope and trust, helping future generations to discover the “pearl of great price” which will bring them eternal life. And when time shall be no more, may our Diocese rejoice as the “mother of countless children,” and be given her place in heavenly glory.

This we ask of you who live and reign for ever and ever. *Amen*

*Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.
St. Cuthbert, pray for us.
Holy Martyrs of our Diocese, pray for us.*



Congratulations to the Catholic Womens League of St Peter's Lytham who celebrated their 50th birthday recently.



On Sunday 2 June Preston held its annual Corpus Christi procession which was well attended. It began and finished at St Walburge's stopping in between at three external stations.

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 send us what you have. Contact details can be found on page 2.

Success for St Mary's Primary School Great Eccleston

The children of St Mary's primary school, Great Eccleston won first prize at the Great Eccleston Show, a fantastic achievement! Displays of their work are seen here together with the prize presentations.



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