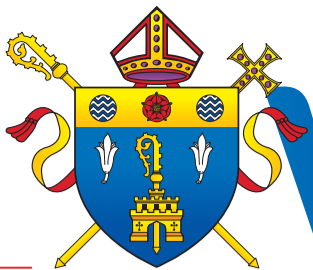


FREE

The Catholic



VOICE

of Lancaster

The Official Newspaper to the Diocese of Lancaster

Issue 364 + November '24

INSIDE:

pg08 It All Began in a Cow Shed! Celebrating 75 years of Christ the King Blackpool



Pray for Peace

“
Through Mary’s intercession, let us ask God for the gift of peace, for war-torn Ukraine, Palestine and Israel, for Sudan, for Myanmar and all the lands scarred by war

Pope Francis ”

Let us pray for peace

O Loving God, your Son, Jesus Christ, came into the world to do your Will and leave us His Peace.

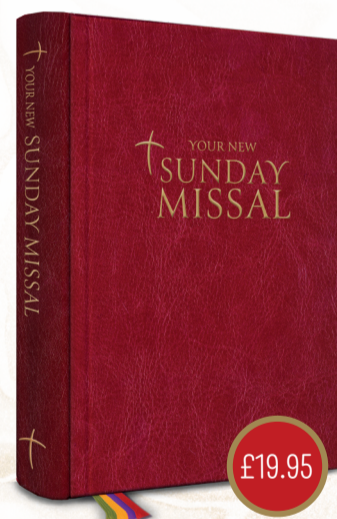
Through the intercession and example of our Blessed Mother Mary, Queen of Peace, grant us the wisdom and humility to reflect that peace to the world. Inspire our thoughts, words and deeds to bear witness to your presence in our hearts.

May your Holy Spirit fill us with every grace and blessing so that we may pursue what leads to peace for all humanity. Amen

“
I ask all parties to cease fire immediately in Lebanon, in Gaza, in the rest of Palestine, and in Israel. This war has devastating effects on the population: Many, too many people continue to die day after day in the Middle East

Pope Francis ”

In this coming month of Remembrance we remember all those who have gone before us, particularly those who have died as a result of conflicts throughout the world. Today, conflicts continue and even escalate so it is important to re double our efforts to pray for peace.



£19.95

redemptorist publications

YOUR NEW SUNDAY MISSAL

New ESV Translation

A new edition of the Lectionary using the English Standard Version - Catholic Edition and the Abbey Psalms and Canticles will come into use in England, Scotland, and Wales on the First Sunday of Advent, 2024.

The new Lectionary gives us an opportunity to hear the Word of God with fresh ears and deeper understanding as we engage with a text that reflects up-to-date biblical scholarship.

www.rpbooks.co.uk □ 01420 88222 □ customercare@rpbooks.co.uk

Kieron Bassett

FINANCIAL SERVICES

We are local Independent Financial Advisers having been established for over 30 years.

We give advice on mortgages, investments, equity release, pensions and protection products, and we are here for All Times In Your Life.

Contact Kieron Bassett on (01524) 832057 or via www.kieronbassett.com, or info@kieronbassett.com
Our office at 32 Victoria Street, Morecambe is open 6 days a week.
Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority



CONTACT US:

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

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

EDITOR:
Edwina Gillett
01253 736630 / 07969 967268
edwinagillett@hotmail.co.uk

ADVERTISING:
Charlotte Rosbrooke / CathCom Ltd.
01440 730399
charlotter@cathcom.org
www.cathcom.org

DESIGN & LAYOUT:
Rob Hotchkiss / Hot Creative
01253 730343
rob@hot-creative.co.uk
www.hot-creative.co.uk

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

Articles to:
voicenews@hotmail.co.uk

Letters to:
voicelatters@hotmail.co.uk

POSTAL ADDRESS:
FAO Edwina Gillett
99 Commonsides, Ansdell,
Lytham St. Annes FY8 4DJ

Please send articles for publication on CD or by email, supplying any photos separate to the text (i.e. in jpeg format). Otherwise please type double spacing or write very clearly. Last date for copy is the LAST DAY of the month prior to publication. Photographs will be returned if you remember to put your name and address on the back of each and enclose suitable stamped and self-addressed packaging.



Giving thanks for Creation

Our Lady & St Edward's Parish, Preston have come to recognise that we must never take Creation for granted, but must always respect and give thanks for it, as encouraged by the words of Pope Francis. We do this by celebrating it, particularly during the Season of Creation (1 September - 4 October)

At the very start of the Season, a wonderful Creation-themed display appeared, (as unannounced as a "Banksy"), at the back of the church as one parishioner's spontaneous response to it. Another parishioner posted quotations from Pope Francis' great encyclical on the Care of Creation (*Laudato Si*) in the church; and also in the Parish Centre, where they could be seen by the community groups who use our premises.

A "Great Green Family Fun Night" followed on 13 September when 70 people gathered in the Parish Centre for a celebratory evening with an environmental quiz, a vegetarian meal (it was Friday!) and ending with a sing-along of well-known songs. We were also joined by some parishioners from our sister church, St Mary Newhouse. There was a serious side to it too as we asked parishioners to commit to doing something different to make the world a better place and hopefully improve their lives at the same time. We were a bit nervous that this might make the evening a bit "heavy", but we were wrong as the feedback was so positive:

"Our Great Green Family Fun Night was just that - great! Not only for its important messaging and thought-provoking content, but also the chance to gather together as a parish family."

"The Green evening was a most enjoyable family occasion; all ages were challenged to think about environmental issues and take action."

"A fun-filled parish family gathering with something for everyone. Loved the Creation Quiz - learnt plenty of facts about nature and the climate, and how it's so important to take care of our planet - God's wonderful gift to us and future generations"

"The quiz really made me think about the environment and I learned a lot, about what more I need to do to protect it."

Before our Masses the same weekend, not only did our parish Sisters and others decorate the sanctuary with symbols of creation, but we also invited the Childrens' Liturgy Group to bring up, after the offertory, favourite animal toys; and for adults to contribute something that spoke to them of their love of nature. We had a wonderful and varied collection of items - monkeys, hedgehogs, an owl, a donkey, whilst a giant rabbit



“Humanity is waging war on nature. This is suicidal. Nature always strikes back – and it is already doing so with growing force and fury.”
 – Antonio Guterres. UN Secretary General

took its ease against the lectern. Adults contributed fruits of the harvest, a couple of bug hotels and pictures of favourite views, including a Hebridean beach and the Milky Way. Parishioners responded warmly to this invitation to share their love of Creation during our celebration of the Eucharist as the following comments show:

“I found the Creation Mass very moving. The soft toys brought up by the children at the offertory and the pictures of landscapes were a powerful reminder of the beauty of nature and how we all must protect our environment and stop pollution in all its forms.”

“It was lovely to have the children bringing their favourite animals to the altar. It made me very emotional thinking about the future I want for my grandchildren.”

The Mass was so joyful, so engaging, such a lovely reminder of our duty to repay God’s gift of Creation by caring for it.

Pope Francis’ language on the Care of Creation is full of love, joy and hope. Our celebration weekend was full of these sentiments and gave us a greater resolve to protect what we love as we came together as parish community.

Stephen Garsed

“Creation is a gift, it is a present, a wonderful gift that God has given us to take care of and to use for the benefit of all, always with respect and gratitude.”

” *Pope Francis*

K&M Maintenance

Heating - Electrical - Drainage Established 25 years

Telephone: 01772 704530 Fax 01722 798801

Heating, Electrical and Drainage and Plumbing services across the North West of England

Gas

- Emergency Boiler Repairs for all makes
- Boiler Installations & servicing
- Central Heating System repairs/upgrades/leaks
- New fitted Central Heating Systems
- Landlord Gas Safety Certificates (CP12)

Electrical

- New consumer units supplied and fitted
- All emergency breakdowns
- New lighting
- Faulty sockets
- Outdoor lighting/sockets
- Power tripping
- Additional sockets
- Rewiring
- EICR - electrical safety certificates

Drainage and Plumbing

- Blocked drains, internal and external
- Leaks
- Camera surveys
- New taps

Prices

Boiler Service - £49 + VAT plus £10 for every additional appliance.

Tel No: 01772 704530 **Mobile:** 07941 554730

Fax No: 01772 798801

Address: K & M Maintenance Services Ltd, Unit 8A, Electron Mill, Brook Street, Preston PR1 7NH

More information: www.kmmaintenance.co.uk

Hello Lancaster,

Our caring and professional teams are here to help, guide and advise you through the best ways to say goodbye.

Find us at 5 George Street, Lancaster, LA1 1XQ, or call us on 01524 64650.

coop.co.uk/funeralcare





YOUTH MATTERS

Jack Regan writes:

We are now firmly into the Keswick Autumn. Yes, there is lots of rain, tonnes of falling leaves clogging our drains, the nights are getting longer and the heating bills are getting bigger.

Still, we work for an amazing God who has even beaten death. He doesn't care that it's not summer anymore and he's been blessing us lately as he always does.

Our new team are settling in well and we are running some great retreats.

What else is there to report..?

Our First Open Day

Okay, our first for a long time anyway!

It happened on Sunday September 15th and a good crowd of people turned up. We opened the building and let people take part in our creative workshops

among other things. The day ended with Mass at 3pm celebrated by Bishop Paul. A chance for him to commission the new team!

We were very grateful to everyone who supported the day. We'll be doing it again next year so look out for the date!

Open Weekends and Quiet Weekends // A New Venture

This year, we are starting an exciting new initiative aimed at adults and families. Sometimes, when 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.

We are also looking for a paid Programme Leader to join our leadership team. Ideally someone with some relevant experience.

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 Today's Youth: Bridging the Gap in Church Ministry

In a world that is rapidly evolving, understanding the youth of today is not just a passing interest but a necessity, especially for those involved in church ministry. Young people aren't just the future of the church; they are its vibrant and dynamic present. Engaging effectively with them requires an understanding of their perspectives, challenges, and aspirations.

The first step in understanding today's youth is acknowledging the significant changes in the environment they are growing up in. This generation, often referred to as Generation Z, is the first truly digital-native generation, having been exposed to the internet, social networks, and mobile systems from a young age. This has profound implications for how they perceive the world, form relationships, and interact with faith.

One of the defining traits of today's youth is their access to information. They are exposed to a wide array of viewpoints and cultures, making them more open-minded and tolerant but also more questioning and sceptical, especially about matters of faith and religion. They don't just accept traditions and teachings at face value; they want to understand the 'why' behind everything.

Another aspect is their approach to social issues. Today's youth are more socially and environmentally conscious. They care deeply about issues like climate change, social justice, and equality. Integrating discussions and actions on these topics into church activities can be a way to show that their concerns are taken seriously and that faith has a practical and relevant application in addressing these issues.

Communication styles have also evolved. Today's youth prefer quick, concise, and visually engaging content. Long talks may not be as effective as they once were. Youth Activities need to adapt

by incorporating multimedia elements into their teachings and using platforms where young people are most active, like social media, to engage with them.

However, amidst these technological and societal changes, some fundamental needs remain the same. Young people are searching for meaning, purpose, and a sense of belonging. They grapple with issues like identity, self-esteem, and future anxieties. The Church can play a pivotal role in addressing these existential queries by providing a space for open discussion, mentorship, and community.

Mentorship, especially, can be a powerful tool. Building relationships where young people feel heard, valued, and guided can help them navigate their spiritual journey. Youth leaders and church members can share their experiences and listen empathetically to young people's concerns, creating a bridge between generations.

Furthermore, the Church can foster an environment where youth feel empowered to take on leadership roles. Allowing them to lead certain services, projects, or groups not only boosts their confidence but also ensures that church activities resonate more with their peers.

In conclusion, understanding today's youth in church ministry requires a delicate balance of respecting traditions while embracing change. It's about listening more and assuming less, asking questions, and being open to new ways of expression and worship. As the church adapts to meet the needs of its younger members, it becomes more relevant and vital, not just as a keeper of faith but as a nurturing ground for future leaders who are spiritually grounded and socially conscious. By bridging this gap, the Church doesn't just grow; it thrives in the hearts of its youngest members.

David Pope dip FD MBIFD

LYTHAM
FUNERAL SERVICE LTD.



Independent
Catholic Funeral Director

Arranging and
conducting funerals
in the
Catholic Diocese
of Lancaster
since 1986

Lytham Funeral Service Ltd.
42 Clifton Street,
Lytham FY8 5EW
Tel. (01253) 733909
www.lythamfuneralservice.co.uk

**To advertise please
contact Charlotte on
01440 730399
or email
charlotter@cathcom.org**

Your Letters

Send us your letters:

Write to: **The Editor, 99, Commonsidge, Ansdell, Lytham St. Annes, FY8 4DJ.**
Email to: voicelatters@hotmail.co.uk

- 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,

Thank you so much for having the bravery to publish, in the October edition of the *Catholic Voice*, the excellent letter from Christopher P. Crocker. I wholeheartedly agree with his comments and hope that the Church of the future will embrace the gifts of women at every level. I am aware that the recent Synod is discussing this issue, let us hope that the Holy Spirit is working within the Synod and that hearts are newly opened to the breath of the Spirit.

Elizabeth Alty, Preston

+++++

The Editor can also report the details of a telephone call during which the caller complimented the *Catholic Voice* on such an excellent publication and in particular the coverage of deceased clergy in the September edition. The caller wished to remain anonymous but was keen that his comments were recorded.

+++++

Dear Editor,

In response to Christopher Crocker's question why the Catholic Church does not permit women priests, (*Catholic Voice October 2024*), the clearest reason is that Jesus himself, who is the head of his Body the Church, chose only men to be priests, and although Jesus Christ is fully man who lived in historical Time, he is also Eternal God, who is the same yesterday, today and forever (*Hebrews 13:8*).

Following are excerpts from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith responding to certain doubts about the question of women priests:

*"Christ willed to confer this sacrament on the twelve apostles, all of whom were men... The Church understands herself to be always bound to this decision of the Lord, which excludes that the ministerial priesthood may be validly conferred on women. John Paul II, in his Apostolic Letter *Ordinatio Sacerdotalis*, taught: '... the Church has no authority whatsoever to confer priestly ordination on women and that this judgment is to be definitively held by all the Church's faithful' (n. 4).*

Jesus is referred to in Scripture as the Church's Bridegroom, and the Church is his spouse: *"The priest acts in the person of Christ, spouse of the Church, and his being a man is an indispensable element of this sacramental representation (cf. Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Inter Insigniores*, n. 5)."*

Jesus did not even choose the most perfect woman, the sinless Virgin Mary, to be a priest: *"Recall that the most perfect image of the Church is Mary, the Mother of the Lord, who did not receive the apostolic ministry."*

Since the Church is Christ's Body it cannot defy the infallibility of Christ, who is the Truth (Jn 14:6). "The Church does not have the faculty to confer on women priestly ordination."

Sincerely in Christ,
Barbara Mason, Stonyhurst, Clitheroe

**CARDINAL
NEWMAN
COLLEGE**

**OPEN
DAY**

10AM - 1PM

**SAT
09
NOV**

APPLY NOW

CARDINALNEWMAN.AC.UK

Buffer zone legislation discriminates against people of faith says Bishop Sherrington

In September the UK Government announced that legislation to enact so-called 'safe access zones' or 'buffer zones' outside abortion facilities in England and Wales will come into force from 31 October.

This legislation, contained in section 9 of the Public Order Act 2023, criminalises a range of activities within a 150-metre perimeter of an abortion facility. Such activities potentially include prayer, thought, peaceful presence, consensual communication and offers of practical support to women in vulnerable situations, should any of these be deemed to influence or interfere with access to the clinic.

Such legislation remains deeply concerning as a threat to freedom of speech, thought, conscience and religion for people of all faiths and none.

Following the announcement, Bishop John Sherrington, the Lead Bishop for Life Issues for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, said: "As the Catholic Bishops' Conference repeatedly stated during the passage of the Public Order Bill last year, 'safe access zone' legislation is unnecessary and disproportionate. We condemn all harassment and intimidation of women and hold that, as was accepted in a Home Office Review, there are already

laws and mechanisms in place to protect women from such behaviour. In practice, and despite any other intention, this legislation constitutes discrimination and disproportionately affects people of faith. Religious freedom is the foundational freedom of any free and democratic society, essential for the flourishing and realisation of dignity of every human person. Religious freedom includes the right to manifest one's private beliefs in public through witness, prayer and charitable outreach, including outside abortion facilities.

"As well as being unnecessary and disproportionate, we have deep concerns around the practical effectiveness of this legislation, particularly given the lack of clarity in relation to the practice of private prayer and offers of help within 'safe access zones'. As Pope Francis has reminded us, 'a healthy pluralism, one which genuinely respects differences and values them as such, does not entail privatising religions in an attempt to reduce them to the quiet obscurity of the individual's conscience or to relegate them to the enclosed precincts of churches, synagogues or mosques. This would represent, in effect, a new form of discrimination and authoritarianism'. By legislating for and implementing so-called 'safe access zones', the UK Government has taken an unnecessary and disproportionate step backwards in the protection of religious and civic freedoms in England and Wales."

CBCEW



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.*



Celebrating our Schools



Our Lady's Catholic High School

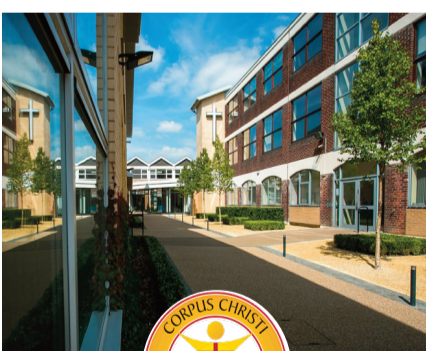

Headteacher: Mr Charnock
St Anthony's Drive, Fulwood, Preston,
Lancashire PR2 3SQ
Telephone 01772 326900
Email: admin@olchs.lancs.sch.uk
www.olchs.lancs.sch.uk

Have you considered a career in Teaching?
Primary, Secondary or Post 16

Teacher training with the Catholic Teaching Alliance (CTA), led by Our Lady's Catholic High School




Scan the QR code to visit the CTA website for information on our PGCE Teacher Training Courses
www.catholic-teaching-alliance.org

Together in One Body
CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr John Hankin
St Vincent's Road, Preston PR2 8QY
Telephone 01772 716912
Email admin@ccc.lancs.sch.uk
www.ccc.lancs.sch.uk




Our Lady and St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School
Ennerdale Road • Maryport • Cumbria • CA15 8HN
☎ 01900 812582 • ✉ head@st-pat-maryport.cumbria.sch.uk
Website: www.st-pat-maryport.cumbria.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs J Hampson
Assistant Head: Mrs H Long

At Our Lady & St. Patrick's, we recognise Christ in everyone as we grow together in faith and love to serve the community.




Cardinal Allen Catholic High School
Melbourne Avenue, Fleetwood
FY7 8AY

Headteacher: Andrew Cafferkey


Tel: 01253 872659
E-mail: head@cardinalallen.co.uk



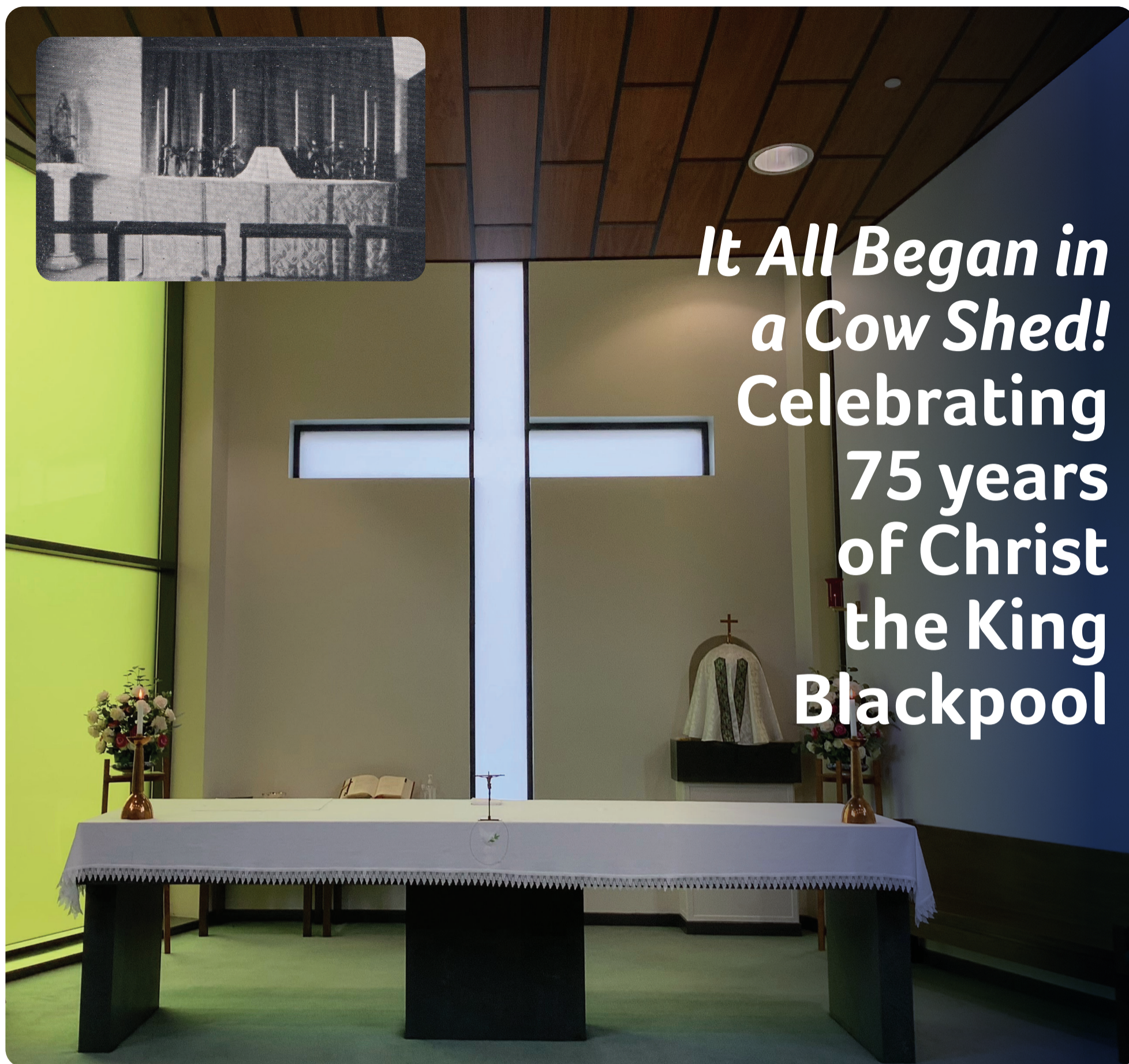
Christ the King Catholic High School
Lawrence Avenue, Frenchwood,
Preston PR1 4PR

Headteacher Mr S N Corless

Tel: (01772) 252072 Fax: (01772) 885674
Email: reception@ctk.lancs.sch.uk
Web: <http://www.ctk.lancs.sch.uk>



Saint Bede's Catholic High School
Headteacher: Mr P Marsden
Talbot Road, Lytham St. Annes
FY8 4JL
01253 737 174
www.stbedeslytham.lancs.sch.uk
contact@stbedeslytham.lancs.sch.uk



It All Began in a Cow Shed! Celebrating 75 years of Christ the King Blackpool

Sr Philomena Grimley charts the history of Christ the King parish from its very humble beginnings to the present day.

In post war Blackpool, the local Council began to build a new big council housing estate on land that was alongside Layton Hill Convent. A local priest, Father Pearson, asked if the diocese could obtain some of this land to build a church to serve the estate of Grange Park. But the council refused, uncertain how much land was needed for housing.

So, undaunted, the diocese announced the opening of a new parish, which included the Convent community, and it would have a temporary church in the Convent grounds. Now when Sr Cornelia Connelly acquired the land for the Convent she also purchased a dairy farm.

Eventually the farm was discontinued but the outbuildings remained in use and so it was that the former cow shed, or 'The Shippon', as it was called, when it was an art studio for the school, became that temporary church and the parish of Christ the King began there in January 1949!

From old school magazines one can read how, before the first Mass, many of the students helped to clean the premises thoroughly (and "missed" the midday compulsory walk!) The new parish priest,

Doctor Slater, was also chaplain to the Convent and became well known to the community.

The diocese persevered in their request for land and in 1953 the foundation stone for the new church was laid on the corner of Chepstow Road and Gateside Drive in Grange Park. That church served the parish for 60 years. A social centre beside the church was built and opened in 1970 and then a complete parish primary school in 1973, although there was a temporary Infant School in an outbuilding beside the church from 1958.

Parish photo albums bear witness to a vibrant parish community, strongly contributing to the life of people on the Grange Park estate, with a youth centre, regular social events, outings,

courses and numerous celebrations over the years. Canon Alf Hayes was ordained there in 1972 and 25 years later celebrated his Silver Jubilee there. The parish was blessed by a succession of well-remembered parish priests: Canon Henry Martindale for 26 years; Father Frank Flynn; Father Tom Forde; Father Stephen Ashton; Father Bob Horn; Father David Burns and Father John Winstanley.

In its early years the parish was also served by a number of assistant priests.

In 2007 Blackpool Council had developed plans to make major changes on Grange Park estate. They included exchanging all the buildings on the current Christ the King site for a single new church building elsewhere on the estate. But in the financial crisis that followed this plan was dropped. However in



2011 when St Mary's Catholic College, formerly Layton Hill Convent School, was awarded the special Building Schools for the Future government funding, the Council offered to provide Christ the King parish with a new church building to be incorporated into the joint design for St Mary's Catholic College and Christ the King Primary School on the former Convent site. The extensive work began in November that year. That same year, a reflection of the changing times in the Church, the parish priest, Father David Burns, of the nearby parish of St Kentigern's was made also priest-in-charge of Christ the King when Father Bob Horn was appointed to a Preston parish. Father John Winstanley succeeded Father Burns in 2013 when the parish was then amalgamated with St Kentigern's.

Sadly in 2013 the church building in


Chepstow Road became unsafe for public use and for a while Sunday masses were celebrated in the Primary School. Then, on September 11th, 2014 the new church was ready to be officially opened by the Bishop Michael Campbell OSA. There was a joyful procession, with parishioners carrying precious items from the former church building along the streets of Grange Park and up the hill to the new site and the new church.

There the parish of Christ the King has its home now and is literally only a 'stone's throw' from the site of 'The Shippon' where it all began 75 years ago!

This is what we joyfully celebrated on Sunday September 15th with our parish priest, Father Andrew Dawson, the parish community and children from Christ the King Catholic Academy.



Our Lady of Fidelity



The church needs religious sisters URGENTLY to bring Christ to others by a life of prayer and service lived in the community of Ignation spirituality. Daily Mass is the centre of community life. By wearing the religious habit we are witnesses of the consecrated way of life. If you are willing to risk a little love and would like to find out how, contact Sister Bernadette. Mature vocations considered.

CONVENT OF OUR LADY OF FIDELITY



1 Our Lady's Close, Upper Norwood,
London SE19 3FA Telephone 07760 297001

SELF STORAGE

Secure Units Available
Sizes To Suit All Needs
Competitive Rates
Open 7 Days

Curly Tail Storage
Park Lane, Forton PR3 0JX
Tel: 01524 791837
E: andrew@curlytailstorage.co.uk
www.curlytailstorage.co.uk


Boarbank Hall
Canonesses of St Augustine
of the Mercy of Jesus

"She who accepts the common life possesses God" **St Augustine**

A Warm Welcome to Everyone

Prayer • Community • Hospitality
• Care of the poor and sick

Contact: Sr Marian
Boarbank Hall, Grange over Sands,
Cumbria, LA11 7NH
Telephone: 015395 32288
Website: www.boarbankhall.org.uk

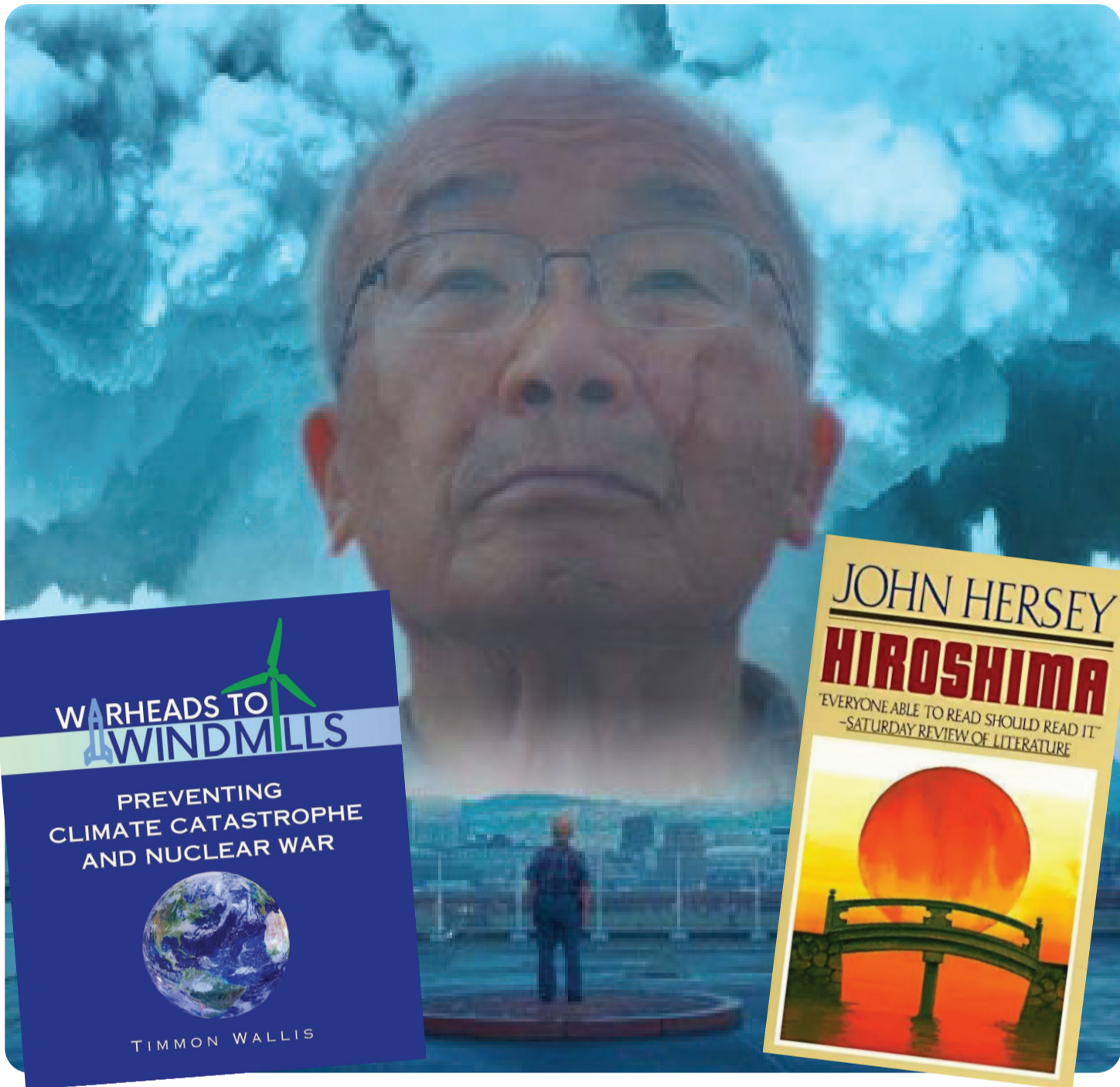



Who cares for our SICK AND RETIRED PRIESTS

- Annual collection (last Sunday in October)
- Donations and Legacies gratefully received

Secretary: Rev. Peter Draper, St. Anthony's,
Cadley Causeway, Fulwood, Preston PR2 3RX
Diocese of Lancaster Registered Charity number 234331

To advertise please contact Charlotte on 01440 730399 or email charlotter@cathcom.org



Book Reviews - Courtesy of Mouthpeace

HIROSHIMA by John Hersey

During World War II, John Hersey as Newsweek correspondent covered the fighting in Europe and Asia. He wrote articles for Time and Life magazines.

After the war, during the winter of 1945–46, Hersey was in Japan, reporting for The New Yorker on the reconstruction of the devastated country, when he found a document written by a Jesuit missionary who had survived the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. The journalist visited the missionary, who introduced him to other survivors

In May 1946, Hersey travelled to Japan, where he spent three weeks doing research and interviewing survivors. He returned to America during late June and began writing the stories of six Hiroshima survivors: a German Jesuit priest, a widowed seamstress, two doctors, a minister, and a young woman who worked in a factory.

The resulting piece was his most notable work, the 31,000-word article "Hiroshima", which was published in the August 31, 1946, issue of The New Yorker. The story dealt with the atomic bomb dropped on that Japanese city on August 6, 1945, and its effects on the six survivors. The article occupied almost the entire issue of the magazine – something The New Yorker had never done before.

ATOMIC PEOPLE – the film

This was shown on BBC 2 on 31 July 2024 and is available on iPlayer for 11 months – www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0021lrg/atomic-people

The decision by the United States to drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima on 6 August 1945 and Nagasaki three days later – was one of the most momentous and destructive in world history. Now, nearly 80 years later, this unique film gathers the testimonies of some of the last 'Hibakusha' (survivors of the two atomic bombs) before their voices are lost forever. With an average age of 85, most Hibakusha were children when the bombs were dropped. Combining their personal accounts with archive footage, the film features a significant number of voices from this shrinking group, the only people left on earth to have survived a nuclear bomb, while exploring how their experiences continue to affect them to this day.

WAR HEADS TO WINDMILLS: Preventing Climate Catastrophe and Nuclear War by Timmon Wallis
(Indispensable press) £13.99 from the Quaker Bookshop

To survive the climate crisis, we need money, brainpower and infrastructure for the most effective climate solutions. Those resources are currently being squandered by the nuclear weapons industry. We'll also need the world's biggest greenhouse gas emitters to stop pointing nuclear missiles at each other and start building unprecedented global cooperation. Can we "feed two birds with one scone" by converting assets from nuclear weapons of mass extinction to evidence-based climate solutions?

There are already excellent pathways to global nuclear disarmament. There are already excellent alternatives to burning fossil fuels. The obstacles are misinformation, propaganda, and politicians corrupted by profiteering corporations. This book is a tool kit for campaigners on both issues to work together on treaties, divestment, boycotts, lobbying, legislation, education, conversion and more. It debunks myths, frauds, and distractions. It's full of well-documented facts and figures, tools and strategies.



Raise Me Up

During this month of remembrance Fr Stephen Talbutt shares a personal experience.

On what would have been her 78th birthday, it is now some years since my mum's death, I was lying in bed thinking what I could do for her this year, and it came to me during morning prayer. People often ask me why I believe? Why I became a priest? After all, for most of my adult life I was a happy atheist. My journey first to faith and then to the priesthood has always been experiential, through experiences, not through deep thinking or searching. My faith grew through the experiences I have had.

So, this year I thought I would share one of these experiences with you.

It happened on the day of her funeral, we had brought mum's body into the church the evening before just as she had requested, and I had decided to stay in one of the guest rooms at the Cathedral overnight rather than travel back and forth to Blackpool. After a late meal with Fr Steve Pearson I paid a quick visit to mum in the church, prayed night prayer with her quietly and then went to bed.

It was during the night that I had a really vivid dream. In the dream I was walking with my brother Mike on a grassy green hill, very much like the old windows screensaver. It was a lovely sunny day and we chatted as we walked, I can't remember what we were talking about, but as we were walking up to the crest of the hill Mike suddenly fell to the ground, and in the blink of an eye it's not Mike anymore it's mum on the ground! Before she died mum could no longer walk and was always in the wheelchair, and at that moment I realised it was her, and my heart skipped a beat, what am I going to do, I don't have her wheelchair? She looked up at me and she said in her unmistakable voice "Darling, raise me up." Suddenly I was bolt

awake, it was 8am and light was coming through the crack in the curtains, her words were ringing in my ears. "Darling, raise me up". It immediately struck me that it was a strange thing for her to say, surely "pick me up!" or "lift me up" or even "help me" would have been more appropriate. Then it struck me, in a few short hours at mum's Requiem Mass, this is exactly what I would be doing, what she wanted me to do, to raise her up to God, send her on her way home. I was stunned!

By that point I had over a hundred funerals under my belt and that thought of raising those people up had never even crossed my mind. What a powerful thought, what a powerful dream. I knew that it was going to be an emotional day, and I have never been very good at hiding my emotions, so was concerned that especially now with her words ringing in my ears I would not be able to keep my emotions in check. All during the Mass her words were in my mind, and I knew instinctively at what point during the Mass to raise her up, just after the consecration when the priest raises Jesus in the host high and the bells are rung, at that point I will raise mum to God. So, when the time came during the Mass standing behind the altar, I picked up the little round host, the reality of Jesus right there present with us and I also held up mum and raised her high, offered her back to God, sent her home, and at that moment the only emotions I felt were rightness and peace, all was well, I raised mum up to God. That moment, and that dream will stay with me until the day I die.

Now some would say it was just a dream, and I would agree, it was just a dream. But my goodness! What a dream, I thank God for that dream, for me it was a further glimpse of the reality beyond this reality, another reason to believe that God exists and is beautiful, mum may be dead but she hasn't gone. So happy birthday mum, keep praying for us, and I'll see you soon xx

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.

Sean Crilley Funeral Directors

- 24 hour Personal Service
- Private Chapels of Rest
- Pre-Paid Funeral Plans
- Memorial Consultants

For personal attention and professional advice, day and night, call Sean

78 Brook Street, Carlisle, CA1 2HX
☎ (01228) 544905



Martin's

The Funeral Directors

186-188 Tulketh Brow, Ashton-on-Ribble, Preston PR2 2JJ Tel: 01772-733007

1 Stonebridge Parade, Preston Road, Longridge PR3 3AP Tel: 01772-782121

Windy Nook House Garstang Road, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 8JY Tel: 01772 500830

Proprietor W. Martin Wooton

Dedicated and Blessed Chapels of Rest
Golden Charter Pre-Paid Funeral Plans

The complete funeral service from a private family owned and run firm



JILL GLENCROSS FUNERAL DIRECTORS

An Independent Multi Award Winning
Family Funeral Directors
Female and Male Funeral Directors
Private Chapels of Rest
Nothing Is Ever Too Much Trouble



16 The Square, Dalston,
Carlisle CA5 7PY
Tel: 01228 317373

<https://www.jillglencrossfuneraldirector.co.uk/>



Our advertisers
are great supporters of
the Lancaster Voice,
so please help them
by supporting
their businesses



Monastery of Our Lady of Hynning Celebrates 50 years

Sr. Michaela Toulmin charts the history of the Monastery of Our Lady of Hynning, situated in Carnforth and provides a bit of history about the Bernardine Community who have been resident there since 1974.

The Monastery of Our Lady of Hynning was founded in 1974 in response to a call from the Church to broaden the work of education and to develop the growing work of hospitality. Four sisters arrived at Hynning in November 1974, but where did we come from and what is our history?

In the 6th century, St. Benedict, Abbot of a religious community at Monte Cassino in Italy, wrote a Rule for monks. His rule has been followed by countless monks and nuns for fifteen centuries. The Rule is pervaded by the spirit of the Gospel and characterised by its moderate and human approach. Above all, it is Christ centred; "Prefer nothing whatever to Christ" has inspired many to follow him according to the Benedictine tradition.

In the 11th century, 3 Benedictine monks, Ss Robert of Molesme, Alberic and Stephen Harding, sought to follow the Rule of St. Benedict more simply. Along with a group of other monks who shared this vision of simplicity, austerity and fraternal life, they went to Citeaux in

Burgundy, where the 'New Monastery' was established in March 1098. They became known as the Cistercians. Many women wished to follow the Cistercian ideal and many houses were established including several in French Flanders. The Abbeys of Notre Dame de la Brayelle at Annay (1196) Notre Dame de la Woestine at St. Omer, (1217) and Notre Dame Des Près in Douai (1221) were three Cistercian houses for women in Flanders. As a result of the French Revolution in 1789, all monasteries in France were suppressed, including those of the three foundresses of our Order.

Three nuns, from each of the Abbeys, met together after the Revolution with the sole aim of re-establishing their Cistercian monastic life. After many years in exile, spent travelling from place to place, they were finally able to settle at the small village of Esquermes, near Lille, and were officially recognised in 1827. The sisters founded a house in Slough, England in 1897. Over the next few years, they also founded houses in Westcliff, Essex and in High Wycombe.

The Monastery of Our Lady of Hynning was founded in 1974 by four sisters from our communities at Slough, Berkshire and Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex. Until 1973, the house and garden was the home of the Peel family; a country mansion situated in acres of farmland. This main house now serves as our guesthouse. Pamela Wallis, a former student of our school in Slough, and who moved to this area when she retired, recommended the house to our Order. When the sisters arrived, they used the servant quarters and the guests used the main house. The four sisters, Sr. Lawrence, Sr. Mary John, Sr. Marie Nivard and Sr. Michelle Marie came from our two houses in England at the time, Westcliff and Slough. Our Order has a long tradition of work in the field of education but this was a new and exciting venture into hospitality and retreat work. Three of the foundresses of Hynning have since died but Sr. Michelle Marie, who now lives in our monastery at Brownhill was able to come back for the celebration.

In 1983, an extension was built to link

a large outbuilding to the main house. This is now part of the sisters' area. A year later, a large barn was converted into a simple and prayerful Chapel with the cloister corridor built to link it with the main house. The Dedication of the Church took place on September 19th, 1984 so it is 40 years since our Church was dedicated and 50 years since our foundation. We decided to have the celebration in 2 halves, the first one in September and the second one which will take place on the 13th November.

The first date was chosen because it was the date of the first Mass celebrated at Hynning and it is the feast of all those Saints who followed the Rule of St. Benedict.

In 2006 our community at Slough closed and several sisters from Hynning and Slough went to form a new community at Brownhill, Gloucestershire and then the other sisters from Slough came to join the remaining community here. In 2021 we had major building work on the guesthouse. This was finished in October



2022, with all the rooms in the house newly refurbished with ensuite rooms.

To celebrate our 50th anniversary we planned a series of events. In August we held three Open afternoons to welcome local people to see our gardens, enjoy our cream teas and learn a bit more about our community. We also had a very popular Teddy Bear Nun hunt.

On the 19th of September, Bishop Paul Swarbrick celebrated the Mass for the 50th anniversary of the foundation of Hying Monastery and 40 years of the Dedication of the Church. Fr. Anthony Keefe, our chaplain, gave the homily. Bishop Paul and Sr. Mary Helen, the Prioress, gave speeches of welcome to all those who were able to attend Mass. There were 12 priests, including Monsignor Frank Slattery who had been there 40 years previously. We were delighted to welcome several religious sisters, consecrated persons and deacons of the diocese, family, friends, former students and staff of our former schools in England. We were also pleased to

welcome sisters from our motherhouse of La Plaine in France, and from Brownhill in Gloucestershire. The celebration of Mass was followed by a buffet lunch for all prepared by the sisters and staff. A special cake had been made by Sr. Michaela and Sr. Mary Stella for the occasion.

I'd like to end this account with some words of the homily of Fr. Anthony which expressed beautifully the role we have at Hying.

"If anyone loves me" He has told us "My Father will love them, and we shall come to them and make our home with them". The living God is present on the altar, in the tabernacle, but also in the people who love Him and serve Him: in the community which lives and serves here, and in those who come here to seek Him and to be drawn more closely to Him, echoing constantly the prayer of Solomon: "Hear the entreaty of your people as they pray in this place. From heaven where your dwelling is, hear—and as you hear, forgive".

CASPAR

Communication & Administration System for Parishes and Religious

Help to manage your parish:

- ✔ Reduce your parish administration
- ✔ Communicate with parishioners
- ✔ More time to be a Parish Priest!

Newsletters by Email/Text
Send by email/add to your website: save money, time & carbon

Parish Pastoral Statistics
See live stats week by week

Parish Website
Easier to manage your existing website

Rotas
Create rotas and enable parishioners to volunteer for jobs

Pastoral Care
Keep track of parishioners who need to be visited

100% Carbon Neutral
Helps reduce your Carbon Footprint

www.caspar.church
from CathCom
Proud publishers of this Directory



‘My strength tells me No, but the path demands Yes’



Stella Matutina is situated just minutes away from Faihaven Lake, Ansdell shops and Lytham Windmill

We provide a homely, caring atmosphere, respecting your individuality, dignity and privacy. The Home has its own chapel where we hold a Daily Service and Rosary

- Short/long term and respite care
- Overlooking the sea
- Set in extensive grounds
- Comfortable communal rooms
- All bedrooms single and en-suite
- Home cooked food (all diets catered for)
- Range of activities and outings
- Caring and experienced staff (99% NVQ qualified)

Call on us at anytime for a viewing or ring for further details

Stella Matutina Care Home
 16 Clifton Drive
 Ansdell
 Lytham St Annes
 FY8 5RQ

Manager– Dawn Ward

Tel: 01253 734834

email: manager@scjm.org



Our American family of four sought pilgrimage in the Lake District during August 2024. We travelled 4745 miles by air, 492 miles by rail, 180 miles by foot and 2 miles by kayak in the footsteps of eight local saints while searching for Christ in Cumbria. This was our third pilgrimage in the UK after walking from Winchester to Canterbury along the Pilgrims’ Way in 2022 and from St. Germans Cathedral to St. Michael’s Mount on the Cornish Celtic Way in 2023.

We were attracted to Cumbria in 2024 after finding references to Martin Earle’s newly commissioned icon of the Cumbrian Saints which Fr. Philip Conner has planned for the church of Our Lady Star of the Sea and St. Michael in Workington. The beauty of this altar icon and the truth of these saints’ lives inspired my daughter and me to spend nine months and many Zoom hours planning a Lakeland pilgrimage itinerary.

Arriving from several parts of the States, we gathered in late July at Paddington Station. Enroute to St. Bees, our family stopped at Workington in West Cumbria to meet Fr. Philip and Canon John Watson.

After Saturday Vigil Mass, we dined with our welcoming priests and received a wonderful pilgrimage blessing beneath the statue celebrating St. Bega’s arrival on the coast of Cumbria in 650 AD.

Over the course of the next two weeks, the four of us backpacked along St. Bega’s Way, St. Bega’s Way Back, St. Mary’s Way and the Cumbrian Cistercian

Way. Our family traversed numerous fells and ghylls, crossed many becks and dived into multiple tarns. We climbed a total of 21,000 feet while walking 180 miles.

We even kayaked to pray at the ruins of St. Herbert’s hermitage on his island in Derwentwater. Our outdoor specialty was wild swimming which sometimes received applause as we pursued group immersions in Ennerdale, Crummock Water, Scale Force Waterfall, Ritson Force and Angle Tarn. This craving for cold water was reminiscent of baptism while mountain summits promised the protection of St. Michael, and the ospreys overhead suggested the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We reveled in the glory of God’s creation.

Our most authentic pilgrim effort was a five-mile passage from Sandgate to Ulverston across Morecambe Bay. This low tide event at sunset was the first time in 150 years that a pilgrimage group was delivered from one King’s Guide to the Sands to another in the middle of the River Leven. Our walk across the wet sand reminded us of the Israelites’ exit from the hardship of Egypt and their entrance into the promise of the Holy Land. In a similar way, the route of a pilgrimage may be physically difficult, but it guides one to great mental refreshment and spiritual renewal. These benefits may be somewhat of a challenge to appreciate when you are walking seventeen miles daily over multiple peaks while carrying a twenty-five-pound pack. Nevertheless, despite its hardships, pilgrimage is, truthfully, a very beautiful and rewarding experience.

While the physical sites on the Way served as the body of our pilgrimage, they were not complete without the Catholic practices and celebrations which formed the heart of our journey. Our family had prepared for this endeavor by studying the lives and the prayers of the early medieval, English Reformation, and modern saints of Cumbria. We prayed the 13th century Hymn to St. Bega at St. Bees Priory and at her chapel on the shore of Bassenthwaite Lake. We learned St. Ninian's Prayer of Encirclement '...Circle me Lord, Keep hope within, Keep doubt without...' and asked for his guidance in professing the faith. We recited the bird/tree/bell/fish poem of St. Kentigern and reflected on its meaning. We asked St. Oswald the King for strength and sought the gift of fortitude from the martyr, Blessed Christopher Robinson. The friendship of St. Cuthbert and St. Herbert of Derwentwater encouraged our own love for one another, while Servant of God John Bradburne's life inspired service to others. We often walked while deep in prayer following the advice of the Apostle Paul to 'Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.'

At each church we knelt at the altar while praying together the Litany of Divine Mercy. At holy wells, we invoked St. Bridget's Prayer of Protection '...God, an isle art thou in the sea, A hill art thou on the land, And a well art thou in the wilderness...' We prayed the 12th Station of the Cross at every Celtic, Saxon and Viking Cross that we encountered followed by a kiss upon the cold stone.

Each day, my daughter and I sang Who Would True Valour See from The Pilgrim's Progress. She and her husband delivered a beautiful Latin rendition of the Anima Christi hymn in the warmth of the Workington Rectory and among the ruins of Furness Abbey.

These rituals and liturgies promoted the primacy of God in our lives. We had many occasions of living in that thin place between this world and the next.

We came to see our intentional journey as an antidote to acedia, a challenge to our bones and a balm for our souls. Eventually, the physical stress of our itinerary drained our bodies just as heavenly grace was filling our souls.

We then understood the Lord's message to St. Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:9-11. "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Likewise, our physical exhaustion stimulated mental reflection; reflection encouraged meditation; meditation engendered contemplation; and contemplation altered our understanding of reality.

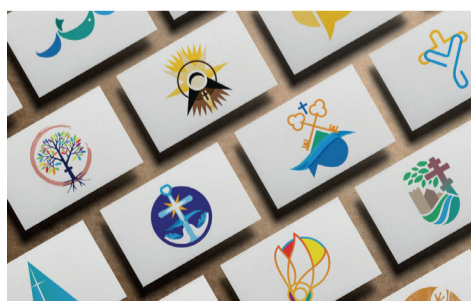
Rather than meeting our Creator at Moriah, Bethel or Sinai, we reached for God in the chancel of ancient rural churches and found Him in the grandeur of Lakeland fells.

The Cumbrian Saints Pilgrimage promoted new spiritual insights. We came to understand Tolkien's Riddle of Strider in a new way which emphasized the glory of God's creation and communion with the Kingdom of God: *All that is gold does not glitter, Not all those who wander are lost;*

It became clear to us that our ancient faith has been deeply lived by the Cumbrian Saints and their foundation can still be found: *The old that is strong does not wither, Deep roots are not reached by the frost. And, the Christian heart of Britain remains resilient and ready for restoration: From the ashes a fire shall be woken, A light from the shadows shall spring; Renewed shall be blade that was broken, The crownless again shall be king.*

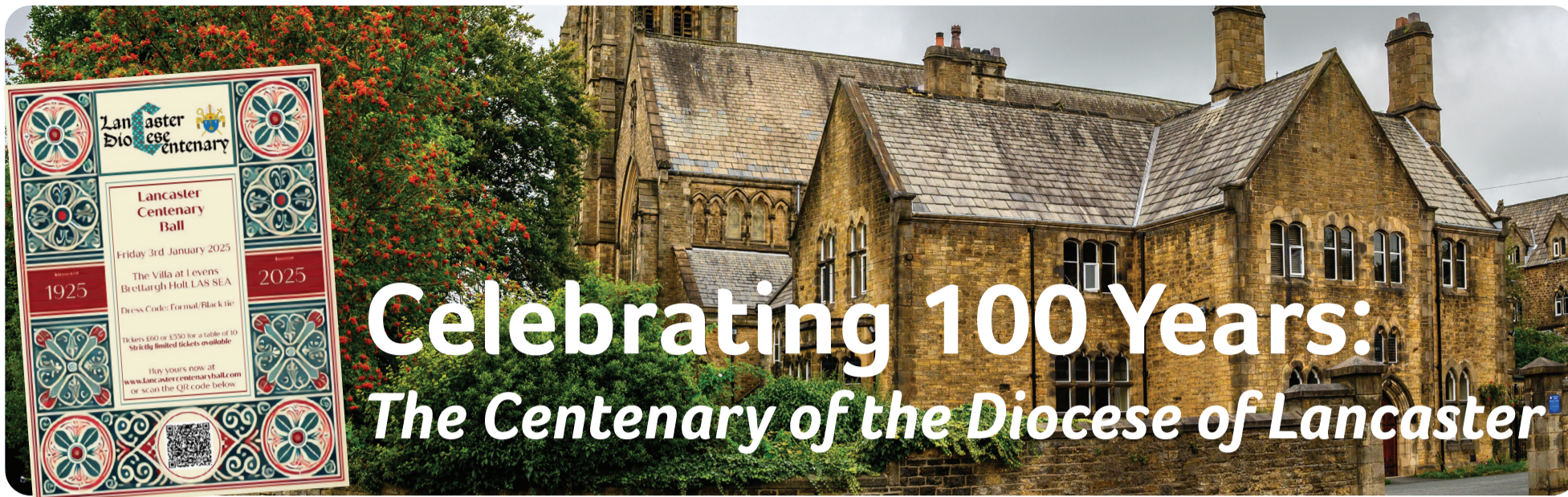
This sojourn in Northwest England was a powerful spiritual pinnacle for one American family. We hope that our story will be helpful to others who may consider a journey of the soul in the very saint-filled and Christ-oriented Cumbrian land of mountains and lakes.

Frans A. Vossenberg – St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Diocese of Arlington, Virginia. USA.



Website, Graphic & Logo Design for Parishes & Charities

christiancreativedirectory.com/rob-hotchkiss



Celebrating 100 Years: The Centenary of the Diocese of Lancaster

Rosey Fetherston of Workington writes:

As we approach 2025, the Diocese of Lancaster marks a truly significant milestone: 100 years of growing in faith together. Established in 1925, our diocese has spent a century serving the Catholic communities across Lancashire and Cumbria.

I am a Catholic Lancastrian, born and bred, I don't think I am alone in finding that my faith is deeply rooted right here. I received all the sacraments here as a child, spent my gap years (*and met my husband*) at Castlerigg Manor, was formed by the opportunities of pilgrimage and

catechism that were provided by the priests in my youth, and have continued to be so. I have had children baptised here and children buried here, and through it all I have marvelled that in this wet little corner of the country, while there may not be much that is flashy or fancy, the Lord has provided for my every spiritual need through His Church.

This special diocese, seeded by the blood of the martyrs, is my spiritual home, and that is something I am not only incredibly grateful for, but it is also something that I don't think I am alone in experiencing. I expect there are many of us who, given

the opportunity, would like to celebrate all that Lancaster Diocese has done for us, so on the centenary of our diocese let's take this chance to do so!

I am sure that throughout 2025 there will be numerous and varied occasions to mark a centuries worth of work, but to start the year with a bang (*and a bit of the flashy and fancy that we often lack*), we are organising a black tie ball, and we are delighted to invite everyone from across the diocese to join us for this special evening.

It will be a joyous occasion to come

together, enjoy fellowship, and celebrate 100 years of faith, hope, and charity in our diocese.

We hope that parishes will join forces to make this a truly memorable event, bringing people together to celebrate as a diocesan family.

Tickets are available at:

www.lancastercentenaryball.com

Don't miss out on this historic event—let's begin the centenary year with a joyful gathering of our entire diocesan community! *We look forward to seeing you there!*

Church Supplies – serving Schools, Business and Homes

Church Pews Uncomfortable?
Why not try

safeoam
top quality upholstered foam pew cushions?
Safeoam, Green Lane, Riley Green,
Hoghton, Preston PR5 0SN
www.safeoam.co.uk
Freephone 0800 015 44 33

Free Sample Pack of Foam & fabrics sent by first class mail.
When phoning please quote MV101

**BUILDING
CONSERVATION
UK LTD**

0800 0521030

Email: churchrestorationltd@hotmail.com
www.buildingconservationukltd.com

All Church
maintenance
Roofing -
Guttering -
Decoration

Subscribe to *The* CatholicPost

subscribe@catholicpost.co.uk
01440 730399

For ALL of your Parishioners

100 copies: from £12 (12p per copy)
200 copies: from £23.20 (11.6p per copy)
300 copies: from £32.80 (10.9p per copy)

For some of your Parishioners

50 copies: from £9.60 (19.2p per copy)
10 copies: from £7.20 (72p per copy)

**Individual
Subscriptions**
Annual 1 Copy
from £3.20 per month

**Online
Subscriptions**
1 Online Copy
via Email from £2.40 per month

All prices include delivery

www.catholicpost.co.uk

To advertise please contact
Charlotte on
01440 730399 or email
charlotter@cathcom.org