

The Catholic



VOICE

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of Lancaster

The Official Newspaper to  
the Diocese of Lancaster

Issue 368 + April '25

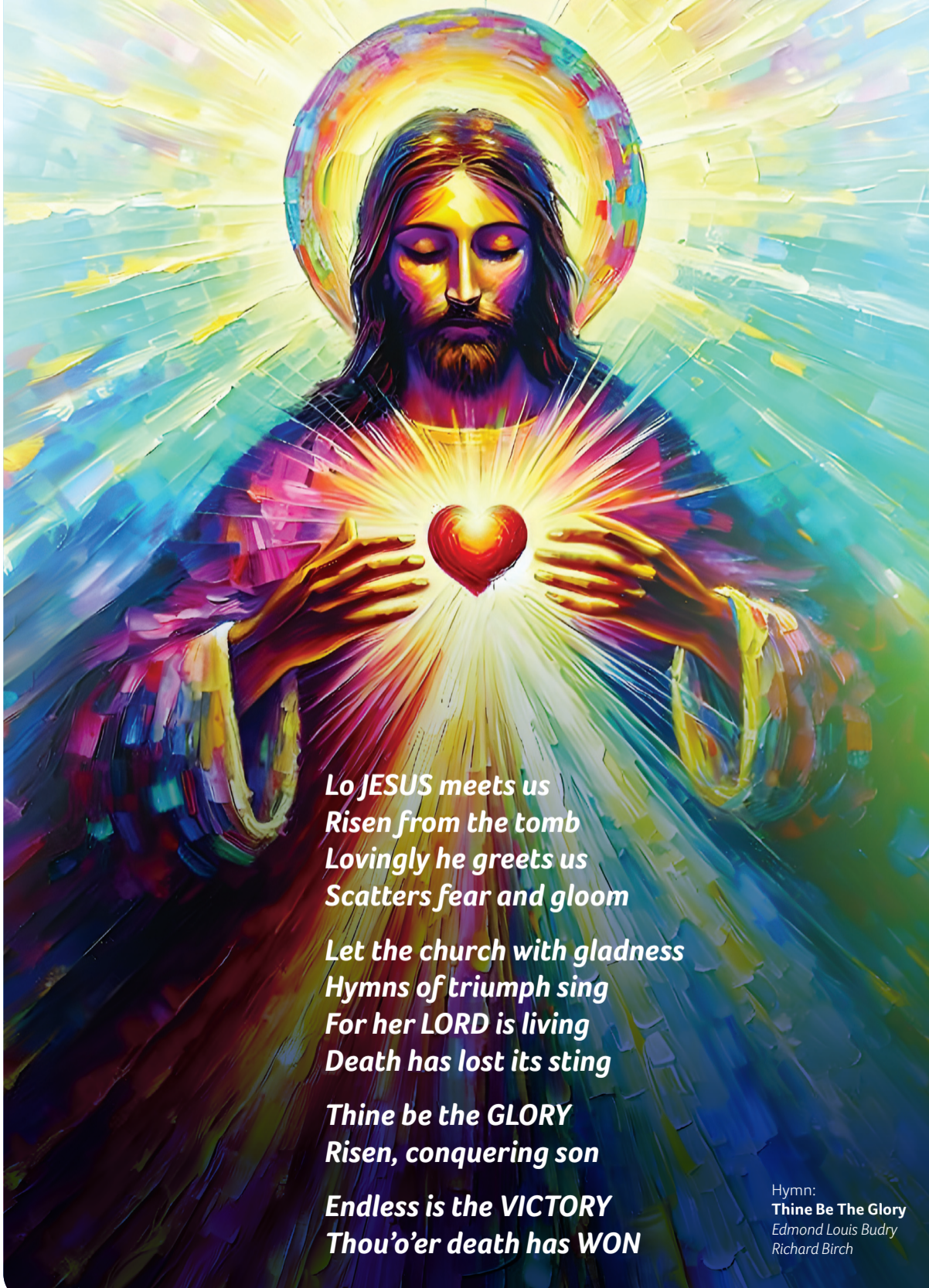
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Luce - the official Jubilee Mascot  
arrives in the Diocese Schools



# Alleluia! Happy Easter

## Jesus Christ is Risen



This is the day  
that the Lord  
has made  
Let us rejoice  
and be glad  
in it. Psalm 118



Lo JESUS meets us  
Risen from the tomb  
Lovingly he greets us  
Scatters fear and gloom

Let the church with gladness  
Hymns of triumph sing  
For her LORD is living  
Death has lost its sting

Thine be the GLORY  
Risen, conquering son

Endless is the VICTORY  
Thou'ert death has WON

Hymn:  
Thine Be The Glory  
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# We invite all of our readers to Pray for Pope Francis, the Holy Father

**May we all unite as one voice as we lift up the Vicar of Christ in Prayer**



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Pope Francis blesses the faithful.

Joy all around as Pope Francis makes his first appearance since he was hospitalised.

© Vatican Media

## Prayer for Pope Francis:

**Almighty and Eternal God, you are the everlasting health of those who believe in you. Hear our prayers for your sick servant Francis for whom we implore the aid of your tender mercy, through Christ our Lord. Amen. Our Lady of Lourdes, Health of the Sick, pray for him.**

*From the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales*



Crowds gather to cheer on Pope Francis.

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Our Holy Father, Pope Francis  
Bishop of Rome  
Vicar of Jesus Christ

*'My soul is longing and yearning, is yearning for the courts of the Lord!' Ps 83*

Dear Holy Father,

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and commend you to His love and mercy as you experience this time of personal trial and ill health. The prayers of the Diocese of Lancaster are with you, and Holy Mass is offered for your intentions, for your recovery.

In your experience of personal frailty, we thank God for your leadership of the Church, for your example of serene surrender to the Holy Spirit and for your continuing care for us. Truly, you are a gift to us from the Lord.

We see your face and your soul fixed lovingly on the Lord of Life. This brings to us a deep sense of calm and reassurance that the Lord does not abandon His people and that He does hear the cry of the poor.

We pray for those medical specialists whose care and expertise you receive at this time. We pray for those who must work to guide the Church during this time when you are unable to give your attention to the cares of office. We pray for your own family who feel deep concern for you. We ask the Lord to give His Light to you and all who are in darkness and the shadow of death, that He will, in due course, lovingly guide you into the way of His peace.

With fraternal affection in Christ,

+ Rt Rev Paul Swarbrick  
**Bishop of Lancaster**

24<sup>th</sup> February 2025

**Bishop Paul's letter to Pope Francis, assuring the pontiff of the prayers and good wishes from the Diocese of Lancaster.**

## Pope Francis Recovery Continues

**O**n Sunday 23rd March, Pope Francis appeared in public for the first time in over a month, greeting and blessing the faithful from the fifth floor balcony of Gemelli Hospital where he thanked the faithful for their gestures of closeness.

After giving his blessing he was discharged from the hospital and made a brief stop at the Basilica Santa Maria Maggiore, where he delivered flowers to place before the icon of the Virgin Salus Populi Romani.

The Pontiff returned to the Vatican, where he will continue his convalescence at Casa Santa Marta for at least two months, with medical treatment and ongoing oxygen therapy.

The Pontiff prepared his Sunday Angelus, published by the Vatican while briefly appearing at approximately noon to greet the faithful and impart his blessing, where the Pope said:

*"During this long period of hospitalization, I have had the opportunity to experience the patience of the Lord, which I also see reflected in the tireless care of doctors and health care workers as well as in the attentiveness and hopes of the patients' families," Francis noted. "This confident patience, anchored in God's love that never fails, is truly necessary for our lives, especially to face the most difficult and painful situations."*



*Happy Easter  
& Blessings of joy  
and light to all our  
Clergy, Readers,  
Volunteers & People  
of the Diocese.*

**“In the radiance of the Lord  
make your way to light.”** Baruch

*May the light of Christ  
Rising in Glory, dispel the darkness  
of our hearts and minds.*

*Thank you for your continued support & prayers.  
From all our Editorial & Creative team*

*Father Stephen Pearson  
Fran & Andrew  
Rob Pearl*



“

**There is great mystery in the  
symbol of the Paschal candle, as  
the flame from a new fire is first  
used to light it.**

**The flame is passed from  
person to person until we are  
all together bearing the light.**

**At Easter, through his Passion,  
Death and Resurrection, Jesus  
Christ enlightens our souls with  
his risen glory, so that we can  
find our joy, our light, our life in  
him, and by imitating his love so  
we can spread his light.**

” From A Blessed Lent Meditations - By Fr Philip G Bochansku, C.O.

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# Springtime heralds new adventures at Castlerigg Youth Service



**A**pril has rolled around, bringing with it that familiar mix of crisp air and warm sunshine mixed with a promise of spring new beginnings. Here at Castlerigg, we're grateful to have dodged the worst of winter's wild weather so far – our garden hasn't lost any trees touch wood (*literally*), and we are ready for action.

Looking out over the next few months, we're gearing up for what might just be our most exciting year yet. The team's energy is infectious, and we can't wait to throw open our doors, hit the road, and connect with people across the diocese and beyond. It's going to be a lively one!

**EASTER RETREAT – FOR TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS // APRIL 17–20**  
Need a break? Want to do something

meaningful this Easter? From April 17th to 20th, come to Castlerigg Manor for a weekend packed with faith, fun, and good vibes! Dive into the joy of the Resurrection with inspiring talks, awesome activities, and time to chill, reflect, and recharge. It's Easter done right—with great people, deep conversations, and loads of laughter! Bookings close at midday on April 15th!

**YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT // MAY 9–11**  
We're thrilled to dust off an old favourite and bring back our Young Adults Retreat this year. It's been a while (*thanks partly to COVID*), but we're kicking things off again from May 9–11. Aimed at 18–30-year-olds, it's £65 a ticket, with discounts for students or anyone currently job-hunting. The theme? "*What do Catholics Believe?*" – a no-nonsense look at the

heart of our faith, plus a bit of karaoke to keep things fun.

**YEAR 12 RETREAT // JULY 4–6**  
For a while now, we've noticed English Year 12 students haven't had a dedicated retreat at Castlerigg – Scotland's 16–18-year-olds have kept us busy, but we've been missing something closer to home. So, we've cooked up a plan: an open retreat for Year 12s this July. Schools and colleges can bring small groups with a teacher, or students can come solo and let our team look after them.

Timed for after exams, it's a chance to unwind and recharge. We've spread the word to Catholic Sixth Form Colleges and schools in the Northwest, and we're already sketching out a weekend packed with inspiring guest speakers and the

best of Keswick's summer vibes – details still to come!

**WANT TO JOIN US?**  
Youth Ministry Internship Scheme  
Our Youth Ministry Internship Scheme is calling for young Christians (*typically 18–22*) eager to dive into youth work. With rolling recruitment, new interns can jump in throughout the year, gaining skills, qualifications, and hands-on experience. Plus, we're on the hunt for a paid programme Leader to join our leadership crew – if you've got the background and a sense of calling, we'd love a chat.

For more information, email: [jack@castleriggmanor.co.uk](mailto:jack@castleriggmanor.co.uk), or check out [castleriggmanor.com](http://castleriggmanor.com), or find us on Instagram @castleriggmanor and @team\_castlerigg. *Jack Regan*

[castleriggmanor.com](http://castleriggmanor.com) >> what's coming up?



# Lenten Soup Lunches at St. Cuthbert's, Blackpool, is a great success

Maureen Kelly serves the soup at St. Cuthbert's Blackpool.



A group of parishioners from the Parish of The Guardian Angels in Blackpool have organised a series of Lenten soup lunches and prayers after 12 Noon mass every Friday in Lent. Maureen Kelly, one of the volunteer soup making team said it was very popular and busy.

"We are grateful to our parishioners for coming and taking part in our Lent soup gatherings here at St Cuthbert's. We have a variety of parishioners who make the soup each week and we have been collecting donations for charities close to our hearts with the contributions.

This year we are raising funds from the special soup event for two charities, Mary's Meals and the Lourdes Medical Team. Thank you to all who support the parish and our Lent Soup gathering after mass. All are welcome to come along every Friday in Lent after 12 o'clock Mass at St Cuthbert's RC Church, Lytham Road, Blackpool."

Below – Parishioners at St. Cuthbert's supporting the parish Lent Soup Lunches (Left to right): Veronica Connelly, Lorena Murphy, Maureen Kelly and Sylvia Marley.



St. Cuthbert's Lent lunch (Left to right): Michael and Jean Lang, Meg Pendlebury and Catherine Robinson.



**David Pope** dip FD MBIFD

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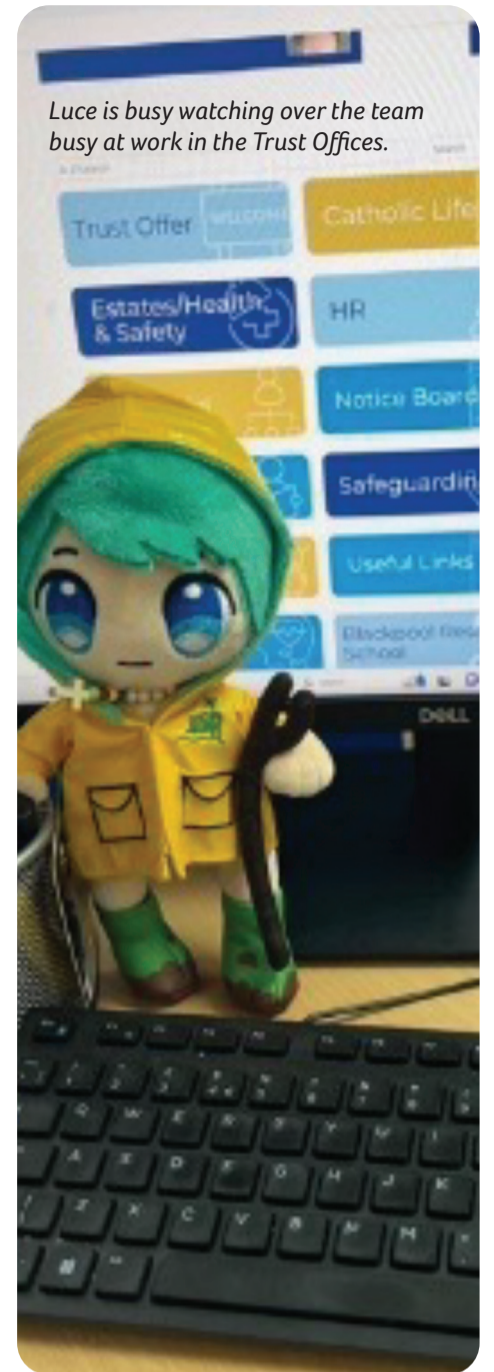
Linda Wisdom serves up the soup with fellow parishioners Sylvia, Lorna and Trudi at one of the popular Lenten Soup Lunches. The parishioners take it in turns to make the soup and serve it each week.



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Father Peter Burns blesses the Jubilee Mascots.



Luce is busy watching over the team busy at work in the Trust Offices.

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NAZARETH RETIREMENT VILLAGES

# Benvenuta Luce!

## Luce - the official Jubilee Youth Mascot arrives in the Diocese

**A**s the Jubilee of Teenagers Fast Approaches on April 25th- 27th, the official youth Jubilee Mascot Luce has arrived in the Diocese.

The unique and limited special edition Jubilee Mascots were blessed by Father Peter Burns this month and distributed out to all schools in the Blessed Edward Bamber Catholic Multi Academy Trust.

Luce, in this Jubilee year, will be visiting classrooms, taking part in prayer and liturgies in every school in the trust. Together with the pupils, chaplaincy groups and choirs, Luce will join with them, accompanying pupils to churches, masses and any trips.

The intention is that the pupils and staff in Blessed Edward Bamber trust know it's a very special Jubilee Year and that they are all part of something bigger than just their school and celebrate it together.

The mascot, named **Luce** — which means "light" in Italian — is intended to engage a younger audience and guide visitors through the holy year. It is hoped that Luce will allow the Church to speak to younger generations about the theme of hope, which is more central than ever in the evangelical message. Clad in a yellow raincoat, mud-stained boots, and a pilgrim's cross, Luce's mission is to guide young pilgrims toward hope and faith. Shells glimmer in her eyes, recalling the scallop shell of the Camino de Santiago, an emblem of the pilgrimage journey. Luce's yellow sailor's raincoat is a nod to both the Vatican flag and to journeying through life's storms. The mascot's muddy boots represent a long and difficult journey, while her staff symbolises the pilgrimage toward eternity. She has rosary beads to help her pray on her journey.



St Mary's Catholic Academy Choir pupils welcome Luce.

# Official Jubilee Youth Mascot welcomed by St Mary's Catholic Academy

**T**here were Jubilee celebrations at St Mary's Catholic Academy as Luce, the official Jubilee Mascot arrived and received a warm welcome by pupils.

Laura Higgins, Choir Mistress at St Mary's Catholic Academy Blackpool welcomed the symbolic joy that the Jubilee Youth Mascot Luce brought to the school:

*'We are so excited that the official Jubilee mascot, Luce, has come to visit students and staff here at St Mary's, in Blackpool. This mini pilgrim was designed to promote hope, welcome, and community and fits right in here at our beautiful Catholic academy. Luce has been a source of comfort and encouragement to our young people and even made a special appearance at choir practice in the afternoon!'*



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Our Lady of Lourdes Statue.



Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic High School Preston.



Pupils listen and take part in prayers and meditations at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic High School Preston.



# Schools across the Diocese celebrate as The Pilgrim of Grace, Centenary Statue Tour of Our Lady Of Lourdes Begins

**We** join some of the schools & pupils on their special Centenary celebration journey. Richard Charnock, Headteacher at Our Lady's Catholic High School in Preston was at the launch of the Centenary Statue Tour of Our Lady of Lourdes:

*"On the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes, and as part of the Centenary of the Diocese of Lancaster, Our Lady's Catholic High School received the Our Lady of Lourdes Statue, which is making its pilgrimage around all schools in the diocese.*

*Our Lady's was honoured to welcome the statue, as it begins its tour of schools over the next few months. Our Lady of Lourdes is the patroness of our Diocese, and the*

*statue serves as a reminder of her maternal care and her desire to lead us to Christ.*

*Pupils, led by Head Girl Isabelle and Head Boy Jack, gathered in the school chapel to welcome the statue, brought by Director of Formation for the Diocese, Geoff Chapman. Pupils then sang the Marian hymn As I Kneel Before You, as the Statue of Our Lady of Lourdes was carried in procession and placed in a position of honour in front of the altar. A beautiful time of prayer and reflection followed, where pupils listened to the word of God and reflected on Mary's example of discipleship."*

As Headteacher of Our Lady's Catholic High School, Mr Charnock spoke to the pupils saying:

*"Our Lady of Lourdes holds a special place in our Diocese and our school as our Patron."*

He explained how in 1858, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Saint Bernadette in Lourdes, France and Mary asked for prayer, repentance, and a chapel to be built on the site.

The pupils heard how these apparitions continue to inspire millions of pilgrims each year to turn to Our Lady for healing and intercession.

Mr Charnock reminded pupils that, *"through Our Lady's patronage, we strive to be a community that embodies the dignity of every person, valuing their lives*

*wholly and unconditionally, regardless of background or ability."*

School Chaplain, Sarah Lee, then explained to the pupils the symbolism of the Statue taking time to point out the different parts and their meaning.

The Statue remained in the Chapel, before being taken to St Anthony's Catholic Primary School to continue its journey.

Sarah explained, *"whilst the Statue is here in school, every class – all 900 pupils – will have a time in the Chapel in prayer and reflection as part of the visit. Our hope is that our pupils will be inspired by Mary's example and look to it as a guide for their lives."*





(Above) Pupils at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School & Nursery, Carnforth, take an active part in the launch day celebrations.

(Left) Prayers, praise and artworks from the pupils at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary and Nursery, Carnforth.



Pupils at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary and Nursery School, Carnforth, display their artworks in honour of the Our Lady of Lourdes Statue visit on the Pilgrims of Grace Tour.

## Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary and Nursery School Carnforth, Celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

### Headteacher Liz Kendal at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary and Nursery School reports:

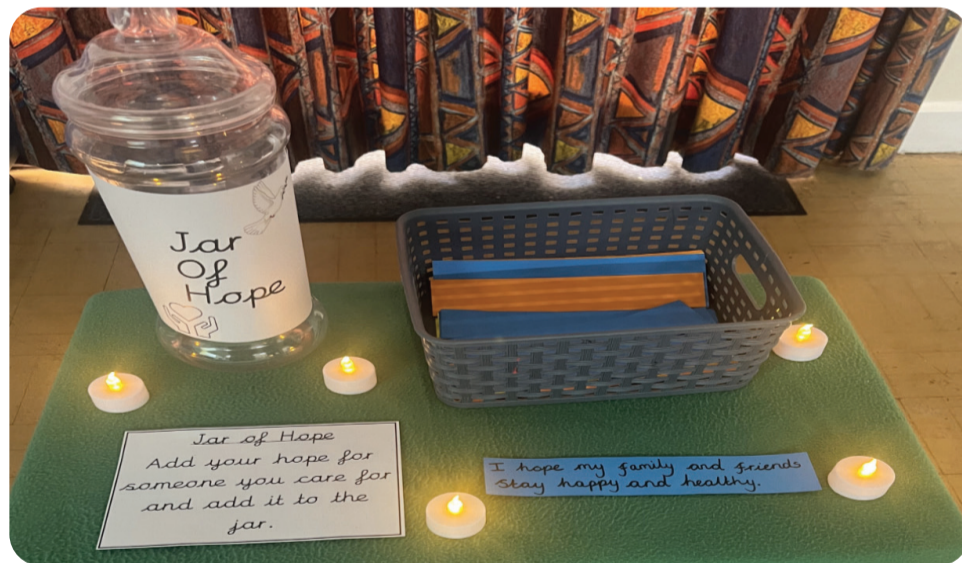
"We started the day processing through our school grounds with the school's statue of Mary. Then we gathered in the school hall around the Pilgrim of Grace statue. The children laid flowers at Our Lady's feet and placed the candles from the procession around the statue. We used the children's hand painted rosary to join together in praying a decade of the Rosary. We recalled how Our Lady appeared to St Bernadette several times at Lourdes.

The children continued to reflect on Our Lady in their classes.

Some used charcoal to sketch Our Lady's graceful face, others wrote prayers to Our Lady and the younger children created flowers to lay at Our Lady's feet. The children continued their reflections through the week, creating grottos of Our Lady as she appeared to Saint Bernadette."



Prayers and artworks designed by the pupils at St Mary's Catholic Primary School Fleetwood.



Jar of Hope  
Add your hope for someone you care for and add it to the jar.

I hope my family and friends stay happy and healthy.

## Pilgrim of Grace Statue visit to St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Fleetwood

### Catherine Sewell, Class Teacher and R.E. Lead writes:

"We set up prayer stations around the statue of Mary. Each class took it in turns to visit the hall, share in a liturgy around the statue and then had the opportunity to engage with the stations which invited the children to pray for different reasons.

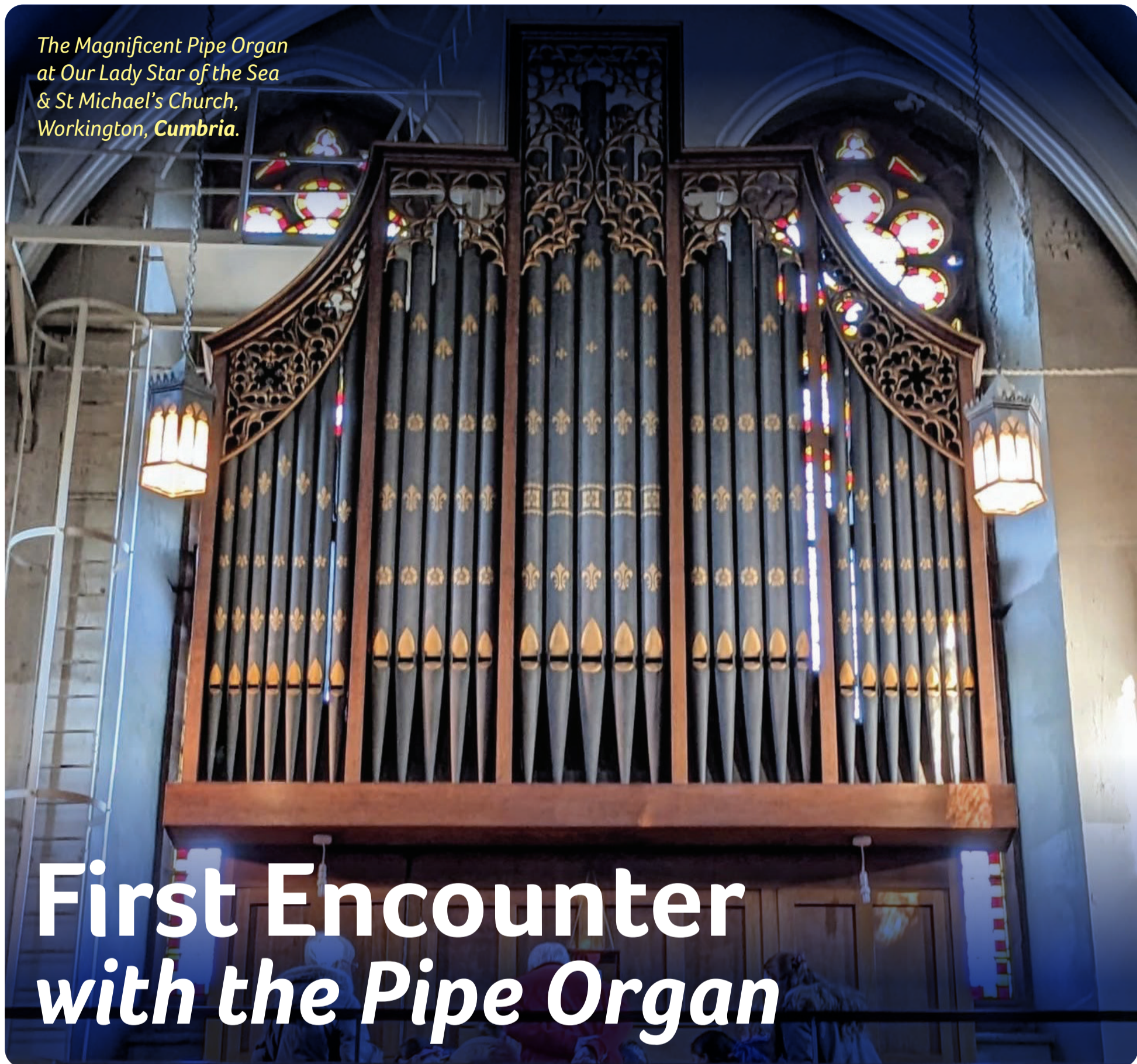
Whilst the children had time to reflect, the Jubilee Hymn played and the hall was in candle light and this gave a very beautiful atmosphere of peace and reflection.

We ended the day with Fr Stephen and Deacon Bernard joining us as the Mini Vinnies led the farewell liturgy."



Do you know anyone who is ill?  
Write their name on a plaster and put it on the person

*The Magnificent Pipe Organ  
at Our Lady Star of the Sea  
& St Michael's Church,  
Workington, Cumbria.*



# First Encounter with the Pipe Organ

**A**s part of the campaign to raise awareness for the restoration of the magnificent organ, Our Lady Star of the Sea and St Michael's Church, Workington piloted a "First Encounter with the Pipe Organ" workshop, working with pupils from Year 4 at St Patricks Catholic Primary School.

These hands on ... (and fingers!) workshops aimed to show how the organ works and stimulate an interest in a musical instrument that the young pupils may have never encountered before. It was a brilliant success.

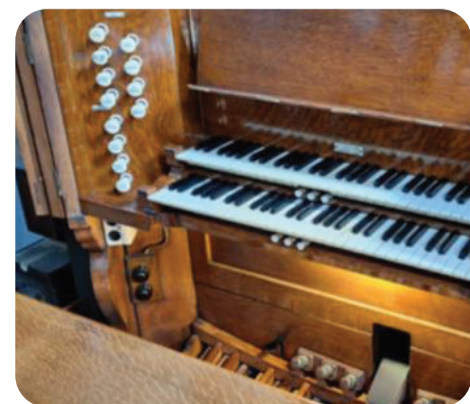
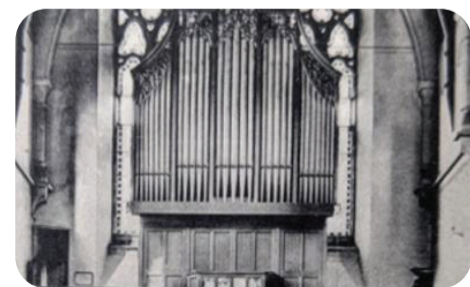
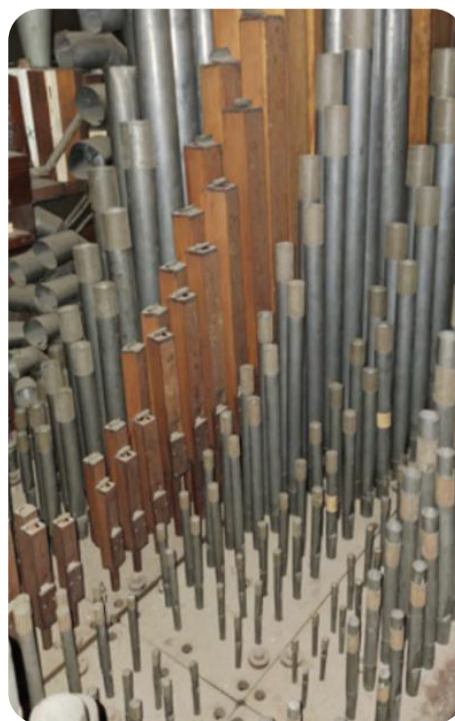
In April/May, A "Come Play the Organ" workshop will be piloted, aimed at 14-17-year-old students who want to come and play the Organ, to learn how the organ works. Organisers are expecting that they will at least have some knowledge and keyboard skills.

Father Philip Conner, parish priest at Our Lady Star of the Sea and St Michael's Church, Workington, was delighted with the response and shared the good news on the Christ The Good Shepherd parishes Facebook page:

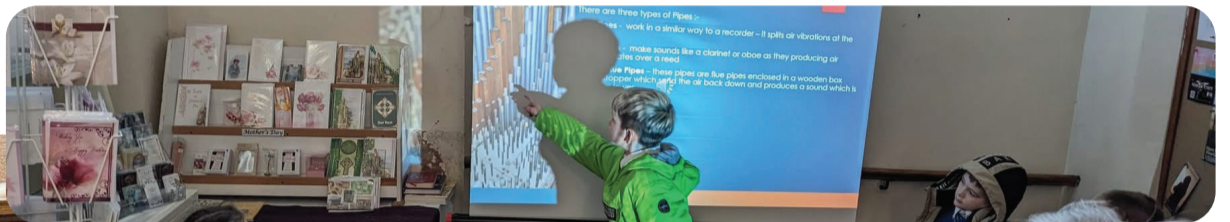
*"This will hopefully be the first of many sessions introducing young people to this magnificent machine. Hopefully, and in time, we might get some future organists!"*

If you are interested in participating in future workshops, or for more information about this project, please contact Ann Diamond on 0775 934 1295.

The Just Giving details for anyone who would like to contribute to the appeal are as follows: Go to [giving.com](https://www.giving.com) then search for Lancaster Diocese and then look for Our Lady Star of the Sea and St Michaels Church Pipe Organ Appeal.



Pictures of the pupils at St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Workington in Cumbria – Some very enthusiastic Year 4 children from St Patrick's Primary School, Workington, learning about the pipe organ:



### Interesting facts:

- Our Lady & St Michael's Church was built in 1876 to a design by EW Pugin, who also designed the interior of the Palace of Westminster and the Elizabeth Tower, which houses Big Ben, in London.
- Our Lady & St Michael's Church is on the site of a Benedictine chapel on land donated by the Curwen family.
- The current church is largely unchanged and is a Grade II-listed building.
- The parish's Organ Restoration Group has formally appointed Nicholson's & Co. of Malvern to take forward the restoration of the historic Hill organ at Our Lady & St Michael's church.
- They are commissioned to undertake the full restoration of the two-manual, 18-stop 1906 William Hill & Son organ.
- The organ, which has a Grade II\* historic organ certificate, has charge pneumatic action throughout (*except for mechanical manual-to-pedal coupling*) which is all to be retained and restored without alteration.
- The organ enjoys a splendid open position in a free-standing oak case (*designed by AH Coyle*) in the west gallery of this resonant church.



### NEXT MONTH

Ann Diamond, Secretary to The Workington Stella Maris Project shares a wonderful potted history about the group's dedication and journey to the restoration of Our Lady Star of The Sea and St Michael's Church Organ.

# Divine Mercy Sunday & Blessed Carlo Acutis Canonisation at Jubilee of Teenagers

**B**lessed Carlo Acutis is to be canonised on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 27th, during the Jubilee of Teenagers in Rome.

Carlo used to describe the Eucharist as a 'highway to heaven'. 'The more we receive Jesus,' he used to say, 'the more we become like Jesus.' Carlo is an inspiration not only to the young but to all generations in his devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.

The young generation though, have, quite rightly, a special claim on him. For he will be the first millennial saint to be canonised. He is of their generation and era. He was only fifteen when he died. A genius with the computer, he harnessed this new technology to the creation of a remarkable website which presents Eucharistic miracles from across the globe. There is something deeply fitting about Pope Francis' choice to canonise Carlo during the Jubilee of Teenagers this April, in St Peter's Square, Rome.

**Blessed Carlo Acutis, Pray For Us**

Please check your local parish and area for special Divine Mercy Mass, Prayers, Talks and Celebrations.



*Divine Mercy Prayer - O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in you! (Diary of St. Faustina Kowalska, 1319)*



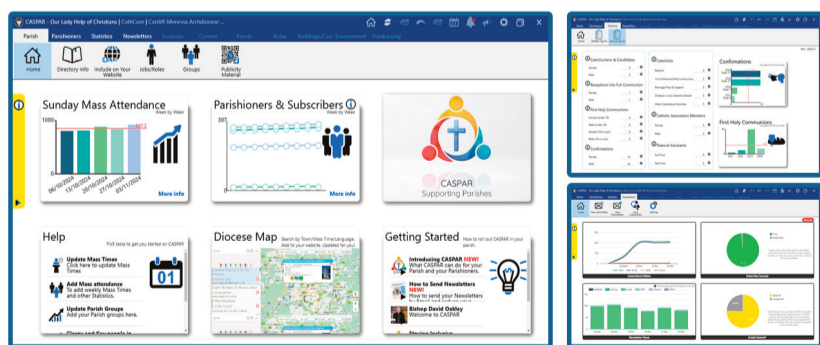
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## Holy Week Mass Times

**Preston**  
**St Clare's**  
**Holy Thursday**  
7pm Mass  
Watching at the Altar of Repose until midnight  
**Good Friday**  
Stations of the Cross at 10am  
3pm Liturgy of the Passion  
**Holy Saturday**  
8.30pm Easter Vigil  
**Easter Sunday**  
10am Mass

*Ambleside*  
**Our Lady of Windermere & St Herbert (OLW) & Mater Amabilis, (MA)**

Parish Weekend Mass Times  
**Saturday**  
5.30pm (OLW) Vigil Mass, Polish Mass 4pm (OLW) First Saturday of the Month\*  
**Sundays**  
9.30am (MA) 11.15am (OLW)  
Weekday Mass Times During Lent  
**Tuesdays**  
9am Station of the Cross (MA) Mass 9.30am (MA)  
**Wednesday**  
9am Rosary, Mass 9.30am (OLW)  
**Fridays**  
9am Station of the Cross (OLW) Mass 9.30am (OLW)

**CELEBRATION OF DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY (FEAST OF MERCY)**

**27th April 2025 2.30pm-4pm**  
**St Clare's RC Church**  
Sharoe Green Lane  
Fulwood, Preston PR2 9HH

Welcome and Introduction by the priest  
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
Words of Our Lord on Divine Mercy and Feast of Mercy  
Blessing of the Divine Mercy Image and relic of St Faustina  
The Divine Mercy Chaplet/Confessions  
Litany of Divine Mercy  
Meditations from the Diary of St Faustina  
Benediction  
Veneration of The Divine Mercy Image and relic of St Faustina  
Closing Hymn



Afterwards all are welcome for refreshments in the Parish Hall

**Holy Week**  
**17th April Maundy Thursday**  
Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm (MA)  
**18th April Good Friday**  
Stations of the Cross 9am (OLW)  
Stations of the Cross 9am (MA)  
Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3pm (OLW) Sung  
**19th April Holy Saturday**  
Easter Vigil 7pm (OLW)  
**20th April Easter Sunday**  
9.30am (MA) 11.15am (OLW)  
**15th April**  
Confession  
Disabled Access  
Both churches have disabled access, are wheelchair accessible, and a hearing loop is installed. Please note Mater Amabilis, Ambleside is accessed by a steep drive!  
\*May change at short notice. Please check our newsletter for latest details  
[www.ourladyofwindermere.org](http://www.ourladyofwindermere.org)



The Consecrated Life Group gather together on this special day at The Monastery of Our Lady of Hying.

# Celebrating Consecrated Life in our Diocese Annual Meeting



By Sister Philomena Grimley SHCJ

+

**I**t has become a tradition in Lancaster Diocese to have a gathering of all in Consecrated Life on a day nearest to the Feast of the Presentation, the day when the Church celebrates the world day of prayer for consecrated life. This year we were invited to meet at the Monastery of Our Lady of Hying, the home of the Bernardine Cistercian sisters, in the countryside near Warton Crag overlooking Morecambe Bay.

The day was organised by the team who were appointed last year by the Bishop to work with the named Vicar for Religious. They are: Father Richard Simons OSB, Sister Mary Helen Jackson from Hying Monastery, Sister Margaret Atkins from Boarbank Hall and Chris Doyle, Consecrated Virgin. About 35 of us attended.

After a warm welcome, the day, with the theme PILGRIMS OF HOPE.

It began officially with a talk given by Father Toby Lees OP. Father Toby works in Haverstock Hill parish in London and is also responsible for Radio Maria. Using his experiences of walking, especially on different routes of the famous Camino de Santiago, and also the walk to Emmaus in Luke's gospel, he spoke to us about pilgrimage, inspiring us to consider why and where our journey is taking us, about the 'geography of desire', about conversion on the journey into Christ. In small groups we were able to listen to each other's responses and then share them with Father Toby.

Mass together followed, at which Bishop Paul presided. Among the four other priests present was Monsignor Francis Slattery who for many, many years was the diocesan Vicar for religious, now in his nineties! He had been invited especially as we all wanted to thank him publicly for his devoted service. At the end of the lunch which followed, a presentation was made to him and he spoke so humbly and affectionately about that ministry as Vicar and how it had brought him into contact regularly with the religious in the diocese.

Father Toby spoke to us again in the afternoon after which there was time for shared news. We were delighted to hear of the additional appointment to the team of Sister Shienrose, Sister of St Paul of Chartres, who lives in Our Lady and St Edwards parish in Preston. She is well placed to represent a newer generation of sisters who have moved into our diocese more recently from other countries such as the Philippines, Zimbabwe, Nigeria and India.

We were encouraged to meet again, as Pilgrims of Hope, on the diocesan pilgrimage to Cleator in September. Then we went to the chapel for Vespers followed by tea and delicious cakes before departure. Altogether it had been a special day for us all: meeting each other, praying and reflecting together, given much to ponder about our life's pilgrimage and, throughout, sharing the generous hospitality of the Hying Sisters. *Deo Gratias!*



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(Left top) Mary Demegillo, Maria Demegillo & Myles Landsborough enjoy the One Faith One Church parish party at St Kentigerns Parish Hall.

(Below) Parish Priest Father Andrew Dawson, of St Kentigerns and Christ The King in Blackpool hosts the evening's events.

(Above) Communities & Cultures join together to celebrate the Catholic Faith through shared values, food, music and dance.

(Left) Alan Cavanagh greets one of the young parishioners.

# One Faith One Church Parish Party Celebrates Catholic Life in the Community

**O**n Saturday 22nd February, a vibrant get-together of parishioners and friends from various parts of the globe joined together for an unforgettable evening of celebration at the Parish Hall of St Kentigerns Church in Blackpool.

Members of the Indian, Filipino, Nigerian, Polish, Spanish and Lancastrian Catholic communities gathered together to enjoy an evening of a variety of traditional foods from different countries, lively entertainment and joyful socialising.

Mary Demegillo, a parishioner and one of the organisers within

the Filipino Catholic community commented on the success of the evening:

*"The parish of St Kentigerns & Christ The King, is enriched by the many cultures, personalities and talents that the parishioners hold dear and it was wonderful to see everyone enjoying each other's company. What an amazing and successful evening organised by the parish, where you can see the unity in the diversity of cultures who share one belief and love of our Catholic faith. To God be the Glory! Thank you to all who came and those who worked so hard to make it a beautiful night of celebration."*

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# Spring Awakening of the Soul at Boarbank Hall



**B**eautiful Boarbank Hall invites us as Pilgrims of Hope to join them for a Spring Awakening of the Soul as they announce their new programme of retreats and mini holidays.

This year the Jubilee coincides with the tenth anniversary of Laudato Si'.

Retreat organisers at Boarbank Hall are asking guests to ponder this thought:

*"Can we become Pilgrims of Hope also in our celebration of, and care for, God's Creation?"*

With this in mind, the team at Boarbank Hall are inviting people to join them for the following retreat style holidays.

All events take advantage of the rhythm of Boarbank Hall's community prayer groups, the comfortable facilities of the Guest House and the beauty of the local area. Offering a unique mix of prayer, study and opportunities for social and quiet time, the following retreats are specially designed to refresh, restore and awaken the senses to appreciate fully God's creation and nature.

## Two Wings and Some Prayers 12th-17th May

Book now for this beautiful, relaxing and tranquil retreat and holiday. This unique experience is ideal for potential and experienced bird watchers alike. Enjoy nature at its finest in Boarbank's relaxing setting. This unique and fascinating retreat consists of: Prayer, walks and birdwatching, with a focus on learning birdsong. Are you feeling the need to re connect with God in the heart of the

lush green countryside and hear the birds sing in your heart? Do not miss this wonderful opportunity of a spring awakening of mind, body & birdsong.

## Boarbank Craft Weekend 2nd-4/5th May 2025

Bring your own arts or crafts, enjoy working and sharing together in our creative and inspiring environment. Let your imagination flow with the beautiful natural environment.

## Celebrating Creation 27th-31st May 2025 & 4th-10th October 2025

Following the successful retreat last year, Boarbank Hall are offering a care of creation residential retreat/holiday on the theme of "The Joy Of Limits." Enjoy a refreshing break in the comfortable Guest House, combined with inspiration and encouragement to continue caring in faith for our precious world.

Sr Margaret Atkins of Boarbank Hall (*Canonesses of St Augustine*) and John Paul de Quay of the Ecological Conversion Group will lead the week's talks. Guest speakers to be confirmed. The retreats will offer talks and discussions on the theme, shared meals, social time, options for gardening, birdwatching and creative arts, and visits to inspiring places nearby. Guests will have the option of joining the Community for Mass and sung daily Prayer of the Church. Take time to explore how to live out Laudato Si' fully in your personal lives and within the Church.

All welcome. For more information or booking, email [margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk](mailto:margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk) or visit: [www.boarbankhall.org.uk](http://www.boarbankhall.org.uk)

# National Altar Servers Mass to be held at Lancaster Cathedral

**T**he Archconfraternity of St Stephen is inviting all Altar Servers and their families to the annual National Mass of 2025, to be hosted by the Diocese of Lancaster in its centenary year, at St Peter's Cathedral, Lancaster on Saturday 17th May at 12.15pm.

The aim is to reach and bring together as many Altar Servers as possible, young and old, their families and clergy, to grow in faith, service and friendship. Ian Mullholland, Director of The Lancaster Diocese branch of the Guild of St Stephen is encouraging altar servers from all over the UK to get involved and attend: "Pope Francis encourages us, in this Holy Year, to become 'Pilgrims of Hope', and we look especially to our local saints of Cumbria and the Lancaster Martyrs, who journeyed throughout our corner of England. We hope that our diocesan servers

from our parishes and schools will make the pilgrimage journey to Lancaster for this special Mass. As this is a national event, we also look forward to welcoming servers from our neighbouring dioceses and further afield. We are grateful to Bishop Swarbrick and the Cathedral staff for their support and those involved in organising this Mass. We look forward to seeing everyone on the day, it's sure to be a grand occasion and an opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge the valuable work of our servers, who help to ensure that we celebrate our liturgies 'worthily and well'."

Post Mass there will be some light refreshments and there will be an opportunity for altar servers from around England and Wales to meet each other. For enquiries, please email: [nationalmass@guildofststephen.org](mailto:nationalmass@guildofststephen.org) or visit: [www.guildofststephen.org](http://www.guildofststephen.org)

## Poetry Corner

*"Yet even now," says the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Joel 2:12-15*

### Dust and Ashes

By K.T. McKoy

*O, Lord, I rend my heart for thee –  
Of sweetest byssus silk  
And finest weft –  
If you will give your heart to me  
Forgive  
Have mercy –  
and forget.*

*O, Lord, I break my heart for thee –  
Of sun and silk  
And sheerest web –  
If you will take it, torn to shreds, Heal it  
With your hands –  
and bless.*

This beautiful poem was sent in by The Catholic Voice of Lancaster reader and local poet K.T. McKoy.



Guild of St Stephen's Altar Servers at Ladywell Diocese Pilgrimage last year, joined by Paul Briers, Hon President of the Guild of St Stephen and Dawn Hilton, from St Joseph's Lancaster.

# 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.

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# Centenary Diocese History Project

**Time  
To Get  
Involved!**

**B**ishop Paul has announced a Diocese-wide history project, **A History of Our Diocese in 100 Objects**. Our schools, parishes and communities in the Diocese have all been invited to get involved, be creative and take an active part in bringing this imaginative and interesting project to life.

In this Centenary Year it's a wonderful way to celebrate our Catholic heritage in the Diocese. This project is for you and about you - so let's all get thinking of ways to make it happen together!

**A History of Our Diocese in 100 Objects**, can be varied from places or people, so maybe there is a special faith based relic, a statue in a church, some beautiful stained glass window or building that has a special meaning to your Catholic life in your area that you can share. Is there a story or historic legacy

attached to a shrine or dwelling place of spiritual renewal in your life you think may be relevant? Or maybe a person - an unsung hero or saint in waiting?!

Please share your finds and objects, places and people and let's celebrate our 100 Years in a unique and lasting way. This initiative aims to deepen our appreciation of God's providential care and guidance over the Diocese and its schools and parishes. It is also an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the dedication of those who have served God and the community over the past 100 years.

If you have an interesting idea for the project please get in touch and make history with us!

Please contact **Jackie Broadley** for more information please email: [Jackie.broadley@lrcd.org.uk](mailto:Jackie.broadley@lrcd.org.uk)



**History of our  
Diocese 100  
Objects idea**

The statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at the historic & landmark Sacred Heart R.C Church, in the town centre of Blackpool.

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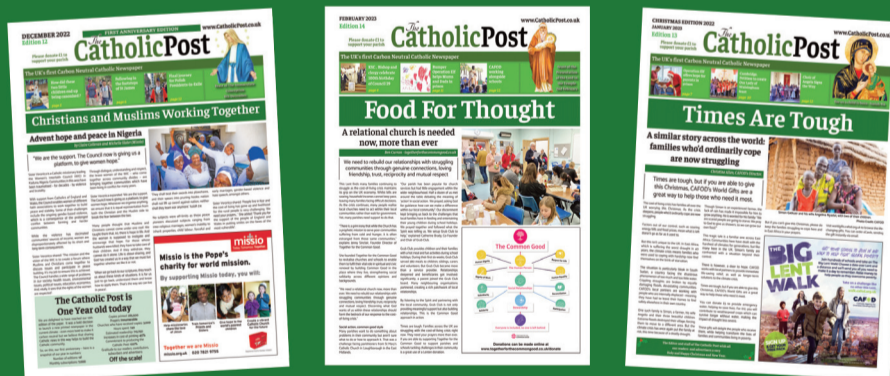
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