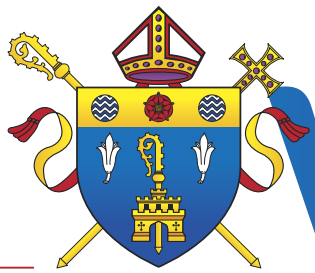


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The Catholic



VOICE

of Lancaster

The Official Newspaper to the Diocese of Lancaster

Pg **12** **Dare to Dream**

– Coming Together

Issue 340 + June '22



Happy and Glorious!

The Catholic Voice of Lancaster sends our prayers and good wishes to Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of her Platinum Jubilee.

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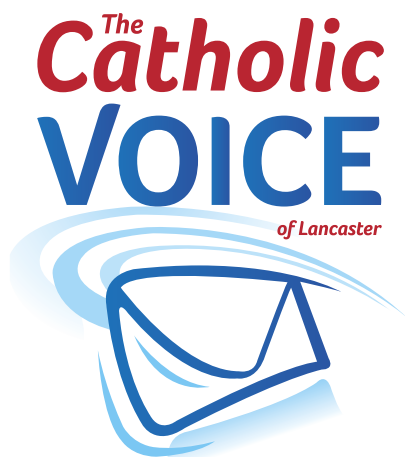
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Pro-Life Chain in Preston

Members of the Preston and Fylde SPUC (*Society for the Protection of Unborn Children*) took part in a pro-life chain recently on London Road in Preston to witness to the lives of nearly 10 million unborn babies killed by abortion since the implementation of the Abortion Act in April 1968. Members held placards for 2 hours and were joined by some of our younger members.

Mary Dolan, Preston SPUC group

Let us Pray

Lord Jesus, you are the source and lover of life. Reawaken in us respect for every human life. Help us to see in each child the marvellous work of our Creator. Open our hearts to welcome every child as a unique and wonderful gift. Guide the work of doctors, nurses and midwives. May the life of a mother and her baby in the womb be equally cherished and respected. Help those who make our laws to uphold the

uniqueness and sacredness of every human life, from the first moment of conception to natural death. Give us wisdom and generosity to build a society that cares for all.

Together with Mary, your Mother, in whose womb you took on our human nature, help us to choose life in every decision we take. We ask this in the joyful hope of eternal life with you, and in the communion of the Blessed Trinity. Amen.

Children use their Talents to support Ukraine



Year 6 pupils at St Maria Goretti's Primary school in Ribbleson have been frantically fundraising to support the CAFOD Ukraine Appeal. As part of our Lenten journey we embraced the importance of alms giving and felt a strong desire to support those in need.

We decided to use our various talents to raise funds. This included a cake sale, a car wash, and an arts and craft fair. Lena (Head Girl) said, 'We felt we needed to help out and wanted to share our various talents in different ways to raise money.' Joel, who is Head Boy, (pictured washing staff cars) decided to wash the teachers' cars, 'It was hard work, but we really enjoyed being able to help out.' A total of £130.90 has been raised by the children for the appeal so far.

Kerry Holt, Teacher



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The Easter Triduum is always special for us at Castlerigg, but this one was even more special. About 40 people were involved in our first Easter Retreat since the pandemic. We journeyed through the Easter liturgies together, even seeing two of our number baptised at the Easter Vigil in Workington!

Open retreats are an important part of our work. When young people come to Castlerigg with their schools, we can only take them so far on their faith journey. Coming back to Castlerigg by themselves gives them the chance to take things further. The more relaxed and focused environment lets us do a bit more exploring and go a little deeper. That's why we were delighted by how many young people signed up for Easter!

The retreat began on Thursday afternoon with people arriving from all over the place. From Manchester, Lancaster, Preston, Lytham, Blackpool, Yorkshire, West Cumbria, Barrow, and even one from Wales! They arrived on Thursday, checked into their rooms, and had dinner before we headed down to Keswick parish for the first of the major Easter liturgies.

Maundy Thursday

Mass is the gateway to the Easter weekend and it was a lovely experience at Keswick parish. Father Ted Gannon talked about Jesus being God in human form and showing God's love to the world.

After that, we headed back to Castlerigg for a reflection about stories. We all have our favourite stories, but the Easter triduum is the high point of the greatest story there is. That's what we're entering in to!

(All of the participants went to bed at 9.30 every night and slept soundly until 8am

the next morning – and if you believe that, frankly, you'll believe anything!)

Good Friday was punctuated by simple meals and a quiet tone. We began the day with a session looking at what the purpose of life is. Is life just an act of random chance, or does it mean something? And if it means something, how can we explore that meaning? The life and death of Jesus gives meaning to our lives in a way that nothing else really can, and Good Friday gave us plenty of chances to reflect on that. After unpacking all of the above in small groups and having a bit of quiet time after lunch, we had our Good Friday liturgy in the chapel. We had a lay led service following the structure of the traditional liturgy, but without communion.

Holy Saturday started with another reflection session and more time in small groups before a few spent the afternoon in Keswick. Some people went for coffee and ice-cream while others played crazy golf, went on the lake or visited the climbing wall.

After dinner on Saturday, we climbed into a bus and headed to Banklands Church in Workington for the Easter Vigil.

The Vigil, as we explained to the participants, is the biggest party of the year for Catholics. It's the night when we first celebrate the resurrection and look back over the entire story leading up to it. For me there were two real highlights of the Vigil.

The first was when the lights were turned on and the candles lit during the Gloria. It's always such a powerful experience!

The second was even cooler:

We were joined on our retreat by two young adults who were being baptised and confirmed. Amy Ritson worked at Castlerigg as part of our volunteer team a few years ago, and Mel Hargreaves is with us right now. Both of them decided that now was the time to become Catholics and Fr Philip Conner agreed to Baptise and Confirm them both as part of the Vigil.

It was so lovely for all of us to watch as Amy and Mel were Baptised and then as they knelt down to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. There was a lot of joy in the group and that carried on as we got back to Castlerigg. The evening ended with Easter Eggs and a rather late party!

Easter Sunday morning gave us a chance to affirm one another (*a retreat centre tradition*) before thinking about what comes next. After lunch we waved goodbye to a tired, but happy group!

Here's what a few of the young people had to say:

"Easter was really fun at Castlerigg and the Holy stuff was actually pretty decent. I didn't know what really to expect but it was definitely something I'd recommend other teenagers to come to"

"The best bit was the time we spent in our small groups and the affirmation notes at the end. I left with some nice souvenirs."

"I've been to Castlerigg a lot of times before and it's a special experience every time. I was a bit worried that Castlerigg might not make it through the Covid pandemic but I'm very pleased that it has and It was good to come back."

Easter 2022 at Castlerigg Manor



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Castlerigg
 Easter

“Watching as two people were Baptised and Confirmed was an emotional experience.”

Speaking as the Director, I was delighted with the Easter Vigil. We run Castlerigg according to a clear strategy which is focused on evangelisation and discipleship. This retreat showed me that it’s really starting to work, and work well. This is the next stage in something that is going to grow and grow.

The next event like this for the Youth Service will be the Lourdes Pilgrimage in July. We’re hoping to welcome a good crowd for that and I suspect a few of the Easter crowd will be among them.

From all of us at Castlerigg, Happy Easter. He is Risen. Alleluia!

WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING?

Castlerigg Open Day – We are delighted to announce our first (*at least for a long time*) Castlerigg summer open day! It’s happening on Sunday July 17th, from 1pm to 5pm, with Mass at 4. There will be food, stalls, games and all sorts of other stuff. It’s a fundraiser so (*just saying...*) bring some cash!!

Social Media Explained – During Covid (*when we were desperately thinking of things to do*) we took a look at our social media and made some changes. We now have two streams aimed at adult leaders – they’re both @YS_Castlerigg, and they’re on Instagram and Twitter. We also have three streams for young people and young adults – @CastleriggManor, and that’s on Instagram, SnapChat, and TikTok. Then, there is the Facebook page @CastleriggManor which is kind of for everyone. A few people have been asking about our new streams, so hopefully that clears things up!

World Youth Day 2023, Lisbon –

Bookings are now open for World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon. We have about 20 places and we’re looking to take a group of young adults as part of a wider discipleship experience. We’ve managed to keep the price down to €995 for the whole thing. For more details, get in touch with us or check out our new website.

Lourdes 2022 – If you haven’t signed up for Lourdes yet, head to our website and sign up! It’s £750 for young people and it’s a great chance to deepen your faith and get to know Our Lady! Check out the big article we wrote in last month’s Voice for more information.

Northwest Children and Youthwork Thing 2022 – Unfortunately, the Northwest Ecumenical Youth Officers have decided to cancel this event due to lack of interest. The group will have a think about what we want to do going forward so watch this space for an event potentially happening some time next year!



David Pope dip FD MBIFD

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Can you step out to help Christians get back on their feet in the Holy Land?

With the tourism industry slow to recover from the impact of the Covid pandemic, a lifeline is being offered to help Christians develop new skills and find employment in the Holy Land.

where we can help school leavers and people who lost work in the pandemic to find a new way forward with stable employment. Not only will they be able to support their families, but they can also fill key roles in their communities.

Ecumenical charity Friends of the Holy Land (FHL) has launched a new vocational scholarship programme, Road to Success, to help Christians become less dependent on tourism and move into skills gaps in the region.

"The building blocks are all there, and so we are appealing to churches, schools, businesses and individuals this spring to step out on the Pentecost Challenge and help give people that vital step up through our new Road to Success scholarship programme.

And this spring FHL is inviting churches to help people take their first steps in shortage skill areas such as IT, electrics, plumbing and nursing – by accepting the Pentecost sponsored challenge of walking, swimming or cycling in their own local area in a six-week virtual pilgrimage from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

"Most of us haven't been able to visit the Holy Land and learn from its people, the 'living stones' of Christianity for years now; the virtual journey of the Pentecost Challenge provides an opportunity to do both of those things and enjoy some exercise. Please join in and help your brothers and sisters get back on their feet!"

Along the way, participants will 'visit' key locations where Jesus once walked, meet the Christian community and hear about the work FHL is doing to support families as Covid continues to cause far-reaching hardship to Christian families largely dependent on pilgrims and tourists who remain largely absent.

To find out more about the Pentecost Challenge visit:
www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/pentecost22

FHL Executive Director Brendan Metcalfe said: "The fantastic news is that there is excellent training available from local vocational training centres, which see 90% of their students walking straight into a job.

FHL is small ecumenical Christian Charity (registered charity in England and Wales 1130054) working from an office in Kenilworth, but with groups and supporters across England and Scotland. FHL have been operating for over ten years having been founded in 2009 inspired by a Pilgrimage in 2007, a number of returning Pilgrims felt called

"But with no government funding, many families struggle to afford fees. This is

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to do something to improve the lives of Christians living in the Land that is at the root of their faith.

FHL operates an office in Bethlehem to support vulnerable Christians. In addition to meeting their direct emergency needs, when families fall into financial difficulty, FHL's team in Bethlehem also works with other partner agencies to support vulnerable Christians with medical costs and school fees. Both of which can be very expensive often accounting for as much as a quarter of a normal household's yearly income.

Friends of the Holy Land have two major projects in Bethlehem, School of

Joy providing education and therapy to disabled children and St Martha's House which is a day centre for elderly women, mainly widows or those whose family have emigrated. FHL also provide long term support to St Luke's Hospital in Nablus, by supporting a medical exemption fund for the local Christian population.



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As the event grew nearer, the amount of dread raised and retracted, then raised again, with the bile and butterflies. It's not something us Catholics are used to doing, walking, witnessing, with different Christian doctrines! And yet it was something we were clearly being asked to be part of!

By the time the morning arrived, I'd got my head around it; so be it. But as we stood waiting for the event to start, being handed out our high viz 'Lancaster Churches Together' jacket, there was no hiding! This was it. We gathered to begin our walk in the square opposite the town hall and after the opening prayer and song, we asked volunteers to come forward to carry a banner and to hand out 100's of hot cross buns. Most importantly, we needed someone to step up and carry the Cross of witness.... amongst the busy streets of Lancaster we passed.

"Tho I walk in the valley of retail, no evil shall befall me", was a cracking comment from one of our church leaders.

Next to the Cross (*being carried by a fellow young friend and Catholic*) we walked. As we walked in witness, happily smiling and joyful, we were greeted by so many mixed receptions:

The avoiders - people saw us, and immediately crossed the road.

The benevolent - they shared the path with us, smiled back and shared some hope.

The scoffers - those who wanted to make

more noise than us, a larger group of approx 80 with a Public Address system!
The haters - those who walked past us twisting their faces, cursing and even at times spitting!

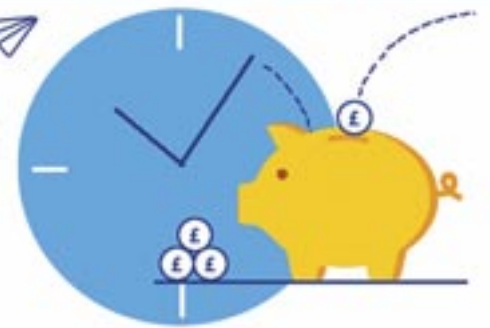
I witnessed with awe the people around us. This band of merry men and women, with so much joy in our hearts, singing and praying together across church fractions and denominations. The witness of Christian love and friendship at this time on this very Good Friday. The people who passed us, and those who stopped and stayed! I observed how we came across other more flamboyant 'born again' Christians preaching loudly, who stopped their proclamation and for a moment joined us before then continuing back on their podium. And for a brief moment it occurred to me that 'we are on their side!' We are one of those people stood on a busy shopping street corner proclaiming the love of God to anyone who will listen! And what struck me most of all was an overwhelming sensation of love and compassion, for we are one. The preacher in the street corner and those walking past. We all belonged to humanity. We all walked this earth. And our reactions to the simplest of things like this walk of witness unconsciously told so much for us all about our upbringing, our hurts and our pains; more than our voices ever dare to say.

Whilst we walked in witness I contemplated the Stations of the Cross that Jesus's walked with his cross through the bustling market souk streets of

...continued on page 10 >>

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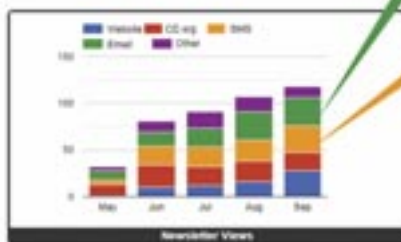
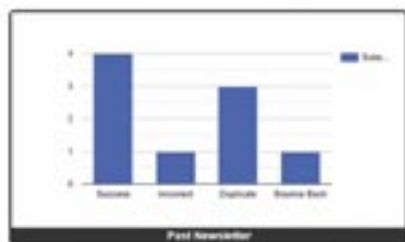
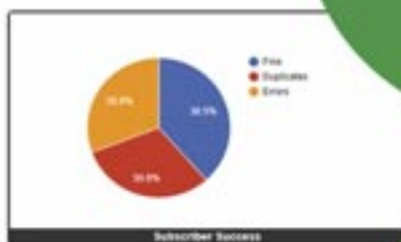
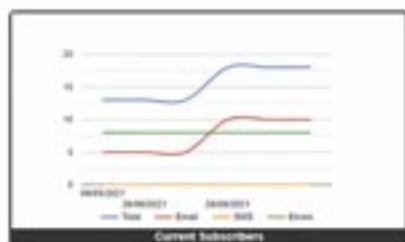
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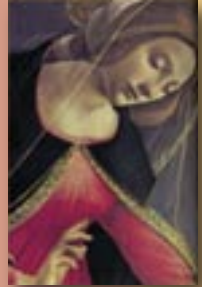
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Jerusalem. He would have come across this and so much more. He has followers and supporters, sympathisers, but also the bullies, the scoffers and the haters. He was leered at, jeered at, spat at and shoved at. He had stones thrown, spite and hate grew, and yet he continued, with compassion 'forgiving them for they do not know what they were doing'.

We closed our witness walk by praying for the town with prayers led by Bishop Jill Duff, surrounded by Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Pentecostals, Evangelicals, Baptists, CofE, Methodists and so many more! The boundaries blurred and once again, we stood as one body of disciples at the foot of the Cross.

I opened my heart asking God to bless us all and those whom we had passed. My prayers especially went out to those who saw us as a threat. The obnoxious security details who stood in our way, (initially) not letting us through their 'private property walkway' of a busy public shopping centre; despite us gaining permission beforehand. Those who cursed. Those who's faces twisted and the thought of church and 'love'; those who spat and swore. How much hurt had they experienced to be so against a small

faith group walking through the streets. How much pain had they experienced in order to see us walking in peace as a 'threat'?

Or maybe it was not about us. Maybe it was just about the Cross?

On Good Friday, love died for love. Self acts became selfless. Peace and grace overtook hell. Light broke through the endless darkness. If that can be done on one Good Friday in time, then it can be done here. God so loved the word that he gave his only son. Let us not be gloomy down or guilty by this fact, but let us rejoice! For Love overcame it all, for each and everyone of us!

We handed over the Market Square plinth to the leader of New Life church who were soon blasting out the first contemporary worship song that broke into the charts in the mid 1990's Joan Osborne (*no relation*) 'what if God was one of us?'

As the Forever Amen team joined in and became groupies I reflected on the experience and the words to this song (*which really are worth a read!*):

If God had a name, what would it be and

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would you call it to His face? If you were faced with him in all his glory. What would you ask if you had just one question?

What if God was one of us? Just a slob like one of us? Just a stranger on the bus trying to make his way home"

But looking around today, I realised that there really is no 'what if'.

God is one of us!

He's the wrecking tramp on the street, the lost one smoking in the corner, the addict shivering their way to their next fix, the lonely and the lost, the unknown and the abandoned, the busy shopper, the mama trying to calm the screaming child, the dad trying to make ends meet. The people lost in grief and despair using retail as a fix.

He is in each and everyone of us. It's not something we have to ask, but something that's given with the first breath we take on this earth. None of us are ever truly abandoned, or lost beyond his love.

And this is our Good Friday and Easter message, one of love but mostly one of HOPE!



New Life

Last month we reported on a recent tree planting project at Our Lady and St Edward's church in Preston. Here we hear from one of the young planters who was on holiday from Australia as the work was carried out.

My name is Thomas Grimm and I am eleven years old. I live in Tasmania, Australia but I stayed with my grandparents, Derek and Elizabeth Alty for the Easter holidays. My parents, Jane and Carsten, were married in Our Lady and St Edwards church 17 years ago.

Some time ago several trees in the church grounds had to be felled as they were endangering the church foundations. I was pleased to help to plant one of the trees to replace the ones that were lost. Me and my sisters Elizabeth and Maria, planted 'Sorbus Joseph Rock' (Rowan, Mountain Ash). This is apt as the St Joseph statue stands nearby. This tree can grow in barren ground, giving hope that nature can persevere in the harshest environments.

Pope Francis has asked us to all do what we can to nurture our natural global environment so I have helped out in this way. I am hoping my grandparents and other parishioners will take care, nurture and look after these trees now that I am back in Tasmania.



ADVERTORIAL



What's your gift to the world? Catholic Legacy Week 5-11 June

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If you would like to find out more visit yourcatholiclegacy.org.uk or call Lily on 020 7095 5370.

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Photograph: Thom Fleet/ CAFOO



Jesus breathed on them and said receive the Holy Spirit

In this Pentecost retreat we will reflect on the role of the Holy Spirit in John's Gospel and pray for the release of the Spirit in our lives, that we may learn how to act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with our God. There will be times of input, times of silence and times of prayer and praise to help us open ourselves more fully to God.

**Friday, 3 June (6.30)-Sunday, 5 June 2022, (2pm)
£190**

For information and bookings visit www.minsteracres.org,
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'Dare to Dream' –

Pope Francis

Yes, it was a dream but it did happen thanks to the support of the Head of Year 7 of Our Lady's High School Preston Ms J O'Beirne and Head of Year 7 at St Bede's School Lytham Ms C Cochrane and Year 7 students from both schools. Their efforts were well supported by St Bede's RE Department, Terry Mattinson Youth Worker and Fr Mario. And the St Bede's catering staff provided a splendid lunch.

This was the first time the two schools had come together to discuss social issues and develop ideas.

Thirty four students were involved and

actively engaged in discussing a wide range of topics including foodbanks, the homeless, well-being, environment isolation and loneliness CAFOD, the Salvation Army, Care Homes, Homeless Organisations, Eco Projects, Peace and Conflict. A very heavy agenda!

The Students discussed how they could work together going forward, how best they can take the lead whilst having some fun working together

They all agreed that they wanted to see a sharing and caring world and whilst the list of areas needing attention was long it wasn't undaunting as both schools



Coming Together

recognised that nothing is impossible if you 'Dare to Dream'.

What the Our Lady's young people said about their experience of the visit to St Bede's:

'It was fun.'

'I enjoyed the food.'

'Differences between the schools.'

'We made new friends.'

'Great experience to meet young people from another school.'

'It was good to be able to be ourselves and chat what stuff we would like to do together.'

'Great to discuss issues that affect young people and to have a voice on things that affect young people in the world NOW!!!'

St Bede's intend to visit to Our Lady's in late May and it is hoped that as the ideas flow these will turn into concrete action.

Visual communications crafted for charities and faith-based organisations.

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Students and Staff go the Extra Mile!

During Lent Students and Staff at Cardinal Newman college Preston truly lived out their mission and values which 'encourage individuals to contribute positively to the world in which they live' with a variety of charity fundraisers intended to make a difference to the lives of those affected by the war in Ukraine. As well as following Pope Francis' instructions to pray for peace, the College responded to the call to live out Catholic Social Teaching by reaching out to those in need.

Departments, Health, Business, Accountancy and Chaplaincy coordinated

the donations from staff and students of baby milk and food, towels, first aid supplies, blankets, baby bottles and dummies, hats, gloves, scarves and socks, sanitary wear, toiletries, warm clothing, food nappies etc. etc.

Students in the Photography and Graphics department decided to show the people of Ukraine their love, support and solidarity by creating a range of cards with messages in Ukrainian that they placed in the pockets and attached to the items that were donated. The students hoped that might bring a small amount of brightness and hope to someone's day and for them to know that we have them

in our thoughts and prayers. And one student even learnt how to knit and made lots of hats for the babies

The response to the appeal was absolutely overwhelming. Remembering Saint John Henry Newman's words, "I am a link in a chain", staff and students joined the 'Newman Chain for Ukraine' to form a physical chain of people in order to pass the bags of donations along and help load the van.

In addition, the Health and Wellbeing team organised 'Walk for Ukraine' charity fundraiser in aid of CAFOD's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

The direct distance from the college site to the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, is 1420 miles so staff and students were encouraged to walk the same distance collectively, in solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

To support this fundraiser, Newman Active delivered guided walks around Avenham Park once a week throughout March.

The Chemistry charity group and the CAFOD group helped boost the totals by completing the Walk Against Hunger which raised £420 and the RE department raised over £300 in one week with collections at the end of each lesson.





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Lark Hill Association



The AGM and Mass will be held at Cardinal Newman College on **Saturday 25th June 2022** at 2.00 p.m.
Further details
01772 863423 01253 733985



For the Promotion of the Traditional Roman Rite

Mass Listings – June 2022

St. Margaret Mary, Sclegate Road, Carlisle
Saturdays at 10.00 am

Saturday 4th June, 10.00 am
Sung Mass for Holy Souls

Shrine Church of St Walburge, Preston
Mondays – Fridays: 8.30 am, Low Mass
Saturdays: 8.30 am, Low Mass
Sundays: 10.30 am, Sung Mass

Shrine of the English Martyrs, Preston
Mondays – Saturdays: 12 noon, Low Mass
Sundays: 9.00 am, Low Mass
(Please check the website for any variations:
<https://licksp.org.uk/preston/>)

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

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

Local Representatives: Bob & Jane Latin
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