

St. Clare's, Fulwood.

PARISH MAGAZINE



SUMMER 2016

GENERAL NEWS

Life in any parish is cyclical; the same events come round each year. This is a busy time of year; our celebrations have included: the May Procession in honour of our Blessed Lady. The First Holy Communion preparation being complete we celebrated this red letter day in the life of our boys & girls. Similarly, our Confirmation programme has closed and the Bishop came to confer this Sacrament. Our thanks, as ever, go to Mrs Cywinski – our lead catechist – and her teams who so lovingly lead our children. The parish Blessed Sacrament Procession took place with our primary school taking a leading role as they did for the May Procession. The Quarant Ore, the 40 hours devotion to the Blessed Sacrament has been deferred. It was originally scheduled for the weekend of the Summer Fair, the Renewal Day and the Confirmations which meant that it would not have the prominence that is its due. So, it will now take place in September.



On a slightly less exalted note, the parish committees have been busy. The PPC with a mind to the *Year of Mercy* organised a pilgrimage to Sts Mary & John Southworth church,

Samelsbury – it is a designated church in the Salford diocese for the Holy Year. Sadly, the evening Ceilidh which was to have followed the Pilgrimage was deferred for lack of support. Maybe we will try again later! (more of the Pilgrimage elsewhere). The Social Committee have been ploughing their usual furrows. It was ‘all hands on deck’ for the Summer Fair which was blest with fine weather and which helped to make the occasion more enjoyable. The proceeds were split between

the PTFA and the parish (Porch Fund). And what of the Porch Fundraising Group? Well, we are now nearing the £90K mark so only £60K more to go! They move forward with the *Porch Plots* and the *200 Club* which brings in a steady income with parishioners winning various sums each month. Other fund raising events are afoot. The Fabric & Finance Group meet each month and quietly go about their work of advising on the upkeep of the property. All these activities have at their centre the person of Jesus Christ. Everything we do is done to bring him into sharper focus in the life of our parishioners and others. Even things like building a new porch have him at their centre. A new porch will make the church a more welcoming and friendly place and thus enhance the Kingdom of God. As our Jesuit colleagues would say: *Ad majorem Dei gloriam* – to the greater glory of God. Our Parish school recently underwent a Section 48 Inspection. Section 5 is a general Ofsted inspection whilst 48 is an inspection, in a denominational school (Church) of the RE provision and ethos of the establishment. It was an outstanding result of which we will hear more a little further on.

WORLD YOUTH EVENT

A couple of weeks after this edition of the Parish Magazine has been distributed, a large group of our young people will depart for World Youth Day (WYD) Event in Poland. For anyone who is a regular at St Clare's this will not come as 'news' for we have been fund raising for WYD in every which way for almost a year: prize bingo, car washes, race nite, sponsored events etc etc. But why are we intent on sending such a contingent from our parish? Well, it certainly isn't for a 'jolly' although we hope that they will have a fantastic time. Our young people grow up in a highly secularised society. To be a person of faith is in many ways to be out-of-step with the prevailing culture of society. WYD is an opportunity for our youngsters to meet with more than a million other young Catholics from around the world to help them to recognise that they are not alone, that they belong to a vast family of those who believe in Jesus Christ.



In the lead up to WYD the young people have come together once a month for an evening of catechesis and worship. This is part of the preparation for this important event where they will be able to respond to the

invitation of Pope Francis to be with him in Krakow. Over the days in Poland and leading up to the meeting with the Pope, the young people will have a series of catechesis in language groups. In the past, football stadia and similar arenas have been used. The catechesis on the faith is given by one of the leading Cardinals or Archbishops; this is all aimed at bolstering the faith of these young people.

Fr Darren and his team of adult ‘minders’ will be shepherding our young people. But we too, have to shepherd them with our prayers.

A YEAR OF MERCY

The Holy Door 100

What are we going to do for the Extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy? How about a pilgrimage to the Holy Door at Lancaster Cathedral? Too far to walk, is there anywhere nearer? What about Salford? Isn't that further still? No, the Salford Diocese has a Holy Door at St Mary and St John Southworth, Samlesbury – and so it was set.

On a warm(ish) (and dry – hurrah!) Saturday in early July over 100 parishioners set out on our pilgrimage to the Holy Door at Samlesbury. Some by car, some by bike but nearly most on foot – it began as a promise of being only six miles along the Guild Wheel and finished

being a little shy of eight, but who's counting.



Led by Father Darren and joined by two passing Seminarians, the walking group set a brisk pace both in our walking and in our reflection and prayer. I'm not sure the Guild Wheel has before experienced a group of 50 plus praying Rosary as they walked, but they will remember us for next time and might even join in as well. Lunch was on route at the Brockholes nature reserve and it was interesting to observe the change in the energy level in the young people, who were, one minute, asking in exhausted voices "*are we nearly there yet?*" and the next were sprinting to be first to use the zip wires and slides.

We all arrived safe and sound and in good time to enjoy the extraordinary spread put on for us by the parishioners of St Mary and St John Southworth – you will have a fourth cream scone won't you? Well, I shouldn't really, but after nearly eight miles of walking I suppose I better had! The parishioners were delighted to receive us as visitors and told us how wonderful it was for them to see the church so vibrant and so full.

Then to the really important stuff. We started outside the Church and processed through the Holy Door. Thereafter, we were led by Fr Loughran in a spiritual and moving service where you sensed very much that Jesus Christ was close at hand. We finished with 20 minutes

of quiet prayer and reflection which of course was wonderfully well observed by all.

We don't have to walk back do we? Not at all, as thankfully Fr Darren had the foresight to bring minibuses down early that morning to whisk everyone back to St Clare's and home in time for tea. SC

ST CLARE'S SCHOOL

Why, hasn't this school year just flown by? We have so much to be thankful and proud of this year, from great school Masses to a rainy sports day, a new Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher to the safe arrival of Mrs Brennan's baby. This school year has been very



eventful!

In the Year of Mercy we have really thought about showing mercy to others. In the Autumn term we had our annual Harvest Festival where the children gave their

time and gifts to bring joy and happiness to our community. During Advent the year six children raised the hospital's roof as they sang their hearts out for the people who needed their spirits lifting during the Christmas period. We have supported the community in Hodovo and taken part in many faithful events such as a school sleepover and Bishop's fund day.

During R.E week we had the privilege of receiving the Diocesan Pilgrim Statue. We expanded our learning about the statue as the teachers explained what the true meaning of what the Pilgrim Statue means to us as a Catholic school. We also celebrated with the children

as they grew in spiritual life through the sacraments of Confirmation and the Eucharist. Preparations were being made as our RE inspection was approaching. When the day came and we were proudly awarded outstanding in all areas!

World Book Day was a great a hit. Fair-trade café helped us raise a lot of money for fair-trade. Everyone was dressed as their favourite book character including all the staff! It was great to share our favourite stories with our families and parishioners, we love it when you come in to school and spend time with us!

We had a bubbling start to our science week as activities fizzed up the school. Each teacher prepared exciting lessons for all children. Sports week followed a few days after. Hearts were beating like a drum beat non-stop. We raised £1100 for Cancer Research as we ran/jogged around the playground depending in which class they were in. We all dressed up as superheroes, it was so much fun! In the summer term we have shared our talents in so many different ways. Children's voices shone in our outstanding music festival performance in the magnificent Guild Hall, Year two shared their fantastic performance poetry and Year six ended the year with an amazing performance of Wind in the Willows.

We have been very successful in competitions this year. From topping the football league to winning the Preston schools maths competition and won. We have also had high placings in the tennis, swimming, triathlon and cross country competitions. We have represented our school in many ways and we are extremely proud to do this. Each year, talent is brought to this school and we are going from strength to strength. We try our best to have the best times at Saint Clare's Catholic Primary School! Thank you for all your support and we look forward to working with you all in September.

Written by Year 6

THE CENACOLO COMMUNITY

Each year around the 16th July a grand festival is held in the little northern Italian city of Saluzzo which is when and where the Community came to birth in 1983. It is called Festa della Vita – the Festival of Life because

‘life’ is the very central message of this Community. Historically, the Community was born in the heart of Sr Elvira who saw the plight of the young people many living on the streets, many enthralled to drugs. She, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, set about creating a place for these disaffected youth which has now grown into a worldwide phenomenon with Cenacolo Houses all over Europe, some in north and south America, one in Africa and maybe more to come.

The Festival this year was under the theme of mercy which was appropriate as the Pope has designated it a *Jubilee Year of Mercy*. The strapline was ‘I desire mercy,’ which was lifted from St Matthew’s Gospel. The four day festival began on Thursday evening and ended on Sunday afternoon; it was a mix of prayer, adoration, testimony and joy. Most Houses in Europe and some in America were able to send one or two members to the Festival. There were some live links via the internet to the Houses not able to be present at the festival and who thus were able to partake - if at a distance – in some of the festival.



The Festival underlines the almost universal nature of the family of Cenacolo. There is great joy in boys & girls having the opportunity to meet their parents and family members and the reunions of those who had previously lived in the same House and were now in other places.

A blessing too, came in the shape of girls and boys who had left the Community and were renewing their relationship by visiting the festival.

Praise be to God for his merciful love for those who were lost and who have been sought out by the Good Shepherd.

THE MAGIC BANK ACCOUNT

Imagine that you had won the following *PRIZE* in a contest: Each morning your bank would deposit \$86,400 in your private account for your use. However, this prize has rules:

The set of rules:

1. Everything that you didn't spend during each day would be taken away from you.
2. You may not simply transfer money into some other account.
3. You may only spend it.
4. Each morning upon awakening, the bank opens your account with another \$86,400 for that day.
5. The bank can end the game without warning; at any time it can say, "Game Over!". It can close the account and you will not receive a new one.

What would you personally do?

You would buy anything and everything you wanted right? Not only for yourself, but for all the people you love and care for. Even for people you don't know, because you couldn't possibly spend it all on yourself, right?

You would try to spend every penny, and use it all, because you knew it would be replenished in the morning, right?

ACTUALLY, This GAME is REAL ...

Shocked ??? YES!

Each of us is already a winner of this *PRIZE*. We just can't seem to see it.

The PRIZE is *TIME*

1. Each morning we awaken to receive 86,400 seconds as a gift of life.
2. And when we go to sleep at night, any remaining time is Not credited to us.
3. What we haven't used up that day is forever lost.
4. Yesterday is forever gone.
5. Each morning the account is refilled, but the bank can dissolve your account at any time WITHOUT WARNING...

SO, what will YOU do with your 86,400 seconds?

Those seconds are worth so much more than the same amount in dollars. Think about it and remember to enjoy every second of your life, because time races by so much quicker than you think.

So take care of yourself, be happy, love deeply and enjoy life!

Here's wishing you a wonderful and beautiful day. Start "spending"....

"DON'T COMPLAIN ABOUT GROWING OLD...!"

SOME PEOPLE DON'T GET THE PRIVILEGE!

Income:

Weekly Offertory	Envelopes	34,592.92
	Loose	<u>23,034.70</u>
Donations		455.00
Sale of candles & papers		2,118.83
Rents* £6027.60+1400.00		7,427.60
Chaplaincy work		15,552.99
Gift Aid		10,493.14
Wall boxes **		1,510.97
Youth Pilgrimage fund		<u>11,319.19</u>
Special Collections	Envelopes	5,494.79
	Loose	4,862.86
Payments over to Diocese & Donations		<u>-15,543.96</u>

*These are for the use of the Hall by three regular groups: Preschool &

**After School Clubs, Indian Dance & Irish Dance

Through these we send money to CAFOD, The Homeless Shelter, Work with young people etc.

From the above and across the page you can see the parish is solvent. The main income is the weekly offertory, plus gift aid and Chaplaincy work. Each parish pays a diocesan levy of 23% for the functions undertaken like Justice & Peace, Catholic Schools, Property & Finance Offices etc. Special collections are those charities to which we reach out each year. One is levied which means that we pay out more than we get in for that collection. The sum for charities is greater in that we do not count the donations to the Food Bank and Cenacolo food collection. The Youth Pilgrimage Fund is really just a holding pen for the monies coming in and going out either for trips to Bosnia or World Youth Day

Expenditure:

Clergy Salary, NIC & Travel	10,570.85	
Salaries: H/keeper, Secretary, Hall & Church Cleaner	15,142.98	
Courses Conferences & Retreats	<u>1,940.14</u>	27,653.97

Church and Presbytery Costs:

‡Insurance, water rates & Council tax	7,293.58	
Heat, light & power	3,910.01	
Repairs	10,089.06	
Housekeeping	6,652.09	
Hall Costs	<u>6,976.62</u>	34,921.36

Other overheads:

Sale of papers & Candles	1,181.24	
Altar costs: Mass sheets, candles, music	3,517.73	
Photocopier, Stationery & Telephone	5,552.04	
Youth ***	3,111.04	
Mini Bus	785.79	
Sundries: Entertaining, gifts, Messy Church	<u>1,187.65</u>	15,335.49
Diocesan Levy		<u>15,613.80</u>

‡ Included in this figure is the cost for Hall general and water rates

***Running two youth groups,

93,524.62

Thanks should be expressed to the Fabric & Finance group and especially to our intrepid bookkeeper's weekly work and our Gift Aid Organiser and auditor.

THE WAY

The very first name of our Church was not the Roman Catholic Church, nor was it the Church of Christ or anything like that. In the Acts of the Apostles those who chose for Christ were called followers of The Way. (Acts: 9:2). Of course, earlier in the Gospel of St John, Jesus had referred to himself as 'The Way' (Jn 14:6). It would only be much later that, once again, in Acts, that a group of followers of Christ became



known as Christians; this was at Antioch (Acts: 11:26). So it was appropriate that Pope Paul VI when confronted and approving of a new movement in the Church called it the 'NeoCatechumenal Way.' It explains exactly what this new movement is about (if with a rather cumbersome title) which for brevities sake, we shall refer to as 'The Way.' The Way was born in the heart of Kiko Agruello, a Spaniard, in the middle of the last century. It has grown exponentially over the decades and has become a great movement within and approved by the Church throughout the world. Its charism, if we can call it that, is to renew the pre-baptismal catechesis of the early Church. In those very early centuries before one was admitted the Community of the Church, a long period of instruction (catechesis) was undergone. This period often lasted many years and had to be accompanied by an appropriate way of life. So not only was the individual prepared intellectually, he/she had to exhibit a moral Christian way of life. Only when it was palpably obvious that the person had converted to Christ were they admitted to the Community of believers through Baptism.

But then came along the Emperor Constantine and eventually made Christianity the religion of the Empire. This caused a great influx of people to the Church who could not / would not wait for a lengthy catechesis and were baptised after minimal preparation if any at all. Thus

entered the Church not only innumerable new members but also very often questionable religious understanding and practices.

The Way proposes a post-baptismal catechesis to make present the vital teachings of Christ and principally the Kerygma. It recognises that most people who are baptised, even though they have been through Catholic Education, and have been life-long members of the Church, may not have heard in a systematic way, the teaching of the Good News.

The Way proposes for those who are baptised, a prolonged catechesis in which those who participate are given the opportunity to hear in a new way the Good News of Jesus Christ.

But what then? After the catechesis, those who have taken part are invited to form a Community of no more than 50 people. This Community, like the ones in the early Church, provide a faith and practical support network. They meet together twice a week; one time they celebrate the Liturgy of the Word which members of the Community take turns to prepare. Secondly, they meet on a Saturday evening to celebrate the Eucharist.

The Way was invited into the parish of St Clare a few years ago and now there are two Communities who meet and support each other and the wider parish. It was agreed from the beginning that the Liturgy of the Word (Wednesdays) and the Eucharist (Saturdays) would be open to everyone as is sign-posted in the weekly Parish Bulletin.

The Way is one of the new movements in the Church. It is like Focalare, Faith & Light and those other new signs of the presence of God in the world. As several Popes have said, 'The Way is to be welcomed and encouraged.'

FROM THE DIOCESE AND OTHER SOURCES

APPOINTMENTS: Deacon John Cliffe as a member of the Diocesan Board of Education & Formation. Father Paul Johnstone takes over the pastoral care of St Mary, Egremont & St Joseph, Seascale. Father Peter Groody is now Parochial Administrator of the Parish of St John XXIII, Preston. Father John Millar remains as Parochial Administrator of the Parish of Our Lady of Eden, Carlisle, for the present. Father Frank Osman is (temporarily) based at the Rectory at Our Lady & St Joseph, Carlisle for the duration of his 12 month sabbatical. We welcome to the Diocese,

Father Sony Joseph JCD from the Archeparchy of Changanacherry, Kerala who is now Assistant Priest at St Joseph, Skerton and Judicial Vicar for the Diocese.

RETIREMENT: Deacon Jim Slater who retired from active ministry

SABBATICAL: Canon Tony Walsh has now withdrawn as a Diocesan Trustee and has resigned as Parish Priest of St John XXIII, Preston to begin a 12 month sabbatical period of rest, prayer and study.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM: THURSDAY 29 SEPTEMBER – SATURDAY 1 OCTOBER 2016: The cost is £150 per person (based on 2 people sharing). There is limited availability. Contact Paul Briers Tel: 01946 834834 or email: guildshop@yahoo.co.uk

MONASTIC EXPERIENCE WEEKEND, PLUSCARDEN ABBEY, 19-22 AUGUST 2016: The monks of Pluscarden Abbey offer a special opportunity to see at first-hand what monastic life is about, during this weekend. The invitation is extended to single young men, Catholics who practice their faith, aged between 18-35. There is no charge. Anyone interested is invited to contact Father Bernard Hardy

OSB, Pluscarden Abbey, Elgin, Moray IV30 8UA; email: novicemaster@pluscardenabbey.org telephone: 01343 890257.

PETER'S PENANCE: last year's Diocesan collection amounted to £10,807.57.

THE RELIGIOUS SISTERS OF MERCY OF ALMA: are to leave our Diocese by 15 July 2016. The Sisters are, in fact, moving on from Preston and establishing a foundation in the Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh.

SUMMER ACCOMMODATION IN LONDON: Allen Hall Seminary in Chelsea offer comfortable rooms in central London in July and August. Beautiful gardens and Chapel. Rooms from £50 per night (including breakfast). Website: www.allenhall.org.uk Email: allenhall@rcdow.org.uk or telephone 020 7349 5600.

SOCIETY OF ST GREGORY SUMMER SCHOOL: This takes place from 3 - 6 August at Belsey Bridge Conference Centre, Ditchingham. Further information at <http://www.ssg.org.uk/event-directory/summer-swchool-2/summer-school-2016/>

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING TEACHER TRAINING COURSES: The NFP Teachers' Association are offering two courses beginning in 2016: For more information please visit www.nfpta.org.uk

NATIONAL MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE PILGRIMAGE AT WALSINGHAM: 12 - 14 AUGUST 2016: For further details, please email family@walsingham.org.uk

CONQUERORS – *YOUTH 2000*: 25 - 29 AUGUST 2016: This August 1,500 young adults (between the ages 16-35) will be journeying to Walsingham for a 5-day festival sponsored by *Youth 2000*. See www.youth2000.org for details.

VINCENTIAN GAP YEAR: This is an opportunity for Christian young people aged 18-35, from all over the world, to commit a year of their lives to the service of vulnerable people while living in a community of three or four people. They engage in voluntary work in partnership with others, with well-known charity organisations in order to help the impoverished, the homeless, the disabled, refugees and those suffering with addictions within the local community. Full details are on the website: <http://www.vincentianvolunteers.org.uk/>

NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR RURAL CATHOLICS: This is at Sarum College, Salisbury from 13 to 15 February 2017. For more details please contact Father Robert Miller (01747 870228 or email rwhm274@btinternet.com)

THROUGH THE REGISTERS

We send our congratulations to the families of the following who



were baptised in the parish recently: Bradley Turner, Finley Turner, Emma Minnis, Oliver Simpson, Theo Gornall, Aria Ferdowsian, Frederick Hall, Kacie Biju, Oliver Burgess, Louie Monks, Nellie Ntsabane, Ava Topping & Olly Alker.

Congratulations too, to the 29 young people

Confirmed here in June. We offer our condolences to the families of Barbara Levett, Thomas Thompson, Michael Lappin, Mary Butler &

Monica Sharpe whose funerals have taken place from here in recent months.

FROM THE PARISH WEBSITE

It is one of our aims to try and keep the parish Website up to date with the various events and activities. In the past we have reproduced here, in the Magazine, the various articles which appear on the website. It is, however, probably better to read them in situ. Recent posts have included: Holy Year Pilgrimage for The Year of Mercy, Blessed Sacrament Procession, Confirmations, Summer Fair & Renewal Day and many others. Why not visit the website: www.saintclares.co.uk

CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

As the end of another academic year approaches, pupils and staff at Corpus Christi Catholic High School are preparing for their whole school Mass of Thanksgiving, which is to be celebrated on Wednesday 20 July. The theme of this year's end of year Mass is 'the Beatitudes' and in preparation, pupils in all year groups have been reflecting on the 'Sermon on the Mount' in class liturgies, year group liturgies and during morning and afternoon prayer. The school's Gospel values of Faithfulness, Humility, Dignity, Truth, Forgiveness, Respect, Tolerance and Service are based on this piece of scripture and are fundamental to the Corpus Christi way of life.

This school year has been relentlessly busy and has seen further major changes as Corpus Christi continues to implement ambitious plans for improvement. In March, Corpus Christi was visited by Anthony McNamara, former Headteacher and Diocesan Advisor who reported that 'During my visit, as I walked around the school, including during break times, I found the level of compliance with school expectations to be impressive. The uniform worn by the pupils is traditional; skirt length is below the knee, ties are worn properly, shirts are tucked in: the children look smart – and happy. No voices were raised. Displays around the school are bright and up-to-date. Without doubt this is a school that is being transformed.'

On Thursday 26 and Friday 27 May, a team of inspectors carried out a denominational inspection of Corpus Christi and concluded that: 'Corpus Christi is a good Catholic school that is improving rapidly'. Inspectors judged the overall effectiveness to be good, capacity for sustained improvement to be good and the Catholic life of the school to be good. Although inspectors judged provision and outcomes for Religious Education to be less than good at this stage, they recognised that the appointment of a new subject leader for Religious Education has resulted in immediate improvement and that the school's new Head of RE has the 'vision, capacity and drive that are required'.



The report recognises the huge improvements that have been made over the last few years. Inspectors noted the school's determination to ensure that Christ is at the centre of all that it does as a school. They found that 'in all things and in all ways, the Catholic life of the school is accorded special significance'. Inspectors also noted pupils' positive attitudes to learning and their keenness to learn respectfully from their teachers and their peers: 'A strongly established sense of purpose ensures that teachers can teach and pupils can learn unhindered by distractions. Pupil behavior is consistently exemplary'.

A small group of Corpus Christi pupils will be travelling to Poland at the beginning of the school holiday to take part in World Youth Day. The school's Chaplain, John Griffin, is one of a small group of young people who will be invited to come forward to meet Pope Francis during the vigil on Saturday 30 July. Pupils will be sharing their experiences with other pupils at the start of the new term in September. On Thursday 22 September, Corpus Christi will hold its annual Open Evening for prospective pupils and their parents from 6.00 to 8.30pm. There will be an address from headteacher Mr Hubbard at 6.30pm.

Parents who would like to visit school during a normal school day can contact the school to request a tour during school hours (Tel: 01772716912).

A LITTLE LIGHT RELIEF

Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today, it's called golf.

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight, because by then your body and your fat have become really good friends.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a new replacement for it.

He who hesitates is probably doing the right thing.

Did you ever notice: The Roman Numerals for forty (40) are 'XL.'

If you think there is some good in everybody, you obviously haven't met 'everybody'.

If you can smile when things go wrong, you must have someone else in mind to blame.

The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so that he can tell when he's 'really' in trouble.

There's always a lot to be thankful for if you take time to look for it.

For example, I am sitting here thinking how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt.

Aging: Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.

Some people try to turn back their life's odometers. Not me, I want people to know 'why' I look this way. I've travelled a long, long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, just think of Algebra.

One of the many things no one tells you about ageing is that it is such a nice change from being young.

Ah, being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

Lord, keep your arm around my shoulder and your hand over my mouth...AMEN...!!

FROM THE ORDO

A feast with a Preston connection is that of our Lady of Mount Carmel, there being two Carmelite foundations in Fulwood. Two newer feasts are also celebrated in July, they are respectively, the feasts of the Lancashire and Cumbrian Martyrs (19/7, 24/7). One of the many patron saints of Europe, St. Bridget comes up on the 23rd swiftly followed by the Apostle St. James on the 25th. Three other feasts of note bring the month to its conclusion: Ss. Joachim and Anne, parents of our Lady; St. Martha who welcomed Jesus into her home, and another Preston landmark feast, St. Ignatius Loyola founder of the Society of Jesus whose priests staff St. Wilfrid's. August is full of beautiful feasts. It starts with St Alphonsus the founder of the Redemptorists. We move then to St John Vianney who is the patron saint of diocesan priests. St Mary Major was the first church in the west to be dedicated to our Lady and that anniversary is kept on the 5th with the feast locally (Rome) known as our Lady of Snows.

The wonderful feast of our Lord's Transfiguration is on the 6th and is followed by the feast of the Lancaster Martyr's on the 7th. St Dominic, St Lawrence our own St Clare and St Maximilian Kolbe, a martyr of Auschwitz come in quick succession and lead us to the great solemnity of our Lady's Assumption. The rest of the month is peppered with saints days: St Bernard, St Pius X, St Bartholomew, St Monica and her son, St Augustine. At the end of the month we celebrate the martyrdom of St John the Baptist and finally the saints of Lindisfarne. August is that month when we stagger from feast day to feast day remembering those great heroes and heroines of our faith. These saints are part of our family. They love us and they are 'on our side.' Just as we celebrate special occasions in the lives of those we love in our family, so it is right to celebrate saint's days. God wants to honour them and he will bless us through their intercession, so we should not be slow to ask them to pray for us especially on their feast days. September too, brings a plethora of celebrations: St. Gregory, St Cuthbert (Diocesan Patron),

the Birthday of our Lady, St John Chrysostom, The Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the Korean Martyrs, St Matthew Our Lady of Walsingham. The feast of St. Vincent de Paul, the great champion of the poor. And lastly, our focus turns to angels; first the Archangels: Gabriel, Raphael & Michael on Sept. And then to the Guardian Angels but that takes us into another month.

