

# ParishQuarterly

Our Lady & All Saints Catholic Church, Otley

[www.olasotley.org](http://www.olasotley.org)

SEPTEMBER 2021



## Preparing for the Priesthood

For those of you who I didn't get the chance to meet during my time at Our Lady and All Saints. My name is Marc Pitson and I am a seminarian for the Diocese of Leeds. I recently completed a degree from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome. The seminary formation is split into four key areas of Academic, Pastoral, Spiritual and Human. The Academic comprises of two key areas of Philosophy and Theology. Normally a seminarian will do two years Philosophy and then three years Theology. The Spiritual and Human formation focuses on preparing the individual for their life as a priest, and it covers a wide area of personal and spiritual formation. The fourth area of formation is that of the Pastoral element. This is the hands - on approach to priestly formation.

During the academic year seminarians take on various pastoral roles, such as catechesis, working in homeless shelters, visiting the elderly and house bound or working in a parish. During the summer however, we are given the chance to



spend a month in a parish, the aim being to give us the opportunity to meet clergy and parishioners of the Diocese and to gain some experience of what life as a priest in our diocese is truly like. I was extremely blessed this summer to spend it in Otley as it gave me a great opportunity to meet lots of new people and to experience parish life.

I'm always surprised when I go on placement just how varied the life of a priest can be, whether it's giving the Gospel reflection, climbing ladders to fix fire alarms, dealing with building maintenance or chatting with parishioners. These opportunities to spend time in a parish can help strengthen and confirm a vocational calling. As future priests we are called to be shepherds and pastors of the Church, and it is during these times of placement when we get the opportunity to meet the people of God who make up the Church I hope one day to serve.

My time in Otley was one of great blessing and formation. It will be a time that I will look back on fondly over the years to come and hope that at some point I may have the opportunity to visit again.

Meanwhile, please remember me and all those preparing for the priesthood in your prayers, and be assured that you are in mine.

**Marc Pitson**

# Helping refugees

*Parishioner and Reader Daniel Smallbone reflects on his work experience with refugees and asylum seekers.*

"I have recently enjoyed an invaluable opportunity this summer volunteering with Meeting Point, a charity based at Christ Church in Armley providing practical and emotional support for refugees and asylum seekers currently living in Leeds – people from all round the world – including parts of Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Europe who have had to leave their homes and families and are often in a very difficult situation living in another country where English is not their first language. They are often living in a state of limbo waiting for a decision from the Home Office on their legal status and can be waiting for years. Some are destitute, some not allowed to work or receive benefits and some don't have a home.

They can be isolated and struggle physically and mentally. They may not have family or friends in this new country. Their situation is often challenging and precarious and many rely on charities for support. Every Monday Meeting Point runs a drop-in session where they provide a hot meal, a prepared bag of fresh fruit and vegetables, bread and pastries and additional items of dried food and meat, as well as clothing and household items. and people can obtain support and advice around health and employment. There is also a Women's Group, English classes, trips and other activities for children and families.

As well as providing the practical support of food and clothing, Meeting Point helps people emotionally enabling them to become part of a community where they can make friends. Some become involved themselves, volunteering and

helping others. Meeting Point has helped me to realise the enormous hardship and challenge these people and their families have faced in their lives. However, talking to them here is always a really positive experience for me as they are always incredibly friendly. I am continually impressed by and admire their resilience and determination.

My experience here has given me knowledge and insight into an important global issue affecting millions of people around the world. The terrible images of suffering from Afghanistan and other desperate people attempting to cross the English Channel highlight the plight of refugees and asylum seekers. It has also led me to consider how we can find ways to reach out to help people in these situations, and I certainly hope to remain involved going forward."

**Daniel Smallbone**

For more information on Meeting Point please follow the link: [www.meetingpointleeds.org.uk](http://www.meetingpointleeds.org.uk)



## Prayer for refugees - Aid to the Church in Need

*Lord God, no one is a stranger to you and no one is ever removed from your loving care. In your kindness, watch over refugees and victims of war; those separated from their loved ones; anyone who is lost; and those who have no home or have been forced to flee. Bring them safely to the place where they long to be, and help us always to show your kindness to strangers and to all in need. Grant this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.*

## Who is my neighbour?

If you were asked the question "who is my neighbour", what would be your reply? Jesus was asked that very same question by a lawyer, who as is usual with that profession, was trying to trip him up. Jesus responded with a story, as he often did, which we are familiar with as the Parable of the Good Samaritan. You can read the whole story in Luke 10 vs 25/37 but I want to focus on the people who take part.

The first one is a man who was on his way from Jerusalem to Jericho. He must have had property with him worth stealing, probably loaded on a mule, when he was attacked by brigands who robbed him of all he had and beat him so severely that he was left for dead at the roadside.

The next three people mentioned in the parable are all there because of who they are and how they reacted to the sight of a badly injured man. The first was a priest presumably on his way to the Temple in Jerusalem to attend some religious event. He "passed by on the other side" because it would have made him ritually impure to have touched a possibly dying body

and unable to have performed his religious duties.

Next came a Levite who also passed by. Levites were Temple officials who traditionally served in the Temple to ensure its efficient running and he would have been in too much of a hurry to have stopped to help the injured man. Religious duties would have had priority over the needs of a fellow human being.

The third person was a Samaritan. He would have been despised by Jews both on racial and religious grounds but he was the one to stop and help. He bandaged the injured man's wounds, took him to a place of safety and arranged to pay his bill.

Having told the story, Jesus turns the lawyer's question back on to him by



asking which of these three did he think proved a neighbour to the injured man and, on receiving the obvious reply told him to "go away and do the same".

So what lessons does Jesus want us to learn from this story? I think firstly he is telling us that care for our neighbour is to be our priority over religious observance.

He is saying that this care must apply regardless of differences like race or religion and it must show itself not just by concern but in practical terms. The priest and the Levite may have been sympathetic but that was not enough.

*"Let us care for the needs of every man and woman, young and old, with the same fraternal spirit of care and closeness that marked the Good Samaritan"*

Pope Francis

This concept of neighbourliness is one for all times and peoples and it is easy to see how it could transform the world we live in today if it became the norm. The scriptures give many more examples. This one is just the tip of the iceberg but perhaps climate change and the environment are supreme examples of how neighbourliness is needed now more than ever. God bless us all in these challenging times. **Frank Bowe**



# The SVP - celebrating four hundred years

Around 400 years ago, a young Priest called Vincent de Paul walked the streets of pre-Revolutionary France. Inspired by Luke's Gospel - "he has sent me to bring the Good News to the poor" - he confronted the conventional wisdom of the Church at the time and established congregations of priests and nuns to serve those in need.

Some 200 years ago, a young student called Fredrick Ozanam at the Sorbonne University in Paris, inspired by St. Vincent, established a "Conference" of young lay Catholics to reach out and help the poor in Paris. This was the birth of the SVP as we know it.

In 1906 a group here at Our Lady and All Saints Parish formed a new "Conference" of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SVP) to reach out to those in need in Otley. Today the SVP has over five million members in Catholic parishes across fifty seven different countries around the world. Our mission remains as Vincent and Frederick saw it.

The weekend of 26th September we hold our annual SVP fundraising Sponsored Walk across the Diocese of Leeds which has been strongly supported by our Parish for many years. The walk is always held on the Sunday closest to the Feast-day of St Vincent de Paul on 27 September. We hope you'll continue to support us!

There is a danger that you may see the SVP as exclusively engaged in visiting the old and the lonely in their own homes or in care homes. And Yes, "befriending" is still at the heart of what we do. But there is so much more to the local SVP these days. Over recent years, the SVP in Otley has developed close links with other SVP Community Projects, which are designed to develop our response to those in need.

“ *We should strive to keep our hearts open to the sufferings and wretchedness of other people, and pray continually that God may grant us that spirit of compassion which is truly the spirit of God.* ”

St Vincent de Paul



Join us for a great day out with friends on

**Sunday 26th September**

## SVP Annual Sponsored Walk

There are two routes, both around Wetherby and the River Wharfe

Long Route – 5½ miles (9 km)

Short Route – 2½ miles (4 km)

Start and finish at

**St. Joseph's Church Hall,**

Westgate, Wetherby, LS22 6LL

Meet at 1pm for registration

The short route is wheelchair and pushchair friendly with activities for children!

For more information please call 0113 248 4126  
or email: [hello@svp.org.uk](mailto:hello@svp.org.uk)

There are two substantial warehouses serving not only local SVP needs, but also twenty - odd SVP community shops – not typical charity shops that aim to raise money but instead serve people in deprived areas who cannot afford normal shop prices.

Through a major St Vincent's community hub serving Leeds and Bradford a range community activities is provided including legal and housing advice, classes in computer skills, English, Job Clubs - and the rest. For example, we recently furnished a flat on the Weston Estate for a man with mental health problems.

We also provide lifts to benefit tribunals and advice, hospital appointments, Home Office meetings, and we provided extensive support to Chika, a Nigerian asylum seeker, following a terrorist attack at his home, finding him everything from food to legal representation, support at hospital appointments and especially someone to talk to when he is feeling depressed.

We meet on the 1st first and 3rd Tuesdays of each month, after the 7.30pm Mass. We have not been able visit people at home, so have resorted to copious use of the telephone! But Covid has thrown up new needs as well. As the poster at the back of church says: "There is now more need than ever!" Finally, happily St Vincent has spread his tentacles to children and young people in our schools. St Joseph's Primary School has a group called "Mini-Vinnies" and St Mary's Menston has an SVP Youth Group and a sixth form presence as well. So how can YOU help?

1. Please pray for us. 2. JOIN US! 3. Sponsor our brave walkers (no, it's NOT too late) 4. Talk to us!

**Contact Steve O'Neill (or any member)**  
[otleysvp@gmail.com](mailto:otleysvp@gmail.com)

# My special day

*Young Parishioner and Altar Server Therese reflects on her Confirmation day.*

"23rd and 24th June 2021 are very special for me and my Y6 friends at St. Joseph's because on these days we received the sacrament of Confirmation.

Our preparation started last autumn. Over 6 weeks, Mrs Harvey and Mrs Russell led us through the learning resources of the Diocese of Leeds to prepare us for receiving the sacrament. Each week we began our session by praying to the Holy Spirit, for our hearts to be opened as we learn and reflect on the gifts of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, the gifts of Baptism, Reconciliation and Holy Communion. Through studying Bible passages, discussing the meaning of special prayers, reading the lives of saints, together we reflect, share and learn deeper about our faith, we think deeper how Jesus is present in our lives, God loves us through family, friends and communities, and through Confirmation, we become full members of the Church and the gift of the Holy Spirit will be increased in us.

At our Confirmation Mass, Father Lawrie called each of our names, led us to renew our Baptismal promises, which were first made by our parents and godparents on our behalf at our Baptism. He prayed the Prayer of the Confirmation and laid his hands over us to signify the descent of the Holy Spirit. Accompanied by our sponsors, we were called to the altar to be anointed with Chrism oil, which sealed us in the Holy Spirit and marked us as members of the Church fully and permanently.

*Our loving Father in Heaven, thank you for having created us in love, made us your children through Baptism, bestowed us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit at Confirmation and constantly nourishing us with the Holy Eucharist. Thank you for loving us through all the people in our lives. May we follow their examples, keep growing our faith in you every day, living our life in love, courage, humility and unity, coming forth serving our communities and the needy in all the little ways that we can.*

*Mother Mary, gentle Mother of Peace, pray for us. St. Joseph, Loving head of the Holy Family, pray for us. All the saints and angels, pray for us.*

*All the holy souls, pray for us. We make all these prayers through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



On behalf of all of us who received the sacrament of Confirmation this June, we thank all the people who have encouraged and supported us in our faith journey throughout our primary school years: Fr Lawrie, Fr Paul and Fr Tom, all our teachers at St. Joseph's, all our catechists who have supported us preparing for the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation, our godparents, sponsors and families, and all the parishioners who have been praying for us. Thank you for living out your faith in your loving service and the kindness and love you have shown us. Please keep supporting and praying for us as we move on to high school and further our journey in faith.

Thank you and you are all in our hearts and prayers."

**Therese Choo**

*Therese and her family have recently moved to Manchester. We send them our very best wishes and our blessings for their future.*

## Use me, Lord

*Christian author and former journalist Lee Strobel has labelled some people "Tour - bus Christians" who he suggests merely "gaze out of the bus window" at others who are involved in working hard in the service of God. He writes passionately:*

Lord, I want to get into the fray. I want to play a role in the biggest adventure story of all time. Use me to make a difference. Use me to impact a young person for You. Use me to solve someone's problem. Use me to soothe someone's pain. Use me to answer someone's prayer. Use me to feed someone who is hungry.

Use me to rescue a child.  
Use me to bring someone to You. Use me to ease someone's loneliness. Use me to deepen someone's faith. Use me to cheer someone on. Use me to help a broken person understand that's he's precious in Your sight. Use me to touch lives in Your name. I don't want to just observe cathedrals through my bus window. I want to roll up my sleeves and build one!

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## Congratulations to:

Zachary Barclay  
Charlie Beswick  
William Booth  
Ethan Clegg  
Ellie Costello  
Philippa Cowell  
Asa Dovernor  
George Dunning  
Bede Graham  
Lucas Guzdek  
Amelia Hanogue  
Alfie Hartley-Downard  
Evie Jones  
Cameron Miles  
Connor Miles  
Kirsty Modrzejewska  
Thomas Morgan  
Benjamin Mooney  
Niamh Poyser  
Anita Sfredda  
Michael Trencher  
Maria Tresnan  
Eva Vaduthala  
Charlie Warren  
Logan Wilce  
Oscar Woodhead  
Phoebe Woodhead

# FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



## On my first Holy Communion ...

"While our teachers and Fr. Lawrie helped us prepare for the day, I was very nervous receiving my First Holy Communion as it was a very important step for me. But my parents, sister and uncle were there with me on the day to make me feel better. I have always wanted to receive holy communion and when I finally did, it felt amazing. I feel a lot more connected to Jesus now."

**Eva**

"I felt nervous because I was receiving Jesus for the first time and my family members were with me. Although I felt nervous, I also felt happy because Jesus is now a part of my life and I know that He loves me! I also felt beautiful because I was wearing a nice dress."

**Pippa**

"I felt elated. I was also excessively nervous. As I walked down the aisle I looked at my family, they were giving me encouraging looks. I took the sacred bread in cupped hands and ate it. I was so happy I had taken the body of Jesus."

**Charlie B**

"On the day of my First Holy Communion, I felt excited but nervous, happy but unsure ... so mixed emotions. This day was special to me because I was receiving Jesus for the first time and friends came around to celebrate it with me and my family."

**Anita**



# CONFIRMATION

## Congratulations to:

**Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021**

Therese Choo  
Orla Goodchild  
Joshua Help  
Marcus Hosker  
Harry Johnston

Michael Kowalski  
Niall O'Malley  
Edward Poole  
Timoteo Sfredda  
Maximus Vento  
Euan Waterworth



**Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

Brian Aivohozin  
Finn Guzdek  
Leila Hill

Samuel Kilmurray  
Oliver Mooney  
Ava Mulholland  
Matthew Tresnan

**St Joseph's Year 4 Teacher  
Charlotte Armitage marries at  
Our Lady and all Saints church**



**Charlotte** and her husband **Paul** first met in 2014 in Edinburgh whilst studying at university. Paul came with her to Otley in 2019 as she returned to teach at her old primary school, whilst he found a job at Abraham Moon & Sons in Guiseley. They want to thank all those who helped them prepare and celebrate their wedding day... especially the Year 4 class who saw Charlotte into church!

**PRAYER OF SAINT JOHN HENRY NEWMAN**

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troublous life,  
until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes,  
and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over,  
and our work is done.

Then, Lord, in thy mercy, grant us a safe lodging,  
a holy rest, and peace at the last.

**Amen.**



***Weddings***

**James Rogers & Veronica La-Vie  
Paul Vytartas & Charlotte Armitage**

***Baptisms***

**Eden Sonny Beswick  
Charlie Jeffrey Steven Warren  
Archie Charles Warren  
Eliza Alice Banks  
Ethan James Robert Bunyan  
Callum Caomhin Reynolds  
Louie Jack Sykes  
Connie May Webster  
Freddie Joseph Marston  
Freya Brown  
Aubrey Paige Gaine  
Silas Peter Wray  
Eleni Maeve Devanny  
Mia Rose Dwyer  
Maya Rachel Grace Hodgkiss  
Neo Patrick Lye  
Esme Amber Hoyle  
Ayda Grace Whiteley  
Nia-Grace Shaw  
Esther Connie Morpet**

***Recently Deceased***

**Catherine Black  
Jean McManus  
Kay Stephen  
Maureen Walsh  
Margaret Mitchell  
Olive Grant  
Susan Thomas  
Jean Olley  
Francis Fitzpatrick  
Harry Turner  
Eileen Foley**