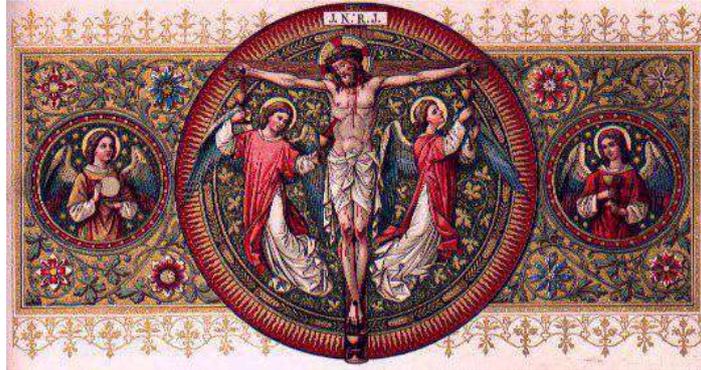


St. Gregory's Primary School, Workington –
Bishop's Homily for the Mass for 40th Anniversary
(Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Phil.2:6-11. John 3:13-17)



We are told in our gospel of how God loved the world so much that he gave us his only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to be our teacher and our friend. Today's feast – the Triumph of the Cross – reminds us of the extent of Christ's love when he died on the cross for us. We too in turn are called to show that love of Christ to one another, by the care we show and the way we treat others. That's what Christ asks of us.

A Catholic School is a place where the love of Christ is found and where it is taught. We give thanks to God today for all that St. Gregory's School has been here for the last forty years. We think of all the teachers and the many pupils who have worked and studied in the school, and all of them touched in their own way by the love of Christ. A school is also part of the parish family and we remember also today all the parents, priests and governors who have been involved through their children in the life of St. Gregory's School over those forty years, and whose loyalty and support have helped to make the school what it is today.

Today is an occasion for looking back, a day for memories of the past and the place that St. Gregory's School has held in the affections of so many: pupils, teachers, staff, parents and parish. We make all of this part of our offering as we unite ourselves to Christ's own offering in this anniversary Mass. We pray particularly for those who were involved in the planning and building of St. Gregory's School forty years ago. May God reward them for their labours.

We also look forward to the future, when the next significant anniversary will be its golden jubilee in ten years time. All times and seasons are in God's hands, and so part of our Mass intention today is to entrust the years to come into the care of Almighty God. Our prayer is that the love of Christ, God's Son, may always overshadow St. Gregory's School, and that that love will warm the hearts of all who pass through its doors, and be a place of learning where the first teacher will always be Christ himself. For what has been, and for what will be, we give thanks to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen!

+Michael G Campbell OSA
Bishop of Lancaster

14 September 2017