

It is often said that we are only guaranteed two things in life : death and taxes. Catholic Priests and Religious are guaranteed three things, death, taxes and being moved!

Recently, I received one of those phone calls from the Bishop which every priest dreads, when he informed me of some very sad news that we are losing our dear Sisters of St Paul of Chartres Sr Maria Dee Lacson & Shienrose La Torre; as he has greater need of them in the Parish of Our Lady & St Edward, Fulwood , Preston where the parish priest is retiring and will not be replaced!

Then followed a further bombshell, “Kevan would you consider a move to Whitehaven? An appointment to St Benedict, Mirehouse & St Mary’s, Kells with the care of the West Cumberland Hospital as chaplain?”

In just over a week’s time I hope to mark my 53rd Birthday and nine days later on Wednesday 16th December, I will be celebrating my Silver Jubilee of Ordination to the Priesthood, in a way which I never expected; nine days later it will be Christmas and then I begin to pack as in the latter part of January I shall be moving to Whitehaven, as requested by Bishop Swarbrick.

Moving is one of the of hardest things asked of me as a priest, saying goodbye and moving on to pastures new, is never easy. I had been very happy thinking that I was going to break my record of staying in a parish for longer than 8 ½ years (my longest appointment to date being at St Margaret Mary’s, & Christ the King, Carlisle for 8 1/2.years I have been really blessed having had 8 wonderful years this coming January, here in the South Lakes, serving you lovely people! At ordination I took a promise of obedience to the bishop and his successors; so I am duty bound to do as requested by Bishop Paul. I must trust, and not stand in the way of the Holy Spirit! Although, I don’t really want to move, I am happy in the knowledge that firstly, I`m not leaving the Lakes but moving to the West Lakes and secondly, in knowing that Bishop Paul is sending you someone better than me! – Fr Darren Carden, he`s tall, dark and bald; therefore, obviously very handsome! Please, in your charity, pray for the poor people of Whitehaven because you know who and what they are getting!

God Bless

Fr Kevan Patrick Dorgan