

BL CARLO ACUTIS

THE EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES ENCOUNTER (EME)

"The Eucharist thus appears as both the source and the summit of all evangelisation..."¹ JP II

An encounter with the Eucharistic Miracles based on the life and work of Blessed Carlo Acutis.

2021 -2023

jacquiestacey@gmail.com



The Carlo Acutis Encounter has now visited all but one of our diocesan high schools and I can say that in every one of them its positive impact on the faith life of the school community was palpable. Not only where the young people, both boys and girls, fascinated by the life and faith of Carlo but were amazed at his website accounts of Eucharistic miracles across to the world. The teachers who hosted the classes and oratory visits noticed the dramatic impact on the children, along with their Head Teachers who attended sessions. I was particularly impressed with its impact in the wider community and its invitation to primary school children, as well as evenings for parents and clergy. The Encounter has laid a firm foundation for a new appreciation of the Holy Eucharist in our communities and it is one upon which we hope to thoughtfully build.¹



3. Describe the adoration session. Did it pull any feelings to the surface

~~I am emotional~~ He inspires me to be a Saint.

The Eucharistic Miracles Encounter (EME)

The Eucharistic Miracles encounter has been described as “***a means of enabling young people to see faith in the context of a young man whose faith was central to his life, with an emphasis on the Eucharist...***”²

You do not need to be a statistician to note the correlation between the empty church pews and the strain of young people’s Mental Health services, as the young appear to lose their way. Our young people are struggling with life, and resorting to unhealthy coping strategies to alleviate how they feel.³ As always, God responds to our calls and I believe this response has been in the young person of BI Carlos Acutis who is now on the way to sainthood. I believe that BI Carlos Acutis has been given to us as a beacon to light our way to a new life through The Eucharist. St John Paul II spoke of a new evangelisation, through The Eucharist, “***The Eucharist thus appears as both the source and the summit of all evangelisation...***”⁴

When Mother Elvira, the founder of the Cenacolo Community⁵ described the young addicts who came knocking at her door for help, she said “...they came neither seeking money or food but LIFE”, “We want to live” they would say. I believe our young people want to live, but they cannot see the way or the how. Who is “[The Way The Truth and The Life?”⁶ JESUS. Where is He truly present? As Catholics we believe, He is present body, blood, Soul and divinity within the Eucharist, or do we? Recent statistics in the states (a survey has not been carried out in the UK to my knowledge) report only 30% of Catholics actually still believe this.⁷ Yet again God has responded to our call for in BI Carlos our young have an example of an alternative way to live.

BI Carlos leaves a legacy of easy access to all the Eucharistic Miracles that by the grace of God have occurred over the centuries. This legacy has been used as a vehicle over the past two years to revive Eucharistic belief in our young and provide an opportunity for them to sit in the presence of Christ in Eucharistic adoration; an experience that has remained alien to many of our young for far too long.

² Bishop of Paisley Diocese Bishop John Keenan.

³ **State of the nation 2022: children and young people’s wellbeing Research report**^[1] **February 2023** Department for Education https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1134596/State_of_the_nation_2022_-_children_and_young_people_s_wellbeing.pdf

⁴ Encyclical letter ***ECCLESIA DE EUCHARISTIA*** of his holiness **Pope John Paul II** https://www.vatican.va/holy_father/special_features/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_20030417_ecclesia_eucharistia_en.html

⁵ <https://cenacolouk.org/about-us>

⁶ John 14:6 NIV Biblegateway.com

⁷ <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2019/08/05/transubstantiation-eucharist-u-s-catholics/>

As such, over the past 2 years I have facilitated The Eucharistic Miracles Encounter in Secondary schools and parishes throughout the UK. This has involved literally thousands of young people and many adults. Feedback from this mission has been very positive and the fruits are still being seen. Some schools have implemented Eucharistic adoration. For those schools that already have Eucharistic Adoration they are looking to incorporate Bl Carlos way of life and The Eucharistic Miracles in to the curriculum. Other ways of continuing Bl Carlos legacy are still in discussion, such as school retreats to the local shrine (Carfin, in Scotland) where a statue and relic of Bl Carlos are held. Distribution of the book Blessed Carlo Acutis: 5 Steps to Being a Saint – Msgr Anthony Figueiredo. Pilgrimage to Bl Carlos tomb in Assisi, the ideas continue.

Feedback sheets were given to both students in the schools & adults in their sessions and retreats in the parishes where a few simple questions were posed. Here are some samples of the responses from both students and adults.

EUCCHARISTIC ENCOUNTER

1. What do you understand a Eucharistic miracle to be?

I understand a Eucharistic miracle to be when the Christs blood is shown.

2. What was your impression of the classroom experience ?

My impression of the classroom experience was it was very calm and enjoyable.

3. Describe the adoration session. Did it pull any feelings to the surface?

I really liked it because it made me feel relaxed and very calm.

4. General thoughts.

My thoughts were that I didn't need to worry and I was very happy.

4. General thoughts.

Thank you! Please come back again!

EUCCHARISTIC ENCOUNTER

1. What do you understand a Eucharistic miracle to be?

A Eucharistic miracle is a Holy thing that happens with the wine and Bread, after being blessed by the priest.

2. What was your impression of the classroom experience ?

The classroom was very calm and quiet because everyone wanted to learn about Carlos Acutis.

3. Describe the adoration session. Did it pull any feelings to the surface?

I found the Cratory very odd. I felt like I had a out of body experience like I had conected with Jesus and could have a rest from the world and all its struggles.

4. General thoughts.

I found the whole thing very calm.

EUCCHARISTIC ENCOUNTER (adults)

1. What do you understand about a Eucharistic miracle?

I previously didn't know much about them but it is very interesting and is truly miraculous.

2. What was your impression of the talk, Bl Carlos, The Miracles ?

Fascinating & so relevant for young people.

3. Describe the adoration session. Did it pull any feelings to the surface?

It was lovely to reflect and take time in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

4. General thoughts.

The Format

All Encounter sessions were multi-sensory, allowing all pupils to actively participate. We chose to begin sessions in the classroom with a learning focus and then moved to our school Oratory for a period of prayer, adoration and an opportunity to venerate a first class relic.



LEARNING

Pupils begin the session in the classroom where they have the opportunity to learn about Blessed Carlo and some of the most well known Eucharistic Miracles.



ADORATION

The session then moves to a suitable room where there is an opportunity for prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, this is often a first experience of adoration. Following the learning opportunity, the pupils appear to have a deeper experience of this.

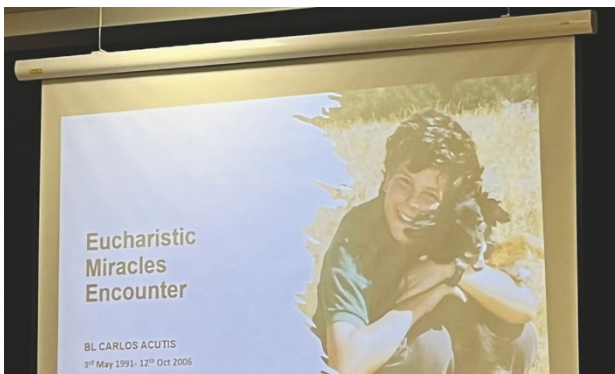


VENERATION

Everyone is able to venerate a first class relic of Blessed Carlo for many, this is their first opportunity to venerate a relic. The opportunity to write a prayer is then offered. These prayers are placed under the tomb of BI Carlo's body in Assisi, then the petitions move to the next available Holy Mass in St Maria Maggiore in Assisi.



Pupils of all stages have the opportunity to take part in the Encounter. Sessions are arranged to correspond with timetabled classes already in the department – some are 60 minutes some 50.



STAFF & FAMILIES

After school sessions are Held to allow staff & Families to attend. The Events are publicized on Social media and in Parish bulletins.

Curricular Links

The Carlos Acutis Eucharistic Miracles Encounter fits perfectly within a number of strands of faith within the RE curriculum in schools.

Opportunities for Evangelisation

The EME can be used as a great vehicle for evangelisation in parishes. There has been great demand from Confirmation groups First Holy Communion groups and parish retreats for The Eucharistic Miracles Encounter and the fruits and feedback have been astonishing. Many young boys are now taking BL Carlos name as their confirmation name. Convents and religious orders also love to hear about BL Carlos and the Eucharistic Miracles.

