

Formation and Mission Newsletter

Catholic Diocese of Hallam September 2021

Welcome.

This monthly newsletter is to let you know of opportunities for Formation and Mission in the Diocese and further afield.

The news from September is about the gradual return to face-to-face meetings along with opportunities for courses for learning about the Catholic faith which may be about to begin. Many of these now incorporate on-line study, as we have learned over the past 18 months how this can widen participation and opportunities. In addition, the excitement is growing in the Diocese as preparations for the launch of “For a Synodal Church: communion, participation and mission” are beginning; see below for more details of how you can get involved.

RCIA and Catechetics classes are beginning in parishes, Groups are meeting again after a summer (or longer) break.

At the same time, leaves are beginning to fall from the trees, the harvest is beginning and it is a time for reflection on what is done with and what fruits we need going forward.

Opportunities for Study

Catholic Certificate for Religious Studies

The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) is a nationally accredited course about the Catholic faith. The first module, on the Old Testament, with Monsignor John Ryan, begins on 3rd October 2021 for three Saturday mornings, October 3rd, 9th, 16th, from 9-12.30 at Hallam Pastoral Centre (in person, socially distanced).

Modules on New Testament, Church, Christology, Sacraments and other special interest topics will be offered later in the year.

See the [national CCRS website](#), for more details about the course or contact formationandmission@hallam-diocese.com for more information and to register.

Journey in Faith 2021-2022

This programme is for all who want to become a Catholic, for adult Catholics who have not received their First Communion, and for Catholics who want to learn more about their faith. It takes place at various places in the Diocese.

St Marie's Sheffield:

Begins on Friday 19 November from 7-8.30 in Houlden Hall. More information available soon.

Holy Rood, Barnsley:

Begins Monday 11 October 2021 at 6:30 in Holy Rood Church Hall. Anyone interested please contact Fr Damian.

Urban Theology Union Certificate in Discipleship

The aim of this one year ecumenical course is "to facilitate the development of each participants own personal discipleship and theology and work towards a new or changed engagement in mission".

This course begins on 11 October, meeting virtually 2 mornings a month 10-1.

<https://utusheffield.org.uk>

Prayer, Retreats, Pilgrimages and Spirituality

St Beuno's Jesuit Spirituality Centre in rural North Wales is re-opening, offering a range of long and short individually guided retreats as well as themed retreats. Demand is usually high, so you will need to book well in advance to avoid disappointment.

Rosary Group

St Marie's Cathedral Rosary Group is restarting, meeting in the Cathedral after Friday 12.30 mass

Sheffield Church Action on Poverty annual pilgrimage

is on Saturday 16 October. This year's Covid-safe pilgrimage will focus on challenges based by poverty in Darnall and how various organisations are endeavouring to reduce its impact. The pilgrimage starts at 9.30am with a break for lunch at 12.15 and concludes at 3pm. Contact Briony Broome for further information

briony.broome@hotmail.co.uk

Spiritual Accompaniment

Introduction to Spiritual Accompaniment

An eight day course to introduce participants to the basic principles of Ignatian Spiritual Accompaniment is run twice a year at St Beuno's. The next one takes place from 8 November 2021 to 17 November 2021 at St Beuno's, Tremeirchon, St Asaph, Wales.

Hallam Diocese is committed to supporting the development of Hallam Spirituality Group to offer spirituality resources including spiritual accompaniment as a resource for others. If you feel called to follow this opportunity, please do get in touch with us to discuss how we can help.

Social Action

SVP

Mother of God SVP group has resumed meeting in person. Contact Gerry on gfkirwin@hotmail.com for more details.

COP26

A group of young people made pilgrimage across the country, stopping over to be greeted in Chesterfield and Sheffield, on their way to witness for the COP26 summit on climate change in Glasgow in October. Details of their journey and mission can be found here <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Campaigning-news/COP26-young-adult-mobilisation> with a link to sign up for Young Adults e-news. CAFOD also provide materials on their website for celebrating a Season of Creation Climate Sunday Mass, incorporating insights from Laudato Si' and care for God's creation. <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources/Climate-Sunday-Mass>

Hallam Synod News

Preparations are underway for the Hallam synod process. The Helpnotes below tell you more about it. If you want to get more involved in this exciting and historic happening in the Catholic Church, talk to your parish priest or contact us.

Doing synod: Hallam Helpnotes



“For a synodal Church:
communion, participation, mission”

Pope Francis has asked every one of the People of God to let him know how things are for them in the Church. He believes we are all trying to journey together through life, finding ways to communicate the fundamental message of Jesus, to love one another, in how we live our lives and in our

words. That is the meaning of the word “Synodal” - it means “journeying together”.

He has asked the Bishops of the world to ask you and then tell him.

You can do this with other people in your parish; tell Bishop Ralph what you think between October 2021 to April 2022. In Hallam, your parish will hold meetings so you can think together about what important things you need to say. All the Bishops of England and Wales will collect your thoughts and will gather in Rome for a Synod (meeting) in 2023 to tell the Pope what they have heard from you all.

The question Pope Francis is asking you to pray, listen to each other and talk about is this:

“How does this “journeying together” take place today on different levels (from the local to the universal one), allowing the Church to proclaim the Gospel?”

Question 1:

What are your experiences of ‘journeying together’ in your diocese, your parish, for you personally?

What joys, difficulties, wounds have you encountered?

The Holy Spirit is in all those experiences.

Question 2:

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through those experiences?

And what steps is the Spirit inviting you to take in order for the Church to grow as a synodal Church?

Hallam’s Synodal Pathway (your step-by-step guide)

Step 1. Know your Diocesan Synod Contacts. They are Fionnuala Frances and Kevan Grady. hallam-synod@hallam-diocese.com; ffrances@hallam-diocese.com; kgrady@hallam-diocese.com.

Pray for them.

Step 2. Join the Hallam Diocese Synodal Team. This is the working group of people willing to lead us through the synodal process. Anyone is invited to be part of this group; get in touch if you feel that this is what you are called to do. The Holy Spirit is a core member of the group. **Pray for them.**

Step 3. Join the Liturgy to celebrate the Hallam Synodal Process. This will be held at 4.30pm on Sunday 17th October at St Marie's Cathedral and live-streamed across the diocese. Participate on-line, in your parish groups or with friends. Arrange to meet afterwards to talk about how you might go forward together on this synodal journey. **Pray for this holy journey we are on together.**

Step 4. With your parish priest, decide in your parish who will be the co-ordinator(s) for Synodal Meetings, and let Fionnuala and Kevan know the names. They will then be invited to 3 workshops with other co-ordinators to pray, discern and plan how to hear from different groups in your parish. **Pray for them.**

Step 5. With the help of your parish co-ordinators, listen, gather in the views and voices of as many people as possible. Meet as existing groups, or create new groups to particularly focus on the Synodal process. Particularly include those on the margins, who may not always feel listened to. No-one is excluded, everyone has a voice, all are invited to participate, and your parish can decide how best to do this in your area. **Pray for each other and for the people you listen to.**

Step 6. Deliver the messages from your group to Bishop Ralph between 1 January and 30 April 2022. You can write a letter, you can email hallam-synod@hallam-diocese.com, you can use the Hallam-Synod webpage button. As well as responding as a group, you can respond individually. Bishop Ralph will put your thoughts together and take a 10 page summary of what you have all told him to the meeting of Bishop's. **Pray for Bishop Ralph.**

The Bishops of England and Wales will pray and discern and collate the views from all the dioceses. **Pray for the Bishops.**

They will bring those views to the meeting with Pope Francis in October 2023. **Pray for Pope Francis.**

Step 7. Attend the Synod Celebration liturgy, to reflect on and celebrate our work together, and to think about next steps.

Prayer for a synodal Church gathering

(This prayer was said before all the sessions of the Second Vatican Council. It is attributed to St Isidore of Seville 560-636 AD)

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity,
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.
All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever.
Amen.

Other resources to help you.

1. The Vatican website has a Roadmap for the Diocesan Phase, a glossary of terms used, some suggestions about spiritual conversations, a Preparatory Document (available in several languages) , a Vademecum, and the Adsumus Prayer.
<https://www.synod.va/en.html>
2. The Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales website has details of the synodal process, a timeline of the different phases and a FAQ page.
<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/synodal-church/>
3. Edinburgh Jesuit Centre hosted three short lectures by people involved in the synodal process and the recordings of these are available free on-line via jesuit.org.uk “Some Synod Scenarios”
4. Miniseries on Synodality at Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology on-line on 6th, 13th, 20th October with Dr Peter Coughlan (£50 for all three talks).
5. Hallam Caritas Counselling Service webpage has details of how you can access help and support.
<https://hallam-diocese.com/caritas/counselling/>
6. Talking to a Spiritual Director/Accompanier might be helpful for you to talk over things related to your spiritual life, particularly those that may have arisen from the synodal process. Contact ffrances@hallam-diocese.com for more information about talking to a Spiritual Director

Please feel free to send details of anything that may be of interest to others in their spiritual journey and mission for the kingdom. We will add it to the newsletter where we can.

Send to: formationandmission@hallam-diocese.com